

Cheapskate Bay

AFFORDABLE BOATING FOR THE REST OF US

April 1, 2002, Vol. XIX, No. 4

Moving up: Easier than you think, page 17

**Beer cans make
simple patch kit**

**How to:
anchors from old
engine blocks**

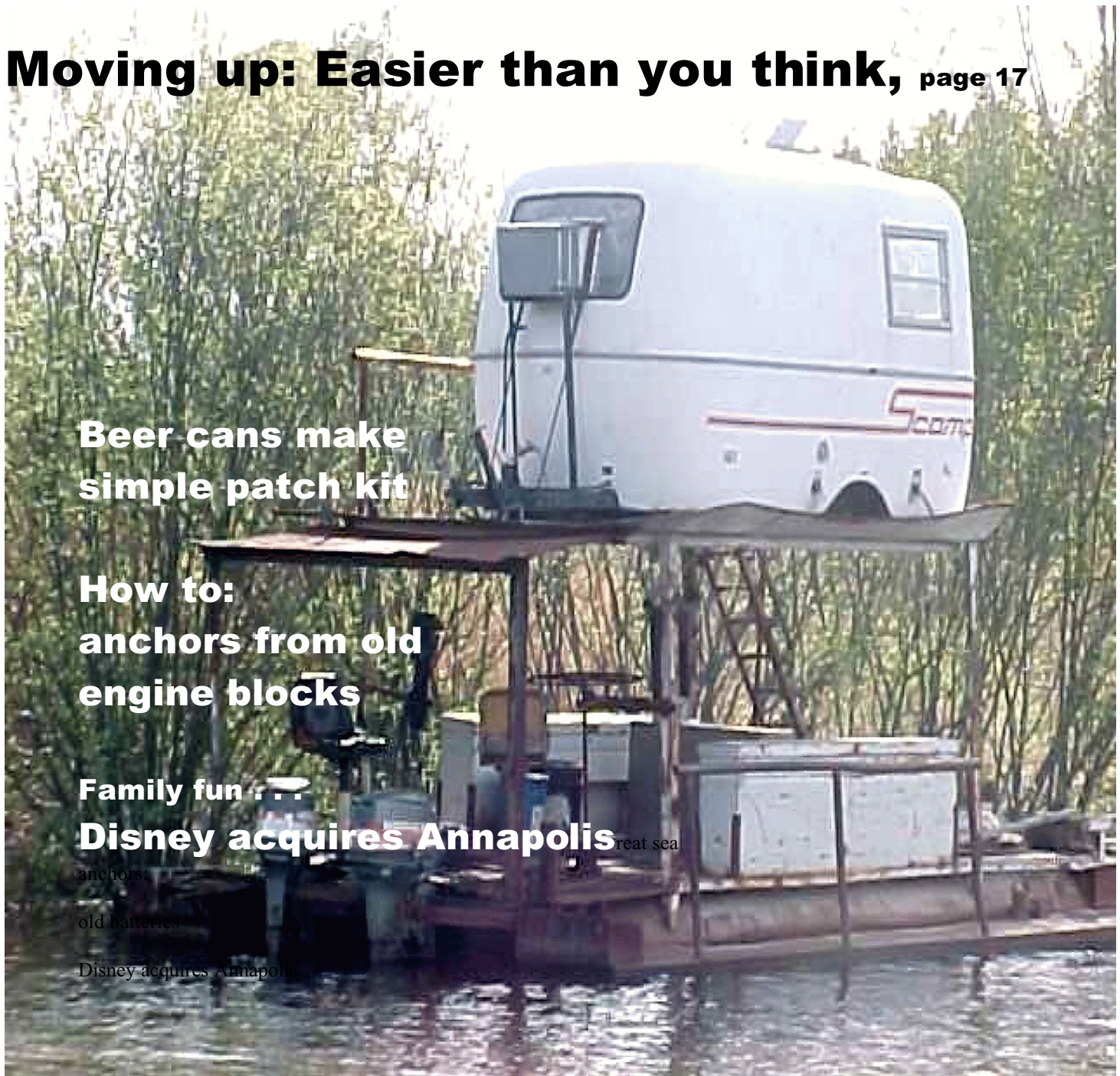
Family fun . . .

Disney acquires Annapolis

anchors

old batteries

Disney acquires Annapolis



Get a leg up on boating. . .

in the 2002

OakRay

TableSkiff

Easy to get on plane with installed drop leaf trim tabs. Expansion leaves (optional) to carry the whole family.

Luxury model features a rich felt bottom and six handy ball pockets around the rub rail for pool time fun.



When you're ready to put money on the table, put in on the *Table* !

OakRay

"We're not just another boating splinter group."

TableSkiff—at fine budget furniture stores near you. Do-it-yourself versions at your local lumber yard.

Tim's Rivershore Offers New Ferry Service

Starting April 1st, Tim's Rivershore will begin its new ferry service from Prince William Marina to the crab house by way of Occoquan Harbour Marina and Belmont Bay Harbor Marina. Using model year 2002 OakRay boats, Tim will pick up passengers from the listed marinas and ferry them all the way to the crab house and back. The plans are to offer ferry service leaving every two hours from the designated locations.

The idea to start the service came about after Jim Henry's boat had its anchor line cut by a passing go-fast boat. Mr. Henry's boat bounced off of every boat at anchor in front of the crab house before finally winding up on shore. "We don't want another incident like that," Tim is quoted as saying. "I mean, we could hear Carol over the roar of the passing trains."

Safety was also a factor in coming up with the idea for the ferry service. Too many boaters returning after an evening of quiet conversation were mistaking NoName Island for Daymarker #6 in the Occoquan Channel. Now, highly trained and licensed captains will pilot the ferries.

PRYCA accused of plagiarism

The OYC board has lodged formal charges of plagiarism against the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association for publishing without permission a complete article from the February edition of the OYC's award winning newsletter, The Daymarker. Ned Rhodes, an occasional contributor to the Daymarker and author of "Eating Our Way Across the Bay," is said to be heartsick (a New Age sensitive guy), and the OYC board is incensed over the wholesale theft of the piece. As OYC Commodore Mary Lynn Snowman declared, "We are incensed over this wholesale theft; it's almost like retail."

The stolen article took up four and a half pages in the February 2002 edition of the PRYCA newsletter, which is unimaginatively entitled "Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association," and came out several weeks after February's Daymarker was already on news stands coast to coast.

PRYCA's editor, described by some in the yachting community as a nefarious sleasbag hack of questionable literary capabilities, could not be reached for comment.

Bad news for the “BABs”

Not so good news coming out of Richmond these days for large boat owners (that's the boat size, not the owner's size) according to recent information from a reliable source. The BABs, or Big A__ Boaters as we affectionately call those who move up to a larger vessel, may really pay the price, literally.

Virginia legislators are trying to find ways to make up for the lost revenue since the personal property tax on boats was all but eliminated. Their new plan in the works involves a slide rule approach whereas a larger boat will pay a larger price per gallon for fuel at the marina gas pumps. Theory is that the larger boats are owned by persons that can afford the higher price and the fact that the larger vessels likely consume more fuel than the smaller boats.

Marina owners are in an uproar about how they would be able to convert their pumps to the new system. There would be three price categories; boats 20 feet and under, over 20 feet and up to and including 35 feet and boats over 35 feet. Proposals include as much as thirty cents difference between the high and low categories.

Hearings will be in order and legislation proceedings are slow but by next year this could be a reality. Not very good news. Now downsizing has a new meaning for sure.



Swim Call for Abby—It just wouldn't be a good Daymarker without a pretty picture of some club member's dog. Here's that lovable Abby doing the dog paddle, no doubt, and ... oh, *NO*, lookout, Abby, behind you... Oh, n-nooooo000000...

Gordon Cawelti's Ten Top Reasons: Why You Should Cruise From Ft. Lauderdale to the Bahamas in Your Own Boat Rather Than in the 424-foot *Discovery* Cruise Ship

1. It will make the 85 mile cruise only seem long rather than interminably long.
 2. You will be able to store and retrieve your own Dramamine much quicker.
 3. Your First Mate will be less likely to hustle drinks as you cruise due east..
 4. You can begin your cruise at a reasonable hour of your choosing rather than getting up at 4:00 a.m. to check in at 6:00 a.m. as requested so you can wait for your 8:00 a.m. departure.
 5. Decisions about island activities on arrival can be made yourself without incessant hustling by the ship's "recreation director" on bargain deals.
 6. You can enjoy your First Mate's company without having to listen to the blather of some Minnesota farmer telling you how cold it is back home.
 7. Having no casino on your vessel will save you money.
 8. The Ft. Lauderdale-Freeport run can be added to your list of seafaring conquests as an active navigator rather than passive passenger.
 9. You can select your favorite CD of Mozart or Wagner rather than being exposed to the constant throbbing bass of rap or rock music in virtually every room you enter.
 10. It is not necessary to endure the show including some leggy dancers, a second-rate comedian with stale jokes, or the juggler who clearly is on his way down.) [No leggy dancers? You sure?]
 11. You will more likely whip up some hot Eggs Benedict with brie rather than be served lukewarm scrambled eggs with Swiss cheese.
- [Wait a minute, Gordon, that's 11 reasons.]

**Special issue of The
Daymarker, newsletter of the
world famous Occoquan Yacht
Club, P.O. Box 469, Occoquan,
VA 22125, member club of the
Potomac River Yacht Clubs
Association and Chesapeake
Bay Yacht Clubs Association.**
**As seen on TV and
on news stands everywhere.
Liberal plugged in the April
Chesapeake Bay Magazine**
●
**See us on the Internet at
www.occoquan yachtclub.org**



Trial Run for *Sanctuary*—Captain Bob Wilcox's *Sanctuary* makes a daring trial run out of the Occoquan Reservoir down to the Occoquan River in preparation for his hosting local officials observing the Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, May 4. Each of the guests has been given a copy of this photo to show that it can be done. Bob's wife Jan is actually piloting the boat; Wilcox stayed ashore to take the picture.



We interrupt this newsletter for a test of the Emergency Newsletter System, required by the federal government. This is only a test; do not make any adjustments to your newsletter.

**IBEFORREEEXCEPTAFTERC*DONOTSPLITANINFINITIVE*CROSSALL
TSANDDOTALLIS*OYCISFULLOFBEANS*LASLOBOZOKYFAKESHIS
ACCENT*ISREALLYFROMNORTHCAROLINA*NICKYLINCKISAVENT
RILOQUIST&GARYISHERDUMMY*OHWHATAGOOSEIAM*OHYOUR
FLYISOPEN*MADEYOULOOK*HAHHAHHAH*YOURDUESPAY4THIS**

This was a test of the Emergency Newsletter System. Had this been a real emergency, you would receive a special issue of this newsletter with important instructions on what to do. The Emergency Newsletter System only works if you have renewed your membership in the yacht club whose newsletter you are now reading; otherwise, you lose. We now return you to our regularly scheduled reporting.

The OYC Website Moved

by Web Guy Ned

You may notice that the download speed of the OYC web site, www.occoquanvachtclub.org, has significantly improved over the past few weeks due to the fact that I moved the site to a new server that sits on top of multiple OC-12 and DS-3 connections with Quest, uunet, SBC, AOL Time Warner and ATT.

My commercial customers needed the extra bandwidth and OYC gets to ride along for free. The picture at right shows the new hardware configuration.



Disposable Anchors Coming Soon

Okay folks, are you ready for this one? Lead-out Corporation has a new type anchor for small boats that is disposable.

They've developed an anchor similar to the Danforth type that you attach to your line/rode

with special supplied clips and drop and set your anchor as usual, however, depending on which type you buy, the anchor has a predetermined life expectancy and once the designated time passes (built-in timer) the anchor quickly dissolves (and is biodegradable) so all you have to do is pull in your line and be on your way.

It's of course only to be used at a time when you know how long you will be staying at the anchorage. There will be 2, 4 and 6 hour models available.

It is not a replacement for your regular anchor but to be used for special situations. How often have you struggled pulling in an anchor? This could be a nice addition to your list of "things you don't need but would love to have."

A Lead-out spokesperson says it should arrive on the market early summer 2002. Cost is unknown at this time.

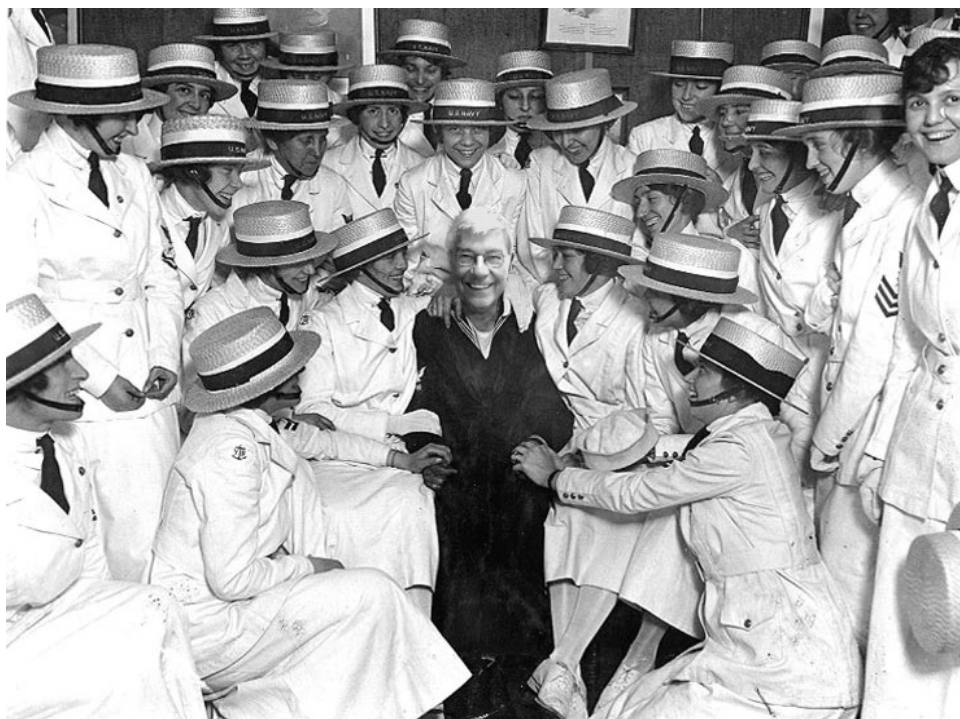
Wonder what it's made of, cotton candy?

New Boat Wax Available

Every boater's dream may have just come true! What do we all do every spring but we do not enjoy doing it because of the work and time involved? We wax our boats. We wax and wax and rub and rub until we absolutely have to take beer breaks, right?

Well now waxing has never been easier, thanks to a new two-part product for boaters now available in the area. Just spray the Part I on the boat, wait ten minutes and then spray on Part II, which activates the first coat and sets the wax. In about an hour you will actually see the shine start to appear without buffing, rubbing or wiping. That's right, *nothing* else to do but watch the shine appear. It's like watching a Polaroid photo develop right before your eyes. The only restriction is that the boat must be clean, so washing is in order before you begin the application.

The product is called *Mooreglow*© and orders can be placed with our own OYC member Dave Moore (no relation) by calling 703-494-0651 and leave a message; Dave will get back to you. Cost is \$29.95 for a kit that will cover any boat up to 40 feet in length. Dave says when he receives 20 orders he will be able to place the order directly with the manufacturer at this special price. [The editors have already placed their order.]



Help Wanted

Ferry boat captains. Must speak English and know how to spell bote. New service starting up near the Occoquan Bay area on the Potomac River. High school diploma or equivalent a plus. Will need to supply your own life jacket and must have a driver's license. Please contact us at 703-555-BOTE.

Recalled to Active Duty?—Past Commodore Coldwell, a Navy veteran (our side), recently asked if he could be recalled during the national emergency (and to relive some really, really good old days). He was told that his classification is 4-M, meaning that if the enemy gets to 4th and M Streets in Washington, he will be recalled.

St. Pauli's Fearless Forecasts

by Dr. Luke Otto Weindieux ¹

We've come up with a new feature this year —weather forecasts for scheduled OYC events. Published annually on April 1st since this year, St. Pauli's Fearless Forecasts bring state-of-the-art accuracy and precision to your boating season. The St. Pauli Fearless Forecasts are guaranteed accurate for any occasion (see fine print below). So sit back and smell what St. Pauli has been cookin' up for us this year:

April minus 1st: Gary Linck's Fools Party, partly cloudy with 100% chance of cool ones.

April 27-28: Early Bird Cruise, rescheduled to miss the unseasonably warm temperatures and bright sunshine, high 90F, low 65F – new event date features sleet and freezing rain.

May 4: Blessing of the Feet, seasonable temperatures, exceptionally low tide at 9:23 am reveals alien artifacts, see May 5th.

May 5: OYC Hair Raising at OHM, don't stand too close to Rick Sorrenti and his hail suppression device, seasonable (high 75F, low 55F).

May 18: Brunch with Ms. Dinghy Regatta—stand in line fellas!

May 25-27: Memorial Day Cruise at Tall Timbers, be prepared, Memorial Day has a well-earned reputation—becalmed, lower Potowmack smooth as glass, gusting to 30 knots.

June 1: Raft-up at Fairview Beach, partly cloudy with 110% chance of cool ones.

June 15-16: PRYCA Cobb Island Days, see Memorial Day.

June 22-30 One Week Lower Bay Cruise, see July 5-20.

June 29 Fireworks at Tim's Rivershore, thunderstorms, waterspouts, and really bad stuff (room at the pier).

July 4-5 Fourth of July at Gangplank, record heat wave, even worse than 1999. Bring your sprinklers (and those string bikinis).

July 5-20 Two Week Upper Bay with Dani, see June 22-30.

July 12-14 PRYCA Float-In, sunny and warm, dark at night, OYC domination of the dance floor.

July 20-August 11 Three Week Cruise to New York, best weather ever, godspeed.

July 27 Raft-up, partly cloudy with 200% chance of cool ones.

August 2-4 Olverson's Marina/Yeocomico January & Duane Jeirles (did they really print "January" in the Daymarker?) January is cold (average high 42F), Jan Jeirles is warm and really nice.

August 17-24 One Week Cruise, cool, thunderstorms early, followed by sunny skies later in the week.

August 21 OYC Official Holiday, in honor of Full Sturgeon Moon on August 22, cool.

August 23-25 PRYCA Dog Days of Summer, they don't call them dog days for nothing, hot.

August 30-September 2 Labor Day Cruise, as with Memorial Day, always a surprise.

September 14-15 Shrimpfest, tropical storm, changes to 4th named Hurricane of season (Dolly) – if Dolly runs up the Potomac, Scott Shipley is organizing the first ever OYC attempt to boat in the eye! Guaranteed to get BOATR recognition and free lifetime pass to Ripley's, or more probably a memorial (you can't lose).

September 20-22 PRYCA End of Summer Party, that's it, it's over, finished, done, go home, but wait, there's more...

October 11-14 Columbus Day Cruise, cold hands, warm hearts.

October 26 Membership Meeting and Election of Officers

Board Event, 75F, warm and dry, location TBD (did I hear Maui?)

November 8-11 Hardy Souls Cruise, rumor has it that Ned Rhodes will actually participate in his scavenger hunt this year. Average high/low is 58F/40F. Extremes in the past are 85F/15F. You buy your ticket and you take your chances.

November 30 Santa Cruise, like all Santa Cruises the past few years, rain and drizzle, cold, followed by really great weather!

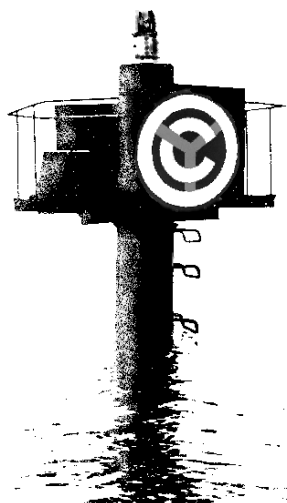
¹ Actual name withheld by Federal Forecaster Protection Program (FFPP)

The Fine Print – St. Pauli Fearless Forecasts Limited are not liable for any damages related to weather conditions, either real or imagined. Please allow 120 months for receipt of guaranteed accuracy refunds, less postage and handling fees plus service charges for forecast accuracy verification. St. Pauli's Fearless Forecasts are underwritten by Suspended Belief Enterprises, and like marriage and boat purchases are "A triumph of hope over reason." – Mark Twain

[Editor's note: This has Scott Shipley's name written all over it, a bunch of weather guessers' inside yucks and scholarship.]



Birthday Gift—WWPC (Way, Way Past Commodore) Ron Tilmon recently celebrated his 60th birthday (which may not have occurred as recently) when he was presented this high-tech stabilizer system for his new boat *I'm Outta Here*. Seen here, Tilmon is all smiles as he graphically salutes family and friends who spared every expense to bring off a grand and thoughtful nautical surprise. Photo—Steve Worcester



The Daymarker

OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB
P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125
Member: PRYCA, CBYCA Boat/U.S. Accord # GA80979Y
Web site: <http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org>

Comm odore
Mary Lynn Snowman
301 869-2885

Vice Commodore
Rick Sorrenti
703 590-6724

Rear Commodore
Ann Shipley
703 425-6053

Secretary
Eugene Brown
703 815-5891

Treasurer
Steve Thompson
703 440-8114

Quartermaster
Susan Thompson
703 440-8114

Membership
Randy Snowman
301 869-2885

Historian
Susan Von Schaack
703 815-5891

PRYCA Delegate
Joe Livingston
703 250 8765.

THE DAYMARKER Editor
Tom Coldwell
703 323-1675



Commodore's Comments

Mary Lynn Snowman

It's here! It's finally here! The sign that boating season is here.

Every night for the last couple of weeks I've been going outside of the house and listening. And until tonight I was sadly disappointed. There was nothing. That sound just wasn't there. But tonight I heard it. The only way I can describe it to you is to say—it's... singing... it's humming... it's chirping. Until the last couple of years I always thought it was frogs singing but lately I've started wondering if maybe it's too cold for frogs this time of year. But who cares? The sound is here and now so is boating season. It's official!

Nope, sorry, I forgot! Boating season isn't official until Rick Sorrenti has fired his cannon. Mark you calendars carefully now because the day we normally have it has been changed. This year the OYC Flag Raising Ceremony (and our official start of the boating season) has been moved to **Sunday**. The date is Sunday, May 5. The time is noon. The location is Occoquan Harbour Marina. Please bring a side dish to share. (I prefer that you share chocolate.)

On Saturday, May 4, please be sure to get your boat underway and take part in the Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet. More information about both events can be found further in the Daymarker.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the board a new member. Ann Shipley has been appointed as

the Rear Commodore. It's such a delight to have her on the board. We will certainly miss Becky Wellhouse, who has stepped down to attend to some higher family and job priorities. Next time you see these ladies let them know how much you appreciate what they have done and are going to do for the club.

Ann has jumped right in, aiming to assist and encourage the board in preparing interesting and informative articles for the Daymarker. In that regard, I should remind you that the Daymarker earnestly seeks articles suitable for publication from OYC members on almost any boating subject. However, parental discretion and other editorial judgments will be applied! But please do submit those articles.

See you on the water!

...the OYC Flag Raising Ceremony (and our official start of the boating season) has been moved to NOON Sunday, May 5, at Occoquan Harbour Marina. On Saturday, May 4, please be sure to get your boat underway and take part in the 2002 Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Donald Carlson 4/5	Nancy Miller 4/6
Diane Carlson 4/11	Tom Shank 4/15
Stephen Wexler 4/19	Susan Cheatham 4/19
Richard Garverick 4/22	Peggy Ball 4/23
Randy Rouse 4/25	Laslo Bozoky 4/27
Joan R. White 4/27	Arleen Rhodes 4/29

Anniversaries

William & Clara French 4/5
Randy & Mary Lynn Snowman 4/10
Tony & Kelley Berta 4/12
Andrew and Elizabeth Kalweit 4/20

Last call—Early Bird to D.C.

Spring is in the air—time for a fling, with OYC going to the Gangplank Marina, April 19-21. There's still time to join up; please call 202 488-1545 or email amirandodc@aol.com, by April 1st. [Wow, that's like *NOW*.] Please say whether you will be arriving on Friday or Saturday and when you plan to leave. Also, please list your overall length of your vessel. The power at the Marina is a single 50-amp service, so don't forget your splitter/converter.

The present plan for the weekend is to "Get Down and Boogie." Friday night we will be going to Le Rivage restaurant, which is located atop the Capital Yacht Club. We will plan to meet at 8:00 p.m., because Dr. Mirando (Tony) is seeing patients that evening. Then Saturday, hopefully everyone can enjoy spring in Washington as a tourist, or just relax and enjoy the marina and all the other boaters around. If it rains on Saturday, Rick Sorrenti will be hosting a RED WINE tasting contest! (just kidding Rick). Then Saturday night, get out your 70's clothes and shoes and get ready for Saturday Night Fever, a 70's disco party with Tony Travolta and Farrah Shank. Bring all your 70's music cassettes and CD's, and oh yes, don't forget your "disco balls." Everyone bring an hor's de-ore, dinner dish and drinks and we'll eat and drink and "dance the night away," 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.. (Location to be determined). Then Sunday morning coffee and Danish dockside at *Miss Vivian*, before you shove off for home.

Interested in Friday night dinner at Le Rivage restaurant? Let us know so that we can make reservations. —Tom Shank



Vice Commodore

Rick Sorrenti

Is It Spring Yet! Yes it's still cold, and yes it's only recently damp, and yes there are still places getting snow not that far from here, but it's now legally *SPRING* according to the calendar, the cherry blossoms and all other official criteria. Many of you have been out and about the marinas, and even had your boats "out" —of the water, that is.

I've seen several boats on blocks at OHM apparently getting ready for the season. Impellers have been replaced on *Sea Duck Too*...never done that before but as always what appears to be a two-hour job turned into a day and a half. Another reminder that there is nothing on a boat that's 1) cheap; 2) easy; or 3) quick.

As we kick off the boating season a couple of events are an absolute must on your list.

The first is the Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, May 4th; check out the full story elsewhere in these pages.

The second event is the Flag Raising, the very next day, Sunday, May 5th, starting at 12-noon at Occoquan Harbour Marina. It's OYC's official start of the boating season. This year we hope to have several local community leaders from the Occoquan area and hopefully Congressman Davis. We will be optimistic that it will NOT RAIN and we can have our hot dog/hamburger grilling alongside the flagpole. Bring a dish to share. If it does rain, we will again prevail upon our friends at Gecko's to lend us the deck; remember, if we use the deck, it will be a cash bar, as we cannot bring club beverages into Geckos. Be sure to mark your calendars because this is also the annual "let's try a new gun powder mixture" in the cannon to produce the perfect smoke ring. This, of course, is brought to you by yours truly.

Coast Guard Auxiliary reps will be there to give you your 2002 Vessel Safety Checks (formerly known as CMEs; we hope that does not mean Courtesy is gone...but then, some folks really enjoy failing us.) We have invited Potomac Marine Towboat and the Fairfax County Marine Patrol to be on hand for advice and questions. We again plan a raft-up (weather permitting) that evening at Mattawoman.

Winter Reading: This will be my last for this year, and I know you are sitting on the edge of the sofa just waiting to see the continuation of last month's article on how to extend the life of your battery. No, Gary and Ned, this won't work with flashlight "D" cells. It only applies to flooded lead acid types.

A short recap of last month's article. The most common reason batteries fail is under-charging, which causes sulfate ions to cling to the internal lead plates. Building an inexpensive reverse pulse charging circuit can help prolong your battery life tremendously. Below is the finished product. If you are now completely intrigued with this subject, go to <http://www.shaka.com/~kalepa/desulf.htm> for more than you ever wanted to know. You can purchase all the components for under \$50. If you have diesel power this is a drop in the bucket when you look at the cost of battery replacements.

See you on the docks!!

The Daymarker

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club
Tom Coldwell, PC, Editor; Mary Ann Coldwell, Editor's Editor
Randy Snowman, Circulation

The deadline for submission of materials to **THE DAYMARKER** is the 20th of each month.. If possible, please submit copy by e-mail to:

tcoldwell@cox.rr.com

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



Rear Commodore

Ann Shipley

Greetings y'all, from your new Rear Commodore. For those of you who do not know me, I'm the tall, buxom, quiet mate with long raven hair.

So I'm thinking, the boating season is upon us and each and every one of you will be asked to bring some sort of consumable (edible) item on one or several of your outings with the club over this season. Now, just ask any of "those people" who know me well, and they will tell you that I am the biggest pain in the neck to feed of anyone you ever met. Picky, picky, picky. So I thought I would help you out by providing you with delectable munchie recipes that can be prepared ahead of time and brought along. That way you can get your party priorities straight and not have to worry about food preparation when you obviously have better things to do.

First of all, captains, if your first mate delegates the responsibility of hors d'oeuvres to you, a bag of Fritos will not work for you. You will need something to put ON the chips. So here's a quick and easy dip to help you out:

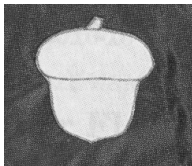
Annie Bananie's Corn Dip

1 can white corn (or more)
½ cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese (I like more)
½ cup sour cream
¾ cup mayonnaise
¼ - ½ medium onion, chopped (I like the sweet ones)
Jalapeno peppers, chopped and de-seeded, to taste (I like way lots of these, too)

Make ahead of time and use Fritos as a dipping chip.

Your next land yachting event will take place on May 5th at OHM. Start thinking about what you want to feed me. The club will provide burgers, doggies, drinks, and condiments. You will need to come up with appetizers (last names A-D), salad/side dish (E-R) or dessert (S-Z).

And when you're out on the water, holler out to me and bring me something yummy to eat (no dead things, please)!



Treasurer's Comments

Steve Thompson

All right, Spring is here! The old heart is pumping away and the adrenaline is running sky high. My boat is back in the water. And if you happen to be within a half mile of her you'll

probably hear a sound rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus echoing across the water. All that's left is a little bit of wax and we're on our way. *Hallelujah!*

Speaking of chorus wouldn't you agree that pulling a boat into a slip is very similar to conducting a chorus? (How's that for a transition, eh?)

I've had my boat for a year now, put 90 hours on the engine, and tied up at 12 different marinas. In all that time I have tied up to the same slip at only three locations, and two of them were gas docks. (Can you guess where the third location was? Duh.) And at each location it seems like a whole new set of rules and conditions apply.

Just like the conductor of a chorus, who has in front of him the musical score with all the notes for each section, so must the captain of a boat have a score—with the tide, current, wind, and the knowledge of how each affects the movement of the vessel. And just as a conductor must know when to raise a crescendo or to change the tempo, so must a captain know when and how much to increase the throttle or turn the wheel. And finally, just as a conductor silently directs the chorus with a wisp of his wand, so does the captain coordinate with the crew and dock hands by using hand and arm signals. Well, hopefully at least he isn't barking out commands, or cussing up

a storm. (I mention the word "he" here because as everyone knows when there is a woman at the helm yelling is strictly forbidden.)

So, the next time you're getting ready to pull your boat in, take a moment, close your eyes [very briefly], and take a deep breath. Visualize the harmony you are about to conduct as your boat effortlessly glides up to the dock and magically throws out those lines ending with perfect wraps around the cleats. Yeah, right. Keep on dreaming. (I sense another transition coming.)

Speaking of dreaming, did anybody visit the boat show at the

Capital Expo Center in Chantilly? If you did I would hazard a guess that some of you may have left dreaming of that next trade-up. (I told you there was another transition in the making.) While there weren't many boats over the 30' to 32' range, there was plenty to look at for all those OYCers with smaller boats. And believe it or not, there are quite a few of you out there.

The dealers represented at this show were more local than the ones that were at the D.C. Convention Center. But for those of you who are waiting for just another year or so, like myself, there were plenty of vendors selling all kinds of neat stuff. And I mean there was some *really neat stuff*.

Unfortunately, my wallet was a little thin so I had to satisfy myself with a handful of brochures.

So, my next question is, when's the next boat show? If memory serves me correct, it should be in Annapolis. Oh boy, oh boy, that's the big one. Although it's usually held at the end of the season, I can hardly wait. (Note from the author's First Mate: If there's another one in between, please don't mention it to him. He has to pay off his new motorcycle first.)

Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet, May 4

More than a hundred recreational boats are expected to cruise along the Occoquan River, 25 miles south of Washington, DC, to take part in the area's fourth annual Blessing of the Fleet, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 4. For the first time the participating Navy chaplains station themselves on the fueling dock of Belmont Bay Harbor Marina, located near the end of the river's no-wake zone, from which point they will invoke a blessing on each outbound boat.

The dockside blessing site is expected to allow a more weather-friendly ceremony than last year's event, which was hampered by high winds and low tides.

The sponsor, Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA), is coordinating the efforts of the Prince William, Fairfax and Occoquan Yacht Clubs, with support from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Potomac Marine-TowBOAT/U.S., and Fairfax and Prince William County public safety agencies.

The event is open to all boats in the area.

Local dignitaries are being invited to take part and observe while embarked in OYC member Captain Bob Wilcox's Occoquan-based motoryacht *Sanctuary*.



Blessing in the Bay—Last year, scores of boats queued up in a breezy, shallow and muddy Occoquan Bay. This year we'll use the always navigable channel and in the no-wake zone alongside Belmont Bay Harbor Marina, Saturday, May 4.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

ORMA was established in 1999 to coordinate activities of businesses and boaters relating to navigation, commercial and recreational use of the river, environmental preservation, safety and education. In addition to coordinating the annual Blessing of the Fleet, ORMA has played a leadership role in promoting federal funding for dredging of hazardous portions of the Occoquan channel and in the Town of Occoquan's successful bid to obtain federal grants for construction of transient docking for recreational boating.

Organizations which have pledged their support to ORMA include Salisbury Towing, the Town of Occoquan, Virginia Concrete, Maryland Rock Industries, Belmont Town Associates, Vulcan Materials Co., Potomac Marine, Inc., West Marine-Woodbridge, Prince William Marine Sales, Inc., Occoquan, Fairfax and Prince William yacht clubs,

Hoffmasters Marina, Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association and the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association. ORMA's coordinator is Chris Webster, who recently succeeded ORMA's founder, OYC member Jim Ball.

Coast Guard Issues Anti-terrorist Safety Message, Encourages Boaters to Enjoy 2002 Season

Earlier this year, the U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety issued a statement assuring boaters that our waterways are safe and at the same time emphasizing the importance of safety and heightened security in the post 9-11 era. The Office listed these precautions:

Make sure your boat is safe and that it meets all safety requirements and regulations. Making sure that your boat has a current **Vessel Safety Check** is an important first step. Your safety and that of all your passengers are very important to the Coast Guard. You can arrange for a Vessel Safety Check of your boat by contacting your local Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron.

Always secure and lock your boat when not on board, even while visiting marina restaurants or a friend's dock and other piers. Never leave your boat accessible to others.

Always take the keys to the boat with you.

When storing your boat, make sure it is secure and its engine is disabled. If it is on a trailer, make the trailer as immovable as possible.

Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in the channel.

If you do, then expect to be boarded by law enforcement officials.

Observe and avoid all security zones.

Avoid commercial port operation areas, especially those that involve military, cruiseline or petroleum facilities.

Do not approach military, cruiseline or escorted commercial shipping: keep your distance. There is a 100-yard security zone around military, cruiseline and many commercial vessels. Violators face six years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, not to mention a quick, determined and severe Coast Guard response.

Report all activities that seem suspicious to the local authorities, the Coast Guard and the port and/or marina security. Do not approach or challenge those acting in a suspicious manner.

Know and practice safe navigation, be courteous and careful at all times, and do not drink or use drugs when boating.

The full text of the Coast Guard statement may be found at www.uscgboating.org or www.uscg.mil/news.

A Testimonial

Sometimes there comes a time to share with each other the good deeds. However small, the good things we do have a way of smoothing the road for others. I would like to share with you a good deed by certain members of OYC which reflects on our club and us all.

Imagine a very hot August, the middle of a two-week cruise in 2002 at Coles Point Plantation. Huge thunderstorms about. *Nextasea* arrives from the Bay very late with lightning fore and aft, and *Going Nowhere* arrives even later. The power is out regionally, and the Pilot's Wharf chef Chris Winter is beside himself about his friends and guests. Not only is the kitchen out of power, but there is a wedding party tonight and several yacht clubs are calculating options.

We learn later that the power was guaranteed for the wedding party that afternoon by the MVPC (*Miss Vivian* Power Company). Tom Shank and Tony Mirando arranged for power to be delivered to the party by *Miss Vivian's* generator. More details of the cruise and this particular party are provided in Tony's account (Daymarker, September 2001) including kisses from the bride. Laurli and Kenneth Swanson tied the knot the next day with OYC in attendance, and we danced to the new couple's health well into the morning.

I offer this testimonial as another reason for the Commodore's Cup award this season to Tony and Tom, who we admire.
—Scott Shipley, *NEXASEA*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

October 1, 2001 to March 22, 2002

Starting Balance		\$4,273.31
	Income	
Dues Collected	3,470.00	
50/50 raffles	68.00	
Quartermaster Sales	<u>1,179.00</u>	
Total Income		4,717.00
	Expenses	
Administrative Costs		
Bank Charges	69.04	
Brochures	26.80	
Other (not categorized)	102.27	
Dues Paid (PRYCA, CBYCA)	210.00	
Daymarker (incl. postage)	969.05	
Quartermaster Purchases	672.78	
Club Activities		
Membership Mtg.	305.43	
Holiday Party	934.33	
Planfest	512.68	
Other Events	<u>595.00</u>	
Total Events	<u>2,347.44</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>4,397.38</u>
Total Income minus Expenses		<u>\$319.62</u>
Current Account Balance		\$4,592.93
Quartermaster Inventory		\$3,581.20

Sign Up Now for Memorial Day Weekend Cruise to Tall Timbers Marine, May 24-27

Sign up now for the club's cruise to Tall Timbers Marina over the Memorial Day Weekend. Your cruise coordinators are planning varied activities for a fun time. New members Anne and Alan Gorenstein have won the first event. They stepped up and were first to register for their first cruise ever. Again, welcome to our new members and if you have questions or concerns, give Gail or Joe Livingston a call at 703-250-8765.

Activities are scheduled all weekend through a Monday morning departure including cocktail hours, live music, buffet style meals, beach bonfire and continuous activity in the Reluctant Navigator restaurant (plot your course and don't lose your bearing!).

Cruise details:

When: May 24-27 (elect Friday or Saturday arrival).

Where: Tall Timbers Marina (Maryland shoreline, 38 10 65 N—76 32 60 W), south of St. Clements Island.

What and why: MEMORIAL DAY CRUISE. Cruise with safety and have a great time.

How: Sign up now by mail or e-mail to jlivingston@ft.newyorklife.com providing:

Hey, Gail, we will attend the Memorial Day Cruise.

Crew Names: _____ No. Persons onboard: _____

Boat Name: _____ Arrive: _____ Friday or _____ Saturday No. of nights _____

Boat Length: _____ Beam: _____ Shore Power (please circle): One 30AMP Two 30AMP One/Two 50AMP

Telephone: _____ E-mail (print carefully): _____

Comments or Special Needs: _____

Mail to: Gail and Joe Livingston, 9716 Churchway, Burke, VA 22015.

Inside...

**OYC SOLD to ENRON ! All OYC boats
surrendered for ENRON stock. Checked your slip
lately? (No wonder they call that guy FasTOW !)**

**NEWSLETTER GETS NEW NAME, Daymarker
editor SACKED, wider audience sought—"Our new
cover says it all," says Commodore;**

PRYCA accused of plagiarism;

Ferry service to Tim's now a reality;

**At last, permanent boat wax, cheap disposable
anchors.**

April 2
OYC Board
absconds with
club funds

April 15
U.S. Postal Service tips
off IRS on non-
renewed members with
asterisks on mailing
labels

April 19-21
Early Bird Cruise to
~~Chicago~~ Gangplank
Tony Mirando
202 488-1545

May 4
Blessing of the Fleet
(really, on Saturday)

May 5
OYC Flag Raising
On Sunday this year