



The Daymarker



OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

Web site: <http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org>



Commodore's Comments

Mary Lynn Snowman

Commodore
Mary Lynn Snowman
301 869-2885

Vice Commodore
Rick Sorrenti
703 590-6274

Rear Commodore
Andrew Kalweit
703 404-0171

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

Winter—bah humbug! Well, what do you want me to say? I like the holidays but after they are over, what's next? Another drab winter to look forward to. It might be different if we had snow to look at but frankly the trees are starting to look a little gray. I'm ready to start planning my summer; are you?

Please join us for the 2002 Planfest at Gecko's on Saturday, January 19th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. As always there will be food and plenty of cheer to go around. Cash bar. Bring your calendar and your check book. This is a perfect time to pay your 2002 dues and stop by the Quartermaster's shop. Susan Thompson has some new ideas for this year. Be sure to stop by and see her.

This year the photo contest has been moved to the March meeting. But please feel free to bring photos to share at any meeting.

We just won't be judging them in January. There are a number of important dates you will want to mark on your calendar now (before the Planfest). Pot Luck at the Grants on January 12th, see below. OYC Planfest on January 19th (in case you started here to read my article). The PRYCA Change of Watch is January 26th. Our annual brunch at Fort Belvoir is February 3rd. The OYC Ocean City trip is February 16th – 18th. (The Snowman's are going to Hawaii February 15th through the 25th. Yep, all of us!)

At the time of this writing Randy and I haven't decided which weekend to winterize the boat. This one, the next one, or maybe the following one. With the weather remaining mild it's hard for us to think of winterizing. No more weekends working on the boat for a while. (Smile!) Putting everything away just emphasizes the fact that another boating season

Ain't No Cure For The Wintertime Blues.....

Join us at our house for a pot-luck dinner:

Rob, Marg & Emily

Three G'S

Saturday, January 12, 2002

at 7:00 pm

7337 Wayfarer Drive, Fairfax Station, VA

and the kids are welcome!



An invitation to a winter get together and pot-luck dinner

RSVP by January 7:

call 703-250-9539 or preferred e-mail: robgrant@starpower.net

(We will e-mail directions back to you)

has ended. Thankfully, the storage season is short. We'll be back on the boat again first of March. This year Randy and I have committed ourselves to enjoying the water more than the upgrades on the boat.

Hope to see you in January, if not, we'll see you on the water.

The Datemarkers

BIRTHDAYS

Jim Ball 1/7	Kathleen Fitzgerald 1/9
Rob Cavaleri 1/10	Sandy Ludwig 1/10
Vonda Barrow 1/12	Janet Sobie 1/12
Michael Bailey 1/14	Walter Cheatham 1/15
Tony Mirando 1/16	Phyllis Meginley 1/18
Mike Fordham 1/19	Mike Czop 1/21
Ned Rhodes 1/22	Jan Wilcox 1/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Laslo & Linda Bozoky 1/4
Dan & Phyllis Meginley 1/4
John & Beckie Heinze 1/30

Ahoy, mate, greetings from the poop deck. D'ya ever hear why they called it the poop deck? Well, back in them thar' days of sailing ships (before real power-boating caught on), the skipper would stand up on that raised deck back aft, abaft the mainm'st and before the helm, and that's where he would bellow out the orders for the day and any current news and anything else that was on his sea frazzled mind. And that's where the term arose, "the straight poop." Which brings me to the point, "the straight poop," y'see, dagnabit, **it's time to renew your membership!** Your 2001 dues have dried up, there ain't no more; our coffers need replenishing so we can do important things, like buying fresh-dated beer and paying for this miserable mullet wrapper called a newsletter and raise a down payment on the treasurer's next boat. If *you* have already renewed, go back an un-read this appeal. But if you haven't renewed, cough it up now, ace, and the new board will sing praises to your name. Send your check (\$60 family membership) payable to OYC, mailed to OYC, POB 469, Occoquan, VA 22125. That's the straight poop.

The Daymarker

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Tom Coldwell, PC, Editor; Mary Ann Coldwell, Editor's Editor
Randy Snowman, Circulation

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tcoldwell@cox.rr.com

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

On the Web . . .

Occoquan Yacht Club: <http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org>

Ned Rhodes, Webmaster

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:

<http://www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org>

Ned Rhodes, Webmaster

Occoquan River Maritime Association::

<http://www.ormaweb.org>

Jim Ball, Webmaster

and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:

<http://www.cbyca.org>



Vice Commodore

Rick Sorrenti

Wow, what a party... Well, I hope that by now everyone who attended the Holiday Party has recovered nicely, and is only left with the great memories. Our thanks to the 2001 board for such wonderful planning, right down to the hourly door prizes, even placemat agendas. What a blast!!

Immediate Past Commodore Clevenger, looking particularly relaxed and smiling, presented tokens of appreciation as her last official act. A ton of Cruise Coordinators received certificates, as well as those who thought they had coordinated a cruise and no one showed! I just can't understand the Bent Prop Award going to someone, who through absolutely no fault of his own came in contact with the bottom of the channel. It had to be a defect in the on board computer-controlled navigation system, which would be obviously a manufacturer's defect.

The major recognition each year is the Commodore's Cup, which honors the person(s) who contributed the most to the club, not just in time, but knowledge, good humor, and seamanship. Tony Mirando and Tom Shank are this year's recipients. Throughout 2001, they were right there to pitch in anytime, anywhere. Tony and Tom did a tremendous job coordinating the Lower Bay two week cruise, and always were willing to pitch in at any time and, of course, the last minute help with Gangplank's continuously changing management. Our thanks to Tony and Tom for all they have given back to the club in 2001.

The evening closed with several hours of dancing the night away, punctuated by hourly door prizes ranging from beer brewing kit (Ned, we expect many gallons) to nautical note set won by Dodie Cawelti. I know all had a good time.

So, as we enter the long winter months, don't forget the Planfest at Gecko's January 19th, 2- 5PM and PRYCA Change of Watch January 26th. Contact Jay Livingston ASAP; see the "last chance" article in this issue.

Let's talk about ...charts

For a little light reading, the following may be of interest to those who don't really trust those fancy electronic aids to navigation (Bent Prop Award winner has taken note), and want current navigation charts.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Coast Survey has been providing nautical charts to mariners for nearly 200 years. It's a tough job because of the

ever-changing undersea landscapes of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the Great Lakes and major inland waterways, such as the Mississippi River.

Commercial mariners are required by law to purchase nautical charts from Coast Survey. They also must update their charts and report back to Coast Survey as they discover new underwater obstructions, such as sandbars. "Waterways are very dynamic," says Dave Enabnit, Coast Survey's technical director. "Charts can be out of date as soon as they are printed."

In the past, mariners were forced to rely on whatever charts were in stock at Coast Survey. New charts weren't printed until a particular stock had run out, leaving mariners stuck with old data and causing hazardous situations.

In January 2000, Coast Survey contracted with Software Performance Systems Inc. to create a way for mariners to get accurate charts whenever they needed them. Now, mariners can place orders online or by phone, and then the most current information is pulled from government computers for those charts. New charts are only printed when there is a demand. Under the old system, Coast Survey's charts cost \$17.50 each. Now they cost \$20. And while this is a bit more expensive, Enabnit says mariners are ecstatic that their charts are more up to date. Coast Survey has also improved the durability of the charts, using specially coated paper. All told, Enabnit calculates that the project, which cost about \$1.25 million, will save commercial mariners about \$35 million every year.



Rear Commodore

Becky Wellhouse

Can you believe that it's already 2002? I hope that your holiday season was joyous and relaxing. I don't know about you, but around this time each year, my family and I sit back and think about all the things that we are thankful for. We also take this time to reminisce about the events of the past year, and reflect on lessons learned. In the thankful department, the September 11th tragedy prompted us to really appreciate how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful country. Additionally, we're eternally thankful for the men and women who risk their lives to protect our freedom, and for the good health and prosperity of our family and friends.

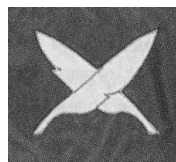
As far as reminiscing is concerned, the biggest event that occurred this past year was our first season on the water with our new boat. After four years of researching and cold feet, we finally bought the boat and signed up for boating class. We were ready to go! We soon learned that while the boating class taught us about safety and how not to be a menace on the water, it didn't prepare us for all of the other "little" things that one goes through as a boater.

With that said, I've prepared a "short" list of lessons learned from our boating adventures last summer. Well, the list that I'm willing to admit to in a public forum, that is. I hope I don't regret sharing...

1. Never cook bratwurst on a grill that is physically attached to your boat.
2. Grease fires are BAD. Especially when the captain is off playing on the jetski instead of tending to the grill.
3. When you're rafted up and your friend's grill is on fire, untie. Quickly.
4. Speed kills. Especially when someone's trying to raft up to you and they've never done it before.
5. Prop + Anchor Rode = *TROUBLE*
6. Never walk along the transom while the boat is moving. Old Town is not a good place for a swim.
7. When you're taking the dogs to shore at 3:00 a.m., don't be scared! That movement you see on the shoreline is just your shadow. Whew!

8. Always measure carefully prior to drilling into the hull of your boat. Thank God for lift slips....
9. Hire a maid.
10. When the Captain promises that he'll never yell at you in public again, don't believe him.
11. Always keep your mouth shut when boating at night.
I suppose life is about experiences and learning on the fly. Fortunately, cautiousness and good humor saw us through last year's little oopsies in one piece. I can't wait to see what 2002 has in store for us!

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing all of you at the January Planfest!



Secretary's Comments

Eugene Brown

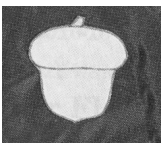
First, I hope everyone has an enjoyable Holiday season. Second, I want to put my pitch about attending the Brunch at Fort Belvoir Officer's Club on February 3, 2002. It is a fabulous event that is well worth the money. It is truly a morning and afternoon of good eats for the money. So if you can make it contact Susan von Schaack.

From the last board meeting I would like to let every one know that your board members are planning a great year of events in which we hope everyone will be able to participate. We are looking forward to maximum participation from all members.

As the secretary I feel it my duty to provide our membership with the tidbits of information that pertain to proper grammar and English.

Lesson 1. As my dad used to say: "would of, should of, and could of." Wrong! If he said it correctly he would of said: "would have, could have, should have."

Lesson 2: There is a space between "a" and "lot." So let's not misspell that word anymore. A lot of people make that mistake and they should of known better.



Treasurer's Comments

Steve Thompson

Well, I guess my first season on the river is over. Now it's time to reflect on all the happenings and good times had from the 2001 season. I've learned much and found one statement to be extremely relevant; "Once it goes into the water, it isn't coming out."

With few exceptions, perhaps an anchor or even your boat, I have found this statement to be very exacting. My First Mate and I discovered this rule during our first extended cruise, to Annapolis, last year.

Upon departure from Annapolis, dreading our final destination for the cruise, my Captain's cap flew off my head and into the bay. "No problem," said I. Even with the close passing on a couple outbound cruisers, leaving behind huge wakes (at least for a 28 footer) and showing me what a buoy in a tropical storm looks like, I managed to keep an eye on that dearly loved cap. We swung around and on the second try my trusty mate got the boat hook on it. But, as luck would have it, as she reached to snag it from the hook it dropped back into the bay and under the boat never to be seen again. Now the Captain is relegated to wearing the First Mate's fishing hat.

Later on during that same trip, prior to departing The Solomons, it was determined that the holding tank should be pumped. And how many of you have done what you think happened next? Yup, you guessed it, spinning the tank cap open it goes flying into the water. I wonder how many tank caps you would find there on the bottom if you had a metal detector? Maybe I'll invest in a large magnet and tape it to the end of my boat hook.

Fairly early on in the boating season we had just mounted a stanchion for our American flag. And we proudly showed our colors on a trip up river to the Mount Vernon area. Much to everyone's surprise, sometime during the trip back the flag mysteriously disappeared. (Does this sound familiar? I won't provide names. It's bad enough to admit to myself.) A quick job drilling a hole and inserting a cotter pin helped decrease our expenditures for flags for the rest of the year.

The latest and probably not last time this rule surfaced was during a lunch break on the Potomac on a run home from down river. Being an old Boy Scout I try to live by the motto, "Be Prepared." As such I always carry a knife in my back pocket. Well, when the flag started to fray it was paramount for the old Scout to make the appropriate repairs. So out comes the knife from the back pocket and straight to the bottom of the Potomac it goes. Now this was no ordinary knife mind you; a Swiss Army knife with all of the necessary gadgets required by any man that needs tools. (And what man doesn't?)

However, even with the loss of these items (important as they may seem to the Captain but trivial to the First Mate) the trips were not ruined. Everyone still had an enjoyable time. And now the Captain puts stickum on his hands and in his hair prior to departing the slip. Plus, remember, when you replace something you lose it is usually with something bigger and better. Now, where did I put the boat?

PRYCA 2002 Change of Watch with Our Own Steve Wexler as MC (Master of Ceremonies or Marine Comic?)

Fresh from a scouting trip to the Catskills, Steve is promising fresh material this year, at least as fresh as the salmon florentine.

C'mon out for a great night of fun with friends and fellow boaters.

When: Saturday, January 26

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:45 p.m.

Change of Watch and dancing to midnight.

Where: Sheraton Crystal City, 1800 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, with complimentary parking.

For hotel room reservations call 703-486-1111.

Cost: \$50.00 per person.

Choice of entrees: prime rib, chicken roma or salmon florentine.

Dress: Winter Uniform or business suit (Black Tie optional).

Make your reservations now through OYC's PYRCA delegate Joe Livingston. Provide name, guest(s) names and entree selections and mail your check (\$50 per-payable to OYC) to Joe at 9716 Churchway, Burke, VA 22015.

Questions, please call 703-250-8765.

Another Event Ashore

Treats to Eat

by Susan von Schaack-Brown

What do boaters do when the weather outside is frightful? They get together to get delightful!

Join your fellow OYCers for some jolly time at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club for the Sunday Champagne Brunch. This annual event gathers folks from all places to fill up on tasteful treats. Ask anyone who has attended the last three years. Yes, I think it has been that long, Virginia. There is an omelet bar, dessert tables with chocolate covered strawberries, salads, all the usual breakfast food, a carving station, mimosas or screwdrivers, and much more. The cost is around \$13.95 and kids are cheaper. Of course, some don't eat as much as the adults. So where does all that happy hour food go?

If you are interested in attending on Sunday, February 3, you need to make your reservations with me no later than Friday, January 25. I will need to let the Military Police know who is coming so you can get a visitor's pass. So call me at 703 815-5891 or email me at Susan.VonSchaack@fcps.edu. But remember, I leave work at 3:00 p.m. so if you wait until the last day to send me your reservation email, send it *early* that Friday. Yeah, I know. What a lucky life a teacher has.

Well, if I'm so lucky, I'll be seeing you in all the familiar places like Fort Belvoir O'Club on Sunday, February 3. We can make a toast to the new boating year. Oh, and by the way, jeans are not allowed. This is an Officer's Club so dress appropriately. If your outfit is questionable, you'd better change.

Dredging—Slowly but Surely

Rep Tom Davis' staff convened a meeting of Occoquan area officials on December 7 to advise them that the Defense Appropriation Act for 2002 includes language amending legislation dating from 1890 which now calls for deepening the Occoquan River channel to nine feet and to expanding the channel from Marker Number 2 and the US Route 1 bridge to a width of 200 feet. The Defense Appropriation is expected to be passed soon and signed by the President.

Davis' staffer Barnaby Harkins noted that when the legislation is passed, Corps of Engineers surveying could begin this January or February and that dredging could occur as early as the November 2002-March 2003 time frame. If that timetable is not met, dredging would be accomplished in the November 2003-March 2004 window.

Language in the Occoquan amendment also calls for the return of the balance of funds previously earmarked for dredging in the 2001 budget which the Corps of Engineers applied to other projects after they decided dredging was not necessary. The new criteria, 9 feet deep and 200 feet wide, gives the Corps a new standard they will be required to meet. Harkins said that he will advise those concerned when the President has signed the legislation.

At the same meeting, Potomac Marine president Terry Hill briefed attendees on channel marker changes which the Coast Guard recently completed. He noted that the markers running inbound from Conrad Island to Belmont Bay Marina have been moved several feet to the right, and he expressed concern that shoaling in this newly opened part of the channel may present hazards to large boats. He believes that boaters should proceed with caution along the rightside edge of the channel and further that local yacht clubs need to alert their members to the potential hazard.

Summary of changes to the Aids to Navigation in the Occoquan Channel:

1. Day marker #8, just inbound of Conrad Island, was moved towards the North placing it inward and slightly towards the Fairfax Shore and away from Conrad Island. Renumbered from Red #8 to Red #10.
2. Red lighted marker #10 just off Belmont Bay Marina was moved 10' to 20' maybe E-NE closer to the old wake zone marker. Renumbered as Red lighted marker #12.
3. Green day marker #13 relocated outwards off the mud bar closer to Belmont.
4. Red lighted marker #12 was renumbered as Red lighted marker #14 and relocated slightly more towards the center of the river westward into deeper water off Fairfax Yacht Club.
5. Green day marker #15 added to replace old #13 close to its original position.
6. Old buoy #14 by Occoquan Regional Park was replaced with new day marker #16.
7. Old buoy #15 replaced new day markers #17 and #19 and placed more towards the Prince William side of the National Channel.

Thus far Fairfax Marine Patrol, Salisbury Towing Tug "Capt. Tom" (crew) and Potomac Marine agree that the changes will be of great help in eliminating congestion especially in the areas of Belmont Bay and Conrad Island. However, prudent mariners should use caution when transiting along the extreme fringes of these channel lines as

this short term solution to the congestion issue will still require some dredging especially for the deeper draft vessels.

From the shelves of the Quartermaster

Susan Thompson, Quartermaster

The cupboards are starting to look a little sparse. But fear not, there are still lots of interesting things to buy. Even if your boat is high and dry in storage and the temperatures are not as low as they were last year, we're sure you could still use a nice warm sweatshirt to help you remember those warmer days fast approaching. Christmas has passed but that doesn't mean you can't buy your crew (or Captain) a little something extra. Your Quartermaster's phone number is on the front of this Daymarker. Although we don't accept MasterCard or VISA we're sure arrangements can be made to get purchase to you quickly. By the way, we don't mind the free publicity from non-members wearing OYC's exclusive line of clothing.

Now, back to those sparse shelves; the board is making decisions on the new Spring line. We've got some good ideas but sure would like to know your druthers. Samples of what has been decided to date should be available for viewing later in January. But what, you might ask, could you expect. Well, it appears that two-tone is in this year with ball caps and tees leading the way. More info to follow.

President's Weekend Getaway

by Candy Clevenger, event coordinator

Are you looking for a winter break? Well, look no more. Join your OYC friends for our annual trek to Ocean City, Maryland, February 16-18. We will be staying at the newly remodeled Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway. This weekend books fast so don't delay, get your response with check, payable to OYC, back to me no later than February 2.

You can fill out and mail the form below or you can respond by email to alclev@hotmail.com, providing all the information requested below, then just mail me the check at 11304 Lafferty Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030.

The Seaside Boat Show will once again be at the Ocean City Convention Center over President's Day Weekend. As we have done in the past there will be a cabana room for a Happy Hour on Saturday and Sunday night and for Coffee and Danish on Sunday and Monday morning. So plan to bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Pets are welcome, so no excuses, come and join in the fun.

Name _____

Number in party: Adults____ Kids____ Pets____

Number of rooms needed:

Double _____(\$89/night) King studio_____ (\$119/night)

Check-in date_____ (16th or 17th ?)

Check-out date _____ (17th or 18th ?)

Remember, I must hear from you and have your check by February 2.

2001 Change of Watch: OYC Celebrates the Holidays and Its Volunteers



The New Crew for 2002—(left to right) Quartermaster Susan Thompson, Treasurer Steve Thompson, Commodore Mary Lynn Snowman, Secretary Eugene Brown, Rear Commodore Becky Wellhouse and Vice Commodore Rick Sorrenti were installed at OYC's Change of Watch and Holiday Party, December 1 at the Fort Belvoir Community Center.



Commodore's Cup—2001 Commodore Candy Clevenger presents the Commodore's Cup to Tom Shank and Tony Mirando in recognition for their excellence in boating and service to the club.



Bent Prop Award—Teresa and Rick Sorrenti accept the not-so-coveted recognition of their excellence in boat damage.



Diane and Mike Bailey



Linda and Laslo Bozoky



Eugene and Susan Brown



Greg and Laura Berger, Nicole and Rob Cavaleri



Gordon and Dodie Cawelti



Mary Ann and Tom Coldwell



John and Kathy Corley



Martha Jane and Ed Dodd



Scott, Karen and Baby Drury



Lucy and Nabil Dubraque



Bill and Bonnie Fulford



Pat and Rick Garverick



Gina Croci and Dave Moore



Alan and Anne Gorenstein



Allen and Lynanne Jorsey



Liz and Andrew Kalweit



Joe and Gail Livingston



Arleen and Ned Rhodes



Ann and Scott Shipley



Mary Lynn and Randy Snowman



Walter and Janet Sobie



Bill and Kathy Steele



Rich and Becky Wellhouse



Paula and Steve Wexler



Allen Clevenger teaches daughter Nicole how to dance.

Dragging anchor is a drag

by Mary Lynn Snowman

It's the most wonderful time of the year...if you like the rush of the holidays. But if you like boating in warm weather you're not going to find too many of those days in the DC area this time of the year. However, I do remember a few years ago when several boat owners winterized their boats many times because the temptation to go to Tim's Rivershore on the weekend was more than they could bear. Or they were off to Mattawoman Creek to drop anchor for a few hours. And speaking of Mattawoman...

Randy and I haven't dropped anchor since Labor Day. It's a place I used to love to go but the last several times we've gone it's become more labor than love. It took me awhile to figure out why I just didn't jump at the opportunity to go to Mattawoman. That free feeling of boating just wasn't there anymore and then I remembered.

It is normally my job to drop the anchor. It's Randy's job to strategically maneuver the boat so that we don't drift or swing into other boats. Randy and I do our job quite well. It's the anchor that doesn't cooperate. So as we are so unsuccessful with our first try of setting the anchor, we try again. And again, and again, and again. And then, Randy puts Meagan at the helm (who has learned the art of that strategic maneuvering) and Randy is in charge of the anchor. Somewhere along the line of events I have become the one who can't do the job (I know that I can) and the voices have raised and we're going to go HOME!

Randy has become Mr. Fixit I Can and, needless to say, ladies, I am proud to tell you that he can't do it any better than I can. I'm starting to believe that MAYBE it's the new captain that has taken over the helm that can do it. But no, we have to try the anchor thing one more time. While everyone at Mattawoman is watching, and probably laughing at the hysterics aboard the *Abominable Snowman*. Eventually the anchor sets and we are able to enjoy what is left of the day.

I asked Randy how much a new anchor would cost. Now, when I ask that question I know there are two answers. There is the answer of what a normal anchor will cost and then there is the answer of what an anchor will cost that Randy will buy. I will tell you that what I was thinking and what Randy quoted me were quite different in price. I was anticipating a much larger number. Needless to say I had Randy order the anchor that week.

I wasn't there when Randy put the anchor together and it was dark when I arrived to the boat. My first look at the

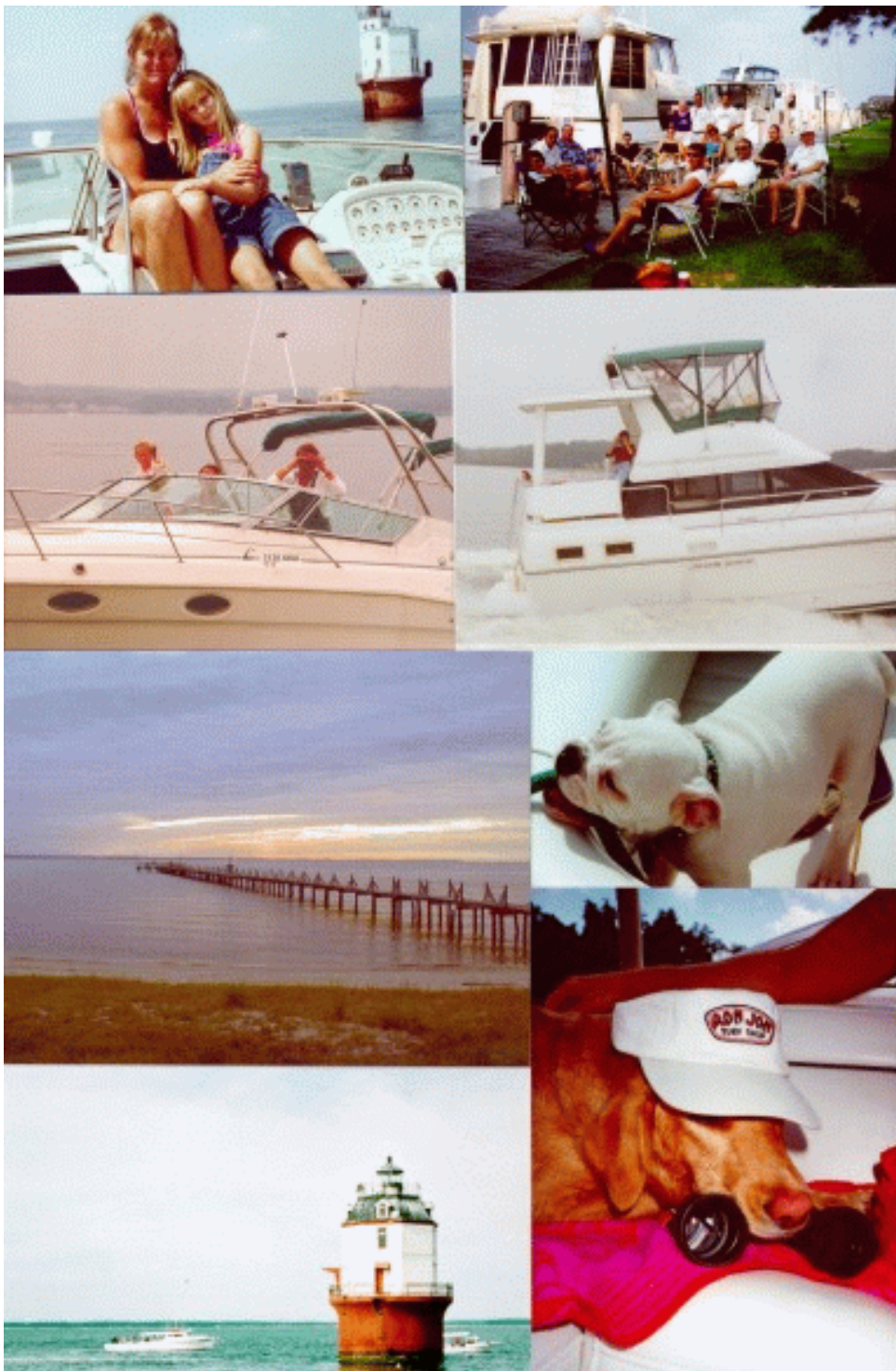


Photo Contest Shifts to General Meeting—You will have more time to collect and sort through your photographic feats last year, as the annual photo contest will be staged at the March general membership. Details follow next month. Above are some of the winners from last year's contest.

anchor was Saturday morning. I was quick to get out of the bed and out the door to take a look. It was awesome! Shiny and new! It sparkled in the sunlight. I can't wait to put it in the water and put it to the test. And when it happens I'll be sure and let you know whether it's the captain or me that isn't doing the job but we no longer have the anchor to use as an excuse.

Occoquan Yacht Club—A History

by Walt Cheatham

A long-time member of OYC

The Occoquan Yacht Club has represented boaters from Virginia's Occoquan River area since early 1984 when it was formed by a group predominantly comprised of sailboaters moored hard by the Route 123 bridge at the old Prince William Marina (now vacant) in downtown Occoquan. OYC membership quickly grew to 100 members by August 1984 and has grown steadily ever since to its present 230 members.

Original events included sailboat races with clubs from Quantico and Neabsco Creek as well as Predicted Log competitions for the power boaters and overnights at Mattawoman Creek for all. The enthusiasm of the original group has not diminished with the shift from sail to power. In fact, the OYC has proclaimed its presence throughout the region with its many activities, cruises, and competitions in PRYCA events. It has cruised as a group from Williamsburg to Baltimore. It has graduated from one week long summer cruise to two, and now to one one-weeker and a two-weeker. It has competed ferociously for the PRYCA Cup, and won it once. Its rolls have included four PRYCA Commodores (John Robey, Steve Donnock, Ned Rhodes and Monica Lovell), the perpetual Treasurer (Steve Wexler) and Newsletter/web site Guru (Ned Rhodes).

OYC loudly claims to be the club with the most personality that owns no real estate of record. Its schedule of events numbers 37 spread among all 12 months of the year. Its membership extends way past the local area, e.g., to Leesburg, Gaithersburg, Richmond, Williamsburg, and Calvert County, MD. In fact, many members belong to Occoquan in addition to the club at their home marina in order to extend their fun and friendships. Many stay in touch from wherever they have moved over the years, e.g., North Carolina, Florida and Arizona.

Our aquatic artery separating Fairfax and Prince William counties near Woodbridge has an interesting history having been long standing home to Dogue Indians and explored by Captain John Smith in the early 1600's. The word meant "head of the waters" to Native Americans. The town was a thriving port with a prominent mill and became a divide between north and south during the War Between the States—a place where mail could be transferred from southern carriers to northern carriers and visa versa during that turbulent period. After a sleepy start to this century, it has evolved into a tourist mecca with its shops, water-oriented restaurants and spring/fall craft shows featuring artisans from all along the eastern seaboard. It's a town planning to exploit its water heritage with new public dockage to entice boaters to enjoy its bounty.

OYC members headed by Jim Ball have recently been instrumental in assisting the pursuit of federal grants for the docks as well as bringing the town/county governments, businesses, and boaters closer together via creation of the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) to address common issues—issues like the need for dredging and safe placement of no wake signs. Such activities aren't new, for back in 1985 when the river got its first no wake rulings; club

members installed the 14 county signs on donated pilings that are still in service. Also in 1985, the club held the original Blessing of the Fleet in Occoquan Bay—a tradition that ORMA has recently revived.

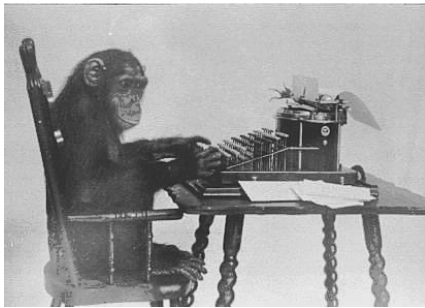
Marinas were sparse back in those days – Prince William, Wes Jennings' Boatel, and Longhorn in the town, and Hoffmasters and Captain John Beech further downstream. Now, members are spread all along the river at new facilities like Occoquan Harbor Marina, Fairfax Yacht Club (featuring unique condo ownership), the new Prince William Marina (with its boatel to end all boatels), and the even newer Belmont Bay Marina with its golf course and emerging acres of new homes. Many members call Neabsco Creek just south in Prince William County home at marinas like Pilot House, Hamptons Landing, and EZ-Cruz, and even more harbor from the mouth of the Aquia Creek to Columbia Island and Gangplank in DC to Spring Cove and Chesapeake Yacht Club on the Bay.

That's quite a range and totally in keeping with a group that does not own a clubhouse.

You know that Winter has arrived when certain birds are seen walking north on I-95



So, what's your story?



The editor welcomes your help.

The Daymarker welcomes articles from its readers. Tell us your personal boating story, what you did, where you went, how much were the repairs, etc. No, wait, there don't have to be repairs; we like happy endings, too. And we like photographs,

too; nice, clear and simple ones—of boats, people and pets. Sunsets? Nah, they're no good in black and white.

Send your submissions to Tom Coldwell, tcoldwell@cox.rr.com. Or mail your offerings to him at 10319 Commonwealth Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22032. All photos will be returned. Make a New Year's resolution: get your story in The Daymarker.

Northern Virginia Power Squadrons' boating classes begin this month

This eight week course provides fundamental boating education for power and sail boaters. Topics include basic boat terms, knots, safety items, aids to navigation, basic piloting, "rules of the road," etc. Five classes are offered. Students must register with the Parks and Recreation Department at the number listed. In addition, a course text and charting tools are sold at the first class. Please bring a check to the first class so that you can obtain your course materials.

Mon., Jan. 14, 2002, 7 pm (no class on holidays 1/21/02, 2/18/02), Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 3501 S. Second St., Arlington VA. Registration: Arlington Co. Parks Dept. at 703-228-4747

Tues., Jan. 22, 2002, 7 pm, S. Lakes High School, 11450 S. Lakes Dr., Reston VA. Registration: Fairfax Co. Recreation Dept. at 703-222-4664 or 703-449-8639 (automated registration, see *Parktakes* for details)

Thurs., Jan. 24, 2002, 7 pm, W. Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Rd., Springfield VA. Registration: Fairfax Co. Recreation Dept. at 703-222-4664 or 703-449-8639 (automated registration, see *Parktakes* for details)

Thur., Jan. 31, 2002, 7 pm, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA. Registration: McLean Comm. Ctr. at 703-790-0123

Mon. & Thurs., Jan 28, 2002, 7 pm, (Note: class meets twice a week!), Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax VA. Registration: Fairfax Co. Recreation Dept. at 703-222-4664 or 703-449-8639 (automated registration, see *Parktakes* for details)

For a complete listing of courses being offered by the **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary** in Virginia, Maryland and DC, check out this website:

<http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/public/pubframe.htm>.

Best Gag of the Holiday Party



Last year at Ocean City



You remember these cuddly pets from last year's Ocean City Getaway, an annual event ashore to which participants are permitted—but certainly not required—to bring their pets. Sadly, after a weekend of frivolity by their (unnamed) masters, these two beasts were found to be suffering from a bipolar disorder.

Inside...

On Page 1, a party invitation,

**If you went to the holiday party, your
picture might be in this rag,**

**Absolutely your last chance to sign up for
the PRYCA Change of Watch bash; grab
your phone and your checkbook,**

**The Planfest at Gecko's, January 19, 2:00-
5:00 p.m., where you can help chart
the course for the coming season,**

**If you haven't renewed your membership,
we sweetly suggest, get the lead out!**

**January 12
Potluck Dinner
Rob Grant
703 250-9539**

**January 19
Planfest for the 2002
Boating Season
2:00-5:00 p.m.
At Gecko's**

**January 26
PRYCA
Change of Watch
Dinner-Dance
Joe Livingston
703 250-8764
*Call him today!***

**February 3
Brunch at Fort
Belvoir O'Club
(We need your name
for the gate guard.)**

**February 16-18
Ocean City Getaway
Candy Clevernger
703 273-3073**



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

Change Service Requested