

The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

Web site: www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

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Commodore's Comments

Rick Sorrenti

WE REALLY HAD TO GET AWAY

As Teresa and I watched most of the club take off for either the 2-week cruise to the Northern Bay or to Beauford, NC, we decided that our first and only week long cruise this summer would be the week following Labor Day since Teresa had a conference at the Hyatt in Cambridge during that week so opted to go by boat. After a great weekend with the club at Point Lookout - thanks to Harry and Pat Croft, who did a masterful job of planning and coordinating a weekend full of events and some great food at the soon to be opened to the public Spinnakers Restaurant. Still can't figure out how we ate at a restaurant not open. We headed off across the bay with Ned and Arleen Rhodes, in the lead, who also had to get away. Those of you that remember that week-end, NOAA had small craft advisories out for the bay, and it was no treat to go head-on into five, six and seven foot seas. After a long crossing, averaging 8 - 12 knots, we entered the Choptank River with Cambridge as our first destination. We approached the new Hyatt Resort, Spa and Marina complex and were greeted by some of the best dockhands around. Our original plans called for us to spend one night at Tilghman Island, two nights at Cambridge, and two nights at St Michaels. We opted for going straight to Cambridge and skipping Tilghman. The winds never subsided so we opted to stay at the Hyatt and rent a car to go to St. Michaels, since the real reason for going there was shopping. That we could do by car easily. The Hyatt Resort has two outdoor pools, water slide, hot tub and an indoor pool; lots of drinking and eating opportunities and a wonderful spa just waiting



You think the splash at the bottom was ugly? You should have seen them running back up the stairs to do it again.

for you. One of the local restaurants is called Suicide Bridge. This place has been a local eatery for over 50 years and the food was fabulous. Some of the best crab I have ever had. You might wonder why its called Suicide Bridge; read on for the history. We left Cambridge on a windless day with the bay like glass; stopped for one night at White Point, where Corky met an awful dog that hated small dogs and bit her. She is just now getting over the ordeal, wound almost healed and still wondering what she did wrong since she always plays with the big dogs on C-Dock. We hope to plan a club cruise back to the Choptank and the Hyatt Resort for next boating season so stand by for the January Planfest and all the details.

Comments continued on next page

As we wind down this boating season on the water, please pay close attention to upcoming events. Planning is underway for the General Membership Meeting in October, the Holiday Party in December and don't forget the Parade of Lights in Washington Channel also in December.

Trivia question for the month. First member (not associated with planning the event or Board Member) that calls me with the correct answer gets a \$10.00 discount off of a custom OYC boat mat. *What was the event cancelled twice this season due to hurricane weather influence?*

Sea Duck Too Back to One Six



Vice Commodore

Sue Thompson

10 THINGS I LEARNED ABOUT BOATING

Over the past several years of being a boater and a member of the Occoquan Yacht Club I have had many experiences and read about the experiences of others. Well, now it is my turn to share with you the 10 things I learned about boating!

1. I HATE Locks!!
2. Use of Port and Starboard is strictly a boating thing. Right and left work just as well but then so does this side or that side.
3. Always carry an empty glass when walking the docks, you never know when you might be offered a drink and you should always be prepared.
4. Under the Captain's five-year boat replacement plan, the captain's definition of a year does not necessarily equal 365 days.
5. Buy cell phone insurance, it comes in real handy when replacing the phone that has just fallen into the river.
6. Buy a lanyard for the Captain's pocketknife. It's a sure indication that his knife won't go overboard. (No one said anything about him using it.)
7. Claim your storage areas fast. Once the Captain finds a storage area he will fill it with his stuff (which is not necessarily also considered your stuff).

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

8. Realize that telling your Captain you need to go shopping and including any Marine Store (Boat US, Boaters World, West Marine) in the schedule will make it happen since marine stores have now surpassed any known hardware stores as the number one "got to go there" store.
9. Don't tell your Captain the place you want to go the most because it will be the last place you go. (I will get to St. Michael's one way or another.)
10. Join a Yacht (Boating) Club. This is the best place to meet great people and have lots of fun.

Coming Up:

There are articles on the cruises throughout the Daymarker. If you have additional questions please contact the cruise coordinator or any board member.

October 8-11 – Cruise to Tall Timbers – Walter Krauss (703) 768-4014

October 9-11 – Columbus Day Cruise to Gangplank – Tony Mirando and Tom Shank (202) 299-0533

October 23 – Membership Meeting and Elections – Board Event – Fairfax Yacht Club, 2 – 5 pm

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

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

December 4 – Alexandria Parade of Lights – Tony Mirando and Tom Shank (and dcboatparades.com (see page 4))

December 5 – Georgetown Parade of Lights – Allen Jorsey (703) 971-7120 (and dcboatparades.com (see page 4))

December 11 – OYC Holiday Party/Change of Watch – Fort Belvoir Community Center – Board Event

Till next time, I'm Forever Dreamin'

Hardy Souls Cruise 2004

by Ned W. Rhodes

The Underwhelming Response is to Stay Home!

To date I have three emailed responses as to where people want to go for the Hardy Souls Cruise. None of those emails gave their boat lengths and power requirements, just where they wanted to go. I have received a number of semi-responses over cocktails, but I can't believe them all.

So here is what you need to do if you want to go on the Hardy Souls Cruise. Email me at ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com with your vote on either Cobb Island, Colonial Beach or Coles Point. Include in that email your vessel name, length, and power requirements so that I know you are serious. If you do not have access to email, then you can send your votes and information to 2749 North Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Or, you could actually hand me a piece of paper with your information the next time you see me.

I would like the information in writing so that I don't have to remember what you may have told me. Arleen says that I don't remember half the things she tells me, but that is another story.



Rear Commodore

Alan Gorenstein

MY, WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE?

It seems as I get older, time must be moving even more quickly. It feels like only a few months ago we were having the annual PlanFest to schedule the many fun activities that we all enjoy during the year. If you will look back at the Daymarker for March, you will see 33 events planned for 2004. I would say OYC is not too shabby an organization when we can plan and participate in club activities during so many of the weekends throughout the year. And now as we begin to count down the last 80 days until Christmas, and only 62 days to the first day of Chanukah, Anne and I have many wonderful memories of the cruises we enjoyed during 2004 and the social events at which we got to know so many fellow OYC'ers.

Of course, there were also the stories that others could tell about their days and nights on the Potomac. Yes, there were times when the boat just did not want to go any further and had to be towed. There were other days when we pounded through the waves oblivious to a small craft warning that had been posted. Rain, wind, and even Harry and Patty Croft's 3 ½ hour journey at night down to Pt. Lookout are all part of the storybook for 2004. I am sure that many pages could be filled by many others about their days of frustration, fun, excitement, and challenge, etc.

Well as we now think about winterizing our boats (yuck, what an awful thought) during the next 45 days, we are also beginning to think about 2005. If you would like to have OYC plan an event that you have enjoyed in the past with OYC or any other organization, please let us know something about your idea. If you would like to cruise to a certain destination or participate in a four night cruise (we have lots of 3 night and 7 night cruises), send us an email and mention the river, town, or marina that you think would be a fun place to visit with other OYC members and their boats. Yes, the club does depend on each and everyone of our 200+ members to share ideas and offer suggestions.

We are welcome to all suggestions and especially need more of you to help out. As you begin recalling your fun days with OYC during 2004, and begin to anticipate next year, please also think about becoming an OYC volunteer.



The Recent Cambridge Stealth Boater Cruise.

Of course, it is fun to participate and let others do the planning and coordinating of the cruises and other events. But, it is also very satisfying to help plan a successful event while getting to better know other OYC families. Not too much time is required and your personal paycheck will reflect the fun of helping to plan an event. I promise you that once you say "I will help," you will not regret it.

TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF REAL BOATERS

The following list was found in the October 2004 issue of BoatU.S. Magazine. It is reprinted with the author's permission. Thank you Cap'n Drew.

1. Real boaters consider a bucket of chicken or a peanut butter & jelly sandwich to be perfectly acceptable meals to serve to guests.
2. Real boaters know how to change their own oil (they don't always DO it themselves - but they know how).
3. Real boaters have called in sick to go boating and showed up to work the next day with a tan.
4. Real boaters wear clothes that are comfortable - no matter WHAT they look like.
5. Real boaters will fix anything they can with duct tape.
6. Within a week, real boaters will no longer notice the duct tape.
7. Real boaters secretly enjoy it when people get seasick.
8. Real boaters seethe with anger when they are invited to weddings or children's parties on Saturdays in the summer.
9. Real boaters own the saying, "It's only a sun shower. It'll pass."
10. Real boaters don't allow cheap guests to get away without paying for gas.

This editor would like to add one more to Cap'n Drew's list.

11. Real boaters will have this list embroidered (hopefully by mom), mounted in a 24 x 36 inch custom frame, and prominently hung over their bed's headboard.

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

NIGHT CRUISING

Traveling at night whether by car, walking, or stalking, etc., requires extra attention and a heightened level of skills. Boating at night requires even more skills and a complete loss of good judgment!

My plan for the Labor Day cruise was to head down the Potomac around 1 P.M. to arrive at Point Look Out marina around 4 hours later. Thanks to the mysteries of marine engines this plan was interrupted. If it weren't for a very gracious and dedicated mechanic working on my boat on the eve of a holiday weekend, John Olson from Occoquan Harbour Marina, the trip delay would have been even longer and we would have been UP the proverbial river versus down river. After John eliminated all my theories as to the problem, he deftly identified a loose spark plug wire and a deteriorating fan belt which he promptly fixed. So, around 7 P.M. we were faced with three options – stay put and travel in the morning (and miss out on festivities); or travel for an hour with the remaining daylight and anchor along the way (my wife's idea); or make full speed ahead for Point Look Out (my brilliant idea).

So after carefully weighing the pros and cons, and ignoring the cons, I decided to head down river at full speed (and damned the torpedoes)! Fortunately we were well prepared. The radar was on; the chart plotter was working as well as the back-up GPS. I have traveled the river many times and felt confident. I also have been into Smith Creek many times and was very familiar with the channel markers. Before it got really dark, my first mate and I were feeling adventurous. Things got even better once I figured out how to turn on the radar back light. My first mate (and first wife) was scanning the horizon and constantly offering advice as to direction while I paid attention to the radar and other navigational instruments.

After the first hour, whatever fun we thought we were having vanished and there was a noticeable increase in tension and advice from the first mate, i.e., let's pull over and anchor. True to the code of Neanderthals, I ignored the background noise and kept going. Once we passed the 301 bridge, the river got reallllly dark...no moon dark. Very dark. My first mate kept turning on the spotlight, which at the speed we were going, and in hindsight, would have identified an object just before I hit it. And so for the next three hours in spite of the increasing level, volume, and tone, of counsel from the first mate, I pushed on. Only when we saw the light of the St. Mary's River (a religious epiphany?) did the tension let up. So, with skill, superior seamanship, and a deaf ear, we arrived and docked without incident.

Now, what lessons were learned from all this, that you as OYC members, can become a better power boater? While it is possible to navigate in the dark, unless you are on a

cruise ship where someone else is looking after your welfare, don't do it! We had good weather and good seas. Any change in either could have led to a different outcome. While I was vigilant, we did encounter other boaters who weren't. One small boater had his spotlight glaring at us and another made us veer off to avoid a collision. I don't think either boat ever saw us. Radar doesn't spot river debris or crab pots. We relied on technology that could have failed. So while I feel like Popeye for making the trek and living to tell the tale, my first mate will clearly mutiny the next time if I even think about cruising at night.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Marilynn Dalgetty, 10/2	Bob Wilcox, 10/2
Bill Blanding, 10/6	Frank Steinert, 10/8
Buddy Axtell, 10/10	Anna Burner, 10/11
Terry Matcke, 10/11	Michele Wempa, 10/20
Peggy Johnson, 10/24	Rebecca Heinze, 10/31

Anniversaries

Michael and Kelly Katalinas, 10/6
Rick and Teresa Sorrenti, 10/6
Kenny and Sharman Harris, 10/18

Welcome New Members

Vince and Peg Zumbo of Oak Hill. They keep their 27' Maxum *Ann Marie* at Pilot House Marina.

Bill and Clara Blanding of Alexandria. They keep their 40' Silverton *Teroso* at Occoquan Harbour Marina.

Historic Harbors' 2004 Holiday Weekend Boat Parade of Lights!

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

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 e-mail me or call 703-243-2430 so I can make sure we will have a boat for Santa. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SOMEBODY VOLUNTEER.

Thanks, ... Walt Cheatham, cruise coordinator.

Columbus Day Weekend Cruise to Tall Timbers Marina, October 8 thru 11, 2004

Cruise Coordinator: Walter Kraus, Sea Venture,
Phone: 703-768-4014.

"Voted Best Marine Resort on the Potomac River"

Events include:

Bands	Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Breakfast	Saturday, Sunday, Monday
Dinner/Buffer	Friday, Saturday
Bar-B-Q	Sunday
Bon Fire	Sunday night



THE OYC Holiday Party

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

Saturday, December 11, 2004

6:30 pm to 11 pm

Place: Fort Belvoir Community Club. Take I-95 to Ft. Belvoir/Newington (exit 166) to Fairfax County Parkway; proceed south to U.S. 1; turn left on U.S. 1 and go about one mile to Pence Gate (main gate); inside gate take first left and an immediate right. Due to heightened security there may be some delay entering Fort Belvoir.

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

Buffet Menu: Still working on this – any preference please call Sue Thompson

Price: Still working on this one.

And, while you are thinking about it, how about renewing your club membership at the same time. Complete and accurate details will be in next month's edition of THE DAYMARKER.

**General Membership Meeting /
Chili, Dessert, and Drink Contest**

**October 23rd
2 to 5 pm**

General Membership Meeting

In accordance with the Occoquan Yacht Club Bi-Laws the following is a list of individuals nominated to fill positions on the board:

**Commodore – Rick Sorrenti
Vice-Commodore – Sue Thompson
Rear-Commodore – Alan Gorenstein
Secretary – Vicki Hamp
Treasurer – Harry Croft**

Chilli, Dessert, and Drink Contest

This event will immediately following the membership meeting. When you first arrive it is highly recommended that you seek out a board member and volunteer your services as a judge, either chili, dessert, or drinks (it would take too long to cleanse the pallet of one to taste the other), as this is an excellent way to insure you get a good share of the winning entry.

Those not into chilli and desserts are asked to bring a dish to share. Even though many think chilli and a dessert covers all the essential food groups, there are those who know better and would appreciate the benefit of a choice of entrees and side dishes. Drinks will be available; whatever you can find in the trash can (the ones with the ice) and usually includes soft drinks and water. Please bring your own wine.

Columbus Day Cruise to Gangplank Marina, October 9 thru 11, 2004

Cruise Coordinators: Tom Shank and Tony Mirando, Miss Vivian, Email: Amirandodc@aol.com, Phone: 202-299-0533.

With the summer almost over, it is now time to think of the fall and the wonderful upcoming cruise to our nations capital. We would like to invite all our OYC boaters to come spend Columbus Day weekend with Tony and I at the Gangplank Marina. You can spend time on Saturday shopping, sight-seeing or both. Saturday evening we will have a light happy hour and then go to one of Washington's fine waterfront restaurants. We'll let the weather decide if we dine in or out! After dinner we can all gather on the docks and continue our social evening, or there is plenty of night life in town or on the waterfront to keep you busy, so lets party!

Sunday morning Miss Vivian will host a continental breakfast and social gathering dockside. Later on we can hangout until it's time for you all to head down the river. If you want to come on Friday or stay till Monday, that will be fine just let me know. Of course you need to let me know a head of time, space is limited as usual, email or call, info above. Please include your name and tel #, boat name, length, beam, # of nights, how many people and if your interested in going out for dinner Saturday night. Remember we only have 50 amp service, so bring an adapter. Safe boating.



Occoquan Yacht Club Calendar

<i>October 2004</i>						
<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	5	6	7	8 – 11th Cruise to Tall Timbers	9 – 11th Cruise to Gangplank
10 Cruises to T/T and Gangplank	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14 – 17th Annapolis Boat Show	15 First of Ramadan	16 National Boss Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 OYC Membership Meeting
24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 End of Daylight Savings Time	31 st -- Halloween					
<i>November 2004</i>						
<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 to ??	13 Hardy Souls Cruise to ??
14 Hardy Souls Cruise to ??	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanks- giving Day	26	27 Santa Cruise to Occoquan
28	29	30				

Mass Hysteria at Local Marinas as
 2004 Boating Season Nears End . . .
Inside . . .

Who will be the OYC Commodore in 2005?

It's not too Early to be Thinking About the

Holidays,

A Couple Top Ten Lists,

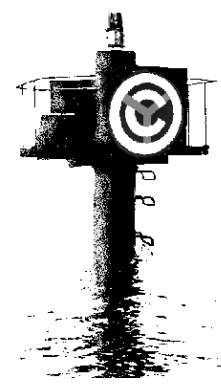
And Much More.

Nov 12 - 14
Hardy Souls
Cruise to ??
Ned Rhodes

Oct 23
OYC General
Membership Mtg
Sue Thompson

Oct 9 - 11
Cruise to
Gangplank
Tom Shank/
Tony Miranda

Oct 8 - 11
Cruise to Tall
Timbers
Walter Kraus



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Occoquan, VA 22125

Change Service Requested