

The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

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Commodore's Comments

Rick Sorrenti

THE PRICE OF A LUXURY

I was on the fuel dock at OHM and a couple of folks were complaining about the price of fuel. Over the past several months we have witnessed an increase in fuel prices and have seen even fewer boaters out on the water. Some owners say it is directly related to the cost of fuel. Not sure why this is happening, I felt it was time to put all of this into perspective.

Boating, like many activities, is considered in some circles as a luxury and a needless expense or waste of our natural resources ... it's the fossil fuel thing. Lets put *things* into perspective and first consider chocolate. I haven't met a member of OYC yet that can turn down chocolate. Right? A pound of good chocolate costs \$7.50. A gallon of fuel cost \$2.50 and it weighs approximately 8 pounds. That would have us spending \$60.00 on an equivalent amount of chocolate or 31 cents on a pound of fuel. We can no longer drink tap water, it has to be bottled. You will pay \$1.50 for an 8 oz bottle of water in a minute, but would you pay \$12.00 for a gallon?

Now for a weekend get away analysis. We'll hop in the car and take off for a weekend and easily spend \$150 a night for a hotel room. Add other expenses and that could easily total \$500 for the weekend.

Lets look at an OYC weekend on-board your boat. An average gallon per hour figure for most of the boats in OYC would be

roughly 14 gallons per hour. At \$500 that equates to 12 or so hours of cruising with no set destination or itinerary to worry about. It's pure relaxation. It's obvious that boating makes economic sense, when we put it in the context of the *things* we do; it's more fun with the club and you can enjoy all those great stories we share. The bottom line is; let's go boating; it's better for your health and don't worry about the price of fuel!

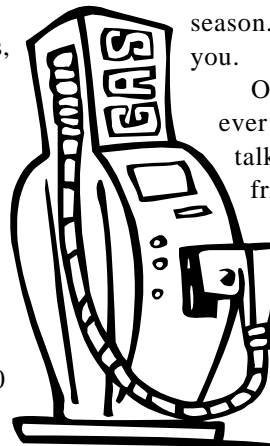
With this in mind, the Hardy Souls Cruise and the Santa Cruise are the last official OYC *cruising* events for the boating season. Cruise coordinators need to hear from you.

Our club has the largest membership ever and thanks go to each of you for talking about the OYC to your boating friends. The coming winter months are also the time for us to continue to enjoy the club. Over the four or so winter months we will be hosting several shore-based activities that we feel you will find enjoyable. Please read your Daymarker carefully as some require advance reservations.

Our holiday party, that you and your family will enjoy immensely, will highlight the winter. Your 2005 Board will be installed along with fantastic prizes and awards plus a great evening of fun. More details are contained in this month's Daymarker. This is just one example of what's in store for you as we move towards the 2005 boating season.

Your 2004 board has worked hard to continue the OYC tradition of "we cruise safely, we eat, we drink, and we tell good stories." I'm sure the 2005 Board will do the same. Until another OYC event,

Sea Duck Too Back to One Six





Vice Commodore

Sue Thompson

IS IT TIME TO WINTERIZING YET?

Can you believe it's November already? The leaves are changing, the boat show is over (No, we did not buy a new boat), and the holidays are fast approaching so now is the time to think about winterizing your boat. When I mention the word "winterize" all you Captains may pay closer attention, while the First Mates tune out. But this article is for the First Mate because these are some of those things the Captain probably doesn't know, or care, about when it comes time to *Winterize*.

First, it gets cold in the winter so let's make sure you remove anything that might freeze from those hidden storage areas, i.e. extra bottles of wine, beer, soda, etc. Don't forget to check the medicine cabinet; although I believe frozen toothpaste won't burst its tube you may have some other liquids in there.

Empty your refrigerator and freezer, give it a good cleaning, turn off the power to it, and leave the door open a bit for ventilation. Although the cold of winter would help preserve your frozen goodies you wouldn't want to eat anything after it has sat all winter.

Remove all your clothing, linens, towels, and the like. Take them home and give them a good washing. After all, when WAS the last time you washed those sheets. Leaving them on board could promote strange smells come spring time with the boat all closed up. And the fresh smell in the spring will start you off on the right foot.

While you are at it, clean out the dish cabinets and silverware drawer. A trip to the dishwasher at home won't do them any harm and may just get rid of something that could fester over the winter months.

Batteries, no not the ones that power the engines and boat, but those that you find in flash lights, radios, and other portable electronic devices. It would be a good idea to remove the batteries from these items.

Finally, don't forget to put out the mildew prevention crystals. They might not be necessary but in the off chance that some moisture seeps in imagine opening your boat for the first time in 2005 only to be hit by a musty odor.

Start out your 2005 season on the right foot, winterize properly in 2004.

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

Coming Up:

Please see articles from the cruise coordinators about these upcoming activities throughout the Daymarker.

November 12-14 – Hardy Souls Cruise to Cobb Island – Ned Rhodes (703) 741-0861

November 27 – Santa Cruise to Occoquan – Walt Cheatham (703) 243-2430

December 4 – Alexandria Parade of Lights – Tony Mirando and Tom Shank (202) 299-0533

December 5 – Georgetown Parade of Lights – Allen Jorsey (703) 971-7120

December 11 – OYC Holiday Party/Change of Watch – Fort Belvoir Officer's Club (**Note: change of venue**) – Board Event

January 15 – Ain't No Cure for the Wintertime Blues party – Rob & Margaret Grant (703) 250-9539

January 29 – PYRCA Change of Watch – Joe Livingston (540) 373-9203

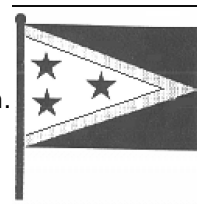
January 2005 – Planfest, watch for details in next month's Daymarker

Till next time, I'm Forever Dreamin'.

Potomac River Yacht Club Change of Watch 2004

by Joe Livingston/PYRCA Delegate

Not just another great party so mark your calendar...**29 January 2005**...after the busy Holiday Season.



The Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association Change of Watch will be held at the Sheraton Crystal City on 29 January (Saturday) and will feature a cocktail social hour, a sit down dinner, the Change Of Watch and Dancing. A black-tie optional event that has been well attended by the OYC members provides an exceptional opportunity to meet new people and expand your circle of yachting friends.

Details will follow next Month, however, I will take your tentative reservation by e-mail now at joseph.livingston@verizon.net. You can expect the cost to be about \$50 per person (reduced by early registration), valet parking and reduced room rates are available, and a nice choice of entrees. Club recognition and special awards within the yachting community add to the evenings allure.

Oh well, so what does all this say? Nothing but make your reservations and come out and have a fantastic evening with friends. Contact me by phone at 540-373-9203 if by chance all your important question have not been answered. Cheers. Joe

Drownings and the Wearing of Personal Flotation Devices

by Marv Storey (as published in the PRYCA Newsletter)

This past August 25th, PC Ned Rhodes and I represented the PRYCA at a public forum on "Personal Flotation Devices in recreational Boating". It was an all day activity and was hosted by the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) at their new Academy in Ashburn, VA. Although the NTSB hosted the forum, they emphasized they had no position on the subject and they did not participate in the discussions.

As stated in the agenda, "The purpose of the forum is to gather all available data, and to promote an open and informative discussion of policy issues related to mandatory use of personal flotation devices (PFD) on recreational boats". The forum was divided into four Panels:

Panel I, presented the data and statistics describing the circumstances surrounding fatal accidents in recreational boating with particular emphasis on PFD use, policy and certification. There were five on the Panel representing the USCG, USCG contractors, and a representative from the Canadian Safe Boating Council. The primary emphasis of the Panel was to provide statistics showing how many drownings could have been prevented if all boaters had been wearing a PFD.

There were 703 boating fatalities in 2003, with 481 from drowning. Of the drowning victims, 416 were not wearing a PFD, and 470 were on boats less than 22 feet in length.

Over all, the PFD wear rate by adults is only slightly more than 22%. There are exceptions. PWC user wear rate is over 96%, Paddlers over 71%, and Day-sailors over 54%. The wear rate by children under 6 is 88.8% and for children 6 to 12 is 75.6%. It was noted that these higher percentages for children were most likely a result of state mandates.

There was lengthy discussion regarding mandatory wearing by both adults and children on all recreational boats, no matter what size. The general consensus of the Panel I members was that mandatory wearing of PFD's by all persons (adult and children) on open boats under 22 feet in length should be the logical conclusion.

Panel II, presented the State-level perspective on mandatory PFD requirements. There were four individuals on the Panel representing the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC), and the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC). It was interesting to note that the NASBLA representatives, both law enforcement officers, one from Nevada and one from Tennessee, were against Federal regulations that would require adults to wear PFD's. They felt states should have the flexibility to legislate. The general consensus of the Panel II members was that boater education, mandatory

PFD wear for children, and advances in technology/design of PFD's has not, thus far, resulted in higher wear rates. They had no suggestions other than continuing to promote child PFD wearing, encouraging industry to expand PFD options at an affordable cost, and working with states to develop mandatory education for the boating public.

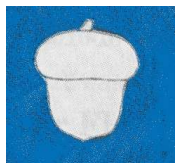
Panel III, presented the recreational boaters' perspective on PFD use. There were three Panel members representing Boat/US, the American Canoe Association, and the Personal Watercraft Industry Association. Jim Ellis, President of Boats/US, placed the fatality percentages provided by the Government into perspective. There has been a steady decline in fatalities over the past 10 years with 2001 having the all-time 30-year low. This was during a time when boating use has grown at an enormous rate. The statistics shown by the Government need to be put in perspective. They are misleading. A point of

interest is that 37% of the drownings with no PFD were persons who were swimming around a boat and would not have been wearing a PFD anyway. The general conclusion of the Panel III members was there should be a combined effort by the industry, associations, media, and the USCG to find solutions that encourage the wearing of PFD's that are wearable and inexpensive rather than issuing mandatory Federal regulations.

Panel IV, presented the boating manufacturer perspective. The four Panel members represented the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA), the Marine Retailers Association of America (MRAA), the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), and OWA, Inc. All representatives emphasized there have been a number of advancements in PFD technology in the past few years. All Panel IV members were against Federal mandates for adult wear of PFD's. The best summary drawn for Panel IV was the conclusion presented by NMMA. They recommend, mandatory boater education, reducing alcohol consumption while boating, increasing boater awareness of risks, promotion of new technology PFD's, continued research and development of "wearable" PFD's, strong effective law enforcement of existing laws, and "Learn to Swim" programs for children.

All in all, the forum was very informative. Presentations were well done. Everyone was given an adequate chance to ask questions of the panelists. I left at the end of the day with the feeling there is considerable opposition to a Federal mandate requiring adult boaters to wear a PFD while under way in "all" boats but that there is wide support for a requirement for boaters to wear PFD's in small boats. Also, the Government is a long way from drawing any conclusion or recommending any legislation at this time. It looks like their initial focus will most likely be on open boats of less than 22 feet where there are the most accidents. There will be more meetings in the future and, if required, time to develop more comments.





Treasurer

Harry Croft

A BRIEF UPDATE ON THE GOLDEN SNORKEL AWARD

The Golden Snorkel Award is not intended to recognize the enjoyment we get from someone else's misfortune, i.e., falling off a dock! Luckily little damage has resulted from such a fall, but the potential for serious injury is ever present. Hitting one's head on the edge of a boat or dock, either in the water or coming back up, can be disastrous.

While we are usually cognizant of boating safety, we often forget dockside safety. Getting off and on boats can be a daunting task, especially as we age. Few docks are built that accommodate all the variations of boat transoms and gunnels. Toss in docking lines, power cords, and a six pack of beer and the formula for injury is complete. Dock lighting or the lack of lighting is also another factor, especially when we come back from a fun night of imbibing heathen spirits.

So the Golden Snorkel is only for those events that in retrospect we can laugh at...I believe laughing is part of the OYC credo...boating, eating, drinking, and laughing!

Some boaters have really gone after this treasure! "Empty Pockets" advances with two new candidates. The stories behind the occurrences are murky and I suspect foul play, especially when Captain Ted remarked that he wanted a replacement for Shorty the dog and his first mate, Ilona. Poor Shorty was "found" one morning swimming around the boat! Then later the very same day, we heard that Ilona "missed" a three-foot wide swim platform and fell into the water holding onto a lawn chair and a 45 pound anchor! Hmm....

Another new candidate has emerged that apparently has a Point Lookout curse on him. Shane Hatton took a backward two and half twist gainer from the finger dock. It seems he has done this before, so there is speculation that this may be a form of bizarre entertainment. Either that or it is background for a Bud lite commercial. Shane was overheard to say, "If I knew I was going to spend so much time in the water, I wouldn't have worn pants." Pants indeed!

I have also heard of another nominee from another cruise, but as of yet, I haven't received the gory details.

Keep those nominations coming!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The Colonial Beach Lion's Club is putting on their annual Oyster Roast; featuring oysters every which way you can eat them. The place is the Lion's Club building. The date and time are 13 November, from 11 am to 4 pm.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Chris Webster, 11/1	Katherine Corley, 11/2
Frank Spikes, 11/2	John Heinze, 11/3
Scott Feil, 11/4	Lin Shultz, 11/8
Dale Gately-Steinert, 11/10	Evans King, 11/12
Jeanne Axtell, 11/15	Brenda Johnson, 11/15
Clara French, 11/16	Kim Lasch, 11/16
Rob Smith, 11/16	Stephen Wexler, 11/16
Christian Rose, 11/18	Henry Lovell, 11/19
Terri Swetnam, 11/25	Ilona Zsirai, 11/27
Dodie Cawelti, 11/28	Dana Phan, 11/28
Cynthia King, 11/29	Joe Livingston, 11/30

[Editor's Note: I'll buy the cake. Just let me know where the party is on the 16th.]

Anniversaries

Ilona and Ted Zsirai, 11/7
Frank and Wendy Holland, 11/8
Ralph and Anna Burner, 11/21
Kevin and Kristie Kelm, 11/26

Welcome New Members

Carl and Patricia Maxwell of Woodbridge. They keep their 31' Maxum *Sun Shine* at Fairfax Yacht Club.

John Cunney of Woodbridge. He keeps his 30' Regal *Harmony* at Occoquan Harbour Marina.

OYC WANTS YOU!!

With the Holiday Season fast approaching we need to start thinking about the 2005 boating season. Your board is organizing the Planfest and needs volunteers to be cruise coordinators. If you have a favorite place and would like to share it with a few friends why not volunteer to lead a cruise. Please remember that this is an organization run by volunteers, the board can't do it all. Also, a cruise can be a day trip, an over-niter, a weekend, a week, or a land-based activity, depending on what you want to do. Please contact any board member if you have questions about being a cruise coordinator. Thank you for your help and support.

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

IT'S NOVEMBER!

The air is getting colder and the days are getting shorter. This is not an exciting truism for OYC boaters. However, in the spirit of giving thanks as we enter November, there are many things to be thankful for.

Captains it's time to say thank you to your first mate for not having tossed you overboard this Summer. Hopefully, you can be thankful for having experienced, yet, another safe boating season. As we approach the holiday gift giving season; I'm thankful that my wallet will experience a reprieve from the dock side gas pumps. Perhaps, you can be thankful that you won't be nominated for the Bent Prop Award, the Golden Snorkel Award, or both? You might want to say thank you to your neighbor for mowing your neglected lawn (which by the way you never noticed).

There are many people in the Occoquan Yacht Club who deserve our thanks:

Rick Sorrenti – thank you for keeping the board

focused and energized (and for the spoon on nose balancing lessons).

Sue Thompson – thank you for paying attention to the details.

Steve Thompson – thank you for your dedication to the Daymarker.

Alan Gorenstein – thank you for always lending a helping hand.

Maury Schumaker – thank you for tracking our ever changing, increasing membership.

Harry Croft – thank you for your witty and informative Daymarker articles (as well as the cigars).

Rebecca and John Heinz – thank you for making sure we had plenty of OYC memorabilia to adorn.

Ned Rhodes – thank you for maintaining our website (and for inviting my kindergarten son to the Tikki Bar).

Joe Livingston – thank you for keeping us in touch with the rest of the boating world.

Cruise Coordinators – thank you for a wonderful 2004 OYC Boating Season!

[Editor's Note: Thank you Vicki for putting up with the rest of us (those mentioned above) and for giving us the opportunity to return Justin when we got tired.]

Occoquan River Dredging is Finally Here!!

The following are excerpts from emails received concerning the soon to be realized dredging of the Occoquan River.

From: Chris Webster Date: Thu, 21 Oct 2004

Subject: [ORMA] Re: Occoquan Dredging Signing Ceremony on October 29!

This is Great News! The Occoquan River Maritime Association and all of its constituents recognize and appreciate the efforts of Congressman Davis, Delegate McQuigg, Mayor Conway, and a large number of business owners, county officials, and local residents who worked tirelessly to affect interest in this vital local project.

ORMA wishes to express its thanks for the efforts of Congressman Davis and ALL who supported and contributed to the effort to make it a reality.

Chris Webster

Presiding Coordinator, ORMA

From: May, Michael Date: 10/20/2004

Subject: Occoquan Dredging Signing Ceremony on October 29!

Hello everyone.

I write this email today with great news! There will be a project cooperation agreement (PCA) signing ceremony for the Occoquan Dredging on October 29, 2004 in the Town of Occoquan. Specifically, this ceremony will mark the time that the US Army Corps of Engineers, Fairfax County and Prince William County enter into a formal agreement to proceed with the dredging project that we have all been working on over the past few years. Once this agreement is signed, the project can go to bid and the Corps estimates that actual dredging should begin as early as late November of this year!

For his part, Congressman Davis is very pleased that after all of our hard work, we can finally begin actual work. He is looking forward to attending this ceremony Should anyone have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me....

Best regards,

-Mike

Michael C. May

Legislative Assistant/Counsel

Congressman Tom Davis, VA-11

Columbus Day Cruise to Gangplank Marina

by Tom and Tony

The cruise to Gangplank Marina this year was exciting to say the least. It all started out with having one of the nicest fall weekends this season, and we had 10 boats that took the trip up the Potomac River to spend it with the crew of "Miss Vivian". Most boats arrived on Saturday mid-day, which added to the excitement of everyone helping each other get into their assigned slip, all-the-while yapping and catching up on each others boating adventures.

We had old members, new members, and even want-to-be members, and hopefully after this weekend they still want-to-be members! Of course being it was Columbus Day weekend, Hechts had its annual blow-out sale, and many members either walked or



The Sequoia, always a sight to see.

took the metro to Hechts to get their yearly fix of city shopping. Some members, whom we will keep anonymous, really like this holiday shopping spree. They really spend a lot of money on stuff, or should I say save a lot of money on stuff, but then they have a big, big boat to put it all on.

Saturday evening we had a great happy hour on the reserved marina barge. We all really enjoyed the boating fellowship and meeting some new faces. After eating and drinking a little, we all went up to the Cantina Marina restaurant. We had the back outside room reserved just for our club, and after just a few minor adjustments to the tables, at the request of one of our sweetest members, we all sat down to enjoy the evening together eating and drinking. Oh boy did some do their share of drinking. I'm not mentioning



A prospective new member tries to join the cruise near Fort Washington.



They are all smiles at Gangplank Marina.

any names, but someone who usually doesn't drink too much got toasted. Ned you would have been proud. All and all we had fun once we all finally received our food. The restaurant was having a communication problem between the chef and the waiters and the patrons. But after some time, complaints, and of course drinks, it all worked out and we had a blast anyway! Some members even feed some of the food to the shark sized fish in the Potomac



You couldn't have asked for a nicer day to hang out with friends.

River; well at least some thought the fish were the size of sharks.

Sunday morning was a bit cool, but eventually the clouds broke open and the sun came out and the morning turned into another gorgeous day. We had a spectacular brunch on the barge, of course hosted by Miss Vivian's very own Tom and Tony. I must say the pastries were excellent, but what was even better was the crowd. Everyone eventually made it over to the barge, and we all ate, laughed, and drank either coffee or OJ with and without Champagne. Eventually the party broke up and some went back to their boats to head home, and others went back shopping. Overall I think the weekend turned out to be a great cruise, and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves, we did!

Come again.

FREE TIDE TABLES - Compliments of C.J.Davidson - Available at FreeTides.com, FreeTideTables.com, and DolphinKey.com

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
1	M	939am +1.4	939pm +1.7	401am +0.2	329pm +0.2	06:36	17:07	20:03	11:06	
2	Tu	1022am +1.4	1021pm +1.6	440am +0.2	409pm +0.2	06:37	17:06	20:57	11:57	
3	W	1108am +1.4	1108pm +1.5	521am +0.2	455pm +0.2	06:38	17:05	21:56	12:40	
4	Th	1159am +1.3		605am +0.3	548pm +0.2	06:39	17:04	22:58	13:17	
5	F	1204am +1.5	1255pm +1.3	654am +0.3	648pm +0.2	06:40	17:03			
6	Sa	106am +1.4	152pm +1.4	746am +0.2	752pm +0.2	06:41	17:02	00:01	14:15	
7	Su	207am +1.4	245pm +1.4	837am +0.2	858pm +0.2	06:42	17:01	01:05	14:40	
8	M	304am +1.5	334pm +1.5	926am +0.1	1000pm +0.1	06:43	17:00	02:09	15:03	
9	Tu	356am +1.5	419pm +1.6	1014am +0.1	1057pm +0.1	06:45	16:59	03:14	15:27	
10	W	444am +1.5	502pm +1.7	1059am +0.0	1151pm +0.0	06:46	16:58	04:22	15:52	
11	Th	530am +1.5	544pm +1.8	1144am +0.0		06:47	16:57	05:34	16:20	
12	F	616am +1.5	627pm +1.9	1243am +0.0	1230pm +0.0	06:48	16:56	06:50	16:54	
13	Sa	703am +1.5	712pm +1.9	134am +0.0	118pm +0.0	06:49	16:56	08:08	17:37	
14	Su	750am +1.5	800pm +1.9	225am +0.0	208pm +0.0	06:50	16:55	09:25	18:30	
15	M	840am +1.5	851pm +1.8	316am +0.0	302pm +0.0	06:51	16:54	10:36	19:35	
16	Tu	934am +1.5	946pm +1.7	410am +0.0	400pm +0.0	06:52	16:53	11:35	20:47	
17	W	1032am +1.4	1049pm +1.7	505am +0.0	503pm +0.0	06:53	16:53	12:23	22:02	
18	Th	1136am +1.4	1157pm +1.5	602am +0.0	608pm +0.0	06:54	16:52	13:00	23:16	
19	F	1242pm +1.4		659am +0.0	713pm +0.0	06:56	16:51	13:31		
20	Sa	108am +1.5	147pm +1.5	755am +0.0	818pm +0.0	06:57	16:51	13:57	00:27	
21	Su	214am +1.5	248pm +1.5	850am +0.0	920pm +0.0	06:58	16:50	14:20	01:35	
22	M	314am +1.5	343pm +1.6	942am +0.0	1018pm +0.0	06:59	16:50	14:43	02:40	
23	Tu	409am +1.5	433pm +1.7	1031am +0.0	1112pm +0.0	07:00	16:49	15:06	03:44	
24	W	459am +1.5	519pm +1.7	1117am +0.0		07:01	16:49	15:31	04:48	
25	Th	546am +1.5	602pm +1.7	1203am -0.1	1201pm +0.0	07:02	16:48	15:59	05:52	
26	F	631am +1.4	643pm +1.7	1250am -0.1	1242pm +0.0	07:03	16:48	16:32	06:56	
27	Sa	714am +1.4	722pm +1.7	134am +0.0	121pm +0.0	07:04	16:48	17:11	07:58	
28	Su	755am +1.4	759pm +1.6	216am +0.0	157pm +0.0	07:05	16:47	17:57	08:57	
29	M	834am +1.4	836pm +1.5	256am +0.0	232pm +0.0	07:06	16:47	18:49	09:51	
30	Tu	913am +1.3	913pm +1.5	333am +0.0	308pm +0.0	07:07	16:47	19:46	10:37	

** Sun and Moon Rise and Set Times HAVE NOT Been Adjusted for Daylight Savings.

The OYC Holiday Party/Change of Watch

This is a fun-filled celebration of boating and volunteer service.

Saturday, December 11, 2004

6:30 pm to 11 pm

Place: **Fort Belvoir Officer's Club.** (Note: change of venue)

Dress: Black Tie Optional

Schedule: 6:30 pm – Cocktails (Cash Bar) and hor d'oeuvres
7:15 pm – Buffet Dinner
8:15 pm – Installation of Officers, Recognition of Event Coordinators,
Presentation of Awards and Door Prizes (Throughout the
Evening)
8:45 pm – Dance to music by DJ Peggy Castle

Buffet Menu: Top Round of Beef, Garden Salad, Baked Spring Chicken, Seafood Newburg, Potatoes Au Gratin, Mixed Italian Vegetables, and Fruit Salad. Don't forget Cheesecake for dessert.

Price: \$40.00 per person (same as last year, what a bargain)

And, while you are thinking about it, how about renewing your club membership at the same time. Watch for your invitation in the mail. Please RSVP whether or not you are going to attend. Questions? Contact Sue Thompson at (703) 440-8114.

Labor Day Cruise to Point Lookout Marina

by Patricia Croft

Labor Day weekend traditionally heralds the end of the summer cruising season, and this year, eighteen OYC boats marked the occasion by gathering at Point Lookout Marina for a holiday bash involving fun, food, and camaraderie.

Most of the boaters arrived on Friday, stretching the three-day weekend into a four-day fling. The coordinators of the cruise fell victim to engine difficulties and missed out on the opening night ceremonies, but the group carried on and enjoyed Happy Hour all evening, despite some initial difficulty getting all of the participants together.



Sunset Dinner on the New Deck.

By Saturday morning, everyone knew exactly where the designated OYC meeting place was, and even the cruise coordinators finally joined the festivities as everyone gathered for a champagne brunch. After various activities throughout the day, we rallied 'round the Happy Hour again, and then moved on to Spinnaker's Restaurant for dinner at sunset.

Some members, including our esteemed Commodore, have wondered how it was possible to have a dinner attended by 43 people at a restaurant that is not yet open for business. We were fortunate that our hosts, the owners of Point Lookout Marina, made good on their promise to take care of us even if they weren't quite ready to officially open by the time we got there.

Spinnaker's Restaurant was flooded out during Hurricane Isabel, and the old building was completely razed to make way for a larger facility. Throughout the summer, as we kept in touch with Cindy and Joe, they were hopeful that the new restaurant would be ready for business when OYC arrived for the Labor Day Cruise. But as the end of summer approached, it began to look doubtful that they would be able to make that deadline. Determined not to disappoint us, they made plans to have a dinner and a brunch catered for us. The new building which houses Spinnaker's was almost finished but not quite ready for occupancy, so we dined outside on the deck with a lovely

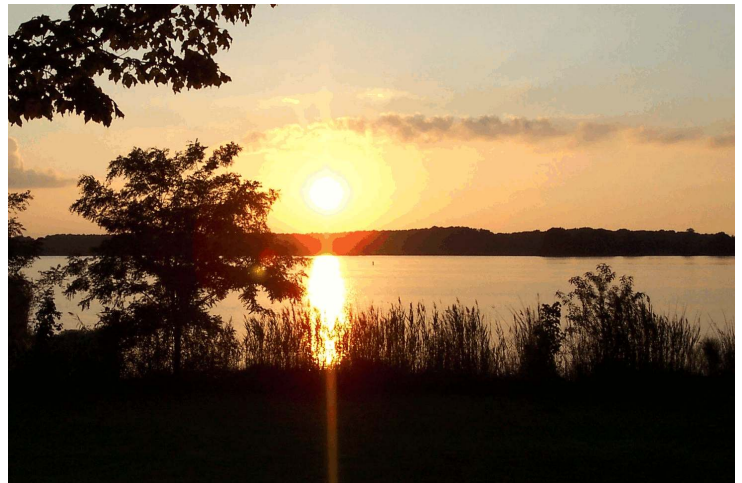
view of the sunset over Smith Creek. We were the first to use Spinnaker's new china and dining chairs. The staff went all out, under difficult conditions, to provide us with a delightful meal and a memorable evening.

The next day brought a change in the weather, making the afternoon picnic feel more like a Hardy Souls event. Indeed, many hardy souls did stick it out and enjoyed good food and good company at the picnic. The Commando Croquet Tournament, however, was dropped from the agenda, and will have to be reinstated another time, when the weather is a bit more cooperative.

The windy weather threatened to spoil the Sunday night Happy Hour, but let it never be said that an OYC cruise would include even one night without a Happy Hour! Bob and Jan Wilcox graciously invited everyone to come in out of the wind for Happy Hour on *Sanctuary*, keeping our record intact on the motto: "Eat, drink, and never let a day of a cruise go by without a Happy Hour!"

Monday morning found us back at Spinnaker's for our catered Brunch, and tours of the new facility. Although the finishing touches were still a work in progress, it was evident that the new restaurant will be beautiful when it is completed. It is oriented to take better advantage of the water view than the previous building did, and with its elevated foundation, should be much less susceptible to flooding by future Isabels.

Concerns over the weather conditions prompted everyone to depart for home as soon as Brunch was over, but most reported easy, uneventful cruising back upriver. Those who had the luxury of heading down-river and on across the Bay for several more days of cruising, however, paid the price of a very rough crossing. (*Sea Duck Too* and *Impulse* both have white-water tales to tell.)



It doesn't get much better than this.

Apparently we set a record for the largest number of boats on a cruise, and that's even after two boats dropped out – we originally reserved slips for twenty boats. Eighteen boats and forty-three people added up to a lot of OYC fun, at least one after-dark adventure, several brand new members cruising with us for the first time, and three more nominees for the Golden Snorkel award. Any way you do the math, it was another successful OYC cruise.

The Legend of Suicide Bridge Secretary, Maryland

Submitted by Rick Sorrenti

The **first** victim of Suicide Bridge was a postmaster from Hurlock, who shot himself and then fell into the water of Cabin Creek.

The **second** victim was a farmer who also shot himself and fell into the swirling waters of the Dorchester County Creek.

Next was a man who some say willfully dove off the bridge, while others say he met with foul play. Pete Moxey, a lifelong resident of the area, was eight or nine years old when it happened.

"It's the first one I remember. A fellow they called "Frog". He was black, short and stocky. They claimed he jumped off the bridge and hit his head on the piling. But the word was going around there was foul play in it. I don't know," the 60 year-old Mr. Moxey said.

He remembers that once the body was found, "they put him on a table over there in a picnic area and did an autopsy, right out in the open." Mr. Moxey, however, was sent home before the autopsy was performed.

The original bridge was a wooden structure built around 1888. The **second** bridge, also wooden and only one lane, was built around 1910. The **third** and current bridge, which is also wooden but covered with asphalt, was built in 1967 and dedicated in January 1968. Local residents apparently have always called it Suicide Bridge.

Mr. Moxey said he was surprised at how quickly another suicide occurred after the third bridge was built.

"It was up for six months, then bingo, somebody went off," he said.

"I helped pull that guy out of the water... He had been a long-time employee at Continental Can in Hurlock and was just coming off a long vacation," Mr. Moxey said.



"Instead of going back to work, he drove here, parked his car and jumped off the bridge."

After rescuers located the body, Mr. Moxey said, the ropes got tangled and he got in his boat to help bring the body out. The body was placed on the dock.

"The blood soaked into the wood on the dock and it never washed away," said Mr. Moxey. "It was there for about five years. I tore it down and built another."

Another man, born and raised within a half of a mile of the bridge, moved away for many years, came back, parked his car by the foot of the bridge and shot himself.

"I don't think the bridge is jinxed. Maybe it's just the name that brings them here." Mr. Moxey said of the suicides.

In a more recent incident, Dave Nickerson, who lives across the creek next to the bridge, was awakened one morning by calls of "Help... help." Seeing a car parked on the bridge, he immediately jumped into his skiff and zoomed to where calls were coming from. He pulled a woman from the icy water where she had apparently changed her mind about committing suicide. Nickerson immediately took her ashore, ran to her car, which was running and parked on the bridge and drove to the skiff. When he tried to get the women into the warm car she replied, "I don't want to get the seats wets -- it's a new car!"

Shrimpfest 2004 at Hoffmasters Marina, September 26, 2004

Cruise Coordinator: Dana Phan, Dana Lyn, Email: Dana@ppdevco.com, Phone: 703-622-5911.

Shrimpfest 2004 was a great success at Hoffmaster's Marina. Those of you who missed it will surely want to come next year. I want to thank everyone who helped with setting up, cooking, cleaning up, and most importantly putting up with me! This was my first event to coordinate, and without you the party would not have been such a success! I would like to also acknowledge the generous contributions by Hoffmasters which include the band and the brew.

Dana Phan
Historian

City of Alexandria Wants Old Dominion Boat Club's Property

by Joe Hadley (as published in the PRYCA newsletter)

At its June 22, 2004 meeting, the Alexandria City Council adopted a list of "priority properties" that its Open Space Steering Committee had identified as the most significant open space sites in the City. The Steering Committee plan recommended short term action be taken to acquire, among other sites, the Old Dominion Boat Club clubhouse building at 1 King St. and its parking/boat lot/launch ramp at 2 King St. These properties were identified as being "the" highest priority for acquisition.

At that same meeting, the Council directed the City Manager to prepare an "Open Space Priority List (OSPL) Action Plan." This plan was to address actions that could be taken to "protect" these properties, timing, anticipated cost, and financing the acquisitions.



On September 28, 2004, the City Manager presented his Action Plan to the Council saying "... that it is time to take the Boat Club's parking lot." His plan recommended as the first step: obtaining an appraisal for the lot; discussing its sale with the ODBC; and either reaching a voluntary sale of the lot or initiating condemnation proceedings.

At that time, the Manager's plan called for future discussions with the ODBC concerning its clubhouse.

To put all this before the public the Council scheduled a Saturday, October 16, 2004, public hearing on the proposed action plan "to protect properties identified in the OSPL" and an October 26 legislative meeting to adopt and implement the plan.

Proudly wearing ODBC attire to the October 16 Council meeting, 14 speakers from ODBC and a number of others rose to provide compelling reasons why ODBC is a good citizen and not deserving of this action. The speakers' themes touched on the Boat Club's history in Alexandria since 1880, the fact that the ODBC clubhouse is the last remaining visage of Alexandria's original waterfront, its 80 year long support for the City's public and private rowing programs, its numerous philanthropic and volunteer activities, its ongoing cooperation with public safety officials from both sides of the river needing a boat launch site, its prompt rebuilding of its docks following *Isabel*, and the down sides of not having any boat club in the City.

Clearly the basis for an elongated fight about which we will be hearing a lot more (especially because a similar case is before the US Supreme Court), to the club's 700 members—a great many of whom crowded Council chambers for the hearing—it seems that the City's only reason for wanting to take the ODBC property is to create an uninterrupted open space/park along the Alexandria waterfront.

Santa Cruise to Occoquan

by Walt Cheatham

The Saturday after Thanksgiving will again inaugurate OYC's holiday season as we gather on the OHM docks for food and drink followed by our traditional ferrying of ole St. Nick himself to downtown Occoquan. So, decorate your boat, crank up some holiday music, bring some libation and munchies to share, and be in place on the OHM gas dock around 10:45 AM so we can enjoy an hour of merry making before blasting off at 11:40 in order to have Santa arrive promptly at the old Prince William Marina bulkhead at noon for the Occoquan Merchant Association's Christmas kickoff.



We've had very mild weather the past few years, so no one has an excuse for missing this fun event. The Occoquan Merchant's Association called us off last year due to construction, but the new town dock is in place and there are no impediments this year. See you there Nov 27th at 10:45.

Potential skippers please call me at 703-243-2430. Thanks, ... Walt Cheatham, cruise coordinator.

Historic Harbors' 2004 Holiday Weekend Boat Parade of Lights!

by the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association

The historic Potomac River will light up again this year for the annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights December 4 & 5, 2004. Join your fellow boaters for a full weekend of fun on the Potomac. The parade begins on Saturday in Alexandria's historic harbor and proceeds in formation to the Washington Ship Channel. A celebration and awards party will follow hosted by the Capital Yacht club. For those hearty souls (and those that can fit under the bridge), the parade continues on Sunday afternoon at the Georgetown Harbour with festivities to follow.

Complimentary slips (limited) will be available throughout the weekend in Alexandria and DC. Start your decorating plans now, as each location will be awarding great prizes including cash, gift certificates, dinners, weekend getaway, hotel stays and more valued at thousands of dollars in total. We have many categories this year, so all are eligible to win! Again, this year's parade will support Toys for Tots!

For further information or registration information, please visit our website at www.dcboatparades.com contact Lorraine Lloyd at 703.838.4200 x209.

[Editor's Note: Prior to contacting Lorraine I suggest you contact the OYC Coordinator. One of the parades was reported cancelled.]

Occoquan Yacht Club Calendar

November 2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 Election Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 Hardy Souls Cruise - Cobb Island	13 Hardy Souls Cruise - Cobb Island
14 Hardy Souls Cruise - Cobb Island	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanks-giving Day	26	27 Santa Cruise to Occoquan
28	29	30				

December 2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3	4 Alexandria Parade of Lights
5 George-town Parade of Lights	6	7 Hanukkah Begins/Pearl Harbor Remembrance	8 Hanukkah	9	10	11 OYC Holiday Party/COW
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 US Holiday	25 Christmas
26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29	30	31 US Holiday	

Having Fun, Fun, Fun, Till Old Man Winter Comes Our Way. . . *Inside . . .*

Fun Times Reported on OYC Cruises,

Occoquan Dredging Update,

How Much does Boating Really Cost?,

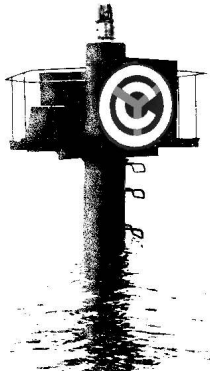
And Much More.

December 11
OYC Holiday
Party/Change of
Watch
Sue Thompson

December 4
Parade of Lights
Alexandria
Tom Shank

November 27
Santa Cruise to
Occoquan
Walt Cheatham

Nov 12 - 14
Hardy Souls
Cruise to Cobb
Island
Ned Rhodes



The Daymarker

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

Change Service Requested