

The Daymarker

OCOQUAN 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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THE DAYMARKER Editor

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Happy New Year!!



Commodore's Comments

Rick Sorrenti

A BIGGER BOAT IN YOUR SLIP

A few months ago, someone asked me what was going to be my campaign slogan for running for the office of Commodore. After a couple of minutes I said, "A bigger boat in your slip." Looking back over what was a hard run campaign; receiving no Federal funding for the hundreds of dollars that was spent to receive your vote, maybe I should have modified my campaign slogan to something like a free cup of Seven-Eleven coffee for every household. The campaign trail leading to the Holiday Party and the induction of your 2004 board was packed with many bumps. At one point I was convinced that more than one person was running against me. That turned into just a rumor once Corky sent me a card saying that she was going to run against me unless I bought her a new chew bone. Then Abby made a comment about having to many "people" running the club. So now, I'm just thankful that it's over and the club hasn't really gone to the dogs, at least not yet. With all that said, I'm confident that your 2004 Board will serve you well and we thank you for your support.

Over 35 couples attended our annual Holiday Party. Everyone had a great time. A beautifully decorated room, thanks to the efforts of Sue Thompson who made the centerpieces, greeted all. The evening started with check-in and a new game called Boat Bingo. Vicki Hamp really came up with a great icebreaker, since so many of those who attended were new,

and this gave them the reason to walk around, talk to folks, and get names of boats associated to names of the owners. We had some of the best

prizes ever thanks to the efforts of Mary Lynn Snowman. Peggy Castle outdid herself with the music this year – we had to tell everyone to go home. My thanks to all who volunteered to help and to you for coming!

Be sure to look at the Vice Commodore's article. Many great things are happening over the winter to keep your interest high.

If you have some free time you may want to venture to the boat and check your flare gun. The following safety notice has just arrived:

"Vessel Safety Checks: Do you open the Flare Guns? Boat U.S. learned that some of the plastic flare guns made by Olin (now Orion) can't be opened wide enough to accept a flare cartridge and would be useless in an emergency. Ted Swanson, a marine surveyor in Florida, regularly checks flare guns while doing surveys and found that 13% of the Olin guns (9 out of 69) he has inspected can't be fully opened.

"A spokesman at Orion Safety Products confirmed the problem; nylon material used to keep the breech closed can deform and jam the opening mechanism. Any Olin plastic flare gun is suspect, as are Orion guns made before 2000, the year the mechanism was re-engineered (guns with the modification have the USCG approval code 160028/12/1 stamped on the body. A recall has not been issued, although Orion has agreed to replace any of the defective guns, regardless of age. Orion recommends checking the operation of the guns now and at the beginning of every season; if the breech won't open, the gun should be sent back for replacement." See you soon!!

Sea Duck Too Back to One Six



Vice Commodore

Sue Thompson

HAPPY 2004 EVERYONE

Here we are with a new year, a new board, and a great new schedule of events for 2004. I've been told that as Vice Commodore it is my job to keep you informed of upcoming events and other fun stuff. I guess you could call me the club's cheerleader. So here goes! (To help out, look for monthly activity calendars in future Daymarkers.)

January 10 – *Beat the Winter Blues Party* at the Grants.

This is a gathering just for the fun of it. It gives us a great chance to socialize without the added cost of gas for the boat. As you all know our motto is to eat, drink, and have fun so that is what we plan to do. You will see specifics later in the Daymarker. Please don't forget to **RSVP** to the Grants.

January 24 – *Potomac River Yacht Club Association (PRYCA) Change of Watch*. This is another time when we actually dress (up) for the occasion. There's always been great music, dancing, and food. If you want you can make it an overnigher with a stay in the hotel. Hope you signed up for this event. We've always had a great OYC turnout. Contact Joe Livingston to see if he can fit you in.

January 31 – *OYC's Plan-Fest*. This is an event for all of us to get together and decide what we would like to do for the upcoming boating year. This is also a time to help out the club by volunteering to be a cruise coordinator. (We can't get there unless someone helps to coordinate the trip.) So come and bring your suggestions for a weekend or week-long. All suggestions are appreciated.

February 8 – Join us for *Brunch at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club*. This is a chance for a morning get together to share a wonderful food and beautiful surroundings. (In the past a bald eagle was actually spotted.) Viewing the Potomac will only heighten your desire to get back on the river.

February 21 – *Progressive Dinner*. This is a first for OYC; a chance to show off your culinary skills. We are looking to see how many folks would be interested in participating in this type of event. Nothing formal has been set but we will get back to you when we know more. So, let me know if you would like to join your fellow boaters for a progressive dinner. Email me (foreverdreamin@earthlink.net) if you are interested in hosting a part of the dinner or just coming along to enjoy all the wonderful food that we will, no doubtedly, be consuming.

Now that I have finished the official part of my column, onto the fun stuff. I will be dedicating this part of my article to all the First Mates. This is where we will share information like recipes or other tidbits to help keep sanity aboard our vessels. So here is a recipe to keep you warm through the winter season – Mulled Cider. A half-gallon of apple cider, one cinnamon stick, one orange cut into half-inch slices, six cloves. Press cloves into orange slices. Combine ingredients in a large pot. And simmer 20 minutes. Serve warm and enjoy.

As always, I'm *Forever Dreamin'*.

2003 – The Year of The Big Rain

How wet was it in 2003? It was so wet that large-mouth bass were reported being caught, around the Woodrow Wilson bridge, wearing life vests. Well, maybe it wasn't that bad but with 2003 being DC's wettest year on record here is a little statistical data that might interest you from the *Potomac Basin Reporter*, Vol. 59, No. 4, July/August 2003.

“The Potomac is continuing its high-flow ways, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, with the river flowing at several times its normal level.

“In June, the river's flow, measured near Washington, D.C., averaged about 27.1 billion gallons per day (bgd), or about 453 percent of the historical June average of 6.0 bgd. Daily extremes ranged from a high of about 52.5 bgd on June 5 to a low of 8.7 bgd on June 30. The river never even got close to reaching the norm during the month. Water withdrawn for metropolitan area drinking use averaged about 389 million gallons per day (mgd), about 18 percent less than during the extreme drought conditions of June 2002. Total freshwater inflow to the Chesapeake Bay averaged about 123 bgd, or 297 percent of the historical average. The Potomac contributed about 26 percent of the total. Flow to the bay in June was the second largest on record, behind the flow of 1972.

“July flows, while lower, remained well above average. About 7.0 bgd flowed by Washington during the month, or 217 percent of the normal monthly flow of about 3.2 bgd. Daily extremes ranged from a high of about 11.8 bgd on July 12 to a low of about 3.7 bgd on July 31. Metropolitan area water withdrawals averaged about 418 mgd, about 18 percent less than July 2002. Freshwater inflow to the bay averaged about 45.1 bgd, or about 183 percent of average. The Potomac contributed about 20 percent. July 2003 bay inflows were the third-highest on record.”



Quartermaster

Rebecca Heinze

I'm the Quartermaster, and I'm here to say
I've got what you want
(As long as you pay),

Cold drink cozys and tee shirts too
Lots of stuff just right for you,

And if I don't have just what you want
I'll order it for you right on the spot.

Quartermaster
Rebecca Heinze



Rear Commodore

Alan Gorenstein

BRIGHT LIGHT AND SMOKE

Now that our 1995 Wellcraft Excel and our newer 1998 Maxum (if tied together we now own 55 feet of boat!) are both put away for the Winter, I find these cold and snowy nights provide a wonderful opportunity to browse the web or catch up on reading a few wonderful magazines. Reading the articles by Don Casey (www.boatus.com), looking at DIY Boat Owner (www.diy-boat.com) or browsing Powerboat Reports (www.powerboat-reports.com) adds to our boating pleasure and understanding. From issues ranging from how to renew the shine of the gelcoat to tips on replacing a seacock, a few minutes on the web or by the fireside with a DIY or Powerboat makes for a delightful evening. And, at the end of day, you may also find that something new has been learned that can be put to good use just as soon as we are again cruising the Occoquan. Possibly in future months I will add a few additional words about these later two publications which I find to be exceptional in content and readability.

Recently, an excellent article on Pyrotechnic Visual Signals (not fireworks) was found at the Boat US web site that was quite informative. Let me share a few of the points in the article with you. Although our friendly boating store sells devices that bum, sputter, smoke, explode, shine, wave, etc., the USCG only sanctions handheld and aerial flairs and devices that emit orange smoke. At least three devices must be carried and they must not be older than 42 months. Check the expiration dates of current Visual Distress Signals when you get back on your boat. But, are flares better than smoke?

A recent BoatUS / USCG / Maryland Police study showed that hand-held flares were very poor at attracting attention during the day at ¼ and ½ mile distances. They reported “The lowest rated flares were virtually invisible in daylight although they burned for up to three minutes. SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) flares which sell for \$14.99 each vs \$6.00 for the standard Orion flare were marginally brighter but burned only one minute. It was also pointed out that handheld flares generate a lot of hot slag (hold overboard) while the SOLAS flares burn inside a metal tube that gets very hot. In summary, for daylight use the report suggests that flares are of little use. For nighttime use, the red hand-held flares are essential and a Coast Guard requirement.

Aerial flares, which have always seemed like a good idea to me, were also not very visible or attention-getting because they burned only a scant five to six seconds. It was also pointed out that the aerial devices deliver a strong recoil and like firearms are quite dangerous unless properly used. Of course, I wondered how often we ever have an opportunity to learn to properly use aerial flares.

The recommended distress signal for daylight use, to my surprise, was Orange Smoke Signals. These signals come in a floating canister or hand-held container and emit a brilliant orange smoke plume for up to four minutes. Even in a breeze, orange smoke signals will attract attention at distances up to five miles.

In summary, if you have flares on your boat that have not

expired, keep them. They will meet the USCG requirements for day and night use.

If they have expired, they should also be kept. As backup devices they may be of benefit in an emergency even if they do not burn as long as when they were new.

Most importantly, if you spend most of your time boating during the day consider the purchase of at least one Orange Smoke Signals and make it part of your three device pyrotechnic safety kit.

For more information, consult the booklet found at most marinas and boating supply stores: Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boaters.

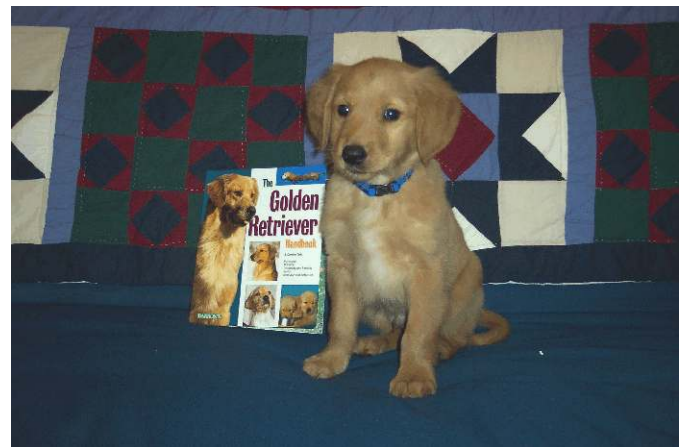
The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Jim Ball, 1/7	Rob Cavaleri, 1/10
Daniel Kent, 1/10	Janet Sobie, 1/12
Alan Gorenstein, 1/14	Roger Mays, 1/14
Walt Cheatham, 1/15	Tom Shank, 1/16
Jane Skolnick, 1/17	Mike Fordham, 1/19
Ned Rhodes, 1/22	Vicki Hamp, 1/28
Jan Wilcox, 1/31	

Anniversaries

Linda & Laslo Bozoky, 1/4	Rebecca & John Heinze, 1/30
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Forever Dreamin's new swab working towards PRYCA Safe BoatR Certification. Today's Class - Potty Training.

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



Treasurer

Harry Croft

SHIP'S LOG

When I agreed to become the new Treasurer, I was hoping that it was the position with the least amount of real work. I don't remember the part about being required to write articles for the Daymarker! I must have been under the influence at the moment Rick asked. As it turns out, I have a written record of the moment in my Captain's log.

One fun thing Pat and I have done over the years of boating is to keep a Captain's log. Our first entry starts in 1990 with our first boat, a 21' Bayliner. The practice of keeping a nautical log goes a long way back in history. I can imagine a series of entries from Eric the Viking, "came ashore, pillaged, killed, etc..." For OYC cruises, it would be, "traveled, docked, ate, and drank". But keeping logs has many other benefits.

There are all sorts of logs: deck logs, radio logs, maintenance logs, engine logs, illustrated logs – and there are many commercial ones available for your use. Our first log book had neat columns for time, pilotage (is that something sailboats do?), course, speed, miles, and comments. It turns out we had more comments than all the other entries. And we have had some interesting ones.

7/20/92 – while cruising down the Potomac River enroute to Fairview Beach "observed flight of a tilt rotor aircraft passing us at Possum Point ... then suddenly (turns out to be the V22 Osprey) began to descend rapid at a sharp angle then plunged into the water approx. 1 mile"... ahead of us "someone on the radio reported the crash" We proceeded to the crash site with all due speed, lots of debris, no survivors.

5/29/94 – essential fishing information "chum, get it at dock to the right of Scheible's Fishing center, ask for Tom."

6/27/96 – major maintenance disasters "lost stbd outdrive just south of Choptank entrance ... lots of metallic sounds."

I think you get the point – ...the log has become a diary of our adventures and people we meet along the way. We also keep track of gas and hour meter readings, guests on board, memorable fishing, recipes...

We are on the second log book, a bit more fancy with defined spots for certain entries...much too much structure! But it provides a great record of boating as well as useful gas calculations and maintenance record. We are looking forward to the next entry, "boat repaired after Hurricane Isabel, first trip to Mattawoman ...clear skies, beautiful cruising day."

Oh, and as for the moment Rick talked me into volunteering for this job, I referred to my log and found this entry, "Rick Sorrenti suggests I become Treasurer of OYC – says it's not much work, and usually includes a new boat". No mention of journalistic requirements!

I think I was duped!



An anonymous tip produced this picture reportedly from a letter to the North Pole, signed "Harry", and entitled "Wish List".

Goings On 'Round Town

It's the Hap, Happiest Season of All – Boat Show Season that is. And here is when and where you will find them.

Jan 15-18 – Virginia Boat Show, Richmond, VA
(804) 425-6556

Jan 24-Feb 1 – Chesapeake Bay Boat Show, Baltimore, MD (212) 984-7000

Feb 4-8 – International Power Boat Show, Atlantic City, NJ (215) 732-8001

Feb 18-22 – Washington Boat Show, Washington, DC (703) 823-7960

Feb 19-22 – Philadelphia Boat Expo, Fort Washington, PA (804) 425-6556

Feb 19-22 – Richmond Boat Show, Richmond, VA (804) 425-6556

Mar 11-14 – National Capital Boat Show, Chantilly, VA (804) 425-6556

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

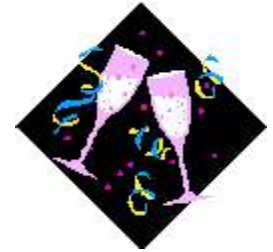
* Web space donated by Software Systems Group
Ned Rhodes, President and CEO



Secretary

Vicki Hamp

OYC New Year's Resolutions



Welcome 2004! It's that time of year when everyone is looking back at the past & more importantly looking forward to the coming year. I'd like to share some of the super secret resolutions of our OYC Club Members.

Do's

1. Go Boating
2. Go Boating
3. Go Boating
4. Go Boating
5. Go Boating
6. Go Boating
7. Go Boating
8. Go Boating

Don'ts**

1. Attend family functions.
2. Mow the lawn.
3. Work past daylight.
4. Clean the house.
5. Rake the leaves.
6. Wash the car.
7. Volunteer to help a friend.
8. Visit elderly grandparents.

By now you should get the drift. Plan now. You have all Winter to accomplish the things you have to do around the house, so that Spring, Summer, and Fall are free to do what we love best....GO BOATING.

**Perhaps, under the Don'ts we should add, "Don't let Rick Sorrenti make a speech."

Boating Swap and Shop by Alan Gorenstein

This month's *Shop and Swap* has a few new items and a few from last month that are being offered at a "sell-it-now" price. Although we may have to wait a few more months for sunny weather, it is never too early to get a good deal. Take a look at the items listed, give the owners a call, make a deal and start counting the days to Spring.

And for those of you that have a basement full of "stuff," take a look around. Maybe you will find a boating item or two to sell. If so, 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 to make a few bucks while giving a good deal to a friendly OYC'er.

Used 128 Quart Igloo Cooler with Cushion. Listed by Boat US at \$236.98. Yours for only \$85.00. 65% off of retail is a cool price. 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 or make an offer. Call Rick Sorrenti at 703 590 6724.

Child's yellow Columbia brand rain jacket. Guaranteed waterproof on a rainy day. Value \$50. Sell at \$25. Call Tom Egmore at 703 256 8442.

BOSE Sound System – Model 131 marine speakers, 10-80 watts per channel, exceptional sound quality and reliability. See Boat US Item 302703 for full details. Retail \$239.99. Buy the pair for \$180. Call Ralph Burner at 703 765 1906.

Stainless Steel Props – Need an extra? Size 15" x 19" LH and 13" x 19" RH. New \$400. Buy at \$75 each. Call Tom Egmore at 703 256 8442.

Reverse Y Adapter - Connect two 30-amp marina outlets to a 50- Amp boat receptacle. Retail \$400.00. Buy at \$300 or make offer. Call Tom Egmore at 703 256 8442.



The Occoquan Yacht Club Board for 2004
Harry Croft, Treasurer; Vicki Hamp, Secretary; Alan Gorenstein, Rear Commodore;
Sue Thompson, Vice Commodore; Rick Sorrenti, Commodore

Change of Watch Special Presentation
 by Ned W. Rhodes

As unaccustomed as I am to public speaking, I did have a few remarks I wanted to make this evening. Don't worry, I am not going to tell you all about how I lowered my cholesterol or how fast my BFDs are or how economical they are to operate.

No, tonight I would like to make a few remarks about the exalted office of Commodore. Oyc has a proud history of many able Commodores, Commodorables, and Commodorks.

Tonight, of course we are all here to honor one of our newest.

Actually, I am here to initiate a new title, that of Commodog. And our Abby has a gift for Rick and Teresa to give to our newest Commodog, Corky.



Presentation of Commodog Bandana.

Thank you, and in closing: 28 knots and 26 gallons an hour.



Gail and Joe Livingston are presented the OYC Commodor's Cup – 2003

Ain't No Cure For The Wintertime Blues.....

Join us at our house for a pot-luck dinner:

Rob, Marg & Emily

Three G'S

Saturday, January 10, 2004

at 7:00 pm

7337 Wayfarer Drive, Fairfax Station, VA

and the kids are welcome!

3rd Annual!

An invitation to a winter get together and pot-luck dinner



RSVP by January 3:

call 703-250-9539 or preferred e-mail: robgrant@starpower.net

(We will e-mail directions & potluck dish info. back to you)

Some More OYC Holiday Party Photos



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Inside . . .

New Officers Take over the Helm at OYC,

What do You Really Want to do In the
2004 Boating Season,

And much more



The Daymarker

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Change Service Requested



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

Jan 24
PRCA Change
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540 373-9203

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OYC Plan-Fest
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