



# The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

Member: PRYCA, CBYCA Boat/U.S. Accord # GA80979Y



## Commodore's Comments

Steve Wexler

**P**ast Commodore Tommy C. eloquently reported in last month's edition of the Daymarker regarding the "goings on" at the OYC Labor Day Cruise to Coles Point Plantation. One minor point he overlooked was reporting the winners of the Second Annual OYC (Golf) Classic. Modest as he may be, Paula, Tom and I were thrilled to garner first place—an event which will be duly noted at this year's Holiday Party. By the way, just in case you missed it, the OYC 1997 Holiday Party will be held on December 13th at the Quantico Marine Corps Golf Club—details to follow next month. This is a change in date and location—please mark your daybooks accordingly.

Some of us weren't able to attend this year's Shrimp Feast at Mattawoman Creek. But I've heard through the grapevine that it was a great event attend by 16 or 17 OYC boats. A particular thanks to those "old time" members who helped show the "newer" members the ropes and tricks of the trade. I understand that even with multiple rafts, all anchors and anchor lines came back with the boats that they started with—clearly an improvement over the Dinghy Regatta.

As Paula and I were driving down to Fairfax Yacht Club on the morning of September 20th, we pondered many things.. What would Della Fleury (Commodore of TYC) have up her sleeve (or some other garment) this time?.... Would OYC really be able to achieve the Triple Crown of Potomac River competition? (See earlier Daymarker articles)... Would the great members of TYC be able to keep up the fantastic effort they've shown in previous years in hosting the End of Summer Party?

**Life, Death and the Universe (as we know it).**

After a beautiful ride up the river, we

arrived to be met by the Sea Ducks, Lucky Ducks, and numerous Geese, who as usual were decorating the TYC shoreline (no—just the Geese not the Ducks). We docked, registered, and started preparing for the competition. About this time, the QYC crews started milling about suggesting that July the 4th never occurred and Coles Point Plantation did not exist. Our photographic evidence of the magnificent volleyball victory will allow the achievement to be preserved for all time.

The Tug-of-War was first and Laslo "Terminator" Bozoky, Gene "Our Own Marine" Brown, and Tim "Bountiful Mutant" Chaffin were all on the VHF reporting various in-route locations—but *they weren't there!!!* Well, we were able to stall long enough to field a "Tugging" Team —3rd place. But we did grab 1st place in the water balloon toss and went on to an aggregate score (after the water cannon competition and canoe race) just slightly less than the aforementioned QYC. The participants were too numerous to list—but thanks to everyone who helped.

While Tom Andrews (VC of TYC) announced that evening that QYC had prevailed and was awarded the trophy—we decided they had left out the important contest of Best Female Impersonator. It appears that Della was not able to attend but her presence was felt nonetheless. Yes, her designers grabbed Phil Rogers of QYC, Steve Wellington of TYC and your faithful commodore, took us to selected boats, forced us to remove our party garb, and proceeded to dress us in female evening attire (wigs, dresses, bags, high heels to match, eye liner, eye shadow, lipstick and rouge—what ever happened to natural beauty?).

Clearly, this is one time "you had to be there." With some luck this photographic evidence will be destroyed—but I did hear them say that there was "no contest"—I was the best (worst@#?!?) dressed woman of that evening. So when those points are added to the afternoon's competition—**WE ARE THE VICTORS!!!** It's my story and I'm sticking to it.

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Steve Wexler  
703 437-0687

Vice Commodore  
Teresa Sorrenti  
703 590-6724

Rear Commodore  
Janine Washington  
703 590-3653

Secretary  
Walt Cheatham  
703 491-3956

Treasurer  
Peggy Ball  
703 569-2159

Quartermasters  
Bill & Bonnie Fulford  
703 591-2118

Membership  
Jim Ball  
703 569-2159

PRYCA Delegate  
Henry Lovell  
703 799-1322

Historian  
Susan Von Schaack  
703 339-6404

THE DAYMARKER Editor  
Tom Coldwell  
703 323-1675

Just let Phil Rogers say he was a better looking woman—I dare him. By the way, the members of TYC continue to amaze us—they seem to improve their parties year after year. Thank you TYC!

PRYCA has completed this year's social calendar and I wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of the membership to thank Delegate Henry Lovell (together with the immeasurable assistance of Member-at-Large Monica) for coordinating OYC's participation in the PRYCA events. Under their direction, our members certainly win the prize for Best Participation in this year's PRYCA events. Once again, a note of thanks for the service of Steve Donock (Vice Commodore), Jim Ball (Member-at-Large) and John Robey (Fleet Captain).

### It ain't over yet, bubba

PRYCA may have celebrated the End of Summer, but the OYC calendar is still going strong...

**Columbus Day Cruise to Gangplank Marina** in the Washington Channel on Columbus Day Week-end. Rick Sorrenti has lined up a great week-end with a Saturday night cocktail party at Capital Yacht Club and the Taste of DC on Sunday (No—even I don't believe that Rick coordinated the Taste just for OYC). Please make Rick's life easier—call him and tell him you'll be there.

**Annual General Membership Meeting, Chili Cook-off, Photo Contest and Halloween Party** will be held at Fairfax Yacht Club on October 25th. This is the first time that we've combined the events—but if Dottie Jacobsen's coordination of previous year's events is any indication, this is one you don't want to miss. Look for Dottie's article for details—but here are some basics: Bring your favorite Chili to compete—or Bring a Dessert to compete—or Bring a Side Dish to share. Essentially just bring one or more things to eat. Bring your favorite Photos of this year's events. Dress yourselves in costumes—or just masks- or just come as you are. But the most important thing is to be there. Support your new Board by casting your ballot—at what will obviously be a very short business meeting, followed by a whole load of party.

### And On Deck

**Hardy Souls Cruise** to Alexandria City Docks on November 8th and 9th. Always a great trip coordinated by Mary Jo Worcester. Fall cruising is beautiful—even if sometimes we've had to clear the ice from the docks to go ashore. Alexandria's wonderful on a fall Sunday morning. Give Mary Jo a call and let her know you're attending. And finally, the **Santa Cruise to Occoquan** on November 29th. Walt Cheatham always organizes a fun event to transport Santa—holiday caroling, treats and eggnog. Look for the details next month.

And as always, see you on the River!!!



## Rear Commodore's Comments

Janine Washington

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the Shrimpfest at Mattawoman Dunes was a major blast! Just when I was starting to think the summer was over and there

was no more fun to be had, 15+ of the hardest party boats in the OYC fleet showed up at Mattawoman Dunes to show me that just wasn't so! Mike took some great panoramic shots of the fun and activities. They'll be on display at the October 25th Membership meeting (see Dottie Jacobsen's flyer for details of the Halloween Party/Chili Cook-off/Dessert Competition/Photo Contest/Costume Contest elsewhere in the Daymarker).

Now I know there are a few who will say, "Come on Janine, what's the big deal about eating a few shrimp on a mound of sand?" Well, after handing the poor fool a membership application (they obviously don't know that fun on the Potomac is spelled O - Y - C!), I'd have to outline the key ingredients that would make any OYC Shrimpfest an extraordinary event:

- 1 Warm and sunny September weekend
- Plenty of Shrimp to satisfy the hardy OYC appetite
- 3 Cases of beer (for the shrimp, okay?)
- 1 Cord of wood for the bonfire (old boxes, magazines, wheelchairs will do)
- 4 Bags of marshmallows (we even gave some to the kids!)
- 1 Good off-color joke per person
- Those outstanding OYC Captains (can those dudes raft-up or *what?!?*)
- 1 Can of snuff (optional)

At this year's Shrimpfest we had all of the key ingredients and more! We began the afternoon by whetting our appetites on the catch of the day by Gary "The Occoquan Crab King" Linck. We celebrated the engagement of Robert and Jan of *Snarlin' Marlin*. We welcomed our new members the Plucketts of *Rockin Robin*. We solicited new members (they just happened to be at the Dunes and thought we were having too much fun!). We stuffed ourselves silly on shrimp. The side dishes were excellent. Robin Ryan of *Seadated* made the most scrumptious pasta-sesame salad I've ever tasted. We sat around the bonfire and told jokes (some good, some bad, some *very, very bad*) until way past bedtime.

I must say, the only downside to the entire event was that I woke up the next morning with the worst hangover of the summer. You know, from all that beer in the shrimp. I'm thinking next year I'll skip the shrimp. No, that's the reason people go to a Shrimpfest. Duh! Maybe I'll try steaming them in white wine. Yeah! That way we don't waste any beer! Boy, what a stroke of genius! I wish I'd been this lucid when I took my SATs!

See you guys Columbus Day weekend at Gangplank.

## Hardy Souls Cruise, November 8-9

I can't believe it's that time of year once again to think about the Hardy Souls Cruise. Seems like we were all waiting for summer to arrive - and now it's gone!

For those new members, the Hardy Souls Cruise is "tradition"! It's usually the last OYC cruise of the year...you know, the one right before winterizing. The cruise is to the Olde Towne City Docks in Alexandria (behind the Torpedo Factory). Veterans Day usually falls on a Monday and those fortunates with that day off would have a three-day weekend. **This year** the holiday falls on **Tuesday** so perhaps "some"

people will make this a four-day weekend; others will have to settle for the normal two-day Saturday/Sunday.

As many OYCers know, one can never be totally prepared for what the weather may bring, unless you have enough room aboard your vessel to carry everything from summerwear to snow shovels. Yes, we have often encountered snow, rain, sleet, hail and ice; however, the weather has never slowed us down. And we've seen it all from docking all decked out in boat shoes with a full length mink, to stripping down bare\_\_\_ naked in a sleet storm!

So, this year's Cruise will begin the morning of Saturday, November 8th. For all of you that plan on attending this function, please notify me no later than Friday, October 24th. Call Mary Jo at (703) 494-2382, after 5:00pm.

And as usual, I'll need your boat name, boat length/width, electrical needed, and number of nights you'll be staying. I guarantee you will not be bored....you will not be "too hot"....you will not go hungry or thirsty, and you'll love it, never want to leave it, always talk about it, shout it, shop it, never be without it, bahdy, bahdy bah!!

Call me now, don't wait...you snooze, you lose and all that stuff!



## Vice Commodore's Comments

Teresa Sorrenti

### Frost is on the Pumpkin and the Holly is in the Air?

Okay, we just got through the End of Summer Party, with Mother Nature sending the cold front through on cue. The mornings are now crisp, the sweats are coming out of the back of the drawers on the boat and at home, so obviously we need to talk Holiday Party. Before you think that I am one of "those people" who have their Christmas shopping half done, let me assure you that I am much more likely to BEGIN to shop on December 20 (my Dad's birthday; family traditions are important).

However, when you are dealing with a monthly newsletter, events that are Events must be discussed in advance, so I apologize for appearing to be an early bird—besides, Early Bird is a different event entirely!

For those who missed the little announcement, the Holiday Party had to be moved this year to the second Saturday, December 13, 1997. There was a mix-up in the Fort Belvoir NCO Club reservation process, and we were hard-pressed to find an open party room at the late (!) date of August. What we have arranged is the Quantico Golf Club, a facility that will allow us to have the whole building, in other words we can be ourselves! There is a dining area with two fireplaces, a bar and an outside deck should the weather permit gazing at the golf course by moonlight.

We are still negotiating the menu options, but plan to maintain tradition of brief open bar with hors d'oeuvres and several entree choices in the same price range as last year. We have already booked Keith, the fantastic DJ we had for the Sweetheart Dance. There is also a new inn on the base, and we are discussing the possibility of an overnight package for those who wish to relax and return the next morning (perhaps

after Sunday Brunch?). So keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet in next month's Daymarker, and reserve Saturday December 13 in your little black book. The OYC Change of Command and Holiday Party is an event not to be missed!



## Secretary's Comments

Walt Cheatham

Was going to hold this subject until a big panic set in and I was three days late with an article and Tom Coldwell was threatening to publish without me—sort of a safety valve article to get me out of a jam. But after the weather this weekend, I can't wait any more. We were all at Tantallon, and the weather was great, but Saturday night it rained and this incredible high of cool air came in and the trip home Sunday was the most glorious day you will ever see on the Potomac—cool, crystal clear, and windy enough to bring out the sailing contingent in droves.

Reminded me of an Angus Phillips article I read in the Sports section of the Post in the spring—an article I cut out just for this purpose, but have since lost which means this will be from (weak) memory. It had to do with an organized effort to make a set of campsites all along the Potomac to support people in canoes and kayaks who want to paddle by hand all the way down our wide waterway to the Bay.

What a neat idea! Rustic campsites without a dockmaster asking for a dollar a foot, without anybody selling petrol or other spirits, campsites almost like the native Americans might have found four hundred years ago as they paddled these waters as close to nature as one could get. The idea was to have various clubs, groups, and organizations set aside designated areas that modern day Americans could chart as friendly and safe places to pull their watercraft up on a beach, find a lean-to or good spot for a tent, with maybe a fire pit or other safe area for cooking. In our immediate area, several sites on Mason neck and Leesylvania State Park were mentioned.

The OYC makes it to Pt. Lookout in 4 hours after consuming 80 gallons of gas. Sailors make it in two or three days hopefully consuming nothing more than the wind. How do you think it would feel to make it in weeks under one's own power. Tiring, well yes, but also exhilarating and satisfying.

But not something one would necessarily want to accomplish in mid-summer in high humidity season. That's why this weekend forced me to write this. Beautiful weather, fall weather, back-to-nature weather. I'd already decided this was the year to return to the Annapolis sailboat show for the first time in 16 years. Now you get a sampling of why.

Anybody want to buy a slightly used 32 foot twin screw gas guzzling power boat?

P.S. This article was definitely not coordinated with Susan. She is still looking for a generator.

**For Sale:** 1987 43' Tollycraft, in excellent condition and about 300 engine hours. Contact Sam Raines, 644-6299 (H), 917-2770 (W), or via e-mail: rainess@bah.com

## Things that go BANG in the bilge Or How Walt might have been walking on clouds

by Jim Ball

For those of you who read Walt's article last month, you may not have appreciated the potential for disaster that Walt experienced. There he was, the intrepid navigator running along, minding his own business (except for terrifying the sailboters) when POW!—one of his spark plugs let go and blew out the insulator from the housing.

Now Walt's experience presents an interesting situation. Here we have our engine pumping explosive fuel-air mixture into the engine compartment while the spark plug wire is flailing around going zap-zap-zap at over 6 times per second. (This is not a pretty picture). In addition, if that spark plug had let loose on an outer bank of cylinders which had a gas tank about 4 inches away, guess what it would have done at the approximate speed of a very hot speeding bullet. (This is even a less pretty picture unless you are shooting footage for a James Bond movie).

The sobering fact is, this is the third incident like this in Occoquan Yacht Club in the past 3 years. This happened to the Dahls a couple of years ago as it also did to Lonnie Love as I recall.

I am going to take a wild guess about why this might happen. I wish we had the actual plugs to examine, but we don't. I suspect that there is a plug substitution issue here and it bears looking into for all of us. There is a good reason why we have to replace boat parts with boat parts. We can't put an automobile alternator or automobile fuel pump on a marine engine because neither are built to avoid explosive circumstances. There are a lot of other things like that, and that's why most things that say "boat" on them wind up costing 3 times what the same apparent thing costs that does not say "boat"

Returning to the spark plugs, it just may be that some, or all three of these incidents were associated with a non-marine sparkplug being substituted for a marine spark plug. I suspect that the cause of the release of the insulator could have been corrosion around the insulator caused by the damp marine

environment. This is only suspicion at this point, but if you have any plugs in your engine that are not the specific number that is specified in your engine manual, you might want to change them out this Fall after you change oil, add Militec, and winterize. Meanwhile, I am sending inquiries to the Coast Guard Boating Safety Division on this problem, and a few sparkplug manufacturers; I'll let you know what answers I get.

Next month—making winterizing a breeze (especially for Rick who actually may keep his boat over the winter this year). Cheers!

## The Datemarkers

### Anniversaries

Sandy Mriscin & John Ludwig, October 1  
Jim & Susan Thrift, October 3  
Rick & Teresa Sorrenti, October 6  
Rick & Debby Zimmerman, October 10  
Peter & Lisa Kuzma, October 20

### Birthdays

Bob Wilcox, October 2  
Anna Burner, October 11  
Kathy Zimpel, October 19  
Bud Wilson, October 21  
Beth Chaffin, October 24  
Colleen Brunsvold, October 26  
Herb Saunders, October 27  
Debbie Setikas, October 27

## Welcome, New Members

Your membership chairman, Jim Ball, is pleased to announce that his little swim in Mattawoman after the PRYCA Float In has paid off. The aquatically-delivered membership application handed to Richard and Audrey Puckett on their boat has just been returned. Rich and Audrey keep their 33' Chris Craft, Rockin' Robin, at Hoffmasters. Greet them at the next function!

## *The Daymarker*

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club  
Tom Coldwell, PC, Editor  
Jim Ball, labels

News and other materials for publication are welcome from any member of OYC. The deadline for submission of materials to **THE DAYMARKER** is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. If possible, please submit copy by e-mail to:

**coldwell@erols.com.**

Fax service is not available. Word-processed copy may be mailed on a 3.5" IBM/MSDOS-compatible diskette to the editor at 10319 Commonwealth Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22032-2613. The preferred format is WordPerfect for Windows or DOS, but we accept Microsoft Word and ASCII text as well.

Photographs may be submitted provided they comply with contemporary community standards for decency and do not reflect adversely on the club or its officers... unless it's a really good shot.

The editor may be reached by phone at home, 703-323-1675

# There MAY still be room for you at Gangplank Marina for the Columbus Day Weekend Cruise, October 11-13

Rick Sorrenti, Cruise Coordinator, 703-590-6724

**Registration**—Fill in and mail with your \$20 deposit check—payable to Rick Sorrenti—to Rick at 3401 Carly Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192.

Captain(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Boat name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Length \_\_\_\_\_ Beam \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Electric (circle one):    Single 30 amp    Twin 30 amp    Single 50 amp    Either 50 amp or twin 30 amp

since the registration deadline is passed, you should call Rick before sending this fo  
**Visit OYC's Home Page on the Internet**

When you can't be on your boat and you've read your Daymarker for the third time, you can still stay connected with boating in the privacy of your home or office computer connection to the OYC home page on the Internet.

Our genial home page webmaster, computer guru and former Daymarker editor Ned Rhodes has compiled a veritable encyclopedia of boating resources for OYCers at

**<http://www.softsysgrp.com/OYC/index.html>**.

Ned has produced and maintains the OYC Home Page on a *pro bono* basis, which is Latin meaning "my dog Jess helps."

On the OYC Home Page, not only is there information about our club, a membership enrollment form and the club's current schedule of events, the Nedster has laced the schedule page with links to photographs which he has taken with his trusty digital camera or that others have submitted to him for publication on the OYC website.

Moreover, in his spare time this summer, when he was not going on the second summer weeklong cruise, playing host to his doting father and "wicked stepmother," or passing out shrimp, firewood and anchoring tips at the Dunes, His Amiable Cyber-Self was collecting for posting in the OYC web site a phenomenal array of interesting and valuable boating related Internet links. Here's just a sample of topics which, if clicked upon online, will take you to the farthest horizons of boating knowledge—provided that your computer and modem are plugged into the appropriate wall receptacles: Sperry Marine's Notebook of Maritime & Naval Resources

#### NEWS!

Companies

Jobs Available

Boats for Sale

Events Calendar

#### LINKS & OTHER:

Navies

Ports / Harbors

History

Weather

Compass

Mariner's All-in-One Page

Power & Sailboat

Buyer's Guide

Jobs Wanted

Ship's Registry

Boats Wanted

Discussion Groups

Coast Guard

Boating

Images

Publications

U.S. Tides

Boat/US

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Maritime History Citations of the OED

U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center

Planet GPS

U.S. Navy Memorial

Chesapeake Bay-Net

Chesapeake Bay Boater's Resource

Internet Nautical News Net

LiveAboard Magazine

Online Boating Safety Course

Sarah Gottlieb's Chesapeake Web Site-many links!

The Potomac River Guide

Boat Builders

Sea Ray Boats

Chris Craft

Carver

Maxum

Bayliner

Cruisers

Weather Stuff

Weather Buoys

Weather at Chesapeake Light

Davis Weather Instruments

Channel 4 Home Page

Tide Predictions

Weather at Thomas Point

The Weather Channel

Local Four Day Forecast

USGS

Yacht Clubs & Organizations

CBYCA

National Boating Federation

Aquia Harbour Yacht Club

PRYCA

Capital Yacht Club

Prince William Yacht Club

Marinas

Occoquan Harbour Marina

Spinnakers

Tall Timbers

Point Lookout Marina

Hoffmasters

Potomac Marine and Canvas

And these are just starter links. Almost every one of them will lead you to other links, the cumulative total of which must reach into the bazillions.

But you have to have a computer, modem, online service and a clue or two about what to do. No problem. There are plenty of "connected" OYCers who would be glad to help the novice get started. Very nearly half the club membership are wired (as others have always suspected); and they all have email addresses membership.

**Inside: Commodore gets “Sweet Gussied” at Tantallon; LAST CHANCE (and maybe too late but do try) to sign up for Gangplank cruise; what really happened at the Shrimp Feast; and everything there is to know about the General Meeting/Chili cook-off/Dessert Contest/Photo Contest/Potluck and Halloween Party.**

**So get ready for...**

October 11-13  
Columbus Day  
weekend  
cruis to Washington  
Rick Sorrenti, 590-  
6724

October 16-19  
Annapolis Powerboat  
Show. Come see the  
next Sea Duck Too

October 25  
General Meeting,  
Chili Cook-off, yada,  
yada, yada at Fairfax  
Yacht Club

November 8-9  
Hardy Souls Cruise  
to Alexandria  
Mary Jo Worcester  
494-2383



## *The* **Daymarker**

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

***Address Correction Requested***