



OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

Web site: <http://members.aol.com/occoquanyc>

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Commodore's Comments

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THE DAYMARKER Editor
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I'm beginning to notice a recurring theme of unseasonably warm weather at all of the events since I've been Commodore (all two of them). Yesterday's high of sixty-two degrees turned *everyone's* thoughts to boating as 62 OYCers gathered in the banquet room at Gecko's for the 1999 Planfest. We even opened the windows, letting the sights, sounds and smells of the Occoquan engulf us as we munched on snacks and took in other libations while we excitedly made plans for the upcoming season. It seemed more like a balmy day in April than the 23rd of January.

We started the afternoon needing coordinators for twenty events, a PRYCA delegate and a Fleet Captain for the Fairfax Yacht Club.

We ended the afternoon with coordinators for all events (except the Tantallon Yacht Club event for which the date and other details have

yet to be determined), our own IPCTeresa Sorrenti as our new PRYCA delegate, Bill and Bonnie Fulford (back by popular demand) as Fleet Captains of Fairfax Yacht

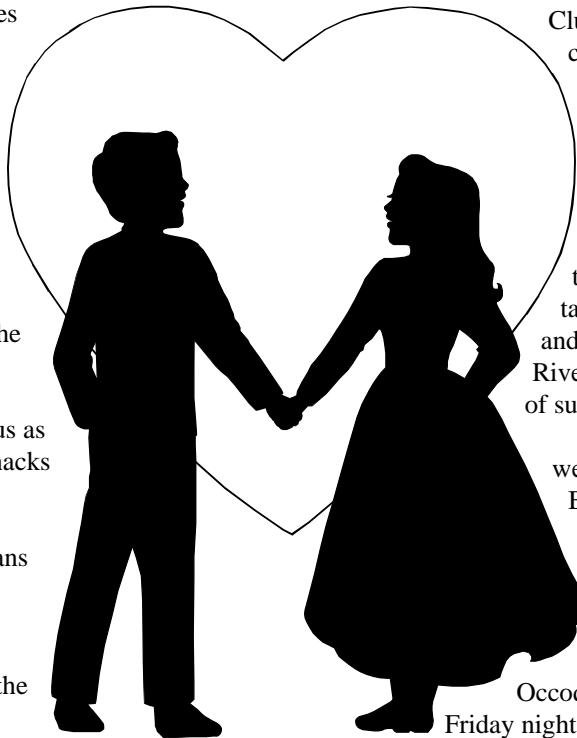
Club, *two* two-week long cruises on the Bay and a brand new event:

The OYC Official Holiday. Treasurer, Gary Linck, has declared September 1st an official OYC holiday (the power boater's equivalent of the "white collar flu"). We'll take the day off or call in sick and meet over at Tim's Rivershore to celebrate the end of summer.

Also as a "first" this year, we're planning an Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet. This event was the brainchild of PC Steve Wexler which entailed a blessing of the fleet weekend coordinated by the yacht clubs of the Occoquan. We're proposing a Friday night event hosted by

PWYC, our annual Saturday Breakfast and Yard Sale, either the PRYCA dinner-dance or a spontaneous raft-up at the dunes, the boat blessings on Sunday and an afternoon cookout at Fairfax Yacht Club.

All this and three new members to boot. What a productive event! My ever-competent Vice-Commodore, Peggy Ball,



Hello, lovers. There's still time to swoon your way into the Sweethearts Night party, Feb. 6. Just call Jay Wilmeth, 968-9760, and blow in his ear. Call TODAY. See Jay's article, Page 4.

has all the fabulous details, so see her article to be sure you don't miss any of these events.

As we move forward into the 1999 season, I'd like to communicate the goals and objectives of this year's board:

- ! Maintain/increase membership
- ! Establish regular communications with OYC's Past Commodore's Council
- ! Maintain communications with PRYCA
- ! Improve relationships with other Potomac River yacht clubs
- ! Foster continued relationship with favored club marinas
- ! Coordinate the 1st Annual Occoquan River Blessing of the Fleet
- ! Establish a 1999 Boater Education Committee

The objective nearest and dearest to my heart is the Boater Education Committee. Actually, the Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet idea is a very good idea, too. However, as I stated before, that was originally PC Steve Wexler's idea and given the fact that it's the first idea I've ever seen him come up with that had nothing to do with women, I thought it bore serious consideration. The 1999 Boater Education Committee will be just that—a one-year special committee dedicated to the continued education and safety awareness of all OYC boaters. I have named past-Treasurer Dave Moore as OYC's Education Czar for 1999. As a Potomac River resident and member of the U.S. Power Squadron, Dave has a vested interest in the Potomac and its natural resources. Dave is a wealth of information. If he doesn't know, he'll find out. He'll answer the same questions tirelessly and diplomatically which makes members (new and old) feel glad they went to him.

The Boater Education Committee, in addition to the numerous educational contributions of our Membership Chair Jim Ball, will serve to make the upcoming season safe and enjoyable for all of us. Dave's duties will include posting schedules for the U.S.P.S. Safe Boating Courses, notifying us of changes in the rules and regulations of safe boating, and identifying other OYC members with special boating-related knowledge and skills to provide Daymarker articles and/or cruise seminars to keep us all informed. It's my personal belief that too much information is better than too little. As your Commodore, it will be my mission to place the electrodes of knowledge on the nipples of nautical ignorance!

Upcoming Events

By the time you receive this Daymarker it will be (almost) too late for all but the swiftest of Sweethearts to catch the 3rd annual **OYC Sweetheart's Night** (contact RC Jay Wilmeth, 968-9760). This is not an event to miss! In addition to the usual shenanigans we'll have an instructor who will teach us the rudiments of the *Booty Call* the D.C. area's hottest new line dance. Be there!

Don't forget the **Washington D.C. Boat Show** at the Convention Center in D.C. and the **National Capital Boat Show** in Chantilly, VA, both of which will be held during the President's Birthday weekend. You're bound to see other OYCers at either of these shows, any day you attend.

Mark your calendars for March 13th for the **OYC General Membership meeting** at the Fairfax Yacht Club. This is our annual potluck dinner (it's also BYOB) and St. Patrick's Day Party, so wear something green. We'll try to

squeeze in some time for a membership meeting (last year, we went an entire 3 minutes before things got out of control). This will also be your next chance to sign up for any cruises or events you may have missed at the Planfest. Remember, signing up is only an indication of interest. Each individual cruise coordinator will contact you for a final headcount and non-refundable deposit. So even if you're only interested, it's better to sign up than be left out!

Membership corner...

Jim Ball, Membership Chairman

Welcome to brand new 1999 members

Bill & Marilyn Dalgetty of Vienna, who keep their 32' ChrisCraft *Moon River* at Hoffmasters.

David Wilks of Woodbridge, who keeps his 43' Maxum *Loophole* at OHM.

Jack & Sharon Striker of Manassas, who keep their 29' Four Winns *River Dancer* at Pilot House Marina.

Joining up at the Planfest: Robert and Nancy Miller of Lake Ridge, who keep their 38' Bayliner *Lee Anne* at Coles Point Plantation,

Andrew and Elizabeth Kalweit, of Potomac Falls VA, who keep their 27' Bayliner *Lizzie Beth* at Hampton's Landing

...and welcome back to David Williams and Michelle Foster, who took a year off and are now back as members. Dave & Michelle keep their 26' ChrisCraft *Crazy Horse* in Maine; gonna be a long trip for the OYC outings for them!

Membership renewals due

Those with asterisks on the label are *PAST DUE* on membership dues. (Family \$60, Individual \$40, Associate \$30) Please send check payable to OYC to Jim Ball, 6833 Spring Beauty Ct, Springfield, VA 22152-3111.

The Datemarkers

Anniversaries

Roxana McCarter and Joe Grosson 2/13

Jim & Carol Henry 2/26

Birthdays

Rick Sorrenti 2/9

Twila Lytle 2/10

Candy Clevenger 2/11

Paul Koenig 2/14

Ola Manley 2/24

The Daymarker

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Tom Coldwell, PC, Editor

Mary Ann Coldwell, Editor's Editor

Jim Ball, Circulation

News and other materials for publication are welcome from any member of OYC. The deadline for submission of materials to **THE DAYMARKER** is the 20th 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. By the 20th of the month.

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

Occoquan Yacht Club's 1999 Schedule of Events

Including names and phone numbers of event coordinators

Events subject to change, consult future editions of The Daymarker for updates.

Feb 6	Sweethearts's Night at P.J. Skiddoo's	Jay Wilmeth, 968-9760
Mar 13	General Membership Meeting & St. Patrick's Day Party - Fairfax Yacht Club	OYC Board
Apr 24	Safety Day - MVYC	Teresa Sorrenti, 590-6724
Apr 24-25	Early Bird Cruise -Gangplank Marina	Eugene Brown, 339-6404
May 1-2	OYC Flag Raising & Raft Up	OYC Board
May 15-16	OYC Breakfast & Yard Sale	Al Clevenger, 273-3073, & Randy Snowman (301) 869-2885
	PRYCA Blessing of The Fleet	Teresa Sorrenti, 590-6724
May 29-31	Memorial Day Cruise - Yeocomico	Steve Wexler, 437-0687
June 19-20	Spring Cruise - Cobb Island Days	Gary Linck, 494-7028
June 26-27	Tantallon Yacht Club Event	(to be named)
July 3-5	Fourth of July Cruise - Coles Point	Rick Sorrenti, 590-6724
	Fourth of July - D.C. at Gangplank Marina or Raft-up (your choice)	Tony Mirando, 327-3999, & Tim Chaffin, 680-6048
July 2-18	OYC Two Week Long Cruise	Tom & Mary Ann Coldwell, 323-1675
July 2-11	Week 1 of Two Week Cruise only	(to be named)
July 16-18	PRYCA Float In - Ft. Washington	Teresa Sorrenti, 590-6724
July 31-Aug 15	OYC Two Week Long Cruise II	Susan Brown, 339-6404, & Tom Shank, 327-3999
July 31-Aug 8	Week 1 of Two Week Cruise II only	
Aug 7-Aug 15	Week 2 of Two Week Cruise II only	Susan Brown & Tom Shank
Aug 14-15	Summer Cruise - Colonial Beach	Carol Walsh, 425-7699
Aug 21-22	Dinghy Regatta Raft Up	Randy & Mary Lynn Snowman, (301) 869-2885
Sep 1	OYC Official Holiday - Tim's River Shore	Gary Linck, 494-7028
Sep 4-6	Labor Day Cruise - Pt. Lookout	Rick & Debbie Zimmerman
Sep 11-12	Lobster/Shrimp Feast - Mattawoman	Mike Fordham
Sep 17-19	PRYCA End Of Summer Party	Teresa Sorrenti, 590-6724
Oct 9-11	Columbus Day Cruise - Gangplank & Arena Stage	John & Kathy Corley
Oct 14-17	Annapolis Power Boat Show	
Oct 30	Membership Meeting, Chili & Dessert Contest, Halloween Party-Fairfax Yacht Club	Candy Clevenger, 273-3073, Nicky Linck, 494-7028, & Mary Lynn Snowman, (301) 869-2885
Nov 6-7	Hardy Souls Cruise - Alexandria	Mary Jo Worcester, 494-2383
Nov 27	Santa Cruise	Walt Cheatham, 243-2430
Dec 4	Holiday Party & Change of Watch - Ft. Belvoir	Peggy Ball, 569-2159
Dec 31	All-night Millennium 2000 Gala Celebration, Dinner, Dance Marathon & Mud Wrestle at Steve and Paula Wexler's house (just kidding)	

Save this schedule, on your refrigerator, in your refrigerator... someplace



Vice Commodore's Comments

Peggy Ball

A big THANK YOU to all who attended the January 1999 OYC Planfest.

It really looked like the typical OYC Happy Hour with the buffet table empty and the plans for the next event made. This looks to be yet another great year of boating with our OYC friends. There are golden oldie stops on the Potomac and the Bay as well as some new opportunities to explore and visit.

If you missed the chance to sign up and express interest in an event for 1999, do not panic. The sign-up sheets will be out again at the March General Membership/St. Patrick's Day-Potluck Meeting March 13th. You will also get additional chances and information in the upcoming Daymarkers.

The Board is going to make sure you are informed of the events you asked for and helped plan. That's our job. We are YOUR Board.

Got an idea for a trip or event? It's still not too late to come forward and let us know. We will be happy to help publicize and promote the activity. Be creative. OYC'ers love any excuse to use their boats.

On this page is the updated 1999 Schedule of Events. Remember, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Raft-ups and spontaneous runs down the river can break out at any moment during the year. So, stay close to your Daymarker and your boating friends so you don't miss anything you want to do.

Oh, the mad dash to the boats? Wel-l-l, suddenly we remembered engines would have to be re-winterized and food/drink restocked so we just stayed where we were-buffet and bar at our fingertips. But it was a good thought.

Cheers!



Rear Commodore's Comments

Jay Wilmeth

Last chance to be a Sweetheart

Well, if you didn't enroll while at the Planfest last week, you have just a few minutes more to sign-up for our third annual Sweetheart's Night, February 6th. You have to act now. My original deadline of February 1st has some wiggle room, but not more than a day, please. Here's the rundown:

P.J. Skidoo's, 9908 Lee Highway, Fairfax, February 6, 7:00 p.m. to midnight. ["Does Your Mother Know You're Out, Cecilia? Does She Know That I'm About to Steal Ya?" Oops, sorry, got lost there. *Ed.*] Happy Hour, Cash Bar, Dinner with Dessert, Coffee, Tea. Dancing to the music of deejay Keith Robinson. The dress is Fairfax casual (sport coat, sweater, OYC polo shirt PRYCA bathrobe)

The cost is \$25 per person, check payable to OYC. To reserve, please call me now, 703-968-9760.

What a wonderful Fall it was for boating! We were fortunate to have so many great weekends all the way through the first weekend in December. It was extra nice for the Wilmeth's, who just took possession of their first "big" boat. The great weather allowed us to cram an entire boating season into the months of October and November. We kept putting off winterizing the boat, and we decided to leave her in the water over the winter. Every weekend found us puttering around and spending the night enjoying our newfound getaway.

Thanks to other club members, my preparation for the eventual winterization went fairly smooth. Jim Ball and his unlimited supply of tools, parts, one-of-a-kind aids, and knowledge left me feeling fairly secure with my first attempt at this annual ritual. Sure, I'd done this many times before, but shooting some fogging oil into an outboard wasn't exactly the same!

My doubts began to haunt me: What have I forgotten??

I thought I could leave the Bimini top up. After all, it was tight and secure. It would keep rain and snow off of the bridge. WRONG! Got a call at work that my canvas was ripping off in the wind. Whadda I do now? I did not realize how many hoses, pipes, reservoirs, bilge compartments and thru-hulls there were on this tub. What if I forget one?

Once it was winterized, I thought it would be exciting to spend the night on board—New Year's Eve! Why not? We attended a party in Shady Side, MD, and it was too far to drive all the way back to Northern Virginia. Plus, I'd spent many a cold night in the "field" as a younger soldier! Why not?

Because the Queen was aboard, that's why not!

Well, I convinced her that the two portable heaters I brought along would warm up the cabin just fine. We also had lights and hot water. What else would we need? Then she saw the bubbles coming up around the boat.

"What's that." She asked. "Why are they there?" Uh oh, I thought, how do I explain this?

"Well, Dear, that's just in case the fish aren't getting enough oxygen, you know, like in the kid's aquarium; or perhaps we docked over a hot spring like we saw in

Yellowstone that time; or maybe the Chesapeake Bay is effervescent this time of year; or maybe it's to keep ...ice... from forming."

At 1:30 AM, we boarded *Au Contraire* having had a wonderful evening. There was ice all over the dock. Frost covered everything. It was precarious at best. The boat had warmed up just as I had assured her it would, only not as much as I had promised. Only 42 degrees! What happened?

It was *REAL* cold. That's what happened. The space heaters were doing the best they could and were using every ampere of power I could provide. We were committed. No turning back now.

OK, picture this: flannel sheets; five blankets (including a Hudson Bay and a moving blanket from Mayflower Moving and Storage); and the canvas cover off the windshield. You couldn't move under all this weight. Even if you could, you wouldn't because the space you'd move to was so cold. I wore everything I had on board including my tux and a yellow slicker I bought at BoatUS. But wait—there she was dressed as Carol Burnett's bag lady.

Finally at 2:15 we were in bed relatively comfortable and asleep. Maybe this wasn't so bad after all.

Next morning—*38 degrees in the cabin!*

Uh Oh! *No Head!!*

Tantallon Yacht Club invites you...

Tantallon Yacht Club has extended to OYC and other PRYCA club members an invitation to attend Tantallon's 30th anniversary Commodore's Ball, March 6th. Commodore Tom Andrews and the Board of Governors of TYC is planning a very special event, which will take place at historic Oxon Hill Manor, a spectacular colonial mansion high on a hill overlooking the Potomac River.

The evening will feature complimentary cocktails until 9PM and wine with dinner, hors d'oeuvres, choice of gourmet entrees by Exquisite Catering, salad, vegetables and dessert. There will be presentations and dancing following dinner.

Cocktails begin at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 8:00 p.m. Black tie optional. Cost will be \$45 per person, and will include a commemorative gift. RSVPs and payment are requested by February 28. For more information and reservations, contact: Tom Andrews, 301-567-5137, e-mail: TRAndrews@aol.com

A public service announcement

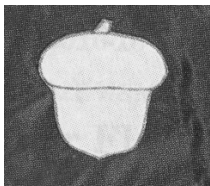
Nature alert...

In light of the rising frequency of human encounters with grizzly bears, the Department of Natural Resources is advising Potomac area hikers, hunters, boaters and fishermen to take extra precautions to keep alert of bears while ashore and/or in the field.

"We advise that outdoorsmen wear noisy little bells on their clothing so as not to startle bears that aren't expecting them. We also advise outdoorsmen to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch out for fresh signs of bear activity.

Outdoorsmen should recognize the difference between black bear droppings and grizzly droppings. Black bear droppings are smaller and contain lots of berries and squirrel fur.

Grizzly bear droppings are larger, have little bells in them, and smell like cayenne pepper."



Treasurer's Comments

Gary Linck



Secretary's Comments

Gordon Cawelti

The Out List 1998	The In List 1999
The Diesel Volleyball Team	GAS Pull My Finger Volleyball Team
Boxed Wines	House Drinks
Spice Girls	OYC Ladies
Spontaneous Raft Up's With Tow Boat U.S.	Spontaneous Raft Up's With Properly Anchored OYC Members
VHS Tapes	DVD Movies
Passing Out On The Bay	Properly Installed Carbon Monoxide Detectors
1' = 5' Waves on the Bay	1' = Smooth as glass on the Bay
Cement Fixes	Silicon Fixes
Plain Old Popcorn	Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popcorn with Real Pour Over Butter !
Mexican Beer	Millennium <i>Korbel Brut</i> Champagne
Crabs in the Occoquan	<i>Big</i> Crabs in the Occoquan We Hope
Jim Ball's E-Mails	www.JimBall.com
One-Piece Bathing Suits with Cover Ups	Two-Piece Thong Bikinis (Can't Knock A Guy For Trying)
The Stick	Body Oil with Proper UV Protection
Week-long Over-Sharing	Week-Long Clean Underwear Sharing
Business Company Apparel	OYC Fashion Apparel
GPS, Loran, Sonar, Radar, and Autopilot	Compass, Updated Charts, Sextants, and Celestial Navigation (Y2K Compliant)
Ice Cream In Saint Michael's	Chicken Noodle Soup In Saint Michael's
Dirty Old Speed-Ripped OYC Burgees	Clean New Speed Proof Burgees
Belly Button Lint	Belly Button Shooters
Dinghies	Jet Skiis (Laslo)
Windows 98	Windows 2000 (Available January 1, 1901)

Well, the big date has been set. February 9 the City of Alexandria officials receive applications for the City Marina in Old Town. This is the first hint of a new boating season and has a bit of anxiety to it because there are always more applications than slips available. The line forms early the night before!

We took our annual pre-Christmas trip to Williamsburg for a day to capture the feel of early America and dine at the elegant Williamsburg Inn; at least that was the plan until I discovered I left my suit at home which hardly matched Dodie's elegant attire! On this trip we visited the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, which is definitely worth seeing for relics of yesteryear's life and work on the Bay. The current tattoo exhibition was of less interest to me but this curious custom seems to be enjoying a bit of a revival. At least it helped us struggle through the winter without any boating. It is worth a stop if you have not seen it.

I missed the last board meeting because I was in Clearwater Beach where we spent last December with our boat and a rented penthouse. This is a great area to spend even without your boat because there is much to do in the greater Tampa area, and along the Intracoastal Waterway, Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

When we had our boat we saw lots of dolphins and made our way north to Tarpon Springs, an old Greek fishing community, and south to Sarasota. The penthouse we rented was in a motel next to the Clearwater Beach Yacht Club which we were allowed to use. If any of you travel to this area, I can give you some tips. I think the West Coast is preferable to the East Coast because the gulf is more forgiving than the ocean, but there is great boating on both sides.

There's time to read these days

I have more and more been using amazon.com to buy books, and one of my recent purchases was *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing. The tale took place in 1914 when Shackleton and his crew sailed into the South Atlantic to cross the Antarctic overland. Their ship was trapped and crushed in ice, and Shackleton made a 1000-mile voyage to get help for his crew—a real tale of heroism in the age of exploration!

Another useful mid-winter therapy is, of course, the boat show. Dodie is being completely unreasonable, however, by insisting that I get my fix at Chantilly instead of flying down to Miami. It just ain't the same without water!

Well, these are but a few of the activities which help pass the time until spring comes and our vessels float again. At one point we thought about looking at RVs, but the better part of wisdom has prevailed.

"Rug-ged" Yankee has carpet needs PC Ray Steele is considering re-carpeting the *Pat & Ray*. Anyone having knowledge of the purchasing or laying of marine carpet please contact Ray at 703-385-8615. E-Mail ray-steele@att.net He is willing to coordinate and/or bargain for group rates if others have similar needs.

Notes from OYC/Florida

by Herb Saunders

We got a Christmas card from Ned Rhodes, primarily, I suppose, because Jackie and I had sent one to Arleen. Alas, I digress. He suggested I write an article for the Daymarker. I'm writing.

This is not about boating. There is little to report in that regard. Year-round boating with incessant sunshine, balmy breezes and playful dolphins chasing a blue-green wake can be pretty boring. (We yearn for the days of viewing picnic tables afloat under the power lines.)

This is about sport. It is about softball. More specifically, it is about Senior League softball, a Florida phenomenon defined for our purposes as a game restricted to males between the ages of 60 and death. Participating talent ranges from former professional players to dorky looking guys who insist that a softball can best be caught with one's teeth.

As some of you may know, but not care, a year or so ago I retired once again and Jackie and I moved our operational base from Virginia to Florida. Shortly thereafter, casting about (this is a subtle play on words reflecting retiree tendencies to fish a lot) for something to keep me out of trouble, a not insignificant endeavor, I discovered Senior League softball. Having balled considerably for decades, I quickly and enthusiastically immersed myself.

This is not small potatoes. This is "The Bigs" as we like to say. There are playoffs and championships. We have sponsors and we wear little hats with sporty symbols on them. Some guys wear hats that fit. We wear shirts of matching colors, with emblems that say things like "Duckpin Lounge" and "Champ's Pizza." We have numbers, which are very handy, as remembering names can be a problem. I wear number seven, which if memory serves me (unlikely) may have been worn by Mickey Mantle, who had his own problems staying off the streets. We also wear pants. Some wear suspenders. And we wear cleats and batting gloves and we swing \$300 aluminum bats, which facilitate the long ball. Some of the heaviest hitters tend to be former cops from NYC. They can afford those \$300 sticks.

After one each hamstring, one each ankle, one rotator cuff, a lower back anomaly and two groin pulls (as the years pass, I am increasingly pleased by talking dirty), I am now embarking on the new (winter) season. We also play during the summer. Equatorial heat does not deter old poops in search of conquest.

There are a lot of teams and we play often, up to four or five times a week. Each outing consists of two seven-inning games with a Ginkgo Biloba break in between. We welcome new players because there is a certain amount of "attrition." Most games begin like this from the manager: "You remember number 18 from the Devildogs, played second base. He took the final dive (distinctly athletic phrasing) two days ago. Let's gather around the water cooler, press our gums together and have a moment of you know what for him." Or, "I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that number 22 on the Pacemakers had the big quadruple yesterday. The good news is that he forgot to take his glove after the last game. Any offers?"

We sign a lot of cards. We go to a lot of very large and relatively ornate buildings, before which sit major stretch limos and within which lurk several young and somber-

looking guys in black suits that don't fit them. Attrition at its best, or worst, depending on batting average.

Last week we had a very big event, the annual dinner dance. Cocktails began at 3 p.m., early bird dinner at 4:30, and then we danced the night away until 8 p.m. (the band had to be back at The Home at 8:30). Just as well, some of us had to play the next day.

One of our legendary players is "Willie," a pitcher. Everybody knows him by name, as opposed to number, mostly because he is essentially famous. He gets a lot of local press coverage and has a large (sedentary) female following. Did I mention the groupies? Anyway, he has been at this a long time and is pretty good. He is also 92 years old. As I view Willie through beady eyes, it occurs to me that my latest reinvention of self may be in its infancy. There could be another 25 years out there doing this. Oh boy!

So there you have it from OYC/Florida. If anyone's interested, the Pacemakers are looking for a new first baseman. Number 64 went to the big diamond in the sky last week. As far as I know, he took his glove with him. Don't worry. You can catch with your teeth.

Happy New Year!

Herb Saunders and Jackie

New web page features articles of Daymarkers past

Captain Jim Ball, your dedicated membership chairman, has been dabbling in web pages since New Year's weekend. And now he invites you to visit his new boating page, where he features many of his previous articles on boat maintenance and safety as well as a few other items.

Included in the on-line access are:

Winterizing Tips–Little known goodies
Fire Safe-ing Your Boat
MILITEC–The Engine Saver
Spark plugs Go Wild, Part 1
Heavy Snow CAN Sink Your Boat–Find Out How Much
Spark plugs Go Wild, Part 2
U.S. Coast Guard Safety Web–Recalls and Safety Notices
Replacing Shaft Seals
Riser Primer–The Scary Facts
Engine Alignment Made "Easy"
The Bonding Box–Make Engine Maintenance Easier
T-Fittings–The key to winterizing ease and safety
Dancing Engines–The Peril of Loose Engine Mounts
A Better Oil Absorbent–Get out the Pantyhose and See your Barber
NMEA 183–The Marine Instrument Interface Standard
(How your Radar, GPS, Chart Plotter and Autopilot Talk to Each Other)
Salad Dressing for Your Head
All you wanted to know about Oil
Potomac Trivia Quiz
Sea Serpents? The Truth Is Out There

Click on <http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/System/3240/Boat.html> and enjoy.

Season's first Bay cruise scheduled

Participants of last year's two-week cruise on the Bay had so much fun, they decided to cook up a similar outing this year, this time heading north. The cruise is set up to accommodate participants who want the whole trip or just the first week. Here are the schedules for each arrangement along with the estimated distance to each destination:

Two-week cruise		Nautical
July	Destination	Miles
Friday 2	To Pt Lookout Marina -- pool	68
Saturday 3	To Annapolis Mears -- pool	64
Sunday 4	Annapolis Mears	
Monday 5	To Baltimore Marine Center -- pool	26
Tuesday 6	Baltimore Marine Center	
Wednesday 7	Baltimore Marine Center	
Thursday 8	To Havre de Grace-Tidewater Marina	42
Friday 9	At Havre de Grace-Tidewater Marina	
Saturday 10	To Rock Hall -- anchor in Swan Creek	34
Sunday 11	To St. Michaels Inn & Marina -- pool	23
Monday 12	At St. Michaels Inn & Marina	
Tuesday 13	At St. Michaels Inn & Marina	
Wednesday 14	To Solomons Island -- anchor	46
Thursday 15	At Solomons Island -- anchor	
Friday 16	To Coles Point Plantation -- pool	38
Saturday 17	To Coles Point Plantation	
Sunday 18	To home	58
		Total Miles 399

One-week cruise		Nautical
July		Miles
Friday 2	To Pt Lookout Marina -- pool	68
Saturday 3	To Annapolis Mears -- pool	64
Sunday 4	Annapolis Mears	
Monday 5	To Baltimore Marine Center -- pool	26
Tuesday 6	Baltimore Marine Center	
Wednesday 7	To St. Michaels Inn & Marina -- pool	30
Thursday 8	At St. Michaels Inn & Marina	
Friday 9	To Solomons Island -- anchor or marina	46
Saturday 10	To Coles Point Plantation -- pool	38
Sunday 11	To home	58
		Total Miles 330

The schedules are identical through July 6, after which the one-week cruisers begin their trek back south and home.

Tentative reservations have been blocked for 10 to 12 boats at Mears Marina on Back Creek in Annapolis. No other spots will be booked until cruise coordinators Tom and Mary Ann Coldwell have some pretty solid commitments from OYCers desiring to participate in one or both weeks. As of the close of the Planfest, eight captains have committed for all or parts of the cruise—Ball, Zimpel, Clevenger, Jearles, Zimmerman, Hobson, Snowman, Wilmeth and Coldwell. Please review the schedule, and if you decide you would like to participate, please contact Tom at the earliest, 323-1675.



Visit OYC's Internet web site, <http://members.aol.com/occoquanyc>, created and maintained by PC Ned Rhode. Check out the new photos. See Ned row his dinghy into harm's way (Click on "Two Shalimars"). Visit Jim Ball's new boating web site, <http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/System/3240/Boat.html>

Thanks, guys, for your great contributions to boating education and fun!

Nautical notes from all over

compiled by Jim Ball

Why not leave it alone?

Mike McDowell, a prominent tour organizer has offered touring dives of the RMS Titanic made aboard Russian Mir submersibles from the Russian research vessel *Akademik Keldysh*. The fare is \$35,000 for a dive, and so far ten people have signed up. A problem arose when the RMS Titanic Inc., owner of the salvage rights, filed suit to prohibit diving on the wreck. McDowell is appealing. Speaking of the Titanic...

Rivet Trivia of Titanic Proportions

Recent findings by National Institute of Standards and Technology metallurgist Timothy Foecke have supported his earlier research showing that weak rivets may have contributed to the *Titanic's* sinking. The new findings also provide strong evidence to dispel an older theory, that the steel plates making up the hull became as brittle as glass from the cold ocean water and that they shattered upon collision with the iceberg.

His microscopic analyses of small wrought-iron rivets recovered from the *Titanic's* hull have revealed that the metal contained three times the amount of slag (the glassy residue left behind after the smelting of ore) allowed at the time, making it more brittle than it should have been. Therefore, *Titanic's* collision with the iceberg may have caused the rivet heads to break off, popping the fasteners from their holes, and allowed water to rush in between the separated hull plates, speeding the ship's descent.

We've seen the movie about asteroids the size of Texas, but...

An iceberg the size of the state of Delaware has broken off the Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica, according to the National Ice Center. The iceberg has been dubbed A-38 (why don't they use girls names?) And is 92x29.9 miles covering an area of some 2,750 square miles! The National Ice Center in Suitland, MD is a joint operation run by the Navy, NOAA, and the Coast Guard. The last time something this big "calved" from an ice shelf was in the Ross Sea in 1987.

Land Tortoise--what a name for a boat!

An 18th century gunboat, the 240 ft *Land Tortoise*, discovered by amateur archaeologists diving in Lake George, NY, was recently declared a national historic landmark. Only five other shipwrecks have been so designated: *USS Monitor*, *USS Maple Leaf*, *USS Utah*, *USS Arizona*, *Antonio Lopez*.

Parts is Parts!

Franck Goddio and a team of French underwater archeologists have recently found parts of Napoleon's fleet in Aboukir, Egypt (find that on your map, I can't). The archaeological mission began earlier this year and the archeologists have already unearthed numerous artifacts, including artillery, gold and silver coins and personal crew items, from *L'Orient*, the flagship of Napoleon's fleet which exploded during the battle against Lord Nelson's fleet in 1798.