

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

The Daymarker

June, 1988, Vol. V, Issue 6

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

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Commodore Ron Tilmon 703-491-4214	Vice Commodore Terri Petrey 703-690-6577	Rear Commodore Mary Jo Worcester 703-494-2383	Secretary Ned W. Rhodes 703-534-2297	Treasurer Rich Ellis 703-690-6186
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Upcoming Events

May 28-30 - 3-Day Cruise to Colonial Beach

June 4 - Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet



Commodore's Comments

Ron Tilmon

A Note of Caution. Some of you have or may plan to purchase Maryland State Boat Fishing licenses that permit persons aboard your boats to fish in Maryland waters. A friend of mine relayed the following incident that I'm passing along for your information/consideration.

This individual (a Virginia resident) owns a boat that is documented with the Coast Guard and it is berthed in Deale, MD. He bought the 1988 MD boat license (Red). One day while returning to his slip, he was stopped by the Maryland Marine Police and asked why he did not have his Maryland "Use" sticker (also Red) displayed on his boat. He went through his litany of being a VA resident with Coast Guard documentation. NAY, NAY, that doesn't seem to matter. The police were looking for two Red stickers, and stopping all boats not displaying both.

Apparently intent is the key. If you purchase a Maryland Fishing License for your boat, then you must intend to operate/use it in Maryland waters. If so, you must also have a Maryland "Use" sticker. The Maryland "Use" sticker costs about \$5.00; however, in order to get the sticker, you must pay a one-time use fee, equating to 5% of the purchase price of your boat.

This is not intended to be a legal dissertation, only a relay of info received from another boater. Proceed as you may see fit.

Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach As the cruise coordinator, I have not yet been able to find any available slips at any of the marinas in the vicinity of Colonial Beach. While I'm continuing to look, we shouldn't count on slips at a Marina; therefore, we should plan on a raft up in the back bay area.

Since I'll be occupied on Saturday, May 28th, at the National Crew Championships, my good buddy and our new Rear Commodore for Power (Steve the Woos) Worcester will lead the charge to Colonial Beach to get things going. Current plans call for the group to depart OHM approximately at 12:00 PM (noon), plus/minus 23 seconds.

Stragglers can contact the raft up on Channel 16. We also plan to utilize shuttle boats to haul people ashore who want to tour the town, eat out, etc. I plan to join the group on Sunday, so if anyone wants to go down with me on Sunday, let me know.

Labor Day Cruise to Tides Lodge At the moment, I have managed to surreptitiously reserve 8 slips for us at Tides Lodge for the long weekend. They must be individual reservations, since they don't book Yacht Clubs on holiday weekends. So, at the moment, I have 8 slips reserved in my name.

Another point is a required four-night minimum over a holiday weekend. Therefore, our (my) reservations are for September 2 (Friday) thru September 5 (Monday). The slip fee per night is \$1 per foot.

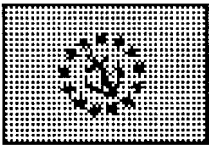
Tides Lodge is mailing me a contract to sign/send back. I will need Captain's names, boat names, lengths, power

requirements, and a \$75 deposit per boat, returned with the signed contract. Our records show that the following people have signed up for the cruise:

Burrows
Caldwells
Cheatams
Franks
Petreys
Tilmons
Worcesters

Bottom line: If you want to go, I need a firm commitment and a \$75 deposit check made out to the OYC by **June 15th**. While I don't yet have the contract, it seems that the deposit is refundable if some advance notice of 4 to 5 days is provided. So, if you're really interested in going, send your checks to me, with the above required information, at:

Ron Tilmon
2803 Mt. Airy Ct.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
(703) 491-4214



Vice Commodore's Comments

Terri Petrey

May has come and gone. What an eventful month!

May 7th and the 5th Annual Flag Raising started with a beautiful day after the most horribly rainy week we had had in months because something worked. I think there must have been ALOT of praying for good weather! Thanks to Dick Lynn and Dick Krauss for allowing us to use the patio of the Pier 5 Restaurant for our ceremony and banquet afterwards.

We would also like to thank Jane Barrett, Vice Commodore of National Yacht Club and Jim Ifland, representing both Aquia Yacht Club and the Vice Commodore of the Potomac River Yacht Club Association (PRYCA) for being our special guests. Special thanks to our Junior Commodore, Stacy Hampton and Vice Commodore Patrick Worcester and other junior members Tom Tilmon, Billy Petrey, Kerry Kiesel and Cindy Kiesel for handling the halyards so well during the ceremony. Thanks also to Dennis Moeller for making the ceremony complete and really official with the firing of the cannon.

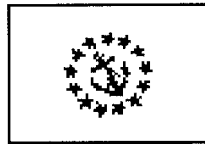
Following the ceremony the 50 plus members who attended the ceremony were treated to a feast with champagne and orange juice and a variety of hors d'oeuvres and sandwiches provided by the Club and its generous members.

After cleaning up and stocking our boats with the needed supplies for a "comfortable" overnight, we all headed for Wades Bay. The winds were kicking up in the beginning causing everyone to anchor by themselves but also giving us time to unwind and relax before the evening activities. As is usual in this area, evening approached and the winds died down and the raft up formed. We had a total of 12 boats rafted together with one closer to shore. LA MOETTE provided the bonfire on shore for our enjoyment and SOUTHERN NITES provided the members with a firework display. As the evening progressed and people started getting restless,

SUNSHINE became the game room for a rousing game of Pictionary.

Sunday morning brought us an interesting turn of events with anchor problems and then health problems with one of our members. But, thank heavens, everything turned out fine in the end and we were able to proceed to Robertson's for Mother's Day. We arrived early, (11:30 a.m. which was the right thing to do on Mother's Day) and were given a table for 40 OYC members! I know we really made our two waitresses day!

All in all, everything went smoothly and we had a wonderful time. Thanks again to all those who attended and participated. We had a couple of new members and some first-timers with reports of a wonderful time had by all. For those of you who didn't attend — SEE WHAT YOU ARE MISSING?



Exec. Rear Commodore Comments
Mary Jo Worcester

AN ANCHOR, "WITH A TWIST"

On a bright flag-raising day
OYC members got underway.
Boats were gassed, food was stowed,
Drinks on hand, dinghys towed.

Wades Bay! The scheduled place!
Not a frown on anyone's face.
The sky was clear, the water rough,
Most anchored alone, preserving yachts' buff.

It became dusk and the wind did ease,
We could raft up now on calmer seas.
The largest boat, its anchor set
Stayed in place — we others met.

Twelve boats, all in a row,
Captains decided more anchors to throw.
The three middle boats, all anchors set,
The first mates busy; food, drinks to get.

Dinners were served, you get the jist
I'll take a vodka, "with a twist".
Some rowed ashore, some played games,
Some were foolish, I'll not name names.

Next morning arrived - Mother's Day!
Off to the Crab House - Dad's will pay!
Break up the raft now, someone said,
Up to the bows the crew did tread.

The order was given. Anchors away!
But no anchors arose to our dismay.
Anchors away! Captains did shout.
What? They won't come up? They questioned
with doubt.

Now on the bows crew and Captains did stand,
Everyone needed to lend a hand.
During the night the winds did blow,
And anchor lines twisted in the water below.

Lines twisted left, lines twisted right,
Some aft, some forward; Lord, what a sight!
Faces were red; tempers wore thin.
To err is human, twisted lines a SIN!

To make a long, long story short,
All survived and made it to port.
Ahh, the Crab House - we needed a drink!
I'll take a vodka, "with a twist", I think.

Fingers pointed! Bodies did shake!
Oops, pardon me - I mean a vodka straight!!!

Third Annual OYC Week Long Cruise

Steve Worcester - Cruise Coordinator

Have you thought about taking part in the OYC week long cruise to the Upper Chesapeake Bay? Well if you haven't, and you are interested in doing so, be advised that decision time is fast approaching. Cruise planning is in progress and a commitment from those members desiring to participate will be required by June 24th.

Now I hear you saying, "How can I decide if I don't know when or where the cruise is going"? OK Here are some answers to your questions. First, the schedule calls for a departure from Occoquan Harbour Marina at high noon on July 23rd. We will return on July 31st. The first night and last night of the cruise will most likely be spent somewhere close to Look Out Point at the mouth of the Potomac, for an easy first and last day's run.

The itinerary will include stops at Annapolis, Baltimore Inner Harbor, and St. Michael's Island, among others. Average distance between stopping points will be approximately 75 miles (3-4 hours cruising time). Overnight stops will generally be arranged at local marinas with water and power hookups. Additionally, at this time of year, the nettles are a bit thick in the Bay, so we try to pick marinas that have pools, playgrounds, restaurants, showers, laundry facilities, etc. There will be at least one stop, and maybe two, where we will remain two nights. It can be pretty hectic moving to a different marina each day, so a break like this is needed.

Here's where the decision part is essential. In order to make a reservation for transient slips at the various marinas, we need a commitment by **June 24th** from those of you who want to go. That commitment is in the form of a check, payable to the OYC, for \$125, since a security deposit from the Club will generally be required for the reservations to be accepted by each marina. We will also have to provide the number of slips needed, size of each boat, boat name, what kind of hookups are needed, arrival and departure dates, etc. For any members who cannot make the entire trip, but do want to go on a part of it, we can work out such arrangement; a smaller commitment amount would be required in such a case.

Lastly, and in my mind the most important, this is a laid back, informal event. There is no pressure to do everything as a group. We will stick to the itinerary but anyone is welcome to leave early, split off on a side trip, stop and fish, or just loaf along. If you prefer to anchor out rather than stay at the marina, that's OK too. Those who want to eat in restaurants can; those who want to eat on their boats, likewise. The party people can carouse as late as they want; the party poopers can curl up with a good book and flake out early. No big deal - *this is vacation time!!*

The itinerary will be finalized and preliminary arrangements made with the marinas we will visit within the next few weeks. SO! If you think you're interested, just say "YES". You can sign up by filling out the form attached to this issue of the Daymarker. Please mail it to me, or turn it in to any Board member as soon as possible. My address is:

Steve Worcester
2601 Woodfern Court
Woodbridge, VA 22191
(703) 494-2383

So if you have any questions, call me. This is the third annual week long cruise and we are expecting it to be even better than the first two, so don't delay, get your reservations in now.

Good News (continued)

In case some of you really do read your Daymarker, I inadvertently omitted the last line, on the last page regarding Good News from the Coast Guard. The last sentence should read:

"Auxiliary units are covering the middle Potomac area every weekend and are within calling range."

Norman Nautical

One Sunday morning at a nearby marina a fellow slip holder approached the owner of a 32 foot Marinette to point out that the boat in the slip next to him had several stray dock lines hanging down into the water. It was also pointed out to the Marinette owner that one of the stray lines was stretched tight and appeared to end directly under the 32 foot Marinette.

Upon investigation it was found that the stray dock line had tangled in the starboard rudder mechanism of the Marinette. The owner of the Marinette and his helper managed to dislodge the line with no damage to either the rudder or the stray dock line.

Norman Nautical visited Occoquan Regional Park (the old brick factory) Sunday, May 1st. The park has something for everyone. Playing fields for the ball player, a boardwalk for the fisherman, picnic tables, and a launch ramp for the boater. They have also preserved one of the old brick kilns for the historian.

Norman Nautical observed the launch ramp for about 25 minutes. In that time ten boats were launched, two

did not start. One had improper registration numbers, another boat had wires hanging out where the running lights used to be. Two boats gracefully drifted from the dock in the breeze. One boat owner attempted to launch his boat still tied to the trailer. A sailboat owner launched his vessel with two people on board, then proceeded to drift out into the Occoquan River. The small sailboat came to an abrupt stop when it hit the rocks on the opposite shore and the mast tangled in the overhanging trees, the boat turned around and sailed off.

During the visit a conversation between two boaters was overheard that went something like this:

"Meet me at Sandy Point".

"OK, where is Sandy Point?"

"Do you have a chart?"

"No".

"OK, just follow me, it's easy. Go out this way and hang a left at the island".

"OK, see you there. Can you show me how to anchor? I have never anchored before."

"OK, no sweat"!

The status of the two no starts and the returning vessels from their big fun filled adventure on the high seas is unknown.

Certificates Required for Young Boaters

(Bay Magazine, May 1988)

The new Boating Safety Education Act dictates that any person born on or after July 1, 1972 (in other words not 16 years old by July 1, 1988), must obtain a Certificate of Boating Safety Education prior to operating a numbered or documented vessel in Maryland waters. Eight hour courses leading to the Boating Safety Education Certificate are being offered by the Natural Resources Police, through some school systems, some boat clubs, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron. BOAT U.S. has a comprehensive list of boating courses taught and will make the information available by telephone (800) 336-BOAT. The DNR Police Outdoor Education has similar information at (301) 975-2247, and can also tell those already knowledgeable in boating safety when and where they may take an Equivalency Examination.

The Nature Corner

Mate Mer

On Tuesday, May 17 a baby duckling was hatched, and after the appropriate drying off time, momma duck led baby duck to water - and guess who was waiting for its first dinner when we got home from work. We do have to separate the ducks from the geese for feeding, but for the moment things don't seem to be too-o-o hectic. Baby duck can't handle the toasted oats from Giant yet, so it gets tiny pieces of bread along with the oats for momma. When the oats get soggy enough, it will work on one or two. On Wednesday, the baby's second day of existence, the baby was already showing precociousness - wandering far away from momma pecking

at whatever floated by. Momma got "sidetracked" by a couple of the male mallards leaving baby all to itself. We have nicknamed the baby "Wind-up Toy" because that is what it looked like paddling all over the place showing no fear of anything, including the fish that were nipping at its tiny webs. While momma was being "sidetracked", Wind-up Toy was mingling with the geese while the geese maintained their regal appearance. Believe it or not, Wind-up Toy was seen making a wake toward the boat, peeping all the way, when it realized just how far away it had strayed. With nasty weather approaching, we watched momma lead Wind-up Toy toward the marsh area where we presume she tucked Wind-up Toy away on high ground for the night. We also hope momma went back to the nest so we can have another Wind-up Toy to watch.

So sorry to report that Wind-Up Toy hasn't been seen since Wednesday, the 18th, and momma has abandoned her nest. So, we wait for the next batch.

Mer and John arrived home on Monday evening to find five baby goslings awaiting their first meal of bread (and water?). Mer said that "this almost makes up for the missing Wind-up Toy".

Notes From The Poop Deck

John Piper

I am suffering from Spring Fever & writer's block this month. We are planning our cruise down to the Yeocomico for haul out and painting with a possible side trip to the Eastern shore. But when it comes to creating something original for this month, I draw a blank. So let me amaze and amuse you with some current membership statistics.

Present membership stands at 208, with 152 Family members, 22 Individual members, 5 Associate members, and 29 Junior members. Of this 208, 29 have been members since 1984, 20 since 1985, 28 since 1986 and 37 since 1987. In addition to other yacht clubs, we mail the Daymarker to 103 households. Last year at the end of the season, we had 215 members. Of these, 81 did not renew, 134 did renew, and we had 74 new members. This year will probably end up with the same approximate numbers.

We have records on approximately 100 boats. Of these, 90 are power boats and 13 are sail boats. 79 of these boats are housed at the Occoquan Harbour Marina. The boats range in length from 16 feet to 51 feet, with the average being 28.3 feet. As a matter of fact, 12 are 28 feet, 10 are 25 feet, 9 are 26 feet and the rest a scattered bunch. If you take all of the OYC boats together, you are talking 2,805 feet of boats which should represent a significant influence on the river.

Doing some recursive extrapolation on the available data we have been able to establish the typical OYC boater. It is a family with a 28 foot Bayliner. They have 1.3 children. (The thought of the 0.3 part boggles the mind.) They are both working on their second marriage, but the kids are hers. He thinks that he is the absolute master seaman while she knows better, but will never mention it. They will run aground twice this year. They both want a larger boat in two years. He is 38

and six pounds overweight. She is 35 and will not admit to being overweight although this year's bathing suit is smaller than ever.

They have both taken a boating course but without a chart they can navigate only to Mattawoman Creek. Their boat payments are larger than their food budget. He is responsible for the engine room while she is responsible for the galley. They both think that the other one is responsible for waxing and polishing the hull.

Neither one of them can properly cleat a line but they can criticize any anchoring or docking. He will insist that she dock the boat at least twice this year. She will do better that he has ever done. That will end the practice. They have mildew on their boat but think that it is "diesel dust". They will come down to their boat at noon Saturday, and leave at 5:30 p.m. Sunday. During that time, they will relax and enjoy their boat and the environment. They will trade sea stories with their dock mates. They will enjoy themselves. Isn't that what boating is all about?

Learn Water Skier's Hand Signals

(Potomac News Fun in the Sun, May 1988)

Now that skiing waters are becoming warmer (not that this discouraged the true hard-core skier from skiing when the waters were cold!) I have had numerous occasions to watch these athletes. What I have noticed most often is that while the driver is towing his skier, the skier is screaming at the top of his lungs instructions as to what he wants the driver to do. Well, help is here! Save your lungs and learn the proper way to water ski! Learn hand signals. Make note of these signals, paste them to your tow line if you have to, just PLEASE STOP SCREAMING!!

Coast Guard Auxiliary

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is looking for boaters who enjoy helping fellow boaters. This is an organization of 30,000 plus members which assists the U.S. Coast Guard in their recreational boating safety efforts through teaching public education classes, performing courtesy marine examinations, and on-water operations. Interested persons may obtain information by calling 1-800-368-5647.

Pot Pourri

In the case of one OYC officer, this column should be called "poop" pourri. (TP)

The latest OYC craze during raft ups is the new game Pictionary. Too bad no one knows how to draw! Especially RT whose rendering of the Mississippi River is a sight to behold!

Whatever CK does after graduation from college, we all hope he doesn't decide to run a grooming business.

Last year OYC members harassed SU and CU into getting a swim platform. This year our attentions are directed towards RE and JE. And NO Rich, you can't use Josie!

Honk your horn and hold up a beer and SJ will take you for a dinghy ride to shore during raft-ups. The only problem is that now he's starting to come when he hears a pop-top!

Want to stay in shape? Try "Dirty Dancing" Aerobics on the bow of POWER PLAY. BP says "Lessons are free"!

A.M. says that one "Sqwatch" is now his limit?

Just as J.P. and M.P. have a "BOME", other OYC members have now formed the "BUME". This is a group of members who say that they will all be moving down to Florida in a few years and start up the OYC boat commune.

I received a nice letter from past members Bill and Linda Covington who are presently still in Tangier. Bill reports that they have a hectic schedule of parties, dinners and other social events. Their daughter Dawn is in the 10th grade and attending the Tangier American School. They will be visiting their boat which is presently moored in North Carolina and plan on extensive cruising of the North Carolina outer banks during July and August. They also hope to visit OHM and say hello to all but that will probably be by car and Bill does not know if they will get this far North by boat. They want to give their best to all and say that they really miss the OYC and all of its wonderful people. Hope to see you guys soon!

Apologies

Due to time and space in this month's Daymarker, I deleted Part III of Karl Day's article on "Rules of the Road". I will print this next month!