

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
Rick Sorrenti
703 590-6724

Vice Commodore
Sue Thompson
703 440-8114

Rear Commodore
Alan Gorenstein
703 938-6516

Secretary
Vicki Hamp
703 335-0976

Treasurer
Harry Croft
703 451-9147

Quartermaster
Rebecca Heinze
703 280-4242

Membership
Maury Shumaker
703 331-2159

Historian
Dana Phan
703 690-2435

PRYCA Delegate
Joe Livingston
540 373-9203

THE DAYMARKER Editor
Steve Thompson
703 440-8114



Commodore's Comments

Rick Sorrenti



ALMOST THERE

We're almost half way through the winter and we're still having fun. The Grant's hosted a wonderful drop-in at their house and yep the pool and ping-pong championship tournament will be continued for another year. You couldn't imagine all the food and stories that were told. It was a great OYC event! Thank you Rob and Marg for hosting us.

As we move into the last half of the winter, your board is hard at work planning for 2004. We hope you will be pleased with our efforts where on January 31st, at our Plan Fest 2004, we will present the candidate boating events and destinations for the upcoming season. Hopefully you will make the Plan Fest your destination on January 31st. You will have the opportunity to discuss each of the events; the destinations and most of all get involved. Each event will have a cruise coordinator, whose task is to plan the trip. The cruise coordinator's job is very straightforward and only takes a few hours to accomplish. You will see on the 31st, that all of the most complicated cruises already have coordinators.

We will focus on a cruising theme this year, which will be *New Boat Owners Need To Boat*. Our desires are that our new members will become more comfortable in cruising and with that comes more fun for your family. We hope to achieve this in several ways. The board will make an extra effort to contact each new member and help you get involved; we hope to have a *mentor* help you learn more about the river and our cruise destinations and offer assistance to make that happen. We only ask that you take the first step and participate. So take that first step and come to your club's Plan

Fest on January 31st at the Oasis (located at Occoquan Harbor Marina) beginning at 2PM. Your club will provide all the food you can handle.

Another of our land based events takes place on February 8th. It's our 4th Annual Sunday Brunch at the Ft Belvoir Officer's Club. In years past we have averaged 40 people for one of the best meals available. This is a family event so bring the kids. The only dress code is that no jeans or tennis shoes for adults. You will be presented with an array of fine foods and desserts that marvel those who have never attended. So contact me immediately if you are game! Need to know if you are going by February 3rd.

For those of you who have never been to Fawcetts marine supply in Annapolis, pay attention to the following. Fawcetts is one of the older chandleries on the East coast. Located right in the heart of "Ego Alley" Fawcetts was founded in 1946. This family run business prides itself in having one of the most extensive inventories of boating supplies, apparel, and high end merchandise available. On February 13th, and running till the 22nd, Fawcetts has its annual George Washington Birthday sale. Virtually every item in the store has been reduced from 30 to 50%. You may ask, how do I get my first mate to Annapolis to look at boating supplies in February? I've always used the "Let's have lunch in Annapolis" line. It has worked for over 10 years. Try it; I know you will have a nice lunch and enjoy the treasures of Fawcetts.

Until we see you on the 31st!
Sea Duck Too Back to One Six





Vice Commodore

Sue Thompson

ARE WE THERE YET?

Well, here it is the beginning of February; one more month closer to boating season and one more month closer to warmer weather (one would hope). I can hardly wait! We have had our planfest (depending on when you read this) and are all ready to get the season underway. The calendar of events for the year couldn't make it into this month's Daymarker due to time constraints so look for it in next month's issue. I'll also see if I can get it sent out to the membership by email. In the mean time, mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

February 8 – Brunch, 11am, at Ft Belvoir. Please see the Commodore's article for full details. If you haven't signed up please contact Rick Sorrenti. Last year we saw a bald eagle flying over the Potomac.

March 20 – General Membership Meeting, 2pm, at Oasis – This is one of two general membership meetings we have during the year. This meeting focuses on a photo contest, although it is also a good time to talk about and sign up for the activities coordinated at the Planfest. Please come prepared with your photos. Prizes will be awarded in four categories, General Boating, Landscape, Animal, and Human. Please bring extra copies of your photos for the historian. And don't forget the webmaster for posting on our web page. We need your help to create a wonderful pictorial history of our club.

Is your calendar open on the weekends during the end of February/beginning of March? If so, you may want to pencil in OYC. The board is trying to put together another event during this time period. As with all OYC events, we plan on having lots of fun so watch your email for updates.

As boating season approaches the Captain and crew of *Forever Dreamin* are getting more and more excited about the upcoming boating season. As you may have heard we will be christening yet another boat. This boat we have planned from stem to stern and top to bottom to be sure the Captain is comfortable in every area. Nope, no more imitating a puppy with his head stuck out the front curtain. And no more endless shifting around trying to get comfortable on the helm seat. Plus the First Mate won't have to put up with this big mass trying to crawl over her getting out of bed. Does this



Happy Valentine's Day !

mean she will be able to sleep late in the morning? We'll have to see what the new Third Mate has to say. But to be sure everything is just right the Captain and First Mate will be departing for Pulaski, Wisconsin soon. There they will see their new boat in the process of being built. Stay tuned for further details.

Well as always, I'm Forever Dreamin'



Hey! Guess What!!

It's the beginning of the new year. But that isn't news to you. However, what you may have forgotten is that **OYC dues for the new year are due.** Take a look at the address label on this issue. If you see a ☹ then you have not yet paid your 2004 dues. (If you have and still see the symbol then things probably crossed somewhere in the mail.) So, keep yourself informed of OYC, PRYCA, and other boating activities on the Potomac. You also get your subscription to the Daymarker renewed as well.

Send in your check, made payable to "OYC" today. Mail your payment to: Occoquan Yacht Club, PO Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125. Or save a stamp and bring your check with you to the next OYC event and just give it to a board member.

For those who have forgotten, membership fees are:

\$60.00 – Family (with boat)

\$40.00 – Single (with boat)

\$30.00 – Associate (any member(s) without boat)

The Daymarker

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Steve Thompson, Editor

Sue Thompson, Editor's Advisor on Worldly Matters

Maury Shumaker, 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

Did you know . . .

Flag Etiquette -- In the strictest sense, pleasure craft that are "documented" (Coast Guard registered) are required to fly the Yacht Ensign while in U.S. territorial waters.



Rear Commodore

Alan Gorenstein

HELP, HELP, HELP!

During the dozen years Anne and I have enjoyed boating on the Chesapeake and the Potomac, we have learned about safety, familiarized ourselves with the basics of navigation, become reasonably skilled boat operators and have always had a good time when on the water. As a boat owner I have also learned about the need for maintenance, been challenged by the need to make a few repairs and, like you, have even had to learn the details of preparing a boat for winter storage or a summer cruise. In reflecting back on what has been learned and occasionally sharing our knowledge with a few non-boaters (a great way to impress your friends), we also realize that a boat is not like a car or anything else that we may own. Unlike that car that we first began to drive and hopefully maintain when we were an eager 16 year old, boats have complex plumbing systems, 12 and 110 volt electrical systems, engines that are put in compartments that seem to require unusual contortions, and hulls that sit in the water waiting for lots of little creatures to attach themselves and cause damage.

Well, as we have sought to master the art of being a boat owner, we found a few wonderful sources of information. Of course, Boating, MotorBoating, BoatUS, etc. are great magazines and often have informative articles on maintenance and repair issues (in addition to their litany of articles about buying a new boat). But, there are a few other less visible publications that are wonderful.

One of the publications and services that I have recently subscribed to is DIY Boat Owner – “the Marine Maintenance Magazine.” For \$18.00 a year, four issues are provided along with a Web site that has a wealth of information. Although there are a few glitzy ads for new boats, no classified ads for Florida yachts, and a shortage of uninformative advertising, there are articles worth reading. Expertise on engine exhaust smoke and the health of the power plant, how-to articles on patching deck hatch leaks or repairing bottom blisters are routinely found in DIY. The most recent issue has articles on shrink wrapping a boat, common winterizing mistakes, oil tests and a variety of other interesting topics.

Prior years issues are indexed by topic and are readily available at a nominal price in hard copy or on CD's that have 40 to 60 pages of information about a subject such as fiberglass or AC / DC electrical systems. An added bonus seems to be the availability of a technical help line. Drop DIY an email, ask a question, pose a problem, and within a few days a personalized answer will be received. For those of us that still have a need to know or a hankering to get our hands dirty maintaining our boat or doing a repair, DIY seems to be a bargain. And, for \$18 a year it is difficult to go too far astray. For more information check out their web site at www.DIY-Boat.com or call 1-888-658-Boat.

A second publication that is somewhat pricier than DIY is Powerboat Reports. At \$78 a year for 12 issues, I am still

assessing the value received for the dollars spent. No advertising is accepted, the publication is all black and white and the articles are to the point. I do know that the two most recent issues included articles on Atomic Tape, Hull Restorers vs. Wax, and a comparative analysis of color chart plotters. Yes, the articles have been interesting to read and quite informative. For example, as I begin to work on restoring the gelcoat on a 1998 Maxum we have recently purchased, I have learned that Collinite at \$13.95 may be a better product than Vertglas at \$70.00, which needs six to eight coats. In short, I guess PowerBoat Reports is like Consumer Reports but much better if you seek boating product information. For more information, go to www.powerboat-reports.com or call 1-800-829-9086.

Although you may find these comments read like a paid testimonial or suggest that I have earned a big commission, please know that it is not true. Most importantly if you have an occasional need for more information before tackling a maintenance or repair project, take a look at the web sites. If you just enjoy reading and learning about boating stuff you may also enjoy DIY and PowerBoat Reports.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque, 2/1	Davey Sauls, 2/1
Barbara Swengel, 2/7	Rick Sorrenti, 2/9
Maria Price, 2/9	Candy Clevenger, 2/11
Paul Koenig, 2/14	Sadine Grant, 2/18
Rudy Noori, 2/21	Jack Striker, 2/28

Anniversaries

Marge Shaffer & Leo Smith, 2/3
 Bob & Betty Zaegel, 2/5
 Richard & Josephine Ellis, 2/15
 Steve & Sue Thompson, 2/16

On the Internet

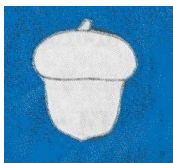
Occoquan Yacht Club: www.OccoquanYachtClub.org *

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



Treasurer

Harry Croft

GOOD GROUNDS FOR ELECTRONS

Christmas is over, the football season is about to end with the Superbowl, and it's way too early for boating. But hope abounds and if Santa was nice, thoughts turn to installing the new electrical toys! Chartplotters, a VHF radio, GPS unit, etc. for the most part, have one thing in common, they all require DC power. For those with AC, that's another chapter. Aside from a coaxial antenna cable, or computer plug, there are two wires that require connection, a black one and red one. There isn't one of us who hasn't made this connection at one time or another. The question is, did you do it right? Did you check the load requirements? Did you check the return circuit?

There are several common errors boaters make when installing electronic devices. The likelihood of these errors occurring increases as the boat gets older and more electrical devices are added. One of the most common errors is adding too many devices to one circuit. This is analogous to plugging in every Christmas tree light into one socket. While it may work, lots of heat is generated and if you are lucky, a circuit breaker will pop. If you are unlucky, overloading a circuit can start a fire. DC circuits are a bit different in that regard, since the amount of energy available is limited to the battery (vs. the Northern Virginia grid!). Overloading DC circuits results in either poor performance or intermittent performance.

As an example, a friend bought a new electronic flush toilet for his older 43' Californian cruiser. The toilet was a

true marvel of electronics and plumbing. He followed the directions exactly, including using 6 gauge wire for the power hook-up, and after making all the plumbing connections, gave the handle a throw. Instead of mega-whooshing and loud grinding sounds, there was slow and disappointing gurgling. After checking and re-checking all the connections he called me. This is where a simple 12 Volt multi-meter pays for itself. We checked every wire for continuity. We re-read the instructions. Nada. Zip. Then, using skills from a previous life, I traced both the power and return (that's the black wire, or common, or ground) from the toilet to the battery. He had rightfully hooked up the red wire to a good power bus (big piece of metal with places to connect wiring) and that went straight to the battery via a circuit breaker and another bus. The problem was the return. The return went to another panel along with a dozen or more other pieces of equipment added over the years. The original grounding panel was wired for only lights and a couple of small things. The panel return had a number 14 gauge wire that wove its way through other parts of the boat. I couldn't exactly determine how the actual return got to the negative side of the battery, but I knew that the path was too small. However, the solution was simple, we added a number 2 gauge wire (battery cable size) from the negative side of the battery to the panel grounding nut. Whoosh, grind, happiness.

Moral of the story, resist the urge to hook into the closest black or red wire. If you hook your power into a starting circuit, the equipment will shut down or go intermittent. Radios can become scratchy or won't receive while underway. Grounding problems are sneakier. Go to an adequately sized bus. Make sure it has a large enough return wire to handle all the load.

SHOP AND SWAP

By Alan Gorenstein

Wow, is it cold outside! I guess with the ice and snow and weeks without even seeing our boats, our interest in shopping falls like the temperature. Yes, we have lots of people wanting to sell but not too many buyers. Since the OYC Board and those that have commented on SHOP AND SWAP like the idea, we are going to keep the program alive. BUT, for the months of February and March we are going to let SHOP AND SWAP hibernate. Come, April and some nice warm weather and the chance to again visit our boats, we will reawaken the opportunity for OYC'ers to buy and sell additional boating related items through the Daymarker. Of course, if you saw an item in the January Daymarker that you would like to talk more about, please give the seller a call.

Thanks for your interest and while S & S waits for a sunny day to come out of hibernation, let's all dream of nice warm days on the water.



Give the one you love a Big Kiss this Valentine's Day.



Secretary

Vicki Hamp

OYC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What is the Occoquan Yacht Club? You might say it's a social club for people who like to boat. You might say it's an organization that puts together boating trips for all to enjoy. You might say it's an affiliation which helps boaters expand their boating skills. Most of all OYC is your family away from family just as your boat is your home away from home. The OYC Member Spotlight is dedicated to helping you get to know your OYC Family.

I'd like to introduce a very special OYC Couple that Bill and I first came to know when we joined the OYC Family - Anne and Alan Gorenstein. At my "urging" Bill agreed to join the club. At my "persistence", Bill agreed to take our very first OYC Trip. I knew this trip would be a defining moment for any future OYC involvement. Fortunately, for me, the trip we selected was being organized and coordinated by the incredibly hospitable Alan. Alan's enthusiasm, care, and friendliness made it impossible for Bill to back out.

Alan and Anne were married in 1992 after meeting at the "soda bar" of a Singles Dance in Bethesda, MD. Anne, looking for an escape from the short, not so captivating man she was speaking with noticed the tall, handsome Alan over at the refreshments. Upon Anne's approach, Alan promptly offered the attractive lady a soda, said Hello, and walked away (????). However, Alan being the intelligent man that he is quickly realized what he had done and turned back around. Well, you know how the story ends.

Alan and Anne spend much of their non-boating time volunteering. Some of these volunteer activities include



What are you doing with your Hunny this Valentine's Day?

Habitat for Humanity, events for the Temple, and working with Adults diagnosed with MS. Alan also spends time cultivating an orchid collection in their basement and maintaining a small greenhouse in the backyard. Anne says she spends her not-boating time trying to keep up with Alan.

When asked about their most challenging boating experience they unanimously recited an event on the Chesapeake Bay near St. Michaels on their 18 foot bow rider, with 3 ½ foot waves, no marine radio, no cellular phone, no GPS and no other boats in sight. When asked what advice they would share with their fellow OYCers, the response "Be aware of safety issues before you leave home". Although, "buy the biggest boat you can" was a strong runner up.

Many of you are already familiar with what a true delight Anne and Alan are to the OYC Membership. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Anne and Alan, I would strongly recommend you seek them out on your next OYC adventure.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

by Joe Livingston/Delegate to PRYCA

The vessel Plane to Sea with Captain Al and Firstmate Lynanne displayed the OYC colors at the Georgetown Parade of Lights on Sunday the 7th of December. With a festive display of deer, "bugs bunny" and multi-colored lights, the Captain's version of "what's up doc" was well received as the vessel was announced during the parade. The photo documents recognition as the vessel traveling the greatest distance.

With an Irish Pub breakfast, decorating and good wine on the cruise to DC, the mood was set for an unplanned escort of Santa Clause into the wharf at Georgetown. Gail and Joe of the Gail Lynn II crewed from Occoquan and were joined by Susan and Walt Cheatham. Walt was announcing vessels for the parade and coordinating activities with the event sponsors and merchants.

The day was one to remember and the cruise home on a "river of glass" was one of those special times on the water. Will look forward to next year (4-5 Dec) and sharing this event with many more OYC members.



**A cold but happy group of boaters.
Kind of makes you ask yourself, "What have they been up to?"**

Medical Break Through *A Cure Is Found!*

Fairfax Station, VA- January 10, 2004

The third annual “Ain’t No Cure For The Winter Time Blues” superceded previous year in attendance! Forty eight (yes, 48) OYC members cured winter doldrums by attending pot luck dinner extravaganza.

Activities included such favorite blues hits as:

Football On The Telly
Eightball In the Pool Hall

Ping Ponging In Da GameRoom
Dancin’ In The Family Room NiteClub
Appetizer Table Crawl
Main Course Buffet Walk
Ala Cart Choco Dessert Station Roll
Oh’ Walt (Traditional Version, Birthday Sing-A-Long)
And the all time favorite blues tune.....
Beverage Bar Bust

The hosts wish to thank all in attendance for making this year a billboard hit. The fourth annual festival (2005 version) will likely move up the charts to No 1. Please all join in as we chant “Yes, there is a cure for the winter time blues.”



Being Commodore has to have some perks, like getting your photo in the newsletter.



A Birthday Add-On to the Winter Time Blues Party.
Go Walt !



No this isn't from the party ...
But it's the same expression everyone had on their face
when they left.



Three women at a party, smiling – I bet they're not talking about the benefits of diesel over gas.

More Winter Time Blues Snapshots



Your other left foot, Walt.



Five women and a guy – but here the diesel versus gas issue could very well be a subject brought up.

*Daymarker Early Release - Look for
Important Events
Inside . . .*

Important Planfest to Chart Out OYC
2004 Scheduled,

Oh What a Night - Winter Time Blues Party,

A Glimpse of Alexandria's Parade of Lights,

And much more

Mar 20

Gen Membership
Meeting

Sue Thompson
703 440-8114

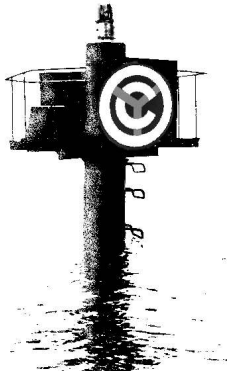
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Stand by your
Fantastic Event
Planning a
Feb/Mar

Rick Sorrenti
703 590-6724

Belvoir

Brunch at Fort
Feb 8



The Daymarker

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Change Service Requested