



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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Commodore's Comments

Mary Lynn Snowman

BOOM! That's right folks, you only get one boom and then the boating season is officially open. If you aren't familiar with what the "boom" is you need to come to OYCs Flag Raising Ceremony. I hope to see you on Sunday, May 5th at the Occoquan Harbor Marina at the flag area for the opening of the OYC boating season.

The Blessing of the Fleet is on Saturday, May 4th. It's a different route this year but it's all official so there will be plenty of officials to make it go smoothly.

And THAT is said to be the beginning of the boating season but for some of us it never ends. OYC has a lot of activities going on and you can be a part of all of them or some of them. If you don't see anything you want to do, call Vice Commodore Rick Sorrenti and run your idea by him. Who knows, it may be OYC's biggest event and you came up with the idea. Don't hesitate to let us know how we can help you. I'm not going to bore you with what's coming up on the calendar. You need to read the newsletter to find out what your club is doing.

My recent travels have taken me to Hawaii and Las Vegas. Wet in one place and dry in the other, both places absolutely beautiful. I can hardly wait to get back to Hawaii and I'm looking forward to visiting the Grand Canyon. A trip back to the "club" in Las Vegas won't hurt my feelings either. Since this is a family newsletter I won't go into detail

here, but ladies, be sure to ask me about it sometime. It beats the Hangar Club hands down! And Randy paid for four lap dances for me! Maybe we can get Tim of Tim's Rivershore to have a male bikini contest at the new Tim's Too (or is it Two) at Fairview (opening mid May). We could raft up for the weekend and enjoy the view (s) at Fairview! Yee-*Ha!* Okay, so I went a little overboard at Las Vegas but it was fun!

I'm ready for some boating! My boat has been in the slip—way too long. The shallow waters around here aren't going to keep me in port. As usual the fuel prices went up again right before the summer but that means we can just stay closer to home port. Wrong! Once again we will be traveling to Annapolis for a month this summer. But before we go we have many weekends to raft up with our friends.

Mattawoman and Fairview are just a couple of places we'll be hanging out. Come join the *Abominable Snowman* on the water.

Commodore Snowman and the 2002 Board cordially invite OYC members and guests to the
19th Annual Flag Raising
Celebrating The 2002 Boating Season
1200 Sunday, May 5, 2001
Occoquan Harbour Marina

OYC will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and liquid refreshments. Members should bring side dishes --- a casserole, veggies, salads or a dessert to share. Please arrive at OHM by noon.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

David Wilks 5/4
Jack Ryan 5/5
Linda Bozoky 5/7
Ed Dodd 5/11
Robert Moffitt 5/13
Steve Worcester 5/15
Toya Evans 5/18
Dave Moore 5/26

Teresa Sorrenti 5/4
Tony Berta 5/5
Rich Wellhouse 5/10
Jim Hawley 5/1
Gail Livingston 5/14
Jane Mutnick 5/15
Al King 5/23
Dan Meginley 5/28

Martin Betts 5/29

Anniversaries

John & Katherine Corley 5/1
Stephen & Paula Wexler 5/5
Bill & Sue Sholar 5/8
Mitchell & Jane Mutnick 5/9
William & Bonnie Fulford 5/22
Ann & Scott Shipley 5/23
Jack & Robin Ryan 5/28

Welcome New Members

Jim Bell and Donnie Cruse of Fairfax, VA. They keep their 44' Silverton, *H2O Tools*, at Hampton's Landing.

Walter Kraus and Joan Hicks of Alexandria, VA. They keep their 42' Uniflite at Hoffmaster's.

In sympathy...

OYC members convey their sincere condolences to Linda Bozoky whose father, Don Robinson, passed away on April 15.

We extend our sympathies to the Hoffmaster family and the employees and friends of Hoffmasters Marina on the loss of Paul Hoffmaster, who passed away on April 2.

Asterisk on your mailing label?

If you haven't renewed your membership in OYC...

...and unless you renew at the flag raising, this Daymarker is the last you will receive. Nor will you receive e-mails about important upcoming events, nor will you be able to participate in them, nor will you be able even to taste any of those dishes at our various potluck outings. But we will still love to see you on the water, and we do thank you for having joined in the first place. Hope you come back, hear?



Vice Commodore

Rick Sorrenti

Warmth! Sun! Boats! Spring!

And we said it would not come! Somehow, it is almost as if the balmy winter is the longest. Full of teasers that spring is almost here, is almost warm enough, yet holding back. At last, we have had a chance to put on sun block, to squint. Finally, real sunlight. Over the past week with temps hovering around 90, maybe we missed Spring.

So, we are now ready to begin another season of boating. As you read this, some 8+ boats will have finished the first "Early Bird" cruise of the year. For those of you who decided not to come... sorry.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Flag Raising on May 5. Be there by noon to see the OYC Burgee raised to officially start the season. The club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and beverages; please bring a side dish/dessert to share. In case of rain, we have our yacht club facility that we will move to—the tent. Towboat, Fairfax Marine Police and hopefully the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be on hand to answer questions. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to get your Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check for 2002. And of course, you would not want to miss the famous OYC Cannon. A raft-up in Mattawoman afterwards is possible, weather permitting.

The other events in May are the annual Blessing of the Fleet on the 4th, the day before our flag raising; details further inside [Page 7.] If you call Joe Livingston as SOON as you read this, you may not be too late to sign up for the first cruise south, on Memorial Day weekend to Tall Timbers down the Potomac. Hope to see you at all these events!

Our newcomers dinner, hosted by Ann and Scott Shipley, was a true success. Like ALL OYC events, we came (by car), we saw, we drank and we ate. Over 20 people attended and stuffed themselves on cuisine *a la* Shipley. We learned that Ann Shipley is a cross-stitch artist. One in particular that EVERYONE wanted was a large lighthouse collage. I hope it's still on the wall. Thank you, Ann and Scott!

Other happenings: Did you know that an OYC membership is honored everywhere? In fact, the folks at the San Diego Yacht Club were so interested in just what is the Occoquan not to mention that it has a yacht club that I was given a complimentary lunch to explain it all. After a guided tour of the oldest California yacht club, with its swimming pools, tennis courts, dockage for 150 yachts and a wonderful quartermaster's store, they understood.

An OYC family just recently returned from Las Vegas and the rumors around the docks is that the male Captain insisted on going to "magic shows," while the female Captain wanted to go to "strip shows." (And they call *me* the Vice!) I don't know about you, but something is very strange here. To further complicate this vacation, the male Captain didn't understand why the female Captain didn't want to see magic. But the female Captain had found all the magic she needed. Maybe it was the snow that suddenly appeared that confused them. We also hear that graduate school is going so well for a former

The Daymarker

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

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

board member's spouse and her desire to get a 5.0 GPA out of a possible 4.0 that the school has offered to buy their boat since it appears that boating and yacht club events have taken a backstage to studying. See you on the river!



Rear Commodore

Ann Shipley

Ahhh, the sweet smell of summer is upon us and we all know what that means—time to boat! Which means—time to pig out, feed your face, stuff your friends.

Here's a gentle reminder that your next opportunity to do so, *and* be highly entertained by Rick making lots of noise with his little cannon, will be May 5, high noon, at Occoquan Harbor Marina for the raising of the flag and the official kick-off to the 2002 boating season. There will be plenty of burgers, doggies, drinks and condiments. Show off your culinary skills by bringing appetizers (last names A-D), salad/side dish (E-R) or dessert (S-Z). Quartermaster Susan has lots of way cool stuff to make you look beautiful on the water, so bring your poor sad checkbook along.

And now, to further you along your way in dreaming up new and wonderful taste treats to impress your fellow boaters, here is this month's installment in "Cooking with the Princess"—oops, I mean "Cooking with Annie":

Annie's Tomato Thang

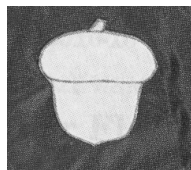
1 large bottle Paul Newman's Oil and Vinegar Salad Dressing
Balsamic Vinegar
Sugar
Cloves of Garlic
Fresh Basil
Roma tomatoes
Asiago Cheese
Baguettes

Combine the salad dressing, a scoop of sugar (add more to taste), 2 Tbsp. Balsamic vinegar (start small, you can always add more), and 2 cloves of crushed garlic in a shallow pan. Slice up the tomatoes, chop fresh basil to sprinkle over the top and grate asiago cheese across the whole thing. Slice up a couple of loaves of baguettes and provide a spoon for your guests to scoop everything on to the bread.

I did this on the week long last summer, and Jack, Eugene and Tony were caught with their faces in the pan trying to swim in it. So it must be OK. Be sure to provide lots of dip in stuff, cause when the tomatoes are gone, people start looking for anything to sop up the sauce!

Daymarker featured in Chesapeake Bay Magazine

Chesapeake Bay magazine ran a nice article in April on the Daymarker's April issues, see the magazine or our website, www.occoquanyachtclub.org; click on The Daymarker and view the article (used by permission).



Treasurer's Comments

Steve Thompson

The Occoquan River Maritime Association sponsored Blessing of the Fleet is right around the corner (May 4th) and I, for one, will be there; no question about that. It's a done deal. Come rain or shine. I'm there. But, if for some strange reason it doesn't happen you can bet that I'll be at the one scheduled for the 19th of May in Washington, DC.

Why, you may ask, am I so adamant? The answer is simple, I just want to start out the new season on a positive note; especially in view of a recent little incident involving batteries that resulted in a VERY slow trip back down the Potomac from DC. Now you may think that I'm a little superstitious but I have to tell you there are a lot of maritime superstitions out there and who would blame me for wanting a little protection.

For instance, did you know that it is unlucky to start a cruise on a Friday? This is the day of the week that Christ was crucified. Now tell me, how many cruises does OYC have scheduled starting on a Friday? You should also never start a voyage on the first Monday in April as this is the day that Cain slew Abel.

Remember to avoid people with red hair when going to your boat to begin a cruise. It is said that redheads bring bad luck to a boat, which can be averted if you speak to the redhead before they speak to you.

Some say that disaster will follow if you step onto a boat with your left foot first. An interesting statement, but I couldn't find anything about left-handed people.

Women on board a boat make the sea angry. But then there is another saying that a naked woman on board will calm the sea. This is the reason for naked figureheads. (Sorry, ladies, but I couldn't find anything about naked men.) I guess you have a 50/50 chance here but I think the key word is naked.

For boaters, black cats are considered good luck. They are a sign that a sailor will return home from the sea. But please DO NOT kill a gull as it is said they contain the souls of sailors lost at sea.

Repairing a flag on the quarterdeck will bring bad luck. This has a personal relevance for me as when I did this I also lost my Swiss Army Knife to the deep blue.

Personal hygiene also gets an honorable mention as cutting your hair or nails at sea is considered bad luck. These were used as offerings to Proserpina, thus Neptune would become jealous if these offerings were made while in his domain. On the plus side, I couldn't find anything about taking a shower.

On the positive side, the feather of a wren slain on New Years Day, will protect a sailor from dying by shipwreck. Only problem here is that there aren't too many wrens in this part of the country at that time of year. I also think you would probably have the SPCA breathing down your neck if word got out of your plans.

Are you an avid fisherman? Then I'm sure you know that one of the worst pieces of bad luck is for a person to go

fishing with his clothes put on inside out. Duh!! If you put your clothes on inside out I'm afraid to think of what you might do with the poor fish after you caught it. It is also bad luck to whistle, curse, or say the word "pig" while fishing. Cursing and whistling I can understand but I'm just not sure how I would get the word "pig" into a sentence about fishing.

Here's a few more. Never point your finger at a vessel underway or you could cause it to wreck. A sewing pin found onboard predicts leaks. And three seagulls flying together, directly overhead, is a warning of death soon to come. I guess that's a good reason for you to keep your eyes on the road, or water. [The gulls on The Daymarker's cover are just an image, else The Daymarker would be *covered* in gull guano. Come to think of it... Ed.]

So, as I said, I'm off to the Blessing. In fact, I might just try to get a couple under my belt before the season gets into full swing. I could use all the help I can get. How about you?

Dredging project moving ahead

Congressman Tom Davis' staff hosted a meeting on April 9 at his Woodbridge office to update local interests on plans to dredge the Occoquan, pursuant to legislation signed into law by President Bush.

The law requires that the river channel will be dredged and maintained at a 9-foot depth a 200-foot width up to the US-1 bridge. In addition, the remaining money that was appropriated as part of the original project was redirected to help pay for this new project. The Corps of Engineers is now required by federal mandate to use this money for costs associated with dredging of the Occoquan only (including not only the dredging itself, but also associated studies and planning). In summary:

The Corp plans to dredge from the US-1 bridge all the way out to the Potomac Channel.

To move forward, the Corps has spent approximately \$437,000 on environmental studies, applicable regulations and a cost-estimate study. These pre-dredging requirements should be completed by early June of this year.

The Corps has provided a preliminary estimate of \$4.5-million to fully complete the project. This is only an estimate and a high-end one at that. A definitive price tag should be available in June.

Congressman Davis will make a push to include specifically earmarked monies in the FY 03 Energy and Water Appropriations bill in order to complete this project. We may have to get some money in FY 03 and then come back in FY 04 for more. The project can be done in phases. The dredging cycle is from October to February, so work will actually begin this year, provided funding is obtained from the FY 03 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

There is a 20% non-federal matching requirement for this project—10% from in-kind contributions (i.e., a place to put the spoil) and 10% in matching funding. These funds can come from a combination of local, state, private, non-profit and other monies (essentially, anything besides federal dollars). Congressman Davis and his staff are trying to get a waiver of the 10% matching requirement such that only a 10% in-kind contribution would be required.

The staffers urged meeting attendees to check their respective communities to see what might be available in the way of in-kind contributions. This can be any number of things, and the staff will be speaking with the Virginia Department of Transportation to see if the spoil might possibly be used for wetlands mitigation in association with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project.

Another update meeting will likely be in late June, when representatives from the Corps may participate to discuss further what may be required at the local level. Persons having questions about this project may call Mr. Michael May, at Tom Davis' Woodbridge office, 703-590-4599.

Annual Cobb Island Days, May 30-June 2

This is a must-do affair with a family orientation. The Cobb Island Yacht Club will be your host for this PRYCA event in concert with other local Cobb Island organizations. Start on Thursday and Friday with a full-sized Carnival, followed on Saturday with 300 crafters on the village green, a Firemen's Parade, a Parade of Boats and a Pig Roast, and concluding with brunch on Sunday.

Get details at <http://CIYACHTS.TRIPOD.COM>

A first this year, the Boat Parades' object is fun and to raise money for charity. Clubs can enter up to five boats and earn votes at the rate of one vote per quarter donated. Registration must be completed by May 20. What Captain will lead OYC's parade?

Event fees are \$27 per adult, \$14 for ages 7-12 and under 7 is free. Slip fee equals length x \$1.25 x number of nights. Electrical hook-up is \$7.50 per cord x nights. You may also wish to anchor out in Neale Sound and dinghy back and forth.

The preferred registration is by Club. Plan to attend and send check (payable to Occoquan Yacht Club) for fees and boat information to Joe Livingston at 9716 Churchway, Burke, VA 22015. Questions? Call Joe at 703-250-8765.

Memorial Day Weekend Cruise

The Club's cruise to Tall Timbers Marina, May 24-27, is coming up shortly. Get registered now so a schedule of events can be prepared. **Ahoy, new members**—this is a straight-forward cruise down the Potomac, and boats will be going down Friday and Saturday. Come join us.

Activities will be scheduled all weekend through a Monday departure including social hours, live music, buffet style meals and a beach bonfire. The Reluctant Navigator restaurant can occupy your spare time.

How to join up: Call Gail or Joe at 703-250-8765 or e-mail to jlivingston@ft.newyorklife.com. Give us your crew's names, number of persons onboard, boat name, day of arrival (Friday or Saturday), number of nights staying, boat length and beam, shore power required (one or two 30amp or 50amp), telephone number, e-mail address, and any special needs.

Mail or e-mail to: Gail and Joe Livingston, 9716 Church Way, Burke, VA 22015

Wild doin's on the Early Bird Cruise to Washington

by Tony (Travolta) Mirando, Cruise Coordinator

And we're off; the boating season started with a big bang with Tom and me hosting six boats for the April 19-21 Early Bird Cruise to Gangplank Marina—with everyone having a great time.

Friday evening we all started off with a delicious dinner at La Rivage restaurant. Jack, Rick and Teresa started with garlic snails and wine. Robin ended with lobster, but she didn't eat the stuff in the middle, nor did she eat the banana cheesecake that Jack ordered. Hmm, Jack new she didn't like anything with banana, what's that all about? Scott, Ann, Tom and I where down at the other-end of the table, and you can only imagine the conversation that went back and fourth there, if only the walls could talk. Halfway through the dinner Ilona and Ted made their grand-entrance—boy, what some people will do for attention.



Disco Night in D.C.—Tony Mirando and Tom Shank vamping for the Early Bird cruisers. We're too cheap to run this in color; you had to be there.

Saturday was a laid-back day, some walked to Hains Point, others wandered around the marina, but some of us had dogs to walk and errands to do. All and all, the day was great considering it was suppose to rain. Barbara made her way up the Potomac, and had a hard time getting her 24 ft boat into a 50 ft slip; she's worse than me (only kidding, Barb). Ilona, Ted and Mom went for a nice walk along the boardwalk while Rick, Teresa, Ned and Arleen went to the fish market. Jack, Robin, Scott, Ann, Tom and I did go for Sushi for lunch and, of course, Tom got sick, but quickly recovered in order to get ready for the Saturday Night Fever Event.

Saturday night's dance party was a smash, we had an absolutely fabulous



Early Bird party dolls—Robin Ryan, Ann Shipley, Teresa and Rick Sorrenti, aboard *Miss Vivian*.

time, especially when John Travolta-Mirando and Pat Benatar-Shank showed up. The 70s theme party on *Miss Vivian* included a happy hour/dinner followed by an hysterical old fashioned stroll down memory lane. We had everyone attending the party tell their innermost secrets from the 70s.

We learned that Ann loved to go bra-less while listening to hard rock, and smoking God knows what, but that wasn't a big surprise.

Rick owned and even thought he was "hot" as he wore a custom-made fatigue-looking leisure suit; that must have been a sight for sore eyes.

Tom had a *menage-a-trois* with two women, and all the men looked at Tom with great pity and jealousy.

Arleen had a short "hot pink" outfit that made her feel beautiful and voluptuous; Ned was jealous he didn't have one when he was beautiful and voluptuous.

Barbara and Robin enjoyed telling us about their tube-top days, now that's a picture that a thousand words couldn't match.

I even admitted that the Bee Gees were my favorite music group (what was I thinking?). Now, picture what this must have looked like, 17 people of all shapes, sizes, looks and ethnic cultural backgrounds all sitting around in *Miss Vivian's* main salon telling their deepest secrets. The group was holding back nothing; even Rick let loose, all this happening in front of Ilona's mom, who doesn't speak any English. Could you imagine what went through this elderly women's mind, especially with Tom dressed the way he was? I know she wanted to know who I was married to, what a question! I said Ilona should have

said he's married to the crazy women with the wild hair, but that wouldn't have helped much with the group that was there.

After everyone made complete fools of himself or herself, Tom and I took the crowd out for a late night cruise down the Potomac River. It was wonderful; we even had clear skies, and the crowd was dancing about with most of them shaking their booty right in front of Ilona's mom's face. I guess that would explain the big smile on her face the whole next day. A large cruise ship aimed its spotlight right into my eyes and sounded its horn, which Rick, Ned and I still are not sure what that was about, although we think they actually had their spotlight on Tom standing nearby. And this crazy boater came by and rocked *Miss Vivian*. Except for these two intrusions, it was a flawless late night cruise—a successful evening, ending with



Surprise!—That dear sweet Iona Zsirai gives Scott Shipley an affectionate hug.

most people leaving once we docked back at the Gangplank. Of course, I had to kick Ann off the boat; she just was so in love with "Pat" she couldn't leave. I'm not sure if she thought "Pat" was a man or a woman, but then maybe it didn't matter.

Sunday morning started off slow, we had everyone again on *Miss Vivian* for a continental breakfast. Tom made his special egg-sausage quiche and we also had cake, donuts and fresh fruit (and we don't mean us), as well as coffee and juice. We all chatted about the night before and then slowly each of the OYC boaters took off for their home docks down the river. It will be a weekend to remember.

Ned, thanks for helping with navigation Saturday night.

Notice to Mariners

Occoquan River *Blessing of the Fleet*

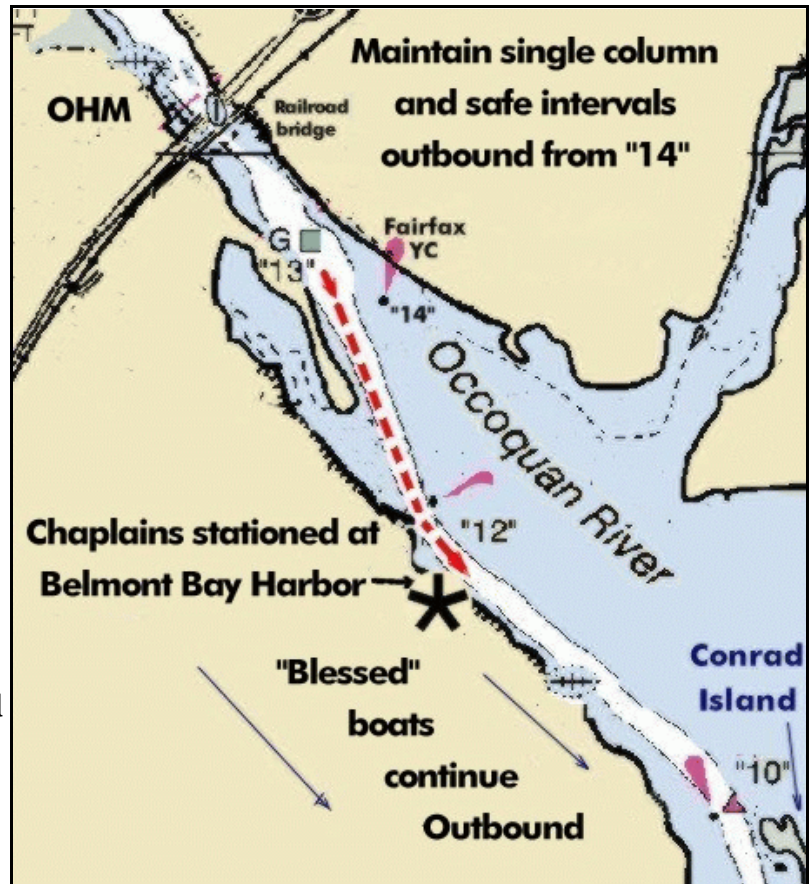
May 4, 11:00 A.M. -- 2:00 P.M.

Dedicated to Boating Safety and
Celebrating the Opening of the 2002 Boating Season

Enter the parade route at Marker No. 14, just past Fairfax Yacht Club, and proceed outbound toward Belmont Bay Harbor and pass alongside the gas dock where a chaplain will invoke a blessing on each passing boat. *Please maintain safe intervals between boats*

Guard VHF Ch. 9 to hail and Ch. 71 as a working channel. Marine bulletins regarding the event will be broadcast starting at 1000 on VHF Ch. 16 and Ch. 22A.

The 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 and Fairfax and Prince William County public safety agencies.



Boaters *NOT* wishing to take part may pass the procession to port, staying clear of the blessing area during the designated hours. This is a U.S. Coast Guard-designated marine regatta and law enforcement vessels will be patrolling to ensure that safety is maintained in this area. Thank you for your consideration.

ORMA is a volunteer organization dedicated to coordinating activities involving commercial and recreational use of the Occoquan River. ORMA's major initiatives are advocacy for maintaining the Occoquan channel depth, working with the Town of Occoquan to reestablish its historic seaport for recreational boaters, and preserving the environmental quality and safety of the river.

Inside...

Blessing of the Fleet has a new route,

OYC Flag Raising shifts to a Sunday,

Time running out to sign up for the Memorial Day weekend cruise to Tall Timbers,

Uncensored (almost) report about those wild and crazy Early Birders,

Asterisk on your mailing label? If you are not renewing your membership, thanks for joining in the first place; you're welcome back anytime.

May 4
Occoquan area
Blessing of the Fleet
11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

May 5
OYC's 19th Annual
Flag Raising
and Cookout
12 Noon
Occoquan Harbour
Marina

May 24-27
Memorial Day
Weekend Cruise to
Tall Timbers
Joe Livingston
703 250-8765

May 30-June 2
Cobb Island Days
Joe Livingston
703 250-8765



The Daymarker

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

Change Service Requested