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#### Commodore's Comments

#### Mary Lynn Snowman

It's hard for me to believe that the boating season is almost upon us. Well, maybe not the season but certainly spending weekends on the Abominable Snowman is just around the corner. Hopefully the weather will remain mild and by March 15<sup>th</sup> or so we will be back in Virginia for the weekends.

It was with a great deal of pride that I attended the Potomac River Yacht Club Association Change of Watch in late January. OYC had an awesome number of members turn out (32 was the official count). But that isn't the only way OYC got involved. Our own Steve Wexler was the MC and he did a terrific job. And the highlight of the show was watching Tom Coldwell and Ned Rhodes fight for the right to take the picture first. OYC was represented in many ways. Makes you proud to be part of such an active club. If you want to get involved with PRYCA please see Joe Livingston's article on the new SAFE BOATR program being sponsored by PRYCA and Boat U.S. We all can get involved.

By now we have had brunch at the Officer's Club at Ft. Belvoir, we have cruised to Ocean City for President's Day weekend and we are ready to roll into March for the Spring membership meeting. Please see Susan's article on the categories for the photo contest.

Tom and Tony are planning the Early Bird Cruise. Check out the information and get back to them as soon as possible. In fact, you may want to pay close attention to a number of the articles and e-mails coming to you. We are at the beginning of the season and most cruises require that you notify the cruise coordinator of your intention to attend.

If you aren't sure of what OYC has planned for the year, come to the Spring membership meeting in March 23 at Fairfax Yacht Club and check out the various activities planned for this year.

Our club is one that can make you proud to be a part of. Come on, get involved. It doesn't make any difference if you coordinate the cruise or you are just part of the cruise. It's all part of the fun and being involved is the way to make it happen. Hope to see you involved soon!

General Membership Meeting, Combined Potluck Dinner (with Fairfax Yacht Club) and Annual Photo Contest Fairfax Yacht Club Saturday, March 23rd 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

There will be a short business meeting, more information on cruises planned for 2002, opportunities to sign up for cruises and the annual photo contest. For contest rules, see Susan Von Schaack's article inside.

Plan to bring a potluck entree, side dish, salad or dessert to share; beer and soft drinks will be provided. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call or contact Rear Commodore Becky Wellhouse, 703 441-0008, bwellhouse@myrealbox.com

## The Datemarkers

#### Birthdays

- Diane Bailey 3/3 Lucy Dubraque 3/4 Monica Crossan 3/9 John Corley 3/13 Allen Jorsey 3/15 Ginny Frank 3/20 Duane Jeirles 3/24 Glenn Brodie 3/28 Walter Sobie 3/30
- Frank Spikes 3/5 John Ludwig 3/5 Bonnie Fulford 3/10 Martha Jane Dodd 3/13 Theodore Zsirai 3/20 William Fulford 3/21 Mary Lynn Snowman 3/26 Lynanne Jorsey 3/30 Robin Ryan 3/31

Anniversaries Idris & Sabine Grant 3/2 Donald & Diane Carlson 3/9 David & Debbie Frank 3/24 Mike & Cindy Hollingsworth 3/28

#### Please renew membership now

If there is an asterisk on your mailing label, your membership dues for 2002 are overdue. Please write your check (\$60 for family membership) payable to OYC and mail it to OYC, P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

## On the Web . . .

Occoquan Yacht Club: http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:

http://www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org

Occoquan River Maritime Association: http://www.ormaweb.org and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association: http://www.cbyca.org

## Early Bird Cruise Date Changed

The Early Bird Cruise is at the Gangplank Marina, but the dates are changed to April 19-21. An early boat count is needed. Anyone interested should call or e-mail Tony Mirando, with LOA and how many nights, at (202) 488-1545 or amirandodc@aol.com

Final details will be provided and deposit requirements announced at a later time.

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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



Vice Commodore

Rick Sorrenti

#### Things are Shaping Up...

You may recall that in the February issue we had several articles dealing with not only near term OYC events but the plans for our 2002 boating season. Our 2002 season has really taken shape with options for three cruises, one week long to the lower bay and one two week to the upper bay-plus the opportunity for a three week venture to New York City. We already knew that there would be a June week-long, in keeping with the tradition started five years ago, organized by Tom Coldwell and Gordan Cawelti. In July, a two week cruise is being planned by the Lincks and we understand Dani has the coordinator's duties. For those who can actually take the time off from work; Tony and Tom are coordinating a July-August three week adventure to New York City. But surprise! It turns out there are some who cannot make either these dates (this happens) and so they are organizing a THIRD one week option (this has never happened), a late August cruise has been proposed. We are looking for someone to coordinate this particular event. It is great to be in a group where you not only have people who want to participate, but also people who are willing to make it happen. Thanks to all of you who have stepped forward and hopefully someone will volunteer to coordinate the late August cruise!

I also mentioned the annual store-wide clearance at Fawcetts of Annapolis last month. After a wonderful weekend at the Ocean City Getaway, Teresa and I just happened to be going past the Annapolis exit and the urge hit. After a couple of hours we walked out with only one bag of essentials to kick of the 2002 season. Speaking of Ocean City, what a beautiful weekend. After spending a couple of hours Friday evening getting across the Bay Bridge we finally arrived. Saturday was wonderful—ice skating, boat show, bike riding on the boardwalk and OYC happy hour, then more eating and drinking at dinner. Saturday night we had our annual dog in the hall fun time. We even had some unexpected visitors—hotel security. I guess the dogs (?) were too loud. Thank you, Candy and Al [Clevenger], for your expert organizational skills and another great winter getaway!

Mark your calendars for March 23, and bring a dish to share to our annual Potluck Dinner (oh, yes, somewhere in there will be a brief membership meeting, too). This will give you another opportunity to hear about the cruises planned for the year, especially the details on the various week-longs. If you have not renewed your membership for 2002 by then (and you know who you are, you have an \* on your mailing label) feel free to bring a check! Randy Snowman will have the new membership cards ready for those who have already renewed so that you feel more "official."

For those who are more visually oriented, be sure to see the OYC website http://www.occoquanyachtclub.org. Our webmaster Ned Rhodes has recently done some updating, and there some great links to other nautical websites, as well as pictures from events of year 2000, and now some from 2001. OYC thanks Ned for his time and efforts. Be sure to let the Board or Ned know if you have any ideas or pictures for posting. The Historian, Susan Von Schaack-Brown, always welcomes pictures, too, of course!

Spring is truly just around the corner, and it is time to get serious about boating! We hope we have planned a great group of events to help you do that. Come to the membership meeting, bring a new boater who may want to join and check it out. See you at Fairfax Yacht Club at 4:00 p.m. with a dish to share! (Beer and soft drinks provided). And don't forget, Gary Linck will be hosting the annual April Fools cruise to Tim's Rivershore. Unfortunately, the cruise will be March 30<sup>th</sup>!

*Winter Reading.* I came across a great series of articles describing how lead acid batteries really work and how you can prolong their life almost indefinitely. Most batteries we use on our boats go through numerous charge and discharge "cycles". During the discharge portion of the cycles, lead dioxide (positive plate) and lead (negative plate) react with sulfuric acid to create lead sulfate, water and energy. During the recharge phase of the reaction, the cycle is reversed: the lead sulfate and water are electro-chemically converted to lead, lead oxide and sulfuric acid by an external electrical charging source.

The biggest problem in lead-acid cells is sulfation due to chronic undercharging. The sulfate ions have made deep bonds with the lead on the cell's plates. The sulfate ions can bond with the lead at three successively deeper energy levels.

Level One is the bond we use when we normally charge and discharge the cell. After a month or so at Level One, some of the bonds form Level Two bonds, which require more electric power to break. After several months of being at Level Two bond, the sulfate ions really cozy up to the lead and form Level Three bonds.

Level Three bonds are not accessible electrically. No amount of recharging will break Level Three bonds. The longer the lead sulfate bond stays at a level the more likely it is to form a closer acquaintance and enter the next deeper level.

How can we guard against sulfation? One way is to always use distilled water and another way to ensure that batteries are fully, regularly and completely recharged. But these don't ensure your batteries' destiny.

Next month I will provide details on how to overcome sulfation by using a reverse pulse desulfating circuit.

## In the following pages...

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association's Change of Watch on January 26<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. OYC thanks Joe Livingston for coordinating our participation. In the pages ahead, check out a few photos from the event.



A Grand Weekend Escape—Escapees included Arleen and Ned Rhodes, Andrew and Liz Kalweit, Al and Candy (who arranged it all) Clevenger, Ted and Ilona Zsirai, Teresa Sorrenti (whose husband Rick took this picture—or Teresa's up to something on her own), Nicky and Gary Linck, Beckie and John Heinze. Not pictured, kids and dogs.

Secretary's Comments





### Becky Wellhouse

#### March Membership Meeting Update!

The Board is pleased to announce that this year's March membership meeting/potluck dinner will be the first joint event between OYC and the Fairfax Yacht Club (FYC), in anticipation of establishing joint cruises and closer ties between the two clubs. The festivities will include the much anticipated potluck feast, a wee bit o' business and the annual photo contest. See Susan Von Schaack Brown's article [below] on the photo contest. You'll also have an opportunity to sign up for the planned 2002 events. The membership meeting is also a great time to renew your 2002 membership, if you haven't already done so.

The meeting is Saturday, March 23 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the FYC clubhouse. Don't forget to bring your favorite dish! We look forward to seeing everyone there.

## Photos Phor Phun and Phame

by Susan von Schaack-Brown, Historian If you've read this far, darlings, you know we will stage the annual photo contest at the general membership meeting



at 4:00 PM on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. So in addition to bringing along yourself, your loved ones and a dish to share, by all means bring those infamous photos you think are worthy of inclusion in National Geographic.

Please refrain from

those submitted to Playboy or Playgirl. Remember Tom [Shank, I hope] in those green shorts while cleaning the boat? I think you get the picture (no pun intended).

Be sure to decide in what category you want your pictures competing. You are permitted no more than one entry per category. We want to spread the wealth of prizes around. So the categories for this year (I don't think they've changed since we joined six years ago) are:

Landscapes Boat Profiles People Wildlife

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. So with over three weeks to search for or develop them, we should have some interesting entries. Another rule: The pictures must have been taken during the 2001 boating season. If you have some spectacular photos to share with me for a "Commodore Album," please bring them along and be sure to include event and participants information on the reverse side. So, this gives the historian an actual activity.



#### Eugene Brown

Again as a member of the procrastination club, I wait each month until the 18th before I begin writing an article that is due the 20<sup>th</sup>. As the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month arrives I am still not done. Well, here is my excuse. There are more important things in life (Boating) and this is my list. Consider them suggestions for yourself to help you generate your own list. By getting clear on and acting upon YOUR most important boating priorities, you'll be moving toward and experiencing full boating pleasure (FBP).

1. Practice gratefulness. Reflect upon the things in your boating life for which you are grateful. Examples: A generator that works (Snowman). An engine that has oil (Brown). A boat that is not on a sandbar (Sorrenti). A cell phone that remains on the boat (Shipley). Having a shaft that stays in the boat (Cheatham). Or just having a boat that is floating.

2. Write out your three most important boating goals and visualize how your life will be when you have achieved them. Examples: Attended as many OYC functions as possible (Club members). Winning the scavenger hunt at the "Hearty Fools Cruise" (Laslo/Ann). Being the last one dancing/standing at the PRYCA Float-In.

3. Take steps toward each of the above goals. Come to more functions (Club members).

4. Exercise your body and monitor carefully what you eat and drink. Reduce fat and food intake while exercising. Eat only small amounts at one time. At all of the club events there are healthy foods and drinks available. Exercise abounds in a multitude of water events (Dinghy Regatta).

5. Read something educational, inspirational or entertaining—preferably all three. Playboy and Hustler are not on that list. A boating magazine is preferable.

6. Meditate, but not while you are at the helm. Hmm, Rick Sorrenti meditates from time to time. Finally the most important...

7. "Write something—anything, but have it by the 20<sup>th</sup>." (Brown). A quote from Tom Coldwell.



Ralph and Anna Burner enjoy the PRYCA party.



#### Steve Thompson

It's March and the time of year most boaters consider the dead of winter. So I'd like to know what do most boaters do in the dead of winter. From my perspective I'd have to say that when there's nothing to do one might decide to pick up and read a good book. And what other kind of books do boaters pick up than one on boats, right? Or maybe at least one that takes place in or around boats or this planet's larger masses of water.

Well, I guess you can say that I am one of those who headed for a book. But the book I chose this winter, I believe, was not one considered high on the priority list of most readers. (But then again, I guess I'm not all that too terribly normal. Ask my wife, she'll agree.) The book I chose: *Chapman Piloting – Seamanship & Boat Handling.* 

You might think then that I like heavy books (heavy as in content). Or maybe, since it's commonly referred to as the boater's bible, I'm just a religious person and enjoy reading the Good Book. Could it be that I'm just trying to stay in shape over the winter months; you know, building up those triceps pumping books instead of iron. Some might say that it's a good way to put you to sleep at night, if you're having that problem. Or perhaps I'm secretly studying for this year's PRYCA Float-In; you know (and I won't name names) OYC didn't do so well on the boating knowledge test last year.

Well, to tell you the truth, I'm actually reading it to learn something about boating. Imagine that. After all, I'm a firm believer that if you're going to do something you might as well do it right. I've got a clean slate so far, you know, no calls to TowBoat U.S., and I want to try to keep it that way. And you would be amazed at the information this book contains and all the knowledge there is between its covers. Now I won't tell you that I've read it all—yet. But I will tell you that I've read some of it more then once. (Okay, maybe it did help me get to sleep some nights, but I went right back to the part I remembered reading last.)

So then, what words of wisdom has this book provided to me? Well, for one, did you know that there is a Blue Book for boats, *The BUC Used Boat Price Guide*. Many a boat owner out there has dreams of their next boat—bigger and better, of course. This book might just come in handy. So guess what book is next on my reading list.

How about a "PAN-PAN" message? Does anyone know what it is used for? I didn't. It might have come in handy last year when I was anchored off Mount Vernon with some friends. They wanted to go for a swim. So I attached a tube to a line and threw it in the water. Knowing the current was a little strong I warned them. Yet, when they jumped in they found themselves quickly floating past the tube. It was all they could do to swim back. Well, if they hadn't made it back they would have been floating up the Potomac in possible peril from other boats. It would have taken me several minutes to weigh anchor and come to their rescue. In this type of a situation the captain should broadcast a "PAN-PAN" message on Channel 16 (a very urgent message regarding the



safety of your vessel or the safety of a person). This is not the same as a MAYDAY, which is used when grave and imminent danger threatens life or property.

Now for those who really want to get nautical, how about impressing your friends by referencing items of interest around your boat in terms of "points." No it's not ten points for a skier on one ski and 20 if they fall down. Points here are a means of determining direction. And here is where the announcer chimes in, "Yes, you too can sound just like those swash- buckling pirates in the movies announcing the sighting of their next victim."

It is actually a very logical system dividing the 360 degrees into quarters and then each quarter into quarters. The only hard part is remembering the names of the dividing lines, such as "Broad on the Port/Starboard Bow" and "Broad on the Port/Starboard Quarter." That's not too bad now, is it?

Well, I'm sure you have better things to read than this article so I'll shut up now. Just remember, when it comes time to put your boat back into the water, don't forget to *flemish* those lines. After all, you wouldn't want anyone to trip over them would you?

#### **PRYCA** Launches

#### Safe BOATR program

by Joe Livingston, OYC's PRYCA Delegate The Boat Operation And Training Retention (Safe BOATR) program has been launched by the Potomac River Yacht Club Association (PRYCA) with a grant from the Boat/US Foundation. OYC will participate, as a member club of the association, with the intent to use the program as a part of the our club's efforts to promote boating safety.

The program is structured as a continuing education process supporting ten safe boating activities. A performance standard has been developed for each activity and a printed copy of these standards will be provided to each member (one per membership). Hopefully, this copy will be maintained on board, used as a crew training guide, and kept as a certified record of accomplished activities.

How do we get started? The OYC Board has designated me as point of contact to the PRYCA and coordinator for our program. We are in the process of identifying and training several club members as PRYCA Performance Examiners (PEs) to certify activity completion. Standards are to be distributed at the March General Membership meeting or mailed to those not attending. What to do? Indicate a desire to participate, review and learn standards, have certified and work toward a Safe BOATR sticker and certificate.

Please contact me, 703-250-8765 or

jlivingston@ft.newyorklife.com, if you are interested in serving as a PE. Training classes will be conducted in early March to certify initial PEs, and several within our club are needed if the program is to be successful.



OYC members Rudi Noori and Bill and Kathy Steele (r.) with their daughter Julie at the PRYCA Change of Watch.

The program will promote boating safety, educate our captains and crews and protect our members. It starts where basic boating courses end and certifies the boaters' retention of skills. Interest is key and I hope to promote BOATR by planned activities on our cruises.

## April Fools Party at Tim's Rivershore Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup>, Noon until ?

The Winter Olympics are finally over. Do you think those opening (or closing) ceremonies could have been any longer? Our dog Buoy has been swimming at Ocean City with OYC and has enjoyed the winter swimming season on the Occoquan.

Lovin' Life! has been out several times already this season and is running strong.

We need to get this boating season off to a fast start and need some Occoquan Yacht Club members to join us for a spontaneous raft up at Tim's. Remember there is plenty of dock space at Tim's this time of year, and the beer stays colder longer.

It's time to start those engines. Make some fresh pink ice cocktails, and join us for an 80-degree day at Tim's Rivershore, Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> for great seafood, drink, and friends of OYC.

Please RSVP or just show up and we will take over the restaurant again! We are Gary, Nicky or Dani Linck, 703-494-7028, e-mail: gary@21stcenturygrafix.com.



OYC PC and PRYCA past treasurer Steve Wexler gets plaque naming him an Honorary Captain of the Potomac from PRYCA Commodore Curt Johnson.

## Boat show to the rescue!

by Steve Thompson

HELP! It's the dead of winter and I'm going crazy! I've got cabin fever (better known as I-can't-get-to-my-boatbecause-it's-out-of-the-water-on-blocks fever). But, alas, I found a way to bring me back to a reasonably sound state of mind, if just for a few hours. It's called the Washington Boat Show.

Held the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, my First Mate and I found it a pleasant way to spend the morning, and afternoon. We left feeling refreshed and with a renewed outlook that yes, we can make it through the winter. (Besides, as your Treasurer, I feel honor bound to find something worthwhile to do with those funds. And, after a quick look at the figures I believe I'll only have to recommend a 10% increase in dues for my new boat.) At the top of the wish list is this very nice 34-foot Cruisers model. We liked it so much that the dealers forgot we were inside just lounging around, dreaming of all the fun we could have on the bay. We were both hard pressed to leave but, alas, we only paid for one day at the show.

However, we weren't the only OYC'ers present checking out the new toys. Tom Coldwell was there, sans First Mate. (I don't know about you but when it comes to boating my First Mate is almost a requirement. She helps me keep the cost of such trips down—drastically.) We also saw Becky and Rich Wellhouse, with family and friends. I guess cabin fever can get to the best of us. And I'm sure there were others members of OYC lurking in those lines waiting to see and to dream.

Of course, the Washington Boat Show is nothing like the one at Annapolis. But there were a large number of dealers, as well as booths that have everything you could possibly need or want to put in your boat. Luckily, I was able to leave the show only a few dollars poorer. There was one booth that perked my interest. It was for a time-share type deal for boats. I was

told that they have been in business for some time in Florida and are trying to expand into the Chesapeake region. They plan on two bases of operations, one of them at the Pilot House Marina on the Neabsco. Basically, when you become a member you are allowed to take out any of their boats, no matter the boat size or

length of



OYC and PRYCA PC Ned Rhodes displays his PRYCA award designating him a Distinguished Commodore of the Potomac.

time, any number of times a year. I didn't ask about costs or what types of boats will be in their fleet. They did say, however, that my 28 foot Bayliner would be a welcomed addition.

So, I only have one question, "When's the next boat show?" [Try the National Capital Boat Show at the Expo Center in Chantilly, VA, March 7-10.]

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

Your cruise coordinators, Gail and Joe Livingston, welcome your early sign up for the club's cruise to Tall Timbers Marina over Memorial Day Weekend. We all know planning prevents [panic?]; I spell, Papa/Papa/Papa.

Welcome New Members! Step up and experience your first cruise with the OYC. If you have questions or "can we do this" concerns, do not hesitate to call Gail or Joe at 703-250-8765 for an on-the-water tale or added information.

The crew at the marina and the club will have activities scheduled for Friday through Monday, so OYC boats can plan to arrive Friday or Saturday. Early plans include cocktail hours, live music, seafood buffets, beach bonfire, and did Joe mention Rick's Bloody Mary tradition at the Reluctant Mariners' and fun with BOATR safety (see our PRYCA Delegate's article)? 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, Joe, 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:	_			_

## Inside...

- Time, place, particulars on the General Membership Meeting,
- Gary Linck wants you to fool April on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Tim's,
- Cruise news (date change for the Early Bird cruise) and sign-up for Memorial Day weekend cruise to Tall Timbers,
- Asterisk **STILL** on your mailing label? Your dues are still overdue.

March 7-10 National Capital Boat Show Chantilly Expo Center

March 23 General Membership Meeting, Potluck Dinner, Photo Contest Fairfax Yacht Club Becky Wellhouse 703 441-0008



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

**Change Service Requested**