

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

The Daymarker

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Member: PRYCA, CBYCA & UPYRC Boat/U.S. Accord # 80979

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Commodore's
 Comments**
 Ron Tilmon

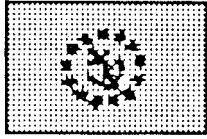


Well folks, here I sit already beginning to fight an onset of severe depression. Santa has been delivered to Occoquan, the Chili cook-off completed (congratulations to Eileen Kiesel from B Dock for her winning entry), our boat is winterized, and the Christmas Lights are strung around it. The OYC Christmas Party and Change-of-Command Banquet have been held and our festivities for the 1987 year will come to an end. Then, only to fight the dreaded winter doldrums!!!

However, following the holidays, the Executive Board will begin having our planning meetings for what will hopefully be a fantastic 1988 boating season. At least we have that to look forward to during the winter. Any ideas/suggestions from any of the members will be welcome and definitely considered. We especially need input on events to bring our sailing members into some of our activities. As usual, we will try to set up activities that all members can participate in and enjoy themselves. So, put on your thinking caps and let us know your ideas.

Since boating activities will be slow to non-existent during the winter and all of us will be hardpressed to compose exciting articles for the Daymarker, we will at least try to keep you up-to-speed on what we are planning once the 1988 boating season returns. I'm sure Terri Petrey would also be elated to receive articles for the Daymarker from any of you who are bored or have something to say or ask and can take the time to let your creative juices flow.

Enough babbling!! Allow me to wish each of you a very happy and prosperous New Year and I hope you had a wonderful Christmas!!



Vice Commodore's Comments

Terri Petrey

This month the Daymarker will be fairly short and sweet. All our efforts and thoughts at this time of year are devoted to family, friends, recuperating from Christmas and the day-after-Christmas sales and getting ready for the coming New Year!

The New Year looks very promising. The Board is excited to get busy on working out a new Schedule of Events for 1988. The Daymarker will take on some format changes thanks to the contributions of some of its members. Hopefully this year, we will receive more input from our members so that we can remain the best newsletter in the entire Potomac and Chesapeake Bay area. Our membership is back on the rise and more and more of you are coming back for another year of OYC commraderie!

I hope all of you had as wonderful a Christmas as I did. Christmas is truly a great time of year for sharing and being thankful for so many things. For some it's a time of sadness and memories and, for others, a time of hope and happiness. I hope all of you have a happy and prosperous New Year!!!



Secretary's Comments

Ned Rhodes

This month's report will be rather short since all of the items that were discussed at the November Board meeting have now taken place. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be sometime after the first of the year so that we all may enjoy the holidays. One could say that the December board meeting took place at the Christmas party when we decided to defer all business to the first of the year. How could one conduct business while half the board (and the membership) was doing the "stroll"?

For the first time in a number of years, December was "take the boat out of the water month". Usually, this task is performed in October, but November had a few good days in it also. You will be happy to hear that the freeze plug test of 1987 was a big success. When I got around to winterizing my boat, I was happy to discover that the freeze plugs in the cooling system had done their job (probably around November 11th) and that I now could look forward to either replacing them or taking part in the great bilge pump test of 1988. Maybe this is why I used to take the boat out in October?

Happy Holidays to all! I hope that Santa brings you the bigger boat that you asked for!

I apologize for the change in type-face but my typewriter decided to run out of ribbon. To add insult to injury the extra was defective and I could find no replacements in any stores -- SORRY!

NOTES FROM THE POOP DECK
by John Piper

Christmas is now over and all of the presents have been opened. Hopefully each and every one of you received something for the boat. Possibly something useful such as new fenders or possibly something whimsical such as a Snoopy boarding mat? In my case, I received a most unusual gift from my daughter. For those of you who may not know, my daughter visited this Fall and stayed on the boat with us for 10 days. I truly believed that in that 10 day period she got a taste of boat living and its unique benefits.

She learned about passing boats causing wakes and boat rocking. She learned about self-contained water systems with limited availability. She learned about the effects of the tide when secured to a fixed pier. She learned that big hard suitcases still take up a lot of room even when they are empty. She learned that two people cannot pass each other without someone giving way. In short, she experienced boat living at its best.

Naturally, I was wondering what clever nautical remembrance she would come up with as a Christmas gift. But I was little prepared for this wonderful gift when it arrived. A live Christmas tree!

I mean now really -- what do you do with a live tree on a boat? According to the instructions it would get no taller than eight feet. EIGHT FEET! And no more than five feet in diameter! I thought of putting it up on the bridge deck. I could have the only boat in the marina with a live tree for a mast. But then the pitch dropping on the teak decks would be a problem. I wonder if the bilge pumps would have handled pine needles?

Kids! Bah Humbug! I think I'll send her two quarts of bilge cleaner for her birthday!

CHILI COOK-OFF AND SANTA TO OCCOQUAN
HELD ON DECEMBER 5th

We have had our two December events which turned out to be a great success. The Santa Claus to Occoquan event combined with the Chili Cook off could not have turned out better. The morning of the 5th brought us a beautiful, crisp, cool day with clear skies. Santa made his way to LA MOETTE, a 36 foot Trojan owned and operated by Steve and Daniele Johnson. This year Santa really had a lap full of youngsters. Some very timid and only willing to sit next to Santa for a short talk. Other more willing to sit on his lap and talk and hug the man in all their dreams at this time of year.

Santa's flotilla up the Occoquan was joined by SOUTHERN NITES with the Tilmon's, Petrey's, Worcester's, Kiesel's and Rich Ellis aboard. MARY C followed behind with new members Art and Mary Kent and the Piper's aboard. And last, but certainly not least, MAGGIE LYNN with all the Martin's, Aaron's grandchildren and their parents. The water

was a little shallow due to that days high winds blowing the water out of the river but we all made our way up river behind LA MOETTE with no problems. The crowd greeting us at Prince William Marina docks was really excited to see us arriving and when Santa approached the group he was quickly surrounded by children of all sizes anxious to check and make sure Santa hadn't forgotten their Christmas wishes.

Following the cruise everyone was ready to warm up with some hot mulled cider, hot coffee and really good and hot chili prepared by our three pre-chili cook-off winners. A Dock was represented by Linda Broker, B Dock's winner was Eileen Kiesel and C Dock was represented by Laura Petrey. We had an impressive turnout of members all eager to sample the good food. The panel of judges consisted of the 1988 Executive Board. After a second (and third?) sampling of each pot of chili it was decided that Eileen Kiesel's chili was the winner. Eileen was presented with an apron which had been embroidered with the OYC logo. By the look of the six empty pots of chili and all the remains of the side dishes that were brought by the guests, I can safely say that the event was a great success. Thank you to all who turned out and shared this beautiful day and the wonderful food with us.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CHANGE OF COMMAND BANQUET

The Change of Command/Christmas Party began early for the Social Director, Eileen Kiesel, and her two helpers, Crista Upson and Terri Petrey but everything by party time was beautiful.

After an hour of cocktails and socializing the buffet was opened. The meal was excellent and Mama's proprietors, Ernie and Tom Castro made sure we had plenty to eat and ran out of nothing. After the meal, Past Commadore Karl Day gave some special thanks to each of his Executive Board staff with some extra thanks going out to Terri Petrey for her untiring(?) work as your new Vice Commadore and Editor and Publisher of the Daymarker. Special thanks also went out to Pat Utter for her expert handling of the Fall Regatta for the sailors.

The presentation of the Commadore of the Year trophy went to Nick Katsarelis aboard PHYLLIS K on A Dock. During the week long Club sponsored cruise, Nick only had his first mate for two days and the remainder of the trip he handled his boat himself. Only occasionally did he take one of the junior members along, I think more as a fishing partner than a helper. His professionalism and excellent boat handling skills made him the best recipient for this prestigious award. Nick was not present at the banquet so his son, Nick Jr. accepted the award for him. Congratulations Nick!

Ron Tilmon, your present Commadore, took the podium and made his presentations of officer's flags to each of his board members. After all presentations were made and kudos given out to all appropriate members of the past and present board the rest of the evening was devoted to "boogying". The music, compliments of Captain Buddy, was great. Buddy would go around to each table asking for requests and if he didn't have a particular selection (which was not very often) he had something very close to it. There were about 20 people who remained and danced right up until closing time of the restaurant.

A great time was had by all who attended. Special thanks to Eileen and her crew and all who attended to make our final event of the year such a great success.

OYC'er RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dave Rutherford, Commadore of the Neabsco Sailing Club had some very glowing words about one of our members, Pat Utter.

There were many people responsible for the success of the Kid's Kup and the raising of well over \$3,000 for Children's Hospital but Pat was one who stood out among many of those people. She designed the poster for the event and got it printed, personally raised about one quarter of the total proceeds and even took empty beer kegs back! Dave said something to the effect of recruiting Pat but I'm hoping she's here to stay with us. We realize her value as proven in the OYC Regatta weekend race and her handling of the entire sailing event for the race. The post-race dispute was handled "admirably" by Pat and everyone went away feeling the problem had been resolved and it was a good race.

We appreciate your kind words Commodore Rutherford and we agree with you whole-heartedly!!! Congratulations Pat! You're what the OYC should be all about!

PROTECT YOUR CABIN FROM MILDEW

If the air in your cabin isn't changed regularly, stale and humid air will get trapped inside, causing mildew problems. If you lay up your boat or plan to be away from it for an extended period of time, leave vents, lockers, cabin doors and your ice box open. Make sure there is ventilation under the boat cover. Use a vent, a dehumidifier, or a moisture remover such as Torrball or Damp Away to keep air in your cabin dry.

BEATING THE BOATER'S BLUES

(Excerpts from Product Spotlight - Fall, 1987)

For many OYC members, the boating season has come to an end. For others, it's just now beginning to wind down. And then, there are those lucky people who live in an area where boating is a year-round event. But, no matter where you live, there are times when Mother Nature will create conditions that keep you from spending time on the water. And now, as the days become shorter, and we rapidly approach the end of another holiday season we become resigned to the quiet winter days ahead and we find ourselves reminiscing about our boats, our crews, and the places our trips have taken us.

To help pass the time until you take to the water again, here is a list of ideas that will keep even the most ardent boater busy. We're sure you will find at least a few ideas to make the time you spend away from your boat seem a little bit shorter.

- Take that boating safety and handling course you've been putting off. The BOAT/U.S. Foundation for Boating Safety makes it easy to find a class that interests you. Just call the toll-free number (800-336-BOAT in Virginia) and they will provide you with complete information on courses in your area.
- Use your spare time this winter to clean and repair your sails and to check your running rigging. Clean your curtains, cushions, and galleyware. Recharge your battery, service electronics, and take the time to inspect and test your safety gear. Clean out your toolbox, making sure that you have the right kinds of tools for routine maintenance. If you have an inflatable dinghy, why not clean and polish it now so it'll be in top shape when you go to use it next? It seems that fishing tackle always needs special care like lubricating reels, cleaning rods, organizing hooks and lures, etc., and now's a good time to get it done.
- If you still have time on your hands, why not throw a party for your friends family and crew -- nautical attire only, of course! Good friends, good food and the anticipation of days ahead are bound to help pass the time.