



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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Commodore's Comments

Peggy Ball

Well, its true. If you put out free food, they will come. Thank you! Thank you, to the over 70 OYC'ers who turned out for the 2000 Planfest. What a packed room! Have you caught my bug? I'm the one who has spent every winter planning what I want to do when the boats are running again. I well remember all the harassment I have taken over the "cruises in my mind." Or was I accused of my mind being out on a cruise? I can't recall how that went.

The year ahead looks like another one of action for OYC. We have already had four events and that was in January! Thanks to Susan and Eugene Brown for hosting the Sunday Brunch at the Ft. Belvoir Officer's Club January 9th. The food wasn't free, but it sure was wonderful. The view wasn't bad either, just ask one of the 29 OYC'ers who attended. A real winner, guys.

Marc Wensell offered to take six lucky OYC'ers to join him on the water to view the Bloody Moon Eclipse. He tells me we must be getting wimpy—no one took his offer!

The PRYCA Change of Watch was January 29th. Once again, OYC was well represented both in the audience and on the Board. Our own Monica Lovell was installed as Commodore. Steve Wexler entertained us as Master of Ceremonies. (I am writing this before the event, so I can only hope he did not say anything to get us kicked out). Walt Cheatham will be a Member at Large for 2000 and Steve, yes the same one, returns as Treasurer. Our very special Delegate to the PRYCA Board is Jay Wilmeth. OYC is very lucky to continue to be such a strong presence on the PRYCA Board. A big THANK YOU to our members who are so generous with their time and talents.

Back to the Planfest—what can I say. I think you are ready to party! We filled almost every coordinator position and that's with at least six new events! Be careful what you suggest as an event, you might see it on the calendar. There are more land based events for the winter and more cruising events for the boating season. Something for anyone with a little time on their hands.

Congratulations to all the winners in the Photo Contest. Thanks also for sharing your wonderful pictures with us. [Names and photos on Pages 4 and 5.] It was great to see those memories of the past year.

It is really exciting to see so many OYC'ers step forward and plan wonderful opportunities for us to share. There are two two-week long cruises headed south this year. Don't have two



Petitions for fun—John Corley and Andrew Kalweit fill in the cruise interest lists at the January Planfest at Gecko's.

weeks? Week One of either trip can be done also.

I am especially glad to see the new winter events. Come join us for the Ocean City Sweethearts Getaway. Jay Wilmeth has planned a wonderful weekend of fun, food and frolic. Did I mention there's a pool to gather around? The Sheraton is being very gracious and allowing us to take over the pool area (I don't think that's how Jay asked) and have fun the OYC way. I am hoping for a sunny weekend so we can stroll the beach and check out the shops. Andrew Kalweit even found us a boat show to go to while we're there! How's that for great planning?

February also brings us the annual West Marine Fleet Night. This year it is on Leap Day, February 29, so of course, there are a few surprises planned for you.

Mary Lynn Snowman is taking us bowling in March. Be sure to see the details in her article. Can't bowl? Since when has that stopped a real OYC'er from having a great time. Cheerleaders are always invited.

Getting the hint? OYC—Always a party waiting to happen!

Cheers.



Rear Commodore' Comments

Candy Clevenger

As I sit here looking at the snow outside my window, visions of sunny days fill my head. Yes, the Y2K bug has bitten, causing what-ifs to run through my mind. I am reminded that it is never too early to plan those sunny summer days on the water.

You, too, can coordinate an OYC event. Newly initiated last year as an event coordinator, I can honestly say that the number of OYC members who step forward to offer assistance is endless. Planning an event is not only great fun, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know other OYC members while they are wearing real clothes!

If you're looking for a fun summer cruise during the

month of July, plan to join Lovin' Life, Touch of Fate, Abominable Snowman III, and Oasis II on the first OYC two-week cruise of the summer. Cruise coordinator Nicky Linck predicts this two-week southern Chesapeake Bay cruise will be a winner. Starting out on Saturday July 1st from Port Kinsale, our cruise coordinator plans to have a contingent of OYC boats in Norfolk, Va. for Fourth of July fireworks. Nicky has some great ports-of-call in the works with something for everyone. "Oh no", my captain says, "that must mean shopping!"

While you're checking your calendar, don't forget to also reserve Saturday, March 18, for the Annual OYC General Membership meeting. This is our annual potluck dinner and St. Patrick's Day Party at Fairfax Yacht Club. The club provides soft drinks. If you are so inclined, don't forget to BYOB and wear something green. For those who miss the Planfest, shame on you, this is another chance to sign up for 2000 cruises and events. Remember, signing up for cruises or events does not commit you to participate. It's just an indicator of interest by club members and it helps our event coordinators to better plan capacity requirements. Each coordinator will publicize their event or cruise in the Daymarker and contact those who expressed interest for a final head count.

Now, on to other news, the Clevengers proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole, to Rob Cavaleri. A fall 2000 wedding is in the works, so for all those Mothers-of-the-Bride who have gone through this before, HELP! As Nikki and I frantically search for reception sites, my husband asks again, "...and how much did you say this will cost? That's a down payment on a bigger boat!" Just kidding. So far, he is the only one who's remaining cool, calm and collected.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque 2/1

Betty Reed 2/2

Cindy Hollingsworth 2/3

Tom Hemmingway 2/7

Rick Sorrenti 2/9 (Big 5-0)

Candy Clevenger 2/11

Mel Ray 2/12

Paul Koenig 2/14

George Dalferes 2/25

Jack Striker 2/28

Anniversaries

Marge Shaffer & Leo Smith 2/3 (Yayyyy, their *first!*)

Bob & Betty Zaegel 2/5

George and Ginny Frank 2/22

Rudy & Cookie Zimpel 2/24

Jim & Carol Henry 2/26

Welcome to new Associate Members John and Beckie Heinze, who joined us at the Planfest. John and Beckie are from Alexandria, and do not have a boat yet, but they are looking.

Fleet Night—Leap Night

by Jim Ball

Leap Night this Leap Year will be another special event—Fleet Night at West Marine in Woodbridge. The store will have food and beverages, 10% off and a gift coupon for all who attend February 29th, 7-9pm. Be there and say thanks to the West Marine staff for their support of OYC in giving us prizes and gift certificates for our events.

The Daymarker

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Tom Coldwell, PC, Editor

Mary Ann Coldwell, Editor's Editor

Jim Ball, Circulation

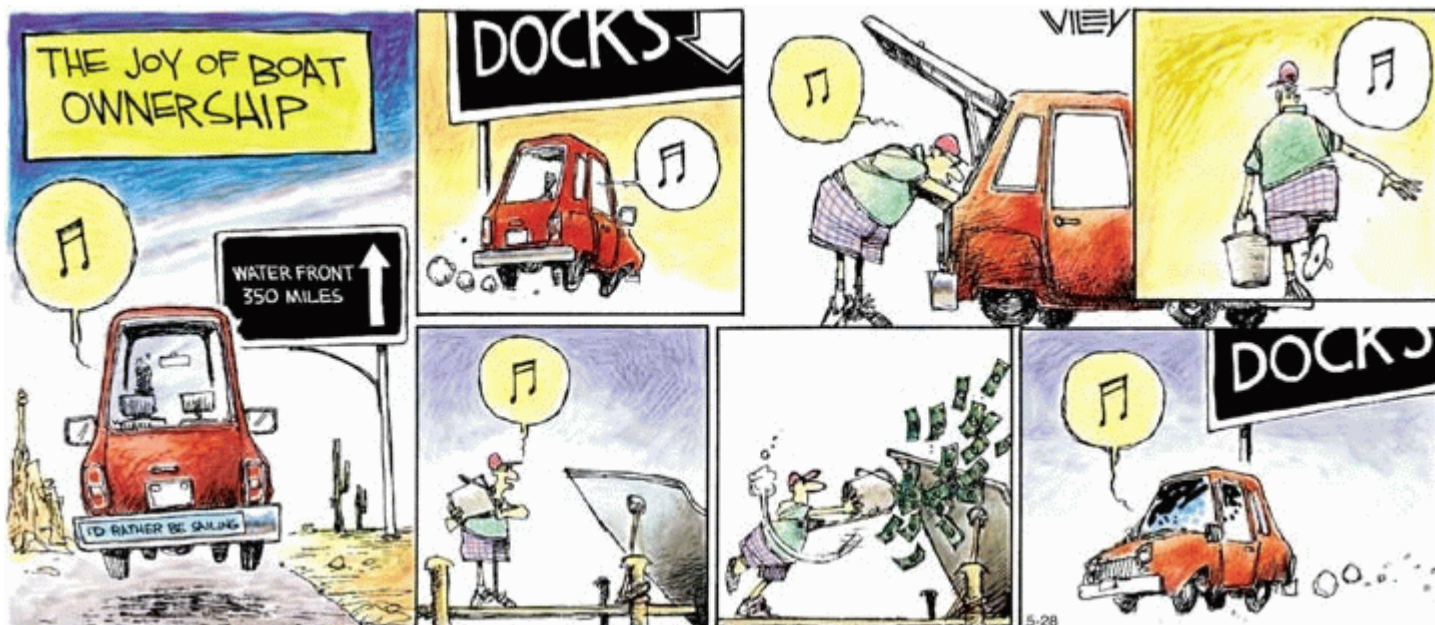
News and other materials for publication are welcome from any member of OYC. The deadline for submission of materials to **THE DAYMARKER** is the 20th of each month.

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



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Secretary's Comments

Mary Lynn Snowman

Home-is at Hoffmaster's Several years ago Randy and I purchased our first boat at Hoffmaster's Marina on the Occoquan River. I'm not sure exactly why we ended up at the Occoquan River but I know why we ended up at Hoffmaster's. They had the best deal and the best boat our money could buy.

At the time we thought we had bought a boat we would use for five years. That was our goal! Keep this boat for five years and then trade up. It lasted all of nine months. That 21' bow rider just wasn't comfortable enough for over night sleeping on Ego Alley.

Then we bought a 28' Chaparral. Again, we chose Hoffmaster's because they had the boat we liked and were willing to work with us. Not to mention the Occoquan was beginning to feel special.

Okay, this was the boat we were going to keep for five years. Our first two-week cruise went great. With two kids, two adults and a dog we had plenty of room to spare. Yep, this was definitely the boat we were going to keep for—two years. We hadn't had it a full two years before we started looking for another boat.

Someone advised us to get a 40' boat. Something about the waves on the Bay (they can get "sporty") and a 40' boat is supposed to be the optimum length blah, blah, blah. I'm not sure that I kept this in mind when we were looking for our present boat, but we now have a 40' boat. This one we were going to keep for ten years. Put some time, love and money into this baby. Our biggest problem was where to keep it. We knew that Hoffmaster's was full (and growing). As I looked into "moving" I became depressed. I just didn't want to leave Hoffmaster's and the Occoquan. I did look up and down the river but it just wasn't quite "home." Randy talked with

Joe Hoffmaster and they worked things out. We didn't have to move. We could stay at Hoffmaster's on the Occoquan River. (Thanks Joe!)

Currently our boat is in a shipyard at Solomons waiting for stabilizers to be installed and I am homesick. I used to think I went to the boat to go to the boat. But going to see our boat at Solomons is not the same as going to see our boat at Hoffmaster's. I realize now that I go to the boat for other reasons. I go to see all of my "boating neighbors." I go to hear the water lapping on the hull. I go to wave at boaters taking off for Tim's Rivershore or for Mattawoman.

I can't wait for the Abominable Snowman to be returned to homeport. (Oh, yeah! I forgot to tell you that I was rocked and rolled on the bay this summer with my 40' boat. My exact words to Randy were "never again without stabilizers." So, bless his heart and his savings account, we are waiting for stabilizers to be shipped and installed.) Life is not the same when I spend it in Gaithersburg instead of on the Occoquan. It's not enough to talk to my friends on the phone, or see them at meetings, or even e-mail them. I want to be back on the Occoquan and in my "neighborhood." (Even if it is only weekends.) Hoffmaster's has become our home.

Our websites get new names

by Ned Rhodes

It is a long story, but it is all done now, and I have moved the Occoquan Yacht Club website and given it a new domain:

<http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org>

Not much has changed at this point but now I am in a better position to make changes with easier uploads.

I have also moved and renamed the website for PRYCA:
: **<http://www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org>**

Eventually, The Daymarker will be available for download as well.

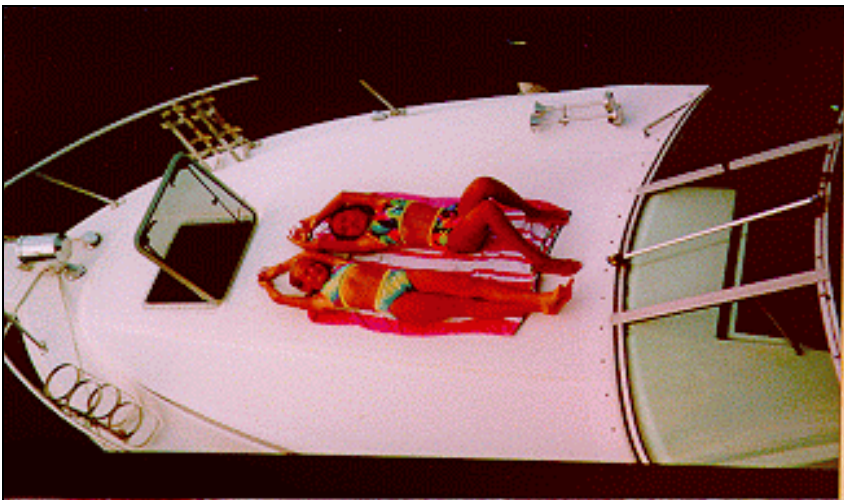
Thanks, Ned, for your website wizardry. Hmm, if this newsletter goes on the Internet, we will definitely have to clean up our act-Ed.

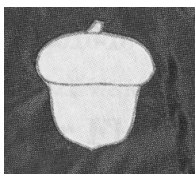
Photo Contest Winners

From among the scads of photos entered in the annual contest (now culminating at the Planfest), the judges, being of reasonably sound mind and a high state of sobriety, courageously selected the following as prize winners, showing placement in categories **(P)**eople, **(L)**andscapes, **(W)**ildlife

and **(B)**oat Profiles. This page, left to right, top to bottom: Rick Sorrenti (2P), Nicky Linck (3L), Al Clevenger (3B), Gary Linck (2B), Dave Moore (1L). Page right, Scott Shipley (3P), Barbara Egmore (3W), Jim Ball (1W), Ned Rhodes (1P), Gary Linck (2L), Ned Rhodes (1B).







Treasurer's Comments

Nabil Dubraque

I sat and counted, then counted again, and came to the conclusion that we still have money. This is good, because someone had to write the check for the Planfest at Gecko's, an event you surely must have enjoyed, what with free nibblies, a chance to chat and mingle, and to plan and plot in tentative fashion the coming season's land and sea voyages. Which costs money, of course. Not your land and sea voyages, though of course those do, but they cost *you*, not the club. The Planfest and its like cost the club, and this takes us to the next point of pecuniary interest, your dues. Send them in. For it is a well known point in the arcane art of money management that without it checks bounce, which makes things, well, bothersome.

Sea Sounds

as heard by Nabil Dubraque

There is a tradition of expression built in love-hate fashion by men whose lives were intertwined with the sea. These expressions of the sea still remain in our everyday speech though their origins may often be shrouded by the mists of time and the inexorable passage into modern and often highly functional but decidedly unromantic expedience. There is much which is wondrous but little which is romantic about a fluxgate compass, compared with a gleaming brass binnacle, an oil lamp lighting the ornate, thirty two point compass within its gimbaled protective belly.

But the expressions live on. Expressions such as "son of a gun," which date to British sailors who were allowed their wives on

board in harbor, and sometimes at sea (one per sailor, no questions asked), and whose offspring were often born twixt the twenty four pounders on the gun deck, perhaps the only available space aboard the cramped vessels. Tradition has it that male offspring were referred to as "sons of guns."

We all know that the "bitter end" is the end of a line, or the inboard end of the anchor chain. We know that being "three sheets to the wind" is being out of control as the lines used to trim our sails, due perhaps to little too much splicing of the main brace, may be uselessly flapping in the breeze. Sailors coming back off of shore liberty had to take care not to show they were "under the weather" and keep an "even keel," else the skipper might "lower the boom."

That's the "scuttlebutt" anyway. The office water cooler may be the modern gossip exchange. On board ship, it was the barrel of drinking water amidships where sailors slaked



both their thirst for water and gossip.

"Chock-a-block" is another expression commonly heard: passengers were chock-a-block in the bus during this morning's commute. This expression originates from the use of block and tackle (pronounced "TAY-kel") and still means that the standing and moving blocks used for purchase are tight together and no further hauling is possible.



We "spin yarns" to while away time. Sailors spun yarns from cordage

into strands which

were hammered into spaces between boards and caulked. The long and tedious process was relieved by stories of adventures and misadventures recounted and embellished, helping to ease the tedium. We seldom take up a beetle, horsing iron, and oakum anymore, but we continue to spin yarns.

And a "fly by night" operation may be a bit sub rosa, as was the use of a non-regulation sail as a studding sail on British naval sloops. Regulation or not, it was an expedient, and it flew by night when chance of observation by another vessel was less likely.

So continues the influence of our seafaring heritage into a modern life often removed from the sea, and certainly from the days of oak and canvas, hardship and discovery.

Bowling Party, March 5

by Mary Lynn Snowman



The very last time I went bowling I slid half way down the lane. It was funny, and it did hurt, and no I don't promise you a repeat of that show, but I do promise you that we will have fun.

Please join your fellow OYCers for a fun time whether you bowl or you just cheer for those that are going to bowl. We will be at the Bowl America ("where thousands cheer") on Occoquan Road, Sunday, March 5th, at 12:00 Noon.

If you missed signing up for this event at the Planfest call Mary Lynn Snowman at 301-869-2885 and sign up now. Prices are as follows and subject to go down: Rental shoes \$2.50 a pair, game \$2.19 or less.

Prizes will be awarded!



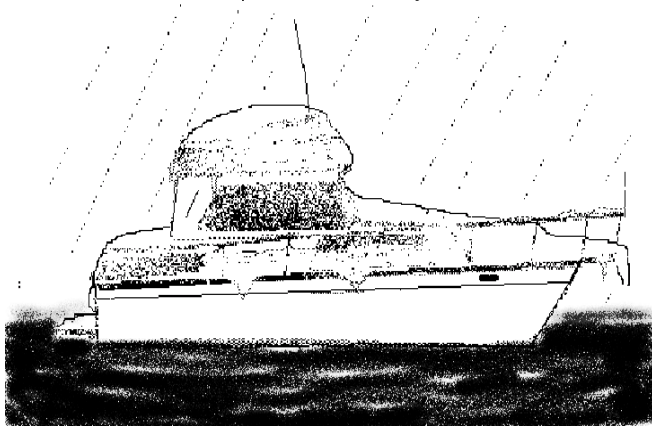
Snow is White, Face Red

by Scott Shipley (unofficial OYC meteorologist)

Call it the weatherman's pool. 24-hour snow forecasts are running from a trace to 6 inches. If you're right, then you're a hero. If you're wrong, then you're bilge slime. But give it a day or so, no one will remember your forecast anyway. The traditional punishment for bad forecasting is a paper bag over your head.

That is unless you just happened to be Francisco Arias Silva, 32, TV Weather personality in Sicuani, Peru. Police officer Adolfo Alcala reports: "The weatherman had told us to expect two inches of rain in 24 hours, and we got 19 inches in 12 hours. Everyone had trusted Francisco, and when the flood came, they thought he had let them down." The Vilcanota River surged from its banks, washing away 250 homes and drowning 17 defenseless men, women and children. So just hours after the disaster struck, hundreds of hopping mad citizens looped a noose around a wide-eyed weatherman's neck and hanged him from the nearest tree. "Six of the vigilantes were charged with murder, but we were forced to release them because everyone here thinks the man got just what he deserved," officer Alcala said. "So now, everything is slowly getting back to normal, except we're having a heck of a time finding anyone to be our new weatherman."

So you want forecasts for the two-week long cruise this summer? With hurricanes in the vicinity?



Now for evil and diabolical snowfalls sinking boats (OYC Daymarker, Vol. XVI, No. 12, page 9, December 1999). Jim Ball warns us to "Remember for each four inches of snow, your boat will sink about one inch deeper in the water." Is this true or should we lynch him?

Ice crystal growth habits change with temperature, so the shape of the crystals depends on how cold it is. It gets colder higher up the atmosphere where the ice crystals are formed, normally -3.3 F per thousand feet under "wet" conditions. So when it is 25 F at your boat, it is about 9 F at 5000 ft where the crystals hang out (Tim's for the snow set).

Go get some snow in a sauce pan and melt it to get the "water equivalent." Ten inches of fresh snow will typically melt to yield one inch of liquid water, and one gallon of water weighs 8.5 pounds. Exercise: how many square feet of a four inch snowfall will melt to one gallon? (ans: 4 sq ft). So let's say your boat is a 34 by 13 foot barge, that's 442 sq ft, and four inches of snow would yield $442/4 = 110$ gal water weighing 939 lbs. This would displace 939 lbs of water, which will be about 0.4 inches of water—the water equivalent! But wait, there's more. Wet snow near 32 F has a

water equivalent of 6:1, and dry powdery snow is 30:1. Old compacted snow is about 2:1.

So let's congratulate Jim for his safety tip, even if he is on the conservative side. As for Francisco, I wish him well. It could be a hoax, but it's still a good story.

ORMA stirring up the river, currently

by Jim Ball

It has been a good month for the Occoquan River Maritime Association. First, we were asked to provide a recommendation to the Occoquan Town Council regarding the bridge height for the new Route 123 bridge over the Occoquan. After investigation of the other bridges and discussions with the Spirit ship operations office, we determined that the channel height and width of the Route 1 and I 95 bridges were 44 ft and 100 ft respectively, and recommended that the Town of Occoquan request VDOT to honor those channel requirements so that larger boats, yachts, and perhaps even smaller tour ships can visit. Spirit of Washington has been in the Occoquan twice in recent years, stopping at OHM.

Secondly, we received a letter of endorsement from the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association on our initiatives regarding safety, environment, and reestablishment of the Port of Occoquan.

A quest for dockage in Occoquan

On January 18th, the Occoquan Town Council held a public meeting to discuss their application for a grant to build a river walk and transient dock facility in Occoquan. The meeting was attended by ORMA representatives Jim Henry (OYC), Walt Cheatham (PRYCA), and myself. The discussion was excellent, as the town needed input and support from the recreational boating community. We were able to support a change from their original plan which now will include a dock of undetermined length along the rock jetty that now channels the river. This will give us deep water to dock on the riverside, and be connected to the shore at the Town Park. The first phase of the project is being costed to see just how much of a dock can be built within the grant resources being applied for. A phase two project would look to lengthen the dock. It is hoped that the first phase docking facility may be on the order of 100 ft of alongside docking. We will also pursue the Federal Fish and Wildlife Grant for transient facilities and perhaps be able to combine the resources to build a first class facility.

Blessing of the Fleet, cajoling the shoaling

We hope to have a meeting on the Blessing of the Fleet soon to begin planning for that event, which this year we hope to involve all yacht clubs on the Occoquan and the town in a much bigger, all weekend event in conjunction with our flag raising.

Also, very soon, we will begin to implement our strategy to get the Corps of Engineers to address the channel shoaling issue. This has been somewhat problematic due to the recent concerns over the dredging and dumping of spoil in the Potomac. We have some ideas how to deal with these issues and will be working it in the next month.

We still can use helpful volunteers in all of the ORMA committees. If you are interested in helping, please let me know, 569-2159 or jball@erols.com.