

The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

Web site: www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

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Vice Commodore

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703 590-6724

Rear Commodore

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703 938-6516

Secretary

Candy Clevenger
703 273-3073

Treasurer

Steve Thompson
703 440-8114

Quartermaster

Sue Thompson
703 440-8114

Membership

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Dana Phan
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THE DAYMARKER Editor

Steve Thompson
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Commodore's Comments

Mary Lynn Snowman

The time has come for me to step back and let someone else take over. It won't be hard to do in this case because OYC has a wonderful person stepping in as Commodore. Rick Sorrenti has been a pleasure to work with as Vice Commodore and I look forward to watching him lead the club. I can't thank Rick enough for always assuring me that it's okay to relax and have some fun on the board. Leadership can be fun.

Right behind Rick you have Sue Thompson as our new Vice Commodore. Sue has been a terrific Quartermaster and brought some new ideas to the store. If you see a new item you'd better hurry and get it because supplies are limited and go fast. Look out Rick, I have a feeling that Sue's main job this year will be to keep you in line. Thanks Sue for doing such a great job as Quartermaster and good luck in keeping Rick focused.

Alan Gorenstein is Rear Commodore. Alan was OYC's Rear Commodore last year and did a great job – even though he did miss a key events. (See you don't have to attend all the major events to be on the board.) Thanks Alan for a job well done.



Candy Clevenger was Secretary this past year. Candy had a car accident a few months back and I haven't seen her nor hair from her since. That's okay though. Word got around through the club that she was unable to do any work for several weeks so we let her get by without coming to the board meetings. Candy was also our Immediate Past Commodore. She was great at helping me remember the things I knew I was forgetting. Thanks Candy for being around with me for the last four years. I hope you are healing and we'll see you soon.

Replacing Candy as Secretary we have Vicki Hamp. Vicki is a new member to our club – well she's been around long enough for us to
(Cont.)

Season's Greetings



talk her into serving on the board so she can't be too new. Vicki brings a lot of enthusiasm and new ideas to the club. Come to think of it she has a great idea for the Holiday Party and we're working on it together. (Hope you didn't forget to sign up for the Holiday Party!) Thanks Vicki for taking over a job that isn't always glamorous.

Leaving the Treasurer position is Steve Thompson. Steve has worn several hats this year. I'm not sure how he does it (and I don't want to know) but he has done a great job. Steve is stepping down this year to take over as Editor of the Daymarker (OYC's newsletter). It's a knack that not many people have and I'm so glad that he stepped forward and asked if he could do it. Steve was also the Membership Chairperson this past year and that is a busy job as well. Steve, thanks for wearing so many hats.

Stepping into the position of Treasurer is a man I don't know, Harry Croft. He too is a new member to our club. I may have met him – I meet a lot of people but it takes me a while to remember them. I'll have to admit that the board was scared for a while because we weren't sure if Harry remembered he said he'd be the Treasurer. But folks, I am pleased to tell you that Harry has a wonderful memory and is willingly stepping up as our Treasurer (and looking forward to

the new boat that the club is going to buy him – not!).

Well, that's the old and the new. Next time you see one of them introduce yourself. It's difficult for the members of the board to get around and talk to everyone. Tell them how much you appreciate the job they are doing. This is a volunteer club and as I always say – we can't do it without you. Join us in the fun and volunteer. Many opportunities are awaiting your service – all you have to do it ask.

Before I sign off there are three more people I have to say thanks to, my husband Randy Sr., my daughter Meagan and my son Randy, Jr. To Randy Sr. go my apologies for all the articles I have written about you and our many adventures with our boats. I know that many times you took the brunt of my articles. Thanks for being such a good sport. To Meagan and Randy Jr., I apologize for all the times that I wasn't there for you. Thanks too for enduring many activities that you didn't want to go on but we dragged you anyway. I guess you could have always swum home.

It is time to go and I want to thank all of you for your support, to the club and to me. I won't forget the past four years but I'm looking forward to the future. Happy Holidays everyone and may you be blessed in the New Year.



Vice Commodore

Rick Sorrenti

It was funny walking the docks at OHM last weekend and seeing our members covered in oil and that pink stuff all hunched over the engines, in some really foul moods, winterizing the systems in preparation for the cold weather. Everyone was preoccupied with the task at hand and in some cases wishing they were some place else. Conversations went from I hate this part of boating to I wish I could sub-contract this part of boating. One of our goals, as a club, is to ease the pain of winter, boat withdrawal and provide some entertainment for your non boating months.

As we all look at the next couple of months, counting the days before we start engines, your Board has scheduled some events that will tide you over till March. The Grants will host their third annual drop-in at their house on January 10th (more details further back). We will host our 2004 Boating Season Plan Fest on January 17th at OHM and the PRYCA Change of Watch on January 24th. The Plan-Fest is where we roll out the plans for the coming boating season. We review week-end destinations and week long cruises and ask for your help in finalization of these plans. Remember, like all OYC events...we come...we chat...we eat and we have fun. The PRYCA Change of Watch is a formal event where the yacht clubs on the Potomac come...and chat...and eat and drink and have fun. (Are you getting the drift of this boating thing yet?) In all seriousness the change of watch is where the new board for PRYCA are celebrated along with the member yacht club delegates. (more details further back). Please respond directly to Joe Livingston for the PRYCA event. On February 8th Teresa, Jillian and I will host our annual Sunday Brunch at

the Ft Belvoir Officers Club. This is a by reservation event so contact me directly via e-mail or phone (703/590-6724). We also are planning a Saturday Day Trip on February 14th. More on this event next month.

On the maritime technology front some really neat things are happening to make your boating more fun and more safe. Off the coast of Maine a series of experimental smart buoys have been developed to support the National Weather Service and the boating community. The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) allows a boater to "call" the buoy on a cell phone and get instant reports on wind speed, wave activity, visibility, air temperature, water temperatures at various depths, water salinity and more. When a buoy is called, a computerized voice reads off the latest data to the caller. GoMOOS' mission is to bring hourly updated oceanographic data from the Gulf of Maine to all those who need it, from commercial mariners to recreational boaters, scientists, ecologists, meteorologists, teachers, search and rescue teams, and public health officials. (The latter use the data to ensure that seafood is safe to eat.)

GoMOOS is a working prototype for a planned national ocean-observation system. The program is also a test bed for new marine and weather technology. The sensors attached to GoMOOS buoys are monitoring phenomena that have never been measured before, such as Arctic Sea smoke, a particular sort of fog created when very cold air and relatively warm water meet.

Sea smoke can form extremely rapidly and can cause visibility out on the water to suddenly drop to zero. On the Potomac this is called sea smog. Maybe in the not to distant future we will be able to call buoy #48, phone number 301/SEA-SMOG at the 301 bridge and find out if it's a good day to go to Cobb Island.

Sea Duck Too Back to One Six



Rear Commodore

Alan Gorenstein

THAT OLD FORT!

Although I have not been described as a “history buff,” cruising on the Potomac has often resulted in questions such as: What do you know about Port Tobacco, When was the cross placed on St. Clements Island, Have you ever read about the town of Occoquan?

Of course, these questions have been posed by friends that spent a day boating with us or have been asked as we have cruised down the Potomac to enjoy a weekend event. And, with many of these questions, I have searched for an answer that might show an understanding of the river that we all spend many hours enjoying.

You may recall a few brief articles on the history of the Occoquan that were included in the July and August Daymarkers. Hopefully we are now all experts on the history of this town!

As we boat on the Potomac and show friends and family the beauty of Washington from the Potomac we are often asked about “That Old Fort.” At GPS readings 38.43.50N / 77.02.50W, you will pass Fort Washington National Historical Park – the site of the first military fort build to protect the Nations Capital. Although there does not seem to be a place to dock and tour the Fort, its history begins with a Mr. George Washington.

Picturesque Fort Washington sits on high ground and offered our military garrisons a view up and down the river of the wooden sailing ships that might try to attack the Capital. With a keen understanding of the need for a military defense, George Washington recommended a fort be built at Digges Point. In 1808 the first small fort was built. Just four years later, in August, 1814 the British began their attack on Washington.

They landed a few miles away in Benedict, Maryland, marched to Washington and burned the Capitol and the White House. The next day, the British Navy sent war ships up the Potomac headed for Alexandria. The American captain of the newly built fort realized that his troops were not prepared for battle and ordered the destruction of Fort Washington using his own munitions. The British soon arrived and captured the remnants of the Fort without ever having fired a cannon.

Within a short two weeks, a Major Pierre L’Enfant, a French born military engineer, who is often described as the person that designed the new Nation’s capital city, began constructing a new defensive fort for Washington. Almost 180 years ago, on October 2, 1824, Fort Washington, as we view it from the Potomac, was completed.

For almost 40 years, Fort Washington served as the only defense for Washington. By 1860 the Fort and its military garrison was facing a new challenge. As Civil War loomed it was the only defense on the Potomac between Washington and Virginia. Soon 68 other forts were built around Washington to protect the city from land attack. With the end of the Civil War, the circle of forts were dismantled. At the same time a decision was made to begin reinforcing Fort

Washington with heavy guns and stronger fortifications in the event of a future attack from a foreign power.

By the late 1800’s, 12 inch cannons were in place and an underground mine control room for firing electrically detonated mines had been built. On June 26, 1891 it was written: “Fort Washington is designed to prevent a hostile fleet from reaching positions within bombarding distance of the Capitol. It is scarcely possible that any other than a naval attack would be made on the Fort.”

With the War with Spain in 1898, the Fort became even more fortified and was again ready to defend the Capital. For the next 20 years the Fort was constantly being upgraded to include a railroad to move weapons around, electric lights were added and the Fort became much more modern and even included bathrooms.

As military technology developed in the 20th Century the importance of Fort Washington diminished. By World War I, the Fort was used as a school for training troops being sent to Europe.

Finally, in 1946 Fort Washington became a National Park.

So, as we pass by That Old Fort let us not forget that George Washington picked the site. For over 100 years the Fort, with the same stone walls we now see, protected our Capital. During the War of 1812, the Civil War and even the Spanish American War, Fort Washington has been the city’s primary defense.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Bill Dalgetty, 12/3

Tricia Mattke, 12/6

Jim Bell, 12/14

Beverly Heinle, 12/16

Harry Croft, 12/21

Cynthia Martin, 12/24

Jim Johnson, 12/27

Gordon Cawelti, 12/5

Gary Lee Gochenour, 12/13

Jon Irwin, 12/14

Cindy Schneider, 12/17

Debbie Kent, 12/22

Sue Thompson, 12/26

Anniversaries

Another month for individualists; the only couple married in December were -

Ned & Arleen Rhodes, 12/21

The Daymarker

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

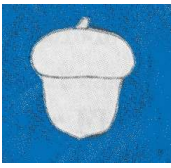
Steve Thompson, Editor

Sue Thompson, Editor’s Advisor on Worldly Matters

Steve Thompson, Circulation

The deadline for submission of materials to **The Daymarker** is the 20th of each month. Please submit copy by e-mail to:

opsco@earthlink.net



Treasurer

Steve Thompson

Thank you, thank you, thank you; it's not very often someone is given the honor to serve as Treasurer for such a great group of people like those of the Occoquan Yacht Club. And I even picked up a couple boats while I was at it without dwindling the treasury - too much. I also understand that my tenure as Membership Chair may be coming to an end in the not too distant future.

But fear not, as your current Daymarker Editor, I will try my best to continue to bore you to death with countless monotone articles on such drab topics as boating maintenance and safety. (Did I write about anything else in the past two years??) It is also rumored that I may become a ghost writer for another of your prestigious officers.

For now, you can breath a collective sign of relief because this article will not mention any of the above topics. And, for once, I was the last one to actually submit my article.

What I would like to do is take a little bit of time to honor the passing of *Forever Dreamin's* Third Mate, Murphy. Yes, Murphy the Dog, not to be confused with Abby the Dog who has her own web site, is no longer with us. He was a good Third Mate (he couldn't pass the swim test to qualify as Second Mate) who was relentless in his watch standing duties, always on the lookout for hostile boardings (or any boardings for that matter). Once visitors came aboard he performed his self-appointed duty as pratique officer ensuring that no forbidden fruits or vegetables got thru, or any food for that matter, undetected. But no matter what your purpose for visiting, as morale officer he always made sure that you kept his morale up to the highest standards, which seemed to always wear off on everyone else too. Although there were many predecessors, Murphy was the first that came aboard as a puppy and had the fortitude to put up with us for 12 years. For that Sue and I will be eternally grateful. Good boy Murphy.



Third Mate Murphy

There is one other item I thought I'd try to get some advice on. Everyone knows that on board there was to be a

chain of command. The Captain is the Captain with very specific responsibilities, and then you have everyone else underneath the Captain with varying responsibilities and duties. That is why you have First Mate, Second Mate, and Third Mate. Of course there is always Swab but I don't believe there are many of this rank around the club. So, the Captain makes all the decisions. And, at least on *Forever Dreamin'*, the First Mate decides which decisions are important. But where does a Vice Commodore fit in to the realm of things when, in this case, she puts to sea? It seems that the club membership put me into this position so I was hoping they could respond. I'm sure this is not the first instance of such a dilemma occurring among the ranks. (Humm, sounds like a good lead in to an article for an incoming board member.)

Okay. Cut! That's a wrap. Print it. Now it's back to the editing table.

Goings On 'Round Town

Prince William Marina Dock Lighting Ceremony, 7 Dec.

Prince William Marina slipholders decorate their boats for the holidays, competing for prizes. The public is invited to view the decorations. Activities start at dusk.

Lighted Boat Parades

Colonial Beach – 6 Dec

Alexandria – 6 Dec

Georgetown – 7 Dec

Local Area Light Displays

Bull Run – Now thru 14 Jan (5:30 - 10:30)

New Year's Eve Celebrations

Alexandria, Old Town – www.funside.com

The Chesapeake Bay Magazine © has a calendar listing of upcoming events at www.cbmmag.net.

On the Internet

Occoquan Yacht Club: www.OccoquanYachtClub.org *

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:
www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org*

Occoquan River Maritime Association:
www.ormaweb.org*

and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:
www.cbyca.org

* Web space donated by Software Systems Group
Ned Rhodes, President and CEO

Passing of the Burgee

by Dave Moore

Sadly, one of OYC's past members, Frank Schwartz, passed away Tuesday, November 11, 2003. Frank and Ursala added humor and interest to the club for several years before moving to Florida in retirement. Frank dealt with cancer for some time and had other past OYC Florida residents visit him during his illness.

Ursala's address is 91 Cypress Grove Lane, Ormand Beach, FL 32174, for those who may wish to send a card.

Condolences

We would also like to extend our condolences to Ken Hawes (*Mental Floss*) on the passing of his father on November 10th.



A Member of the Hardy Souls Club

Boating Swap and Shop

by Alan Gorenstein

Did you know . . . Small craft warnings, common in both the early and late parts of boating season, are set when the wind speed is between 18 to 33 knots.

How about . . . Special care should be exercised not to discharge oil or other pollutants into the water because a single quart of oil can cover an area equivalent to nearly 3 football fields.

Do you have an extra anchor or rode, a spotlight that is taking up space in the basement, a prop from your first boat, a fan that creates a nice summer breeze, etc.? Well, why not sell it and put a few more dollars in your "wish list" fund. Now, you have a great opportunity to list the item in the Daymarker. All you need to do is drop an email to Agoren@biztech.net providing a brief description of the item, the desired price and your name and phone number. Of course, only boating items may be listed and the offer is only available to OYC members. Take advantage of the opportunity and look around and find an item or two you would like to get rid of.

Used 128 Quart Igloo Cooler with Cushion. Listed by Boat US at \$236.98. Yours for only \$95.00. Call Walt Cheatham at 703 588 7323.

45 Pound Delta Fast-Set Anchor. Very high holding power and a super deal. Retail at \$380.00. Buy for \$125.00. Call Rick Sorrenti at 703 590 6724.

GPS Chartplotter Navionics Chips – Potomac River (2001), Chesapeake Bay (2000), Lower Chesapeake (2002), Central Chesapeake (2000) and North Carolina (1998). Super deal at \$60 each. Take all five for \$250. Retail \$199.99 each. Call Steve Thompson at 703 440 8114.

Child's yellow Columbia brand rain jacket. Value \$50. Sell at \$25. Call Tom Egmore at 703 256 8442.

Winterizing Kit – 6 gallon tank, pump, hose, valves and fittings. Value \$175. Take it all for \$100. Call Tom Egmore at 703 256 8442.



At Least Someone's Happy Winter is Here.

Hardy Soul Cruise

by Ned W. Rhodes

We were hardy, where were you? Nine and a half boats thumbed their collective noses at hurricane Isabel and cold weather to make the journey to Cobb Island for the 2003 Hardy Souls Cruise. For as long as I can remember the Hardy Souls Cruise has been the final cruise of the year and we have been going to Old Towne Alexandria for fun, food and shopping. This year, because of the damage to the main docks, there was no room at the Inn, so we scouted around for an alternative destination. Colonial Beach was briefly considered, but rejected because of the damage they suffered from the hurricane.



A Lunar Eclipse Dinner

We ultimately settled on the old Cobb Island Marina, newly purchased and renamed Pirate's Den Marina. They couldn't have been nicer and went out of their way to make sure we were tied up and powered up. Bloody Marys were begun immediately on *Impulse*, as we waited for the official happy hour to begin aboard the Motor Yacht Sea Duck Too that evening.

To make things interesting, I had requested that every boat record the time they left their dock, the time they came under the 301 bridge and the time that they tied their final line at Cobb Island. These numbers were then entered into an Excel spreadsheet and through various convoluted formulas, we were able to award prizes in the following categories:

1) Your elapsed time (in seconds) divided by your boat length. The winner (?) here was the Thompsons on *Forever Dreamin'*. The Snowmans were a close second and there was some controversy as to what boat length was used. Suffice it to say I used the bragging length and not the length you tell the dockmaster when he figures out your slip bill. Some would also say this is some sort of a measure of how slowly you travel.

2) Sum the minute and second numbers for all three times and the winner is the one whose total is closest to their boat length. The Jorseys were the winners here only because they were too lazy to actually fill in the seconds column so that they had a lot of zeros to add together.

3) Sum just the seconds numbers for all three times and the winner is the one with the largest number. The Sorrentis came out the winners here by a mere 5 seconds.

We all stumbled over to Captain John's for dinner in our mostly private upstairs dining room looking over the water and the eclipse of the moon. We were joined by Tom and Tony who drove down to have dinner with the group (they get the half a boat credit). Spontaneous boat parties broke out after dinner.

The annual dog walk took place the next morning at 7 and 7:30 am. Only Abby and I were on the 7am walk, but were joined by Corky and Skipper for the 7:30 extension walk. There was much grumbling about coordination of times and how cold it really was.

After a filling breakfast buffet at Shymanskis the next morning, people started to leave. The Thompsons left for the Bay to turn in their old boat while they await their new one. This seemed like a good plan since it meant that Steve did not have to winterize his boat. It also sounds like something Rick has done in the past. The Cheathams left for downriver early and the Rhodes left later to pick them up and transport them back up river. That Sunday was really a nice day for a cruise. The water was flat, the sun was shining, the wine was good and the company superb.

Thanks to all the participants Rhodes, Kalweit, Sorrenti, Thompson, Bozoky, Snowman, Jorsey, Livingston, Cheatham and Shumaker. You all have earned the title of Hardy Souls. See you next year.

Don't forget the holiday party coming up on Saturday, the 6th of December. Contact Rick Sorrenti any time to RSVP or get more info. This is always a fun event and gives OYC members a chance to dress up and see each other in clothes – I mean nice clothes. Look for info in future Daymarkers.



**A Typical OYC Happy Hour
Lots of Food, Drink, and Friends**

SO IT'S WINTER, LET'S PARTY!

Inside . . .

Hardy Souls Cruise Recap,

OYC's Revamped Swap and Shop,

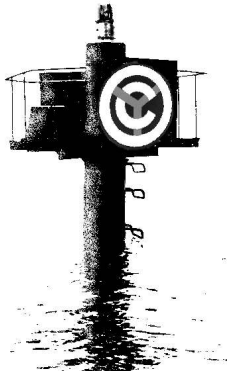
Sign up for the PRYCA Change of Watch,

And much more

Jan 17
OYC Plan-Fest
at OHM
Sue Thompson
703 440-8114

Jan 10
Wintertime Blues
Pot-Luck
Rob/Marg Grant
703 250-9539

Dec 6
OYC Change of
Watch
Rick Sorrenti
703 590-6724



The Daymarker

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

Change Service Requested