

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 FUN CONTINUES

Over the last couple of months you have seen e-mails, articles and in some cases phone calls asking for your help to continue the traditions, growth, leadership and fun of the OYC. Many of you have expressed great enthusiasm and interest in helping and this month I'm proud to announce the 2006 Slate of Officers that will come before you at our October General Membership Meeting for your vote. In order to keep the slate a secret as long as possible you'll have to read further back for the list of individuals. Show your support and plan to attend this very important meeting on October 22nd at the Fairfax Yacht Club. Not only do you get the opportunity to vote but you'll enjoy the great food and beverages not to mention the prizes. So see you there and thank you for your support!!

Many of us have begun to think about winterization but I wanted to point out a couple of suggestions to make the process more enjoyable. Call 1-800 OHM and sit back and watch them do the job. No, only kidding. Here are a couple of suggestions:

Tip: Antifreeze mentioned below is the environmentally safe type (that pink stuff)

Inboard Engine(s) - You should run the engine(s) to warm it up and

change the oil while it is warm. This tends to allow impurities to be drained away with the oil. You should also change the oil filter(s). Flush the engine(s)



with fresh water. You should circulate antifreeze through the manifold by using a pickup hose from the water pump to a bucket of antifreeze. Start the engine and allow the antifreeze to circulate until water starts to exit the exhaust. A great product to help here is called Thoroflush, which installs on the thru hull strainer and all you do is attach your hose and turn the valve and the antifreeze is sucked into the engine.

Fuel - Fill your fuel tank(s) to avoid a build up of condensation. Add a fuel stabilizer by following the instructions on the product. Change the fuel filter(s) and water separator(s).

Stern Drive(s) - Thoroughly inspect the stern drive and remove plant life and slime



from the lower unit. Drain the gear case and check for excessive moisture in the oil. This could indicate leaking seals and should be repaired. Clean the lower unit with soap and water. If your stern drive has a rubber boot, check it for cracks or pinholes. Grease all fittings and check fluid levels in hydraulic steering or lift pumps. Check your owner's manual for additional recommendations by the manufacturer.

(Cont. On Page 3)



Vice Commodore

Sue Thompson

LIFE JACKET, LIFE JACKET, WHERE FOR ART THOU?

This article is aimed at all you Captains (of the male persuasion). I don't necessarily agree with all the points but my Captain seems to think they are right on. (And to think he is looking at boats again. Does he have something to learn.) The question of the month is "Why is the life jacket better than a first mate? So here goes:

1. A life jacket doesn't compare you with previous users.
2. A life jacket won't ask, "Is there another life jacket in your life?"
3. Life jackets don't mind if you share them with a friend.
4. Life jackets never ask you to call them.
5. You don't have to tell life jackets you love them.
6. A life jacket stays the same size.
7. A life jacket never complains about ANYTHING.
8. You can put a life jacket away when you don't need it.
9. You can pick a new one out of a catalog.
10. Editor's Note: Sorry, this is a family publication.



So, I guess this gives you Captains something to think about. As far as the first mates are concerned, maybe a life jacket isn't a bad choice.

Now a serious note about life jackets. Be sure you have one on board for every occupant on the boat both two and four legged. Also remember that children under 13 are required by law to wear a life jacket on the boat. Check your life vest frequently throughout the season. You don't want to discover a problem when you most need it.

Coming Up:

Please see articles in the Daymarker or contact the cruise coordinator directly for more details.

October 7-10 – Columbus Day Cruise to White Point,

Arleen Rhodes, (703) 741-0861.

October 22 – Membership Meeting & Election at FYC 2 – 5 pm, Board Event.

November 11-13 – Hardy Souls Cruise to Gangplank, Ned Rhodes, (703) 741-0861.

November 26 – Santa Cruise on the Occoquan, Walt Cheatham (703) 243-2430.

December 3 – Alexandria Parade of Lights, Allen Jorsey, (703) 971-7120.

December 4 – Georgetown Parade of Lights, Allen Jorsey, (703) 971-7120.

December 10 – OYC Holiday Party/Change of Watch, Fort Belvoir Officer's Club – 6:30 to 11pm, Board Event

Till next time, I'm Forever Dreamin'.

General Membership Meeting

by Sue Thompson

When: October 22, 2005, 2 to 5pm

Where: Fairfax Yacht Club

Election of Officers – In accordance with the Occoquan Yacht Club by-laws, the following is a list of individuals nominated to fill positions on the board

Board Members

Commodore – Sue Thompson

Vice Commodore – Joe Livingston

Rear Commodore – Allen Jorsey

Secretary - Liz Kalweit

Treasurer – Tricia Matke

For your information the following volunteer positions (do not require a vote) have been filled:

Membership Chair – Belinda Nichols

Quartermaster – Dale Gately-Steinert

Historian – Dana Phan

Daymarker Editor – Steve Thompson

Webmaster – Ned Rhodes

Now for the fun part of the event – the Chili and Desert Cook-Off. This event will take place immediately following the election of officers. We will need volunteers to judge this event. When you arrive why not seek out a board member and volunteer to judge either the chili or desert. This is a great way to be sure you get to taste the very best before it is all gone. We will be awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in both categories.

For those of you not in the contest, and therefore no entry of chili or dessert, please bring a dish to share. Soft drinks will be provided by the club but please bring your own beer or wine. This part of the day's event is open to members of the Fairfax Yacht Club so please join us. Last but not least remember this is not an event for our four legged members.

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



Rear Commodore

Alan Gorenstein

OUR BONUS WEEKEND

Some years we make lots of boating plans for September. The visitors are gone and we think about the lazy afternoons we can enjoy on the boat. Those years, without fail, Labor Day and Fall, arrive together and the weather never cooperates when we want to go boating. This year has been different. We did not make any plans and the weather has been lovely.

On a recent Saturday afternoon we decided it would be a good time to hang out on the boat at Belmont Bay so we packed some tasty treats and off we went. The weather was lovely, the water was refreshing and we floated around on our tethered float (we had learned a long time ago that we did not want to drift away) and we relaxed.

Finally feeling waterlogged, we climbed back on the boat just as we noticed some waves appearing without a boat throwing out a wake. We just got the float back on board when the wind blew, the sky opened and it began pouring. Not bad, just go in the cabin and close the door, we thought. We got down there, looked at the porthole and realized we were spinning and probably moving. Forty mile an hour wind gusts are very exciting!

The captain got to go on deck to start the engine and try to control the movement. The first mate got to stay below, sitting very quietly and very dry. The wind and rain did not last long and we had moved a hundred yards. The rainbow was very pretty, the sun came out again and the captain and first mate had a discussion about the anchor rode.

The next day was even nicer. We met Ed and Stephanie Karpinski and their guests and cruised down to the Aquia Harbour Marina. They told us it was a nice ride all the way up the Aquia Creek. We have been in the Aquia a few times but never that far. The first time, a few years ago, we dug up a lot of the bottom and decided not to go there again. Then when we were boat shopping, the one we wanted was at Willows Landing Marina and we learned how to avoid the low areas. But we thought there was nothing beyond Willows Landing Marina. How wrong we were.

We followed the channel markers as the Creek meanders through marshland for almost 3 miles. On one side there is a marsh and it was like being in the Everglades. The First Mate wondered for a few seconds if there were any alligators and then remembered this was Virginia. Then on the other side the hills and trees seemed to be along a stream in the Catskills. There are new homes, older summer homes, and some private boat docks. A frog lazily getting the sun on a log seemed to be enjoying the day as much as we were. Then suddenly the narrow boating lane opens and the marsh is gone.

We arrived at the Aquia Harbour Marina, were greeted by yacht club members and made to feel very welcome. The Potomac was calm, the Aquia was beautiful, and the people were friendly. It was a terrific, relaxing day.

Did you know . . . U.S. Code, Title 33, Section 2072, says "Whoever operates a vessel in violation of the navigation rules is liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation, for which penalty the vessel may be seized and the case shall be brought before the district court of the United States of any district within which the vessel may be found."

Did you know that the nav rules forbid operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or in a generally "negligent manner" (can you say wakes around marinas).

In other words; if you drink and drive you can get a ticket and a suspended license, but if you drink and boat you can have your boat confiscated. For the safety of you and others, pass the word around.

(Cont. From Page 1)

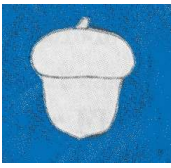
Batteries - Disconnect the battery cables, remove the battery from the boat (out of water storage only). Clean the terminal ends and battery with a solution of baking soda and water, rinse thoroughly with clean water. Apply a light coat of grease on the terminal end of the battery and cables. Store the battery in a cool dry place. Use a trickle charger to keep battery charged. Do not charge battery near any open flame or in a confined area.

Head - Pump out the holding tank at an approved facility. Fill holding tank with fresh water and pump out again. Again add fresh water and pump out again. Add antifreeze and pump through hoses, holding tank, y-valve, macerator and discharge hose.

In Water Storage - Close all seacocks and check rudder shafts and stuffing boxes for leaks, tighten or repack as necessary. Check your battery to make sure it is fully charged, clean terminals, add water if necessary and make sure your charging system is working. Check bilge pumps to ensure they are working and that float switches properly activate the pumps and that they are not hindered by debris. Make sure either to check your boat periodically or have the marina check it and report to you. If in an area where the water actually freezes, you should have a de-icing device or bubbling system around your boat.

Or..... you can go back to my original suggestion and call 1-800 OHM. Until then.....

Sea Duck Too Back to One Six



Treasurer

Harry Croft

LABOR DAY ADVENTURES

Just when you think there is little more to add to boating adventures, along comes a wave of new experiences! Our recent OYC cruise to Pt. Lookout was such an adventure with many fun and interesting “events.” I could call them quirks, smirks, and jerks, but that would be unfair to those that behaved themselves.

It started out much the same as last year when my boat had problems with one engine... (notice how I have shifted the blame to the boat, not me!) that resulted in a very dark and tense passage. This year the boat had an overheating engine and after much effort with the mechanic, we just parked the @#*%& thing and drove down with every intention of staying at Scheible’s Grand Fishing Villa, a five star, albeit broken points, fisherman’s cottage. Fellow OYCers Jan and Bob Wilcox took pity on us and invited us on their beautiful vessel, “Sanctuary.”

Ironically, aside from the mechanic’s bill, this was our cheapest trip to Pt. Lookout on record. We got 30 miles to the gallon in our car vs. 1 gallon to the mile on “Bay Dreamer” and no slip fees!

It turns out that Pt. Lookout is also a jinxed spot for another boater in our group. Falling off a dock and an ambulance trip to the hospital one year; falling off the dock and air conditioner problems due to jelly fish last year; and air conditioner problems this year! To compensate for not falling off the dock this year, the intrepid boater (who shall remain anonymous, but his initials are Shane H.) burned his lips from stinging nettles trying to blow the a/c hose out, or at least that’s the story he told everyone. It may have been some thing more exotic and unsuitable for the Daymarker such as kissing toads or sucking on exhaust pipes for a high. As a result of these misfortunes, Shane (in case you missed the first clue) Hatton has promised never to visit Pt. Lookout Marina again!!!

On a more positive note, I personally learned new protocols and etiquette from the dog walking group. For neophytes, this entails a 0730 reveille where all the boat poochies get to walk together for a mile or so. Walking is a loose metaphor for tugging at leashes, running and playing, lots of name calling (NICK, SIT!), basic dog bodily functions, and avoiding traffic. Since I did not know the etiquette and upon an approaching car, I got off on the opposite side of the road as the others in the group.

Apparently there is a rule to avoid confusing the oncoming driver wherein everyone jumps into the same ditch on one side only! You can imagine the mayhem! Walking dogs today is a lot different than I remember...nowadays you must carry a doggie doo-doo bag. When my puppy, Biscuit, participated in the elimination exercise, I failed to pick up the residue because it didn’t amount to a, well, a pile. This resulted in a severe chastisement, but I remained stalwart since I couldn’t get a grip, literally, on the poop. I’ll have to start carrying a shovel as the puppy grows! Now I understand why we stay at marinas vs. anchoring out...you can only imagine the chaos of several dinghies transporting nervous (anxious?) dogs to shore and the probable accidents of the alimentary kind.



An aerial view of Point Lookout after OYC boaters arrived.

Regardless of the jelly fish problems, the dog walking education, and the joy of working with the Dockmaster, Pt. Lookout remains one of our favorite spots. We had beautiful weather and lots of fun. That’s what I like best about the OYC: we act silly, behave like juveniles, needle each other, and over-indulge, but we always have fun and we always are willing to lend a helping hand, whether it’s repairing another’s boat or drinking all their booze. I’ll leave the details of this years Pt. Lookout cruise for my first mate in her article! She be more

articulate and graciousier than I. After all, I wouldn’t even know if I were mis-behaving if weren’t for her!

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Marilynn Dalgetty, 10/2	Bob Wilcox, 10/2
Mark Schall, 10/4	Frank Steinert, 10/8
Buddy Axtell, 10/10	Anna Burner, 10/11
Terry Mattke, 10/11	Peggy Johnson, 10/24
Diane Machi, 10/26	Stacie Kelly, 10/27
Rebecca Heinze, 10/31	

Anniversaries

Teresa and Rick Sorrenti, 10/6
Sharman and Kenny Harris, 10/18
Pamela and Peter McLeod, 10/26

Welcome New Members

Bob and Lynn Wilson of Fort Myer. They keep their 35' Chaparral, *19th Hole*, at Hoffmasters.

Guy Meredith of Washington. He keeps his 36' Sea Ray, *Chinook II*, at Belmont Bay.

Meimei Tidrow and Jim Hawley of Annandale. They keep their 45' Carver, *Lori Ann*, at Occoquan Harbour Marina.

Historic Harbors' 2005 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 3 & 4, 2005. 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.



What is it with kids these days ... all they want to do is sleep. Yeah, Right.

Was Columbus a Hardy Soul?

[a.k.a. The OYC Columbus Day and Hardy Souls cruises]
By Arleen Rhodes

Well, I'm sure he was, but that's not the point of my article. Since I'm the coordinator for the October Columbus Day weekend cruise and Ned is the coordinator for the Hardy Souls cruise in November, I thought I'd do a dual-purpose article.



This is what boaters live for, what a sunset.

For Columbus Day weekend, October 8-10: Joining us for Columbus weekend (so far) are the crews of *Sea Duck Too*, *Forever Dreamin'*, *Erdnuss*, *Cadenza*, *Lizzie Bitz Too*, *Daddy's Harley*, and *Bay Dreamer* (engine permitting!). Saturday night will be 'movie night' at White Point (details to follow via email). Sunday morning there will be the usual dog walk (are we at the point yet where we have more dogs than people?), followed by brunch provided by *Impulse*. Sunday afternoon all canine crew members are cordially invited to an afternoon party to celebrate Abby's 6th birthday—with party hats, balloons, and cake, of course! If you'd like to join us for the weekend, let me hear from you via email at arleen@softwaresystemsgroup.com or by phone at 703-741-0861.

For the Hardy Souls cruise, November 11-13: Ned's current thinking is that we'll go to Gangplank Marina in DC for the weekend. So far the only hardy souls are the Rhodes family. If it turns out you're hardy too, either send Ned an email at ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com or call him at 703-741-0861. (I could go on about how he's whining that he's written two articles so far and no one has bothered to contact him... but I won't). Hope to see you soon!



A wine tasting it wasn't, but it was good enough for OYC.

I Won The Bet

by Mary Lynn Snowman

I won the bet! Sooooo, Commodore Rick Sorrenti and the captain of the Abominable Snowman BOTH owe me dinner. Here's the story.

The Snowmans have been busy this year. Let's see; a trip to Hawaii with the entire family including my parents, my oldest daughter and her boyfriend (now husband), my daughter Meagan and son Randy Jr. and family friend Edwin, now Meagan's boyfriend. Anyway, that was nine of us that went to Hawaii. Then we were no sooner back from Hawaii - one day to be exact - that my oldest daughter announced her engagement. A week later they announced they were getting married in 12 weeks and in Quincy, Mass. (Yes, folks I was doing a long distance wedding in 12 weeks.) And in between that I was going to settlement on a condo in North Myrtle Beach, SC and completely changing my job, including a new boss. Needless, to say we've been busy. Fortunately for me I have a wonderful husband who goes with the flow and just kept the money coming and made plane reservations when necessary. BUT we both forgot to write the check to OYC for our membership dues. And we kept forgetting. We just didn't get it done until one night in August.

I guess the club was desperate for money because finally Commodore Rick drove over to the marina and came aboard the Abominable Snowman to collect our dues.

I was more than happy to write the check...made it out to OYC ... like I have in the past...made it out for \$60...like I have in the past ... and Commodore Rick just laughed at me when I handed him the check. He wanted to know what I was trying to pull. Membership was \$65. So the argument began, he pulled out his cell phone to contact Vice Commodore Sue Thompson to verify his accuracy. Sorry, no one home. Captain Snowman agreed with Commodore Rick so I voided the check and made out a new one for \$65. As I was signing the check I informed them that they would BOTH owe me dinner because I knew the fee was \$60 and that they were wrong. (Ladies, you know the feeling, what a wonderful feeling proving a man is wrong; but to prove that TWO of them are wrong - what a thrill!)

Anyway, I just want the record to show that the Annual Family Membership for the Occoquan Yacht Club is \$60. (Even the membership form says so.) I know, I checked the archives - thanks Ned and Liz, I checked our by-laws - again, thanks Ned and Liz, and then I checked the Membership form - thank you Ned! So, if you're late writing your check to OYC for your 2005 membership dues please remember that the dues are \$60. You can make the check out for any amount over that that you want...consider it a donation, they always help. Or you can do what I do and get two dinners out of the deal. Yes, Randy and Rick, you both owe me dinner. AND I expect you to pay up!
Editor's Note: Rumor has it that payoffs for bets of this nature have been hard to collect.

The OYC Holiday Party/Change of Watch

This is a fun-filled celebration of boating and volunteer service.
Mark your calendar NOW!

When: Saturday, December 11, 2005
6:30 pm to 11 pm

Place: **Fort Belvoir Officer's Club**

Dress: Black Tie Optional

Schedule: 6:30 pm – Cocktails (Cash Bar) and hor d'oeuvres
7:15 pm – Seated Dinner
8:15 pm – Installation of Officers, Recognition of Event Coordinators,
Presentation of Awards and Door Prizes

Menu: This year we will have a seated dinner with a choice of entrees

Price: \$43.00 per person

How about renewing your club membership at the same time. Watch for your invitations in the mail. Any questions, contact Contact Sue Thompson at (703) 440-8114.

Arrr, Arrr, and More Arrr

by Pat Croft

You may have already read other accounts of the 2nd Annual Labor Day Weekend at Point Lookout, but don't be fooled by imitations; *this* is the real article. It was a glorious weekend filled with all the best attributes of OYC - good cruising, good company, good food, and great fun!

We had planned on 15 boats joining us on the cruise, but we actually docked only 11 vessels by the time all was said and done.

The Gorenstein's, the Mattke's, and the Maxwell's each had various reasons to opt out, and we missed them. The Croft's, who were charged with coordinating the cruise, didn't opt out, but their boat did!

Fortunately, the Wilcox's graciously offered them (and their guests and their new puppy!) a berth on Sanctuary, so the coordinators were able to actually be *with* the cruise.

Eight vessels arrived at Pt. Lookout Friday night: *Sanctuary*, *Shalimar*, *Great Escape*, *Wild Horses*, *Jet Global*, *Sea Duck Too*, *Cadenza IV*, and new-to-OYC *Mama's Happy*. Croft's arrived by *Camry* early Saturday morning, in time to set up a dockside continental breakfast complete with Mimosas; Mark Schall provided shrimp and Brie. *Forever Dreamin'*, *Our Dream*, and *Impulse* pulled in before noon on Saturday. This may have been the only time *Impulse* ever arrived last!

With a total of 30 people, 11 boats, and 11 dogs, OYC pretty much took over the marina for the weekend. We designated the tables near B dock as OURS and gathered there often, for breakfast, for Happy Hour, whatever. Some of us spent time at the pool, some of us rode bikes into nearby Ridge, some drove the *Camry* to buy fishing and crabbing gear or sight-see at Pt. Lookout State Park. All of us relaxed and enjoyed the gorgeous weather! All 30 of us had dinner together, (make that 32 - Dodie and Gordon Cawelti joined us for the evening,) at Spinnakers Saturday night, just about overwhelming the place. (Actually, only 31 stayed for dinner - one of us had to work on a jellyfish problem.)



Cap'n Hook and some of his crew.



Saturday Afternoon Delight

The main event took place Sunday afternoon. Everyone gathered at the picnic area near the pool for a Potluck Picnic, and as usual, the food was plentiful and delicious. But before eating, the group participated in an activity designed to bring out the Kid in everyone, and in that regard, it was a definitive success! Two crews competed to find the King's Treasure. Cap'n Hook's crew, led by **Ned Rhodes**, and Black Bandit Willy's crew, led by **Lexi Schall**, followed clues and searched for map pieces all over the Upper Marina area to lead them to treasure chests hidden in the Boat Yard.



Black Bandit Willy's crew pieced their map together first and appeared to be taking an easy lead, but they hit a setback when they couldn't find the vessel *Peas & Carrots*, under which they would have found the final clue and key to the King's Treasure. Instead, the slow but steady Cap'n Hook's crew persevered, found the key under the *Polish Princess*, and charged forward to find the final prize under the *Klingon Warrior*. One Bandit crew member, (**Tom Coldwell**), attempted to make off with the Treasure single-handedly, but Hook's crew foiled his pirating plan. If none of that makes any sense to you - well, you had to be there.

The contents of the King's Treasure was, of course, the sailors' ration of rum - Capt. Morgan's, to be precise, and GOLD foil-covered chocolate COINS, and strands of

Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire, and Amethyst (fake) Jewels. As might have been predicted, both the victors and the defeated devoured the coins, donned the jewels, and downed the rum, with a few hearty sailors commandeering as many rations as they could pilfer and even plundering the Commodore's Private Reserve. By the end of the debauchery, no one remembered who was on which crew, but all were happy the rum had been found!



A fantastic Day for a Picnic (and Treasure Hunt)

End of Summer Cruise to Aquia Harbor

by Walt Cheatham, Coordinator

Four OYC boats and six couples attended the End of Summer Float-In at Aquia Harbor Yacht Club 17-18 Sept on a beautiful weekend of weather featuring a full moon, great food, and hot dancing to the DJ's selections. Bill & Beth Francis on *TDY*, Fred Foss and Belinda Nichols on *Seaclusion*, Tom and Monica Crossan on *Monica Leigh*, and Ralph & Anna Burner on *Anna Marie* motored up the scenic creek to participate as real sea faring attendees. Joe & Gail Livingston and Walt & Susan Cheatham motored in on four wheels – the Cheathams after getting as far as “the tree in Occoquan Bay” on *Walt's on Water* before hydraulic fluid started streaming out from behind the helm steering wheel and they had to turn back. The event was sponsored by the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association (PRYCA), and featured fantastic pork and chicken Bar-B-Q Saturday night followed by a Bloody Mary infested breakfast Sunday morning. This is a great cruise in the future for those of you new to the game who want to participate but not go to the Bay or go for a week-long.

OYC Santa Cruise

by Walt Cheatham, Coordinator

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 new town dock 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 even - whether by land or by boat. See you there **Nov 26th** at 10:45.

Potential skippers - please call 703-243-2430 to let me know your plans so I can make sure we will have a boat for Santa.

You're So Vain

by Steve Thompson

Have you ever wondered why boaters are always seen wearing sunglasses? Could it be that they are vain? They may think of it as a way to hide from their non-boat owning friends in an attempt to get out of those pesky requests to come along for the ride. Perhaps they are a sensitive lot and prefer to hide their emotions. Or could they just want

to scope out all the (place the appropriate noun here) wearing their latest swimming and boating apparel? Well, believe it or not, there is a medical reason you see such a prevalence of sunglasses. And no, checking out the latest apparel is not a medical reason. Although this often tends to get the heart beating a little faster the rate of increase is usually not considered to be of any medical benefit. As well as being a medical benefit, whether they know it or not, sunglasses are also considered standard safety gear. Using the proper type of sunglasses will greatly aide in boater health and safety. Here's how.

Constant exposure to bright sunlight desensitizes your eyes. Sunglasses help protect them. They decrease the amount of light that gets to the eyes but it does little to affect glare. What exactly is glare? Well, one Internet source defines it as, “A sensation of brightness produced by



This too could be you if you went on an OYC cruise.

light within the visual field that is sufficiently greater than the light in the surroundings and/or to which the eyes are adapted that causes annoyance, discomfort, distraction, and/or loss in visual performance or visibility.” That is quite a mouth full but I would pay particular attention to the latter part of that definition; specifically “loss in visual performance or visibility”. Hence you want to protect against glare.

There are three types of lenses that protect your eyes against glare; polarized, mirrored, and photo chromatic. Polarized lenses act like window shades, mirrored lenses deflect glare, and photo chromatic lenses adjust to the intensity of light. Each is much better than plain tinted lenses that do little to help, but polarized are thought to be the better type.

In addition to glare, sunglasses should also protect against ultraviolet (UV) rays (recommended 99% of UV-A and 60% of UV-B) and infrared rays (recommended 75%). Exposure to UV can burn the eyes just as it burns your skin. Infrared rays create heat, which makes the eyes become tired.

From a medical standpoint, you can see how sunglasses can protect your eyes. As far as being considered a part of your safety gear, you might want to take a look at the *BoatUS* claims files. There is a good sum of claims resulting from glare and eye fatigue. One claim resulted in the death of a kayaker, and another the sinking of his boat. And there are other similar claims.

So, despite your reason for wearing them, the next time you go out and buy a pair, make sure they will protect your eyes while you're on the water. And you may want to pick up an extra pair or two, or three (depending on your past history of maintaining knowledge of the whereabouts of your glasses). Your eyes will thank you and you'll be better able to see those other boaters that aren't wearing their safety gear.

Looking From The Outside In – OYC – Labor Day

by Rob Cunningham

The recent purchase of our 2001 26' Chris Craft Constellation cruiser came with the usual – calls to friends, requests for advice, and the typical retort: “the two happiest days of a man’s life are” etc. etc. Little did we know that the return call from Bob “Godfather” Wilcox would introduce us to a band of well-heeled social misfits otherwise known as the “Occoquan Yacht Club.”

Preparing for the Cruise: Linda and I knew absolutely nothing about boating, having purchased (and sold within three weeks) our first vessel – a 19' Wellcraft bow rider – in July of this year. We had exercised virtually every other mid-life crisis recreational activity (big game hunting, world traveling, advanced firearms training, and the occasional fracas with our local homeowners’ association). Linda and I sought to expand our horizons by dabbling in what every blue-collar redneck dreams of – owning and operating a self-sufficient, comfortable nautical cruiser. We purchased the Chris Craft from a less than reputable boat broker in Richmond, who in his spare time surreptitiously repossesses all manner of self-mechanized/recreational vehicles.

Tickled with our purchase, we trailered the new boat to Woodbridge (to a pre-arranged rendezvous with Wilcox) to outfit the vessel with appropriate and necessary hardware and accessories. About \$900 later, and following the advice and input of Bob and his partner in crime, Tom “Professor” Coldwell, our new boat had all manner of their absolutely necessary boat paraphernalia: His and Her martini glasses, maps of the Antarctic Circle and contiguous regions, and a summary of the migratory patterns of the New Zealand titmouse. *Mama’s Happy*, now fully equipped, was prepared for her maiden voyage to Point Lookout with the Occoquan Yacht Club.

To Point Lookout: Following a minor repair (a disintegrated impeller), we left the Occoquan accompanied by the Wilcoxes and Coldwells in their own massive vessels, *Shalimar* and *Sanctuary*. We quickly discovered that our little cruiser had one distinct advantage over these lumbering hulks – speed. Cruising at about 25 knots (and following a sidebar to a beach for a shark tooth search to appease our less-than-enthusiastic 9-year-old daughter), we arrived at Point Lookout three hours later, assuming the pseudonym and boat name Gorensteins and *Shalom*, who had reservations but could not attend. This was made necessary by the fact that the Point Lookout dock mistress would not allow reservation transfers, hence the need to compromise our own morals and values by lying about our identities on the radio as we approached the marina – a fine example for our daughter, and otherwise apparently acceptable behavior for the Occoquan Yacht Club.



**The author and his First Mate aboard
Mama’s Happy.**

Upon arriving we were descended upon by hordes of Club members. As they were scantily clad and accessorized with Coronas, Michelob Ultras and the

ubiquitous golden retriever, Linda and I were wary, not knowing what to expect. Our fears and trepidations were immediately put at ease, as their collegiality and helpful assistance made us comfortable with our new surroundings and this new experience.

“So, you’re one of Bob Wilcox’s friends and a lawyer” observed one member. “We won’t hold that against you Bob needs lawyers like most people need air.”

It was in this vein that the weekend progressed and evolved into a truly delightful experience for all.

Harry “I’ve Got Too Much Time On My Hands” Croft made instant inroads with the Cunningham clan, as he instantly conveyed all of his fishing secrets and techniques to my wife, Linda, an avid, albeit inexperienced, fisherman. Further ingratiating himself, he provided instruction to our daughter, Cara, regarding the proper technique to scoop crabs from the piers and waters of Point Lookout Marina with a crabbing net.

Rick Sorrenti, proud owner of his 57’ Carver yacht, gave us a private tour of his monument to decadence and success, reminding Linda and me that the carpets were woven from the underbelly fur of the Tibetan yak.

A highlight of the weekend was dinner Saturday evening, as Linda and I joined the Rhodes and Wilcoxes for dinner at Spinnaker’s Restaurant. Ned “Who Would Name Their Kid Ned” Rhodes was the paragon of grace and gentility carefully ordering wine from an expansive wine list – ultimately choosing “Waterman’s Brew”, a Maryland Chardonnay of unknown vintage strongly resembling the exhaust effluent of a crabbing trawler moored nearby.

The cruise ended in dramatic fashion – Professor Coldwell infiltrated the team “Captain Hook” in the treasure hunt in a failed effort to commandeer and pilfer the final prize (gold, trinkets and other booty) in order to redeem the otherwise pathetic efforts of his own team. “If only I had been as sneaky and slippery as Wilcox, I would have gotten away with it” lamented Coldwell, as he was led away in shackles and at the point of a saber following his capture.

We departed that afternoon a little wiser and somewhat sunburned, pondering our imminent application to the club (and whether we should join in the first place). Our conclusion -- ABSOLUTELY! Where else could we meet and mingle with all that is wrong with this country: fossil fuel consuming, right-wing leaning, France-hating yachtsmen? BTW, we are now looking to upgrade our modest cruiser to something more appropriate – a twin Detroit diesel, three stateroom yacht – any recommendations would be welcome.

SOUTHERN BAY CRUISE (17-24 JULY)

By Gail Livingston

Great, Great, and Great! The first "Great" was the 4th of July Cruise to Port Kinsale coordinated by Fred Foss and Belinda Nichols. With 15 boats and over 25 OYCers, Fred and Belinda did a great job and with a host named "CMO", the Port Kinsale owner, all had a super weekend. The second "Great" was the clubs 10 boat flotilla to the PRYCA Float-in at Somers Cove in Crisfield, MD. We all attended seminars, made our way to all of the cocktail parties, represented the OYC especially well at the dinner/dance, but missed at winning the PRYCA Cup as a result of a few close but remarkable Team performances. New team for the 2006 competition! The third "Great" was the Southern Bay Cruise.

Before I report further, please note, the Gail Lynn II has been away from home port for seventeen days and my Captain has departed and returned three times and left me to ride out the brunt of tropical storm Cindy.

The crew of *Great Escape* has fought with a fish net and lost and then cruised to Somers Cove two weeks later. The Crew of *Plane To Sea* (the other boat) has done Port Kinsale, cruised to D.C. for 4th of July fireworks and then arrived at Crisfield aboard *Plane To Sea II* (the new boat). It was reported that *Plane To Sea II* was following the crew of *Soul Mate* on a heading to pass by the fixed target ship, OLD HANNIBAL. Lesson learned, in navigating, sighting on a South bound cargo ship seldom results in a track that is on course for your destination. Coordinating OYC cruises can be fun.

The Southern Bay Cruise officially began on Sunday, 17 July, departing Chrisfield enroute to Onancock, Virginia. Four boats cruised South in the Tangier Straight with 90 plus degree temperatures, 10-15 knot SE wind and a moderate sea. The Onancock channel is winding, narrow and scenic leadings to Onancock's Warf. Right on schedule, our fifth boat, *Time Away*, arrive an hour latter. Completely laid back except for the local boat launch ramp, this is a great place for a two night visit. More restaurants than people and more antique-art shops than restaurants or people. We dinned both evening at Bizzotto's Gallery Café, among designer leather purses and creative artistry...lost count of how many purses our leading shopper's, Peggy Johnson and Barb Luken, purchased. Al and Lynanne Jorsey's Sons-in-laws, Bob and Ute Dobbs, who live in Onancock, welcomed us as we arrived, and added to our cruise by bringing freshly done donuts from the local bakery (a must stop) and then Bob flew his private plane overhead taking pictures or escorting us out of

town...hope we see pictures soon!

The cruise arrived at The Tides Inn on Tuesday afternoon and stayed on the Lodge side. Enjoy the morning sunrise off the bow or going to the golf course with Bill Johnson and Joe. That ninety degree heat was still with us but the salt and fresh water pools kept the gang going and that we did. Golf in early morning for Bill and Joe, maintenance for Rudy and Al, kayaking for Diane and shopping for John, Rebecca, Peggy and Barbara and sightseeing for Tom. Nothing to do but, we played a group

sevensome of golf on the executive course, did a luncheon cruise on the 120' Motor Yacht *Miss Ann*, did an evening cocktail cruise aboard *Miss Ann*, had dinner in The Tides Inn's private room and at the Trick Dog Restaurant in the small town of Irvington. Hosted Cocktails and Hors de' Orves each evening and of course, the highlight was the 4th Annual Croquet Tournament won this year by Gail Livingston and Rudy Noori.

The OYC flotilla departed

The Tides on Saturday with a planned overnight at Port Kinsale enroute to home ports. It was a rough trip stretching North on the Bay but all made it and even picked up an extra vessel, *Daddy's Harley*, returning from Virginia Beach. *Great Escape*, Rebecca



An often seen sight when OYC'ers get together – smiles.



OYC'ers getting ready for the *Miss Ann*.

and John Heinze, hosted our final cocktail party full of conversation on running in 5-7-9 foot seas, depending on who was talking. The final activity was to determine the winner of the weeks "Poker Run". Congrats to Barbara Luken and thank you Barbara for wine service at dinner.

The big winner was, however, the Cruise Coordinators, Gail and Joe, as they were presented with a framed "Blue Heron" picture. Thank You to members of the 2005 OYC Southern Bay Cruise. Joe and I are enjoying the picture daily. Gail Lynn II arrived home after 25 Days. Thanks Again.

Occoquan Yacht Club Calendar

October 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Cookie Month National Roller Skating Month						1 Crabfest - Hoffmasters
2	3 Rosh Hashanah Begins	4	5	6	7 Cruise to White Point	8 Cruise to White Point
9 Cruise to White Point	10 Cruise to White Point Columbus	11 Bring Ur Teddy Bear to Work Day	12 Yon Kippur	13	14 Be Bald and Be Free Day	15 National Grouch Day
16	17 National Bosses Day	18	19 Evaluate Your Life Day	20	21	22 Mbrship Meeting at FYC
23	24 United Nations Day	25	26	27 Cranky Co-Workers Day	28	29
30 Haunted Refrigerator Night	31 Halloween					
November 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Fun With Fondue Month Aviation History Month		1	2 Election Day	3 Cliché Day	4	5 Sadie Hawkins Day
6	7 Ginger-bread House Day	8	9 National Young Readers Day	10	11 Cruise to Gangplank Veterans Day	12 Cruise to Gangplank
13 Cruise to Gangplank	14 National Teddy Bear Day	15	16	17 Great American Smoke Out	18	19 Have a Bad Day Day
20 Name Your PC Day	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25 Flossing Day	26 Santa Cruise to Occoquan
27	28	29	30 Stay Home Cause Ur Well Day			

Arr, Whar Be Me Boat? Avast Matey, Read at Ye Own Risk. *Inside . . .*

Labor Day was Laboriously Fun x 2,

A Look From The Outside In, Is It Worth It?,

Oh No! Not the "W" word,

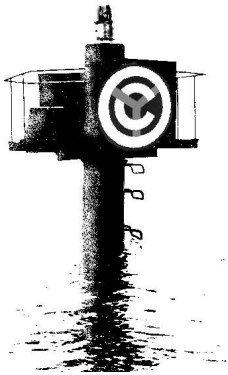
And Much More.

November 26
Santa Cruise
on the Occoquan
Walt Cheatham

November 11-13
Cruise to
Gangplank
Ned Rhodes

October 22
OYC Mbrship Mtg
Fairfax Ycht Club
Sue Thompson

October 7-10
Cruise to White
Point
Arleen Rhodes



The Daymarker

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

Change Service Requested