

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

Sue Thompson

ARE YOU FRESH (UP TO DATE)

Thanks go out to the Wilcox's for a great party. Even though the wind was howling, the power out (they have a generator) and the Redskins lost, we still had a great time. As always we had great food, drink and good friends. Now for those of you who weren't there, can you tell me how many OYCers fit in Bob Wilcox shower? On a more serious note...

I consider myself an educated person when it comes to traveling around town. When you walk on the road you walk facing traffic. When you are on a bicycle you ride with traffic. When you are driving you hold the steering wheel with your hands in the 10 and 2 o'clock positions. But wait...the Virginia drivers test says that you place your hands in the 8 and 4 o'clock positions! How could this be? Well, the simple answer is, times change and so do rules and regulations.

Well, how about boating? Yes, believe it or not, these rules change too. Every year new rules regulating the operation of boats are proposed and passed in state legislatures. So, my question to you is, how current are you in

operating your boat according to the laws of the road (or waterway in this case)? I'm sure every conscientious boater wants to ensure they are operating their boats safely and within the law. But how can you be sure? Well, what better way then to take a safe boating course. Sure you've taken one in the past. Steve says he has talked to people who took their last course over 20 years ago. Well, as I said above, times change. And so does technology,

one of the major reasons rules and laws change. So, why not take this down time over the winter months to enroll in a safe boating course. You'll keep that "let's go boating" feeling fresh. But, more importantly, you may learn a thing or two that will make this upcoming boating season safer for you, your

family and friends, and those other boaters out on the water.

As the years pass I find more and more young people on the river. To this younger group I would like to ask if they knew that if they were born after July 1, 1972, they are required to show proof of taking a boating safety course if operating in Maryland waters (basically the entire waters of the Potomac). The same is true if you are 14 or 15 years old and operating a personal watercraft in Virginia waters.

(Cont.)



After the Redskin's loss, OYC members hit the showers – 37 made it while others waited.



Vice Commodore

Joe Livingston

(Commodore's Article – Cont.)

HELLO ALL MEMBERS

Since November and December we have all spoken of laying-up our boats for the winter and looking for Spring to start the 2006 boating season. Well let me tell you, my 2006 boating season started on January 6th as Gail and I joined the Jorsey's on a trip down the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) to Daytona, Florida. What a great experience to test and reinforce boat operations, navigation, VHF radio protocol and piloting. The trip was about 975 statute miles, took eleven days including 2 days of weather delays, and should be done *once in a lifetime* unless on a 3 month cruise...any interest for next summer.

In last months *Daymarker* I identified three tasks that would receive attention. The third task was Safety Training. Your Board discussed training at our last meeting and recommended continued emphasis on promoting safe boating. To that end, I will be promoting the PRYCA's BOATR Safety Program and starting scheduled events to complete standards of the program in March. The program and performance standards will be discussed at the PLANFEST on Saturday, 4th of February.



Communicate your interest in Club events. From now until early February your Board will be setting the schedule for 2006 events. Call me at 540-373-9203 or e-mail at joseph.livingston@verizon.net with your recommended cruise destinations, your interest in serving as a cruise coordinator and/or interest in safety training. Your Club still needs a Fleet Captain at John Beach Marina. Also, if you **are not** receiving e-mail broadcasts to members, please verify and correct your e-mail address with our Membership Chair, Belinda Nichols, at 703-534-7009.

Upcoming events:

February 4 (Sat)–Planfest at Oasis Restaurant/Joe Livingston @ 540-373-9203.

February 12 (Sun)–Brunch at Ft. Belvoir OC/Rick Sorrenti @ 703-590-6724.

February 17 (Fri-Sun)–Land Cruise to Tides/Gail Livingston @ 540-373-9203. Note: Event may be cancelled...I'll keep you informed.

March 25 (Sat)–General Membership Mtg at Fairfax Yacht Club/Joe Livingston @ 540-373-9203.

Cheers, Joe

Boating fatalities continue to decline across the United States. But with the continued increase in the number of boats on the water, it will become harder to stay in your lane and obey those traffic signals as it were. Check out www.cgaux.org and www.usps.org for boating courses near you. You can also find on-line courses at www.boat-ed.com, www.boatsafe.com, and at boatus.com, to name a few.

And now for my promised recipe of the month. I know most of you have probably had this and I hope you make it at home and continue to enjoy it.

Okra Wraps

- Rectangle shaped ham slices
- Chive and onion tub cream cheese, softened
- Whole pickled okra, drained

Cut off ends of okra. Thinly spread cream cheese on ham slice. Place as many okra pickles as necessary to go across the ham slice. Roll tightly. Chill rolls at least an hour until cream cheese sets. Slice rolls in approximately 3/4 inch slices.

Till next time I'm Forever Dreamin'



Not bad lighting considering there was no electricity for miles. Not a bad kitchen layout either.
(Photo from the Wintertime Blues party at the Wilcox's.)

The Daymarker
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Steve Thompson, Editor
Sue Thompson, Editor's Advisor on Worldly Matters
Belinda Nichols, 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

Allen Jorsey

BATTERY FACTS

Whereas *Plane to Sea* has two (2) twelve volt batteries and *Plans to Sea II* has a total of seven (7) batteries I thought I would list some battery facts.

Plane to Sea II uses six volt batteries rather than one twelve volt battery per engine, and inverter/charger system, and a twelve volt for the gen set. The pro is that you get more amps and a lighter battery when replacing them. The con is that the maintenance is higher and checking the water level is very important.

Some interesting facts:

1. A brand new battery will have a capacity of about 5-10 percent less than the rated capacity and will not reach full capacity until cycles 10 to 30 times.
2. Batteries should be watered after charging when the plates are exposed with just enough water to cover the plates. At full charge fill to 1/4 to 1/2 inch below the full hole.
3. If you have multiple batteries connected in series or parallel, replace both at the same time with the same type and size as an old battery will pull down the new battery, which has less cycles.
4. Leave vent caps on when charging to prevent splashing and water loss from bubbling.
5. New batteries should be fully charged before use to equalize them.
6. Inactivity can be very harmful to a battery. Lead acid batteries do not have a memory and should not be fully discharged as this leads to early battery failure.
7. When storing a battery store it in a cool dry place.

In closing, the old myth about storing batteries on concrete is just that—a myth. That dates back 100 years when cases were made of wood and asphalt and acid would leak and cause a slow discharging circuit through the acid soaked and conductive floor.

Later, Allen



2005 OYC Commodore's Cup Awardee.

Change of Watch Photos omitted from January's issue of *The Daymarker* due to space limitations.



2005 OYC Bent Prop Awardee (and his First Mate)



2005 OYC Golden Snorkel Awardee

Ready, Aim, Shoot!!

by Sue Thompson

We are getting ready for our March 25th General Membership Meeting and the board wants to give you plenty of time to prepare for our annual photo contest. Prizes will be awarded in 5 categories: animal, landscape, people, general boating, and a brand new category – Photoshop art.

The first four categories are self explanatory but the 5th is new and exciting. This category is for all you digital camera fans. This can be any photo you have created using photoshop or similar programs. Use your imagination, but remember they must be done in good taste and have something to do with boating. Please bring your pictures to share. All photos will be returned, however we would appreciate copies for the historian. Everyone will be voting for the winners. There's more on the Membership Meeting later in this issue.



Treasurer

Trish Mattke

WINTER BLAHS

Winter Blahs – A period as far from boating as the calendar gets. Late January and through February we dream of cruises long past and imagine good times to come. Even with a sulky winter of half cold days, the boats sit awkwardly on their blocks, or rock dismally in grey brown water, suffering through a season meant for skiing, not tubing. With the exception of the fortunate few chosen by Santa for a new boat, the rest of us have little to do but turn the pages of the calendar, write checks for storage, and put off the taxes until it's time to panic...then, suddenly it's over. The sun comes north and we start carting supplies back to the marina.

Then it hits us. We've missed an opportunity, a calm season after Christmas when we could have dieted and exercised to get ready for the new season; could have read that manual and figured how to actually use the navigation gear we had to have but never really understood. And maybe most importantly, in the morose days of winter twilight, we forget to share our enthusiasm for the water with friends and neighbors, missing the chance to recruit new members into the tribe known to throw money into magical bottomless pits called rivers and bays. In short, cheer yourselves up by recruiting new OYC members. After all eating, and drinking and dodging logs is more fun with friends.

So rally, bring in the recruits, get them to pay dues and your treasurer will get that new boat, just like the search committee promised. Oh, and by the way, the check book still balances.

Signed your Treasurer, a "Bat Too"

Did you know . . . Buckets and Suds . . .

You can permanently eliminate foul airborne and imbedded surface odors caused by bilge or holding tanks, fish guts, and the like with AtmosKlear's odorless odor eliminator. It's biodegradable and nontoxic. A 16-ounce bottle retails at Target and other stores nationwide for less than \$8.

Taken from the February 2006 issue of Power & Motoryacht.

[Neither *The Daymarker* nor the Occoquan Yacht Club are inferring endorsement of this product, or its place of sale, with the publishing of this notice.]

OYC 2006 PLANFEST

It's that time of the year again to plan our upcoming boating season. Since the Commodore's new boat will be arriving in February she is anxious to get the boating season started. This is an event for everyone. Please come and bring your suggestions for a weekend, week long, or land event. All suggestions are appreciated.



**Place: Oasis on the Occoquan
(formerly Gecko's)**

Date: Saturday, 4 February

Time: 2 – 5 pm

Munchies will be provided by your board. Why not come out and have some fun. See you there.

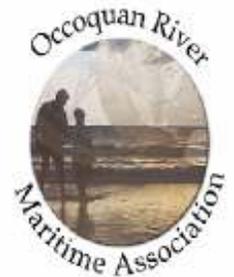


The Occoquan River Maritime Association

by Sue Thompson

The Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) is a group of interested parties (businesses, Marinas, Yacht clubs, etc.) whose interest is the Occoquan River. Some of their goals are to preserve and enhance the use of the Occoquan River as well as its beauty and environmental vitality. They also coordinate events like the Occoquan River Annual Blessing of the Fleet. One of the greatest accomplishments of ORMA was in successfully getting the funding to dredge the Occoquan. Without ORMA this would not have been possible. All of this cannot be done without the help of volunteers.

ORMA was founded by one of OYC's members, Jim Ball, and is now being headed by our own Chris Webster. But they need some help. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. So why not check out the ORMA website (go to occoquanyachtclub.org and click on OYC links) and find out more. ORMA is planning the 2006 Blessing of the Fleet and needs your help. If you are interested in helping ORMA in any form, contact Chris Webster (webstercw@msn.com) or any board member for more info.





Secretary

Liz Kalweit

FOR THE BEGINNER

[Editor's Note: Liz had so much fun writing to Elusive OYC Member Ken Hawes (*Marine Fox*) in last month's *Daymarker*, being a professional correspondence writer and all, so she decided to just write to Ken every month to see if she can coax him out to more club events. Ken's okay with this, but we'll see if he actually shows up. If nothing else, maybe we'll see other elusive OYCers at future OYC events. In case you haven't noticed, you're noticed, you're missed, and you're missing out on the fun!]

Dear Ken:

Thanks for joining me and Captain Andrew for the Scottish Walk in Alexandria. That was a great idea! It's nice to enjoy the company of OYC friends outside of what I consider our natural habitat – on board!

I hope you made it to the Planfest, and you are on board for a few cruises. I know you made it to one of our cruises, to Spring Cove Marina. Ned Rhodes renamed that cruise "The Tiki Bar Cruise" because that's everyone's destination, once they check in. We coordinated that cruise for the past two years. It's a crazy trip! One of our Hampton's Landing neighbors, Pete, who is also an OYC member, joined us for that cruise, and I don't think we saw him again for three days! I think he was at the Tiki Bar the entire time! I checked with Pete, he says he can't remember, so I rest my case.



One each Tiki Bar

Speaking of Pete, and Hampton's Landing, Captain Andrew gave me a bright yellow kayak for Christmas a few years ago (he named it *LittleBitz*, after our *LizzieBitz Too*, with the same lettering, right down to the shamrock), then I found out you had a kayak, then Pete bought a kayak. Hamp tried out my kayak enjoyed it so much that she and Bill bought one. I'm thinking that we need to plan some un-official OYC trips to do some paddling around. I know other OYCers have seen how much fun we have with it, and would like the chance to test the water (Ilona! You need a kayak!). What do you think, Kenster? I just might put you in charge of our itinerary! Mattawoman, White Point, and The Ghost Ships of Mallows Bay all get my vote.



Speaking of OYC off-shoot trips, we have bikers amongst us (Maury and Patty, listen!)! Captain Andrew

actually has two touring bikes. His grand old gal is a 1988 Venture. I call her The Motivator, because it motivated him to adopt his new baby, the bike of his dreams, a 25th-anniversary edition Honda Goldwing. Trips out to Skyline Drive in the springtime would be seriously cool.

OYCers, if kayaking/biking adventures are up your alley, let me know! (703) 404-0171, or email at LizzieBitzToo@aol.com.

Ken, before I sign off, I have to admit I might have been a little bit hard on you about your excuses for missing club events. Maybe you really weren't lying about opting out of club events because your two cats were due for a mani and a pedi. We adopted a four-year-old rescue cat, Gracie, in September, and she is scheduled for regular six-week Saturday morning Furminator treatments for the rest of the year. For such little things, they sure are high maintenance!

Your friend, Liz

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque, 2/1	Meimei Tidrow, 2/2
Maria Gibbons, 2/9	Rick Sorrenti, 2/9
Pamela McLeod, 2/13	Paul Koenig, 2/14
Ruth Eisenman, 2/16	Belinda Nichols, 2/21
Rudy Nurrudin, 2/21	Gigi Hanna, 2/28
Jack Striker, 2/28	

Anniversaries

Lin and Clete Shultz, 2/14
Sue and Steve Thompson, 2/16

Welcome New Members

Sorry, it was a slow month for the Membership Chair; there were no new members joining the club in January 2006.

St. Valentine's Sunday Brunch

by Rick Sorrenti

Teresa, Jillian, and I will be hosting our 6th annual St. Valentine's Sunday Brunch on February 12 at the Fort Belvoir Officers' Club. Due to the nature of this event, firm reservations must be provided. You can be assured that the selection of food and drink will be vast and you will not be disappointed. If you would like to attend please send me an e-mail at sorrenti_rick@bah.com. This has been a very popular event in the past so get your reservations to me immediately. We will more than likely be capped at 40 people, so don't delay!!

[Editor's Note: While I know it is past the deadline to notify Rick, if you REALLY, REALLY want to go, perhaps Rick can make a last minute change to the roster. PLEASE don't shoot me Rick.]

The General Membership Meeting

by Sue Thompson

Occoquan Yacht Club's bi-annual General Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2006, from 2:00pm – 5:00pm at the Fairfax Yacht Club. At this meeting we will be reviewing the 2006 OYC cruise schedule, discussing a member directory, and reacquainting ourselves with the PRYCA Boatr program as well as with fellow members in the true OYC manner, with food, drink, and tall tales of last seasons boating adventures. We will also be having our annual photo contest. See separate article on this fun and exciting contest. Prizes will be awarded. As in the past everyone will be voting for the winners. The meeting will be a Potluck and BYOB. Please bring the following: A-E – Salad, F-K – Main Dish, L-S – Dessert, and T-Z – Appetizer. The club will supply soda and water

[Editor's Note: Hopefully the Commodore won't need to improvise as she did last year (check out the April issue of The Daymarker in the archives of the OYC web site www.occoquanyachtclub.org.)]

Did you know . . .

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this...)

The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

How About ...

Question. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

Answer. Honey

More Photos from the 2005 OYC Change of Watch



Congrats! A job well done.



Out with the Old (Sorry Rick) and in with the New.



And then there was the dancing.



I guess Rick thought his board had a little cleaning up to do.

Occoquan Yacht Club

February 2006

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
National Cherry Pie Month Return Shopping Carts to Supermarket Month			1	2 Ground Hog Day	3 Wear Red Day	4 OYC Planfest at Oasis
5 Super Bowl Sunday	6	7 Dump Ur Significant Jerk Day	8	9	10	11 **
12 Brunch - Fort Belvoir Ofcr's Club	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 National Gum Drop Day	16	17 Land Cruise to Tides Inn	18 Land Cruise to Tides Inn
19 Land Cruise to Tides Inn	20 Presidents' Day	21	22	23 National Chili Day	24	25
26	27	28 Mardi Gras				

** Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day

March 2006

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
National Frozen Food Month National Noodle Month			1 Ash Wednesday	2	3 **	4 Hug a GI Day
5	6		8 Int'l Women's Day	9 Panic Day	10	11
12 Girl Scout Day	13	14	15 Ides of March	16 Lips Appreciation Day	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 National Quilting Day
19	20 Act Happy Day	21	22 National Common Courtesy Day	23		25 General Membership Meeting
26 ***	27 Kite Flying Day	28	29	30 Mule Day	31	

** What if Cats & Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs? Day

*** Make Up Your Own Holiday Day



The Daymarker

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

Change Service Requested

*Is it Winter Yet? Who Cares,
Let's Just Continue to Party.
Inside . . .*

How Many People Does It Take To ...

Your Board's Club Goals for 2006,

Batteries ... Now What Are They Supposed

To Be Good For?,

And Much More.

February 4
OYC Plantfest
At Oasis
Joe Livingston

February 12
Brunch at Fort
Belvoir Oycrs' Club
Rick Sorrenti

February 17-19
Land Cruise to
Tides Inn
Gail Livingston

March 25
OYC General
Membership
Meeting at
Fairfax YC
Joe Livingston