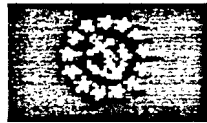


Occoquan Yacht Club
P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, Va. 22125

The Daymarker

January, 1987, Vol. 10, Issue 1

Commodore Karl Day 703-476-1977	Vice Commodore Bob LaSerte 703-938-2347	Rear Commodore Dale Jacobs 703-683-6065	Secretary Gerry Cavanaugh 703-494-0187	Treasurer Mary Jo Worcester 703-494-2383
---------------------------------------	---	---	--	--



Commodore's Comments

— Karl Day —

Christmas is almost here and in the flurry of activities, I find myself up against the deadline for getting these notes to the Editor. This is going to be an extraordinary Christmas for us. We have had a blessed year and are so grateful to the Lord for having brought us through it. Career changes, terrifying illness, the promise of complete healing, financial defeats and triumphs, - never easy and never simple but "all things do work out for the good".

The Chili Cook-Off and Dock Lighting Party was a success and the competition was close. We judges were amazed at the variations in the chili - they were all delicious. Congratulations to Dock B and Sam Shankle who was the clear winner. Maybe it was the cold weather that influenced us, but it seemed the hotter the chili was (spice-wise) the higher the scores received. A word to the wise for next year? The boats look super at night and I have heard from more than one that Occoquan Harbour Marina is a tourist attraction this time of year thanks to the brightly decorated boats. Thanks to all of you who are "lit". With lights, that is!

A flotilla of seven boats loaded with 31 OYC members and one dog, courtesy of the Johnson's and "La Mouette", had a great time taking Santa Claus under gloriously blue skies to Occoquan on December 6th. It was a beautiful day, the timing was perfect thanks to the leadership of Bill Petrey and "Equinox", and it was very exciting to see the river banks lined with people waving to Santa as we made our way slowly from OHM to Occoquan. If you didn't participate this year, plan to do so next year. Santa and his two elves were great and the kids were all wide-eyed at their presence. You don't need your own boat either. There was plenty of space available aboard the vessels that made the trip.

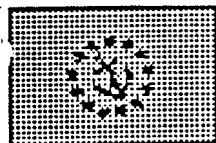
The day was capped off by another great Christmas Party. We all owe a debt of thanks to Eva Nanni for the arrangements she made at Quantico Officer's Club. Watching her on the dance floor, I am convinced she enjoyed the fruits of her labors as much as we did. Thank you Eva! The facility was beautiful but somehow when I compared its dignified elegance with the stark reality of the young Marine in battle fatigues who met us at the gate I was reminded of what a privilege it is to live in this country of ours and how much we owe to those who have layed down their lives in defense of the freedoms we tend to take for granted. We can dance and drink and laugh and enjoy because brave young men like that are standing tall against tyranny around the world.

We are making progress in the filling of slots on the Advisory Board and Ad Hoc Committees. There are a couple of spaces still open - or, if they are filled, I have not yet heard. The response to the questionnaire given out at the Christmas Party was excellent and we will take your thoughts into consideration when mapping out our

schedule of events for next year. Once again I ask that if you have interest in any particular aspect of the club's activities and would like to assist in them, let us know. We don't read minds very well.

Most of us have put our boats away for the Winter and "out of sight - out of mind" may be a trap for some. Check your boat and its dock lines from time to time. The winds blow and the tides can be pretty severe. On more than one occasion last year, I was dismayed to find boats virtually hanging from their bow lines. Others had lines that were badly chafed and seemed to be in danger of breaking. An investment in anti-chafing gear is a good one and not only saves expensive dock lines from unnecessary wear, it may save the whole boat!

Be of good cheer, pray for a mild Winter, and be patient. There are only about three months until the hardier ones will be de-winterizing and the exciting fun-filled 1987 season will be upon us. Maybe I can sleep until then!!



**Vice Commodore's
Comments
Robert La Serte**

The trial of Griffin O'Neal began today and it holds many valuable lessons. Mr. O'Neal's friend Giancarlo Coppola was killed this summer due to a combination of some very deadly ingredients - alcohol, speed and ignorance. A waitress at the local watering-hole testified O'Neal and Coppola were drinking and boisterous. Drunk and rowdy are probably more accurate terms. The boat's speed at the time of the accident was estimated at forty knots. Easily obtainable I assure you with that type of boat (14 foot whaler) and that size motor (40 HP). Mr. O'Neal testified he had no knowledge of the basic rules of good seamanship.

A couple of young men out for a day of fun on the Severn River rent a runabout. The rental people can't be expected to make a judgment call as to the relative experience of their customers. A few drinks later, during a wild ride across the water, Giancarlo Coppola's life is snuffed out in it's prime.

Any idiot with enough money can waltz down to his local dealership and buy a boat capable of sixty knots! Must we expect the dealer to educate his customer in the proper handling of his new toy? NO! But without proper training (and eight or ten beers later) that idiot, in his water rocket, is going to kill somebody.

I am a firm believer in licensing. I know that it will not solve all the problems we encounter with stupid boaters (like drinking and driving). However, I am absolutely convinced that knowledge of the basic rules of seamanship is an essential first step in the safe operation of boats. Admittedly, licensing would be a nightmare to administer, but nothing worthwhile having is ever easy. Ten dollars for a three year license and the cost of a USPS course is not going to break the pocketbook of someone who just bought a five year loan on a twenty thousand dollar boat!

I hate regulations as much as the next guy. That's why I love boating! It's the last great frontier, the wide open horizon, my refuge from the insanity of everyday living. Each year as more and more people take to the water, the horizon becomes obscured by the loonies I so dearly want to avoid. The right to enjoy the freedom of unrestricted boating on open waters demands responsible behavior. Education and licensing will help make it safer for all to enjoy.

Second Annual Thanksgiving Raft-Up

Thanksgiving 1986 dawned with better weather than last year, so the raft-up plans continued as previously reported. The raft began to form about 3:00 p.m. at the approximate position of Latitude 38°33.2'N and Longitude 77°12.6'W (mouth of the Mattawoman!) From the dinghy the stern of the raft read: Janna (Conrads), Harmony (Ringles), Kapalua (Welsh), Dunmoen (Pipers and LaSerte), Nadine (Gemsheims), Joyden (Moellers), Ali'i Kai (Goodmans), and Annie C III (Burrows). That's eight boats, 21 hungry people, two dogs and two cats. Not bad for the second year.

We had the gravy this year, but we ran out of turkey. The rest of the menu consisted of four dishes of nibbles, cocktails/wine, two types of ham, stuffing, baked stuffed potatoes and mashed sweet potatoes, Waldorf salad, cranberry/pineapple jello salad, cranberry sauce, peas/onions, broccoli with cheese sauce, rolls, butter, coffee/tea, pecan pies, pumpkin pies, apple pie, sweet-potato cheese cake, mints, nuts and various types of after-dinner liqueurs. One thing that came out about the whole group - no matter what type of liqueur is available, Kahlua is the one most sought after. Dennis M. saved the evening.

At anchor-light time, not only did all the anchor lights go on, but John Ringle put us in the holiday mood by stringing his Christmas lights. That festive air gave way to John entertaining us by strumming tunes on his dulcimer which encouraged humming and/or singing along. Conversations ranged from trivia to serious, good to bad to better. Everyone seemed to enjoy the comradarie, the food, the entertainment, and the unusualness of the Club activity.

The Janna broke raft later in the evening so Trixie could go to work Friday (yukky for her). Since the weather seemed to be agreeable, the rest of the raft stayed together for the night. Friday morning saw coffee, juice, and donuts on the table for a rather lazy start. The Annie C III broke raft early to ferry Marie G. to the docks for work. The rest of the raft broke about 10:00 a.m. for various destinations.

All in all a nice Thanksgiving with each of us giving thanks in our own way for our own reasons. Here's looking forward to the Third Annual next year.

Notes from the Poop Deck
by John Piper

As you all know, running a boat brings a certain satisfaction and pleasure that our lubberly friends will never understand. Occasionally, however, an event takes place that makes you realize just how special this life is. We were returning from the Thanksgiving raft-up in mid-afternoon and were approaching the railroad trestle over the Occoquan. A passenger train was approaching the bridge from the South and I was wondering if I would be under the bridge as it went over, curious as to the noise and rumble from above.

I slowed a bit and was about 100 feet from the bridge when the train engine crossed directly above us. And then it happened! The engineer honked his horn and waved at us. I was instantly transformed into the small kid who used to wave at trains back in the days when they were steam powered. We always waved at trains and once in a while, the engineer would see us at the crossing and wave back. To receive a wave back was the best thing that could happen to a kid in those days.

And now, after all these years the engineer had honked and waved at us first! I must have looked ten years old as I waved back with a grin from ear to ear. I had been instantly elevated to a position of childhood esteem, albeit many years after the fact. Boating can be fun.

OYC's Christmas Party
& Change-of-Command Banquet

This year the OYC hosted its Christmas Party & Change-of-Command Banquet at the Quantico Officer's Club. For those OYC members who could not attend we are indeed sorry because you missed a truly grand evening. For those who did come a most heartfelt thanks goes to Eva Nanni for arranging this third annual event. Another "thank you" goes out to John and Marilyn Piper for their support to Eva in making up the programs, questionnaires and arranging for the drawings for the centerpieces at each table. Everything went extremely well. The food and service were unbeatable, speeches were short, the Change of Command ceremony took place quickly, presentation of the First Commodore's Cup was made to Bill Petrey, gifts were exchanged leaving plenty of time for music and dancing provided by D.J. Capt. Buddy. All in all it was a lovely evening which was made memorable by Eva's hard work.

First Commodore's Cup
by Bill Petrey

It is with great appreciation that I express my thanks to those 1985-86 Board Members and the general membership for their votes to award me the trophy for First Commodore's Cup for 1986. Like all of the OYC members who love boating as much as Terri and I do, it's strange to receive an award for doing what we consider enjoyment and fun. We will try to continue to uphold the high standards the Commodore's Cup dictates. Again, many thanks to all.

Editor's Notes
by Terri Petrey

A special "thank you" goes to Bob Bagley of Prince William Marina in Occoquan for his contribution of the nautical figurine which was won by Danielle Johnson of the "La Mouette" and an OYC member at Hoffmaster's Marina.

I have noticed that the OYC's Christmas spirit is contagious and has spread to Dock C with the lighting of two boats on that dock. Maybe next year Docks D and E will join in?

Merilyn Piper reports the membership now stands at 173 members. As of August 1986 we have had 33 new members join the OYC ranks. The membership stands as follows:

128 Family
16 Individuals
6 Associates
23 Juniors

We only have 109 members who have not renewed but I have lots of faith that as the season approaches (such optimism!) we will see those faces returning to our Club.

Samantha Day and Carolyn Dodson both sent expressions of thanks for the kinds words and flowers while they were both recently hospitalized. I was glad to see both of them at the Christmas Party and we're all glad they are recovering so well.

With four children aboard the EQUINOX (Maggie Martin, Bryan Petrey, Nicholas Utter and Claire Johnson) Santa was really given an earful of requests, wishes and just general thoughts about everything. As we were approaching Occoquan and people started to gather along the river's banks, the kids ascended to the flybridge to get a "bird's eye view" of what was going on. Claire Johnson, the eldest in the group, looked over at me and said "I'm really amazed!". I said "Why Claire?" and she replied "Because I thought there was no such person as Santa!" The adults who sat around couldn't help getting a tear in their eye with such a sincere thought. It then occurred to me that like John Piper's engineer waving to him and Claire's belief that there really is a Santa that that feeling of being a child never really leaves us. It's always there just waiting for a special event or key to open the door and remind us what fun it really was being a child and believing in something. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Commodore, it is with much regret that we were unable to attend the OYC Thanksgiving Dinner and Raft-Up at Lat 38°33.2'N, Lon 77°12.6'W. We did however have a hellogoodtime with a bunch of nautical friendlies at Lat 38°33.6'N, Lon 77°13.2'W.
The JOYDEN Crew

Good News
Tax Reform hits Home
(Excerpts from BOAT/U.S. Reports
Vol. XXI, No. 6, Nov./Dec. 1986)

A six-month long campaign to convince Congress that it would be unfair to allow the deduction of interest on beach-front condo's and country cottages and at the same time disallow the deductibility of interest on recreational boats paid off for many BOAT/U.S. members last month as the final version of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 was sent to the President.

Based on extensive discussions with Samuel H. Murray, partner in the international accounting firm of Arthur Andersen & Co. and the Association's own legislative analysis, it appears that many boat owners will be able to deduct the interest on boat loans as long as their boats meet the requirements of the new law.

Basically, a taxpayer must declare his boat to be a primary or secondary residence. The boat should fit the definition of a "qualified residence" if it provides basic living accommodations such as sleeping space, a toilet and cooking facilities. And, the boat loan must be secured by a security interest perfected under local law.

Murray also pointed out that only one "second residence" at a time may be selected for interest deductibility under the new law and that there does not appear to be any minimum number of days a boat owner must prove that he has lived aboard.

While this is certainly good news for the owners of many mid and larger size vessels, the so-called Tax Reform Act will phase out interest deductions for the owners of smaller craft.

Members are urged, nonetheless, to consult their own tax advisors for the applicability of the tax law to their own personal situations.