

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

Commodore
Mary Lynn Snowman
301 869-2885

Vice Commodore
Rick Sorrenti
703 590-6724

Rear Commodore
Alan Gorenstein
703 938-6516

Secretary
Candy Clevenger
703 273-3073

Treasurer
Steve Thompson
703 440-8114

Quartermaster
Susan Thompson
703 440-8114

Membership
Steve Thompson
703 440-8114

Historian
Dana Phan
703 690-2435

PRYCA Delegate
Joe Livingston
703 250 8765.

THE DAYMARKER Editor
Tom Coldwell
703 323-1675



Commodore's Comments

Mary Lynn Snowman

Brrrrrr, it is really cold outside. The weatherman says that it is the coldest winter we have had in the DC area for many years. My neighbor at the marina called to chat for a few minutes. He informed me that the ice on the river had finally broken up enough that the ducks could swim over from the other bank. He was at the moment feeding them. Ah, the river, even cold it sounds refreshing and relaxing. It's hard for me to believe that next month we will be spending our weekends on the boat again. Just where does the time go?

Well, if you aren't sure where your time goes I can tell you where the OYCers time goes. Take a look inside this Daymarker and you will find the schedule for 2003.

Once again your fellow club members have come up with a busy schedule BUT not too busy for a couple of week-long cruises to be added. We still have a couple of spots that we could use cruise coordinators in. Feel free to contact Beckie Heinze if you have any questions regarding coordinating a cruise. She will be happy to put your mind at ease and hook you up with another cruise coordinator to assist (or you can do one on your own).

Last month's Planfest was awesome. If you missed it, well, you missed another good time with the club. Several of our regulars were unable to attend and I certainly missed them. Good thing you don't have to attend the Planfest to participate in the cruises for the year. You can join your fellow OYCers at any time during the year. Be sure to contact the cruise coordinator and give them your information. Since we haven't been out for a cruise

lately I don't have any boat or water stories to share with you this time, but I do have a safety issue to discuss with you. As much as I love going to the boat and relaxing I don't recommend that you do it without letting someone know where you are going. Last month I had to swing by the boat and check on things as well as pick up a few things that I needed for the holidays. As usual I was moving at a quick pace and did not notice that our stairway was not as it should have been. When I got to the top of the stairs (seventh step) the stairway gave out from underneath me. Somehow through all the wind and the weather, the right side of the stairway had come loose. I didn't notice it in my hurry. I was fortunate enough to be able to grab the handrail and pull myself up to the boat. Not one of the items that I

was carrying with me went into the water. They all landed safely on the boat. I can even report to you that my clogs didn't fall in the water either. I was safe and everything that I had carried was safe.

With the help of my neighborly good friend Rudy the stairs were put securely back in place. However, I still can't shake the feeling of how lucky I am that things weren't worse. What if Rudy hadn't been home? What if I had fallen in the water? It was really cold. What if I had gotten hurt? How long would it have taken someone to find me—minutes or hours? Even minutes in cold water can be too late. When you go to the marina, or to the water, let someone know where and when you are going and let them know when you safely leave.

That's my safety tip for this month! See you on the water—not *in* it!

"Once again your fellow club members have come up with a busy schedule.."

The Datemarkers

BIRTHDAYS

Nabil Dubraque 2/1	Barbara Swengel 2/7
Rick Sorrenti 2/9	Maria Price 2/9
Candy Clevenger 2/11	Becky Wellhouse 2/11
Paul Koenig 2/15	Rudi Noori 2/21
David Hodge 2/22	Bill Sholar 2/23
Jack Striker 2/28	Greg Wilson 2/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Betty Zaegel 2/5
Clete & Lin Shultz 2/14
Sue & Steve Thompson 2/16
Jerry & Judy Thompson 2/18
James & Carol Henry 2/27

Welcome New Members

Buzz and Kim Lasch of Lake Ridge. They berth their ChrisCraft *Magic* at Hoffmasters.

Davey Sauls joins OYC in the crew of Barbara Swengel's *T&T*.

Upcoming events:

Sunday Brunch at Fort Belvoir, February 2nd, to reserve. call hosts Rick and Teresa Sorrenti, 703 590-6724.

Valentine Sweethearts' Getaway Weekend, February 14-16th, call Ilona Zsirai, 703 476-6717.

General Membership Meeting (and Photo Contest!), March 22 at Gecko's

On the Internet

Occoquan Yacht Club: www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:

www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org

Occoquan River Maritime Association:

www.ormaweb.org

Web space donated by Software Systems Group

Ned Rhodes, President and CEO

and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:

www.cbyca.org

The Daymarker

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

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

tcoldwell@cox.net

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



Vice Commodore

Rick Sorrenti

Is Spring Here Yet? Not quite, but the planning for the OYC 2003 boating season is in full force. On January 18 we hosted our 2003 Planfest at Gecko's. Attendance was great, more than 40 folks showing. The enthusiasm to resume boating was evident by the participation shown by the group. We believe that 2003 will be one of our best seasons because of the large numbers of members and the pre-registrations for events. Almost every weekend has something planned. You will find the full list of 2003 activities a few pages back.

My thanks to those who quickly volunteered to be cruise coordinators. We only have three events that need coordinators. Also, Beckie Heinz will be helping our coordinators this year with planning. Thank you Beckie!

A couple of noteworthy destinations include White Point Marina and Yacht Club on the Yeocomico River. This is a great destination with a pool and a full service marina. Olverson's Marina, also on the Yeocomico includes a heated pool, and courtesy cars to town. Diesel and gas fuels are available at both destinations and both locations offer a relaxing weekend on the lower Potomac River. We have week-long planned to Tides Inn, located off the Rappahannock River in the natural harbor of Carter Creek. Tides Inn is a great destination and a true resort with golf, spa, pools and restaurants. Another week-long cruise, a little further south on the bay will include destinations in Norfolk/Hampton, York River Yacht Haven and the lower Potomac River. These are just a couple of tidbits of our destinations this year. Our thanks to those who have volunteered to coordinate this year's events. With all the planning going into the itineraries, it will be another great season of the OYC!

For events that require reservations at another marina, you will need to get your reservations to the coordinator in a timely fashion. Please remember that the marinas we visit are running a business. If our coordinators reserve slips please be courteous enough to inform the coordinator if you find it necessary to cancel your participation in ample time to allow us to offer the slip to another boater and/or notify the marina. All of our coordinators are experienced boaters and become concerned when boats don't show at the destination. Last year we had a couple of painful experiences that we do not wish to repeat this season, where boats never showed for an event and when called we were told they just decided not to go. This creates unnecessary tension for the club and the marina owners. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Last month I mentioned the availability of the new Digital Selective Calling (DSC) technology. If you are looking to replace your VHF with a state-of-the-art radio that provides simultaneous transmissions on two distinct frequencies/channels which supports automatic emergency broadcast, look at the latest from ICOM. After a couple of days of analysis we have decided on the new ICOM 602. Let me know if you have any questions or want to see the radio installed in the April timeframe.

Sea Duck Too back to 16.

How to Launch a PWC



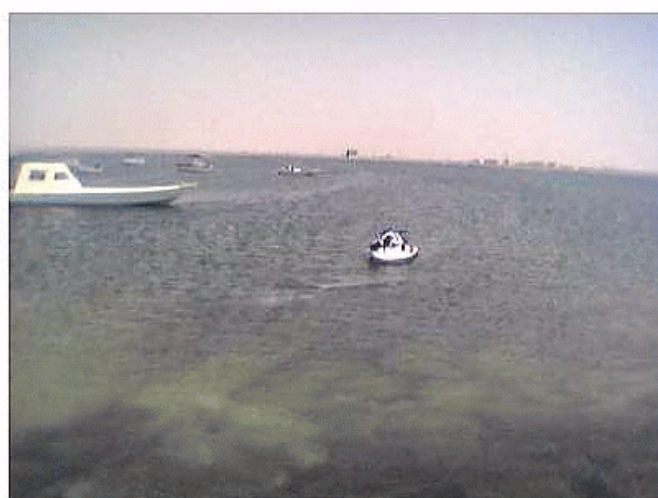
1. Load your PWC in the back of the SUV, and drive to the nearest launch ramp. Open the back doors of the SUV and back into the water. The PWC should float out into the water.



2. Once the PWC is afloat and the SUV is half filled with water, drive the SUV back onto the ramp. It helps to have someone stand on the walkway and point toward shore.



3. If at any point the SUV starts to disappear from view, you may be fairly certain that the operation is not going as planned. However, this is a viable alternative to crowded parking conditions at most ramps.



4. With your craft safely launched and engine revved, you're now ready for a great day on the lake.

Thanks to PC Rick Sorrenti for this gem.



Rear Commodore

Alan Gorenstein

Fortunately we seldom have to use our trusty marine radios to call for assistance. Most often we are contacting a friendly boater or making some arrangements at a marina via our VHF. Of course, there are a few situations that may have occurred which bring a bit of laughter [like that oft-repeated gag on radio communications, i.e.]:

Radio A: "Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision."

Radio B: "Recommend you divert YOUR course to 15 degrees to South to avoid collision."

A: "This is the Captain of a U.S. Navy Ship. I say again

divert YOUR course."

B: "No. I say again, you divert YOUR course."

A: "This is the aircraft carrier *Enterprise*. We are a large warship. Divert your course now!

B: "This is a lighthouse. Your call."

On a more serious note, if we need to use our radio due to an emergency, let's not forget a few of the rules. Let's all think of the VHF as being our link to shore while we are out cruising on the Potomac or in the Chesapeake. Even though our marine radio is such an important safety tool many boaters have, unfortunately, forgotten a few of the rules. In using the radio to relay an emergency, need for assistance, or a boating concern, there are three basic types of Calls.

MAYDAY Calls are for those situations in which "there is grave and immediate danger of loss of property or life." A **MAYDAY** Call should be made if a person on board is seriously ill or injured or if a boat is on fire or sinking.

PAN-PAN (Pronounced pahn-pahn) Calls are used when a

boat is in trouble but not in immediate danger. This call is a request for assistance when the bottom of the river has risen up to reach the bottom of the boat (grounded), the boat is drifting due to a disabled engine or the boat has been disabled by a collision with a submerged object.

Finally, there is the *SECURITÉ* (pronounced say-cure-it-tay) Call to advise of a significant navigational hazard. For example, if a wood piling or a large log is floating in a manner that could endanger another boat, a *SECURITY* Call may be appropriate.

To make a *MAYDAY* or *PAN-PAN* call always use Channel 16 on the marine radio. You are urged to use the following protocol:

“Mayday-Mayday-Mayday. This is (Your Boat Name)”

Tell where you are (use Navigational Aids such as Buoys or landmarks)

State the nature of the distress

State number of adults, children and condition of anyone injured or ill

End message by saying “This is (boat name). Over.”

In the case of a *PAN-PAN* call end the message with:

“This is (boat name). Request for Assistance. Over.”

A response should be received within a minute or so. If no

response, repeat the broadcast. If the boat is in danger, have everyone put on a PFD.

If you hear a *MAYDAY* call, stay off your radio. The Coast Guard or local marine safety offices will quickly move into action to ask for additional information and provide the required assistance. Carefully listen to the *MAYDAY* call for assistance and be prepared to offer help. Adhere to the “Good Samaritan Rule” whenever possible. Seek to be of assistance if boaters are in the water or there is a situation that permits you to safely be of help.

SECURITÉ calls are made stating the nature of the navigational hazard and the location of the risk. No answer will be received to a *SECURITÉ* call; however, other boaters will appreciate the notification and as necessary action will be taken by the Coast Guard to remove the hazard.

As we now look forward to boating in 2003, let’s all add to our “to do list” a few minutes of training for ourselves and first mates on the use of the marine radio. We seldom think about the possibility of an emergency in which the “captain” needs help and is unable to use the radio. And, as a final thought, with your next stop at Boat U.S., would it be worthwhile to spend \$3.29 and buy one of those nice laminated cards on how to use our trusty marine radios?



Treasurer

Steve Thompson

Here it is the middle of winter and the snowfall is approaching levels we have not seen in a long time. Well, at least it didn’t snow during the Planfest. So what do boaters do during the winter? I won’t pontificate on the possibilities. But I will mention that, at least for me, reading is high on the list of activities. And one of the things I read is the calendar, counting down the months, weeks and days (and maybe even hours and minutes) till that first spring trip—wherever it may take me.

Yep, that’s right, the calendar. You know, one of those calendars that has a sheet for every day of the year. I mean, if you get one for Christmas what else are you going to do but at least try to tear off a sheet each and every day. But you do get a reprieve on the weekends, where one sheet covers both Saturday and Sunday. But I don’t just read the dates. This type of calendar always provides some tidbit of information that may or may not prove useful in your daily life.

But you’d be surprised what you can learn from one of these calendars. I got two of these for Christmas, but let me focus on the nautical one. On the 15th of January I learned that the best tool to free a propeller fouled with rope is a hacksaw (dull blade). This particular calendar provides three choices for the fact of the day. The other choices on this day were “a razor-sharp fillet knife” and “an electrician’s side-cutter pliers.” Go figure.

Here is what I learned on the 16th of January. . . but I mention it with a bit of trepidation that I might be chastised for decreasing Quartermaster sales. So here goes. Spraying burgees with *Scotch Guard*TM will prolong their life

(especially in salt-water environments) up to four times normal.

If you encounter a leak in your hydraulic steering system, and can’t get TowBoat US on the VHF, you’d probably fix the leak yourself. But if you don’t have any spare fluid to replace what was lost what could you use? Here are your choices: fresh water, seawater, and beer. Well, first off I wouldn’t chose beer because, like any good OYC member, the beer would be needed to fill a void elsewhere on the boat. But, would you believe, the answer is any one of the choices could be used as a substitute for the lost fluid. Unfortunately, the calendar doesn’t go into what type of damage or repairs would be required because of this so I would definitely try to get in touch with TowBoat US.

One last tidbit and then, I promise, I’ll let you go. This one is a true or false. “Dock” in the strictest meaning of the term, refers to the structure (pier, wharf, quay, etc.) which a boat ties up to.

And the answer is ... False. Dock refers to the water where the boat sits, hence the term “dry dock”.

Now, not every day has something of interest. There was a day that I was tempted to break out a calculator. The question had terms such as angle, speed, distance off, etc. I mean, isn’t that why the GPS was invented? So, the next time you walk past a store selling calendars, don’t stop just to look at what day it is, or the pictures. Try reading it.

P.S. Both the Treasurer and Membership Chairman would like to remind you that if you haven’t already done so, please send in your 2003 dues.

Mark your calendar now...

Begin a great Occoquan boating weekend with the

Blessing of the Fleet

May 10, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring your boat and crew to share in this time-honored seafaring tradition...

- **dedicated to boating safety**
- **celebrating the new boating season**

Plan now to “parade dress” your boat with festive flags and colors. Invite family and friends to witness a chaplain’s solemn invocation of blessing and safe cruising for the year ahead *for your boat and crew*.

This simple ceremony harks back to ancient times when fishermen and other seafarers yearned for good fortune and safety at sea—with priests invoking a blessing upon each vessel as it departed for sea. Years ago, the Occoquan community sponsored an annual Blessing of the Fleet, and in 1999 the tradition was re-instituted by the yacht clubs of the Occoquan and the Occoquan River Maritime Association.



How does it work?

The Fairfax County fire boat will lead a procession of boats outbound from Prince William Marina and passing the chaplain’s station vessel moored at the Belmont Bay Harbor Marina fuel dock. Boats will continue outbound for a day of cruising as desired or, upon safely clearing the area, may return to their respective marinas. The procession will include a host vessel with local dignitaries and media representatives embarked.

A detailed float plan and Notice to Mariners will be posted at local marinas and will be distributed through yacht club newsletters and Internet websites.

Plan now to take part!

The Blessing of the Fleet—an Occoquan tradition—is sponsored and coordinated by the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) and its member organizations, with support from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Fairfax and Prince William County public safety agencies.

Questions? Contact ORMA Coordinator Chris Webster, WebsterCw@msn.com.

For the Experienced Boater **Nautical terms** **defined**

[from Alan Gorenstein's
fractured nautical dictionary]

ASTERN – A type of look. Your spouse gives you astern look when you attempt to buy too many toys for your boat.

BOW – This is what you do at your bank when you ask for money to buy a new boat. At OYC we have lots of boaters who will help you with this skill.

BUOY – A navigational aid indicating there is something worth noting somewhere close to the location of the buoy, possibly to one side or the other or below it.

CHARTS AND MAPS – A chart is the equivalent of a road map. One must use charts instead of maps because maps show roads and there are usually none of these in the water and besides you couldn't drive your boat on one anyway unless you had it on a trailer and then you would need a road map instead of a chart!

HEAD 1 – It is the part of the body that sits on top of your neck. Also useful for storing items like hats, sunglasses, etc.

HEAD 2 – The shipboard equivalent of a bathroom.

HEAVE – A shipboard method for eliminating lunch when seas become a bit rough.



Randy Snowman has a new stock car but an **OLD** cell phone, so when he ordered snazzy air horns for the hood, he asked the parts man for "pneumatic tooters." What the parts man heard...

PORT- This is what you drink when you are on the boat. Also the left side of the boat.

ROCK – These are devices used to damage outdrives. Also what your boat does just after you fill all your glasses to the brim with port.

THROUGH-HULL FITTING – A leak.

YACHT – When discussing boats, if the other boat is determined to be smaller than yours, it is customary to refer to your boat as a yacht.

Fun Potluck with Rob and Marg



At the Grants' house last month—Walt Cheatham, John Heinze, Ralph Burner and host Rob Grant look like they're about to sing four-part harmony.



Ultimate Comb-over—Marg Grant lends a hank of hair to hubby Rob.

Occoquan Yacht Club's 2003 Schedule of Events

Including names and telephone numbers of volunteer coordinators

Events subject to change; watch for updates in The Daymarker

February 2	Brunch at Ft Belvoir	Rick Sorrenti, 703 590-6724
February 14-17	Ocean City Getaway	Ilona Zsirai, 703 476-6717
March 22	General Membership Meeting – Gecko's	Board Event
March 29	April Fool's Party – Tim's Rivershore	Gary Linck, 703 494-7028
April 5	New Members – <i>Abominable Snowman</i>	Ann Shipley, 703 425-6053
April 25-27	Early Bird Cruise – Gangplank	Laslo and Linda Bozoky, 703 590-8440
May 3	OYC Flag Raising at OHM	Board event
May 10	Blessing of the Fleet	Rick Sorrenti, 703 590-6724
TBD	Dinghy Regatta	Barbara Swengel, 703 644-4366
May 23-26	Memorial Day Cruise	Rick Sorrenti, 703 590-6724
June 7	Raft-up at Fairview Beach	Randy Snowman, 301 869-2885
June 28	Fireworks at Tim's River Shore	Drop anchor and hail your OYC friends.
June 28 to ???	Ten Day (or More?) Lower Bay Cruise	Tom Coldwell, 703 323-1675
July 4-6	Fourth of July at Gangplank	Mary Lynn Snowman, 301 869-2885
July 18-20	PRYCA Float-In	Mike and Janine Fordham, 703 590-3653
August	Raft-up (TBD)	
August 1-3	Olverson's Marina/Yeocomico	Alan and Ann Gorenstein, 703 938-6516
August 15-17	PRYCA Dog Days of Summer	
August 17-24 (?)	Cruise to Tides	Dana Phan, 703 690-2435
August 20	OYC Official Holiday – Tim's Rivershore	Gary Linck, 703 494-7028
August 29-September 1	Labor Day Cruise to Coles Point	Andrew and Liz Kalweit, 703 404-0171
September 12-14	PRYCA End of Summer Party	Joe Livingston, 703 250-8765
September 20-21	Shrimpfest – OHM	Tom and Barb Egmore, 703 256-8442
October 10-12	Columbus Day Cruise – Gangplank	Tony Mirando, 202 488-1545
October 25	Membership Meeting & Election - OHM	Board Event
November 7-11	Hardy Souls Cruise - Alexandria	Ned & Arleen Rhodes, 703 741-0861
November 29	Santa Cruise	Walt Cheatham, 703 243-2430
December 6	OYC Holiday Party Change of Watch	Board Event
January 17, 2004	Planfest	Board Event
February 1, 2004	Ft Belvoir Brunch	Rick Sorrenti, 703-590-6724

**Save this schedule. Remember, these are just the *scheduled* events.
Raft-ups, cook-outs, spontaneous parties, renegade cruises—*anytime!***

Inside . . .

Your very own copy of the 2003 OYC schedule of events, ready for posting on your refrigerator (magnets not included);

Pictorial guide: how to launch your personal watercraft;

Randy Snowman has a new race car but a defective cell phone, and that's not all bad;

Please renew your membership; the treasurer's new boat is coming soon.

**February 2
Brunch at
Ft. Belvoir
Rick Sorrenti
703 590-6724**

**February 14-16
Ocean City
Getaway
(and you can
bring your dog)
Ilona Zsirai
703 476-6717**

**March 22
General
Membership
Meeting and
Photo Contest
(Contest rules
next month.)**



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Change Service Requested