



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB
P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125
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Commodore's Comments

Joe Livingston

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US

As I begin to prepare this "Daymarker" input, I am thinking of how busy our lives can be, but also of how fortunate we are to be members of a yacht club (some more than one), to enjoy on the water cruising and to have great friends enjoying boating. Give "THANKS" for our blessings as we spent time with family and friends at Thanksgiving and as we go forward into the Holiday Season.

Speaking of giving thanks. I want to thank our Daymarker Editor, Steve Thompson, for his continuing individual efforts in preparing our monthly newsletter. He sez "he don't do but a little editing in putting it together", but it sure

comes out great on the first of each month. The next time you see Steve, give him a pat on the back and a big thank you.

The Gail Lynn II missed the 'Santa Cruise to Occoquan' for the first time in six years as her crew spent Thanksgiving in Albuquerque (you know ... looking for a new boat). We also missed the 'Alexandria Parade of Lights' on the 1st of December ... but you probably can still do a land cruise to Old Town and/or the Washington Channel to enjoy the parade. Be assured, the crew of the Gail Lynn II will be back in time for the Occoquan Yacht Club's Holiday Party & Change of Watch on Saturday, the 8th of December. Your Commodore will buy a round of drinks for



Happy Holidays !!

those attending their first event of the boating season.

Recently reported, the Commandant of the Coast Guard is no longer advocating boat licensing for the recreational boater. However, the issue may still come up as the NTSB has recently indicated it would ask the states to implement boat operator licensing. Keep an eye out. Most recreational boaters believe licensing serves no purpose and the obvious and preferred alternative is Mandatory Boating Education (MBE). Any comments from our membership?

Your board will begin planning for next years cruises and land events in December. Please email me or VC Harry Croft, if you have an event or activity that you would like on the schedule. The normal process is to plan a tentative schedule in late December, conduct the Plan Fest in early February and firm the schedule shortly thereafter. I will ask the VC to put the schedule together and distribute to you, our membership.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13. All members are welcome to attend and encouraged to forward items for board consideration. Please notify me of your plans and to get the location.

Cheers, Joe.





Vice Commodore

Harry Croft



Rear Commodore

Allen Jorsey

URGENT SAFETY MESSAGE - SAFE BOATR PROGRAM

Urgent Safety Message - Prevent Hearing Loss

I have first hand experience on the dangers of hearing loss from boating. Those big 454 Crusader engines must generate an ear splitting, OSHA violating, EPA pollution level of unparalleled proportions. I know this to be true from an actual field test of my hearing.

At one of the most recent OYC board meetings, I was just sitting there minding my own business when all of a sudden I was elected to be the interim Vice Commodore. I was sure that they were talking about "vice" and since I was naturally interested, I raised my hand indicating that I wanted more detail, not THE DETAIL. Wham!! The next thing I knew Joe the Commodore was thanking me for stepping forward in a time of need when all I wanted was a few more tasty details about vice.

I'm thinking earmuffs might help reduce the impact of engine noise, but they might look funny or geeky. Suggestions are welcome! Next month, another boating safety message, "The Perils of Attention Deficit Disorder" or "How not to run aground."



Safe BoatR Training

On December 15th at 0830 at the Aquia Yacht Club, a four hour training session will be held for Safe BoatR certification as a Performance Evaluator. This PRYCA sponsored training provides hands on application of essential boating skills that will improve your safety and skills on the water. Upon completion, you will be able to provide further certification of other boaters. This is an extension of the Coast Guard basic safety training. For more information contact Harald Seiler at fselectric@mycomcast.com.

The Daymarker
Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Steve Thompson, Editor
Sue Thompson, Editor's Advisor on Worldly Matters
Vacant, 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

BUOYANCY

An ad about life vest buoyancy got me to look into what buoyancy means. On my commute back and forth to work I found some answers as to what 35 pounds of buoyancy means. A 35 pound buoyant apparatus can support 35 pounds of a very dense materiel like lead from sinking to the bottom. So how does this hold up a 200 pound person? The answer is that a 200 pound man only weighs 10 pounds in water. How can that be? Well a 200 pound man is about 80 percent water which equals 160 pounds of his total weight on land.

A 200 pound man is also approximately 15 percent fat which equal 30 pounds of his total weight on land. Fat is lighter than water so it floats. So the 200 pound man's weight in water is equal to 10 pounds (200-190=10). So a floatation device with 35 pounds of buoyancy is more than enough to keep the average human afloat. Note: That 200 pound man will sink to the bottom if the floatation device is in a bag under the helm.

Plane to Sea, back to plane

[Editor's Note: I wonder if Al took into account the differences in buoyancy between salt and fresh water.]

Recipe of the Month

by IPC Sue Thompson

The chill is in the air and most of our boats are now winterized. Alcohol or not this one is sure to warm you up. Ask anyone on the Hardy Soul's Cruise they'll tell you it was enjoyed by all.

Cranberry Apple Hot Toddies

- 3 tangerines
- ½ cup whole cloves
- 3 quarts cranberry apple juice
- 3 cups dark rum or to taste

Stud tangerines with cloves and cut into ¼ inch thick slices. In a large saucepan simmer juice and tangerine slices covered for 5 minutes and then stir in rum.

Serve in heat proof glasses with a tangerine round in each glass.

[Editor's Note: If you really want to stay warm this winter OYC is trying to help. Check out another hot beverage recipe submitted by Pat Croft in her article later on in this issue of *The DayMarker*.]

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Eric Belcher, 12/3 Dave Dehanas, 12/8
Mike Robins, 12/13 Scot Casteel, 12/16
Frank Machi, 12/20 Harry Croft, 12/21
Debbie Kent, 12/22 Sue Thompson, 12/26

Anniversaries

Jean and Gordon Goodnough, 12/1
Arleen and Ned Rhodes, 12/21

Welcome New Members

Eric and Carol Belcher of Alexandria. They keep their boat, *Time 2 Play*, at Fairfax Yacht Club.

Hardy Souls Cruise to Old Town Alexandria – November 9 - 11

by Ned Rhodes

Nine boats, twenty-one people, and six dogs earned the title of Hardy Souls on this year's cruise to Old Town over Veteran's Day Weekend. The group consisted of the Rhodeses on *Impulse*, the Sorrentis on *Sea Duck Too*, the Thompsons on *Forever Dreamin'*, the Nalevankos on *Sea Nile*, the Harris on *Darn Tootin'*, Commodore and Mrs. Livingston on *Gail Lynn*, the Freedmans on *Taking it to the Sea*, the Robbins on *Robins Nest*, and the Worcesters on their new *Indian Summer*.

All were present and accounted for at the Friday night kickoff cocktail party after a slightly rainy ride up the calm Potomac from Occoquan. Commodore Livingston met me at the dock with his special bacon rum toddy that set the theme for the weekend. All were shocked when I actually drank it. Continuing on with the theme, he also presented me with a package of bacon and egg band-aids that should come in handy for those food-related injuries.

The Saturday morning dog walk was well attended with special guests Sally and Betty. We walked north and visited the normal sights such as the "Drooler", canal hysterical marker, power plant outflow and "special tree." Around 9:30, we all gathered at the A/B T-pier for a communal brunch consisting of eggs, plenty of bacon, special sausage and peppers dish as well as tomato (Bloodies) and orange juice (Mimosas). Unlike last year when we sat in shorts and enjoyed the morning, we all decided that it was "damn cold" and decided we needed to start shopping to warm up.



Bandages and Sea Rays – just like bacon and eggs.

We all gathered at 1700 for cocktails on *Sea Duck Too*, where we were joined by the Heinzes, Mattkes, Hollingsworths, and Lynns. All veterans present were identified and thanked for their service to their country and we recalled that Veteran's Day was originally established as Armistice Day in 1926 to celebrate the ending of World War I hostilities which occurred at 11 am, November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month).

Dinner reports the next day ranged from so-so to excellent. We ate at the Tai restaurant at the end of King Street and had a great meal.

Some in our group detected a little "heat" in their food and had to order a substitute meal. Dessert and after dinner drinks rounded out the evening.

There was definitely frost on the pumpkin for the Sunday morning dog walk that had a record attendance. Representing the humans were Ned, Arleen, Rick, Teresa, Steve and Sally. The canines were represented by veterans Abby, Corky and Nick as well as rookies Mr. Wilson and Jaxom. Our route was south to Jones Point to view the first boundary stone that sits on the shoreline under Jones Point lighthouse. It was used to mark the boundary of the District of Columbia and placed in 1791. A quick visit to the river shore allowed certain dogs to swim and a unique perspective on how the Wilson Bridge construction is coming as well as the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center across the river.

At 10 am we all walked up to Overwoods for brunch and a shower. Actually

Ken Harris was the only one to get a shower, which was cleaned up in no time and allowed us to concentrate on their large buffet that had a little of everything, from fruit to salads to salmon and included lots of bacon.

After some additional emergency shopping, the group departed at staggered intervals with the Thompsons having the only incident of the weekend that involved a bass boat that literally cut across their bow. The details were discussed at our post-cruise cocktail party aboard *Impulse* upon our return to home port. We all agreed that we had had a good time and that we were sorry to see another season end.



The Boundary Stone Marker



Cold but Happy.



**The new Wilson Bridge taking on a new form.
(Photos by Ned Rhodes, photo editing by Tom Coldwell.)**



Secretary

Pat Croft

WARMING THE DARK SEASON

It's that time of year when many boats have been winterized, shrink-wrapped, and put on the hard for the "dark season". Likewise, the Margaritaville machines may have been consigned to the back of the storage shelf, left to hibernate until the weather dictates the need for icy beverages again. In the interim, a warming, alternative brew to serve when friends gather to console each other with reassurances that the boating season will, indeed, return, is Hot Mulled Wine.



There are many recipes for this concoction, with slight variations in proportions and spices. The important thing to remember when mulling wine is that expensive, fine wine is not required; the sugar, water, spices, and the heating process will mask the nuances of any pricey vintage. You may as well opt for the cheapest burgundy you can find, preferably in large quantities.

Hot Mulled Wine

- 1 gallon burgundy or claret wine
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 cups water
- 2 teaspoons lemon zest
- 36 whole cloves, tied loosely in cheesecloth
- 10 whole cinnamon sticks
- 1 navel orange, thinly sliced

Combine sugar, water, lemon zest, clove bundle, and cinnamon sticks in a large pot; boil gently for 15

minutes. Add wine; reduce heat to simmer. Add orange slices to float on top, and continue heating, keeping the wine below the boiling point. Serve.

The mulled wine can be transferred to a crock pot on low heat to keep it at serving temperature for several hours.

If necessary, the Hot Mulled Wine can be transferred to a large thermal container and carried to the docks at OHM on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, to be served to festively attired OYC boaters waiting to escort Santa to Occoquan. CHEERS!



**A Hardy Soul Ready for a
Hardy Food Fight.**

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

Trish Mattke

"Dining In" a.k.a. Holiday Party!!!!

Thirty years ago, my Captain was Officer in Charge of the monthly Royal Air Force No. 20 Squadron "Dining In" – formal monthly dinner parties for the Royal Air Force in Germany. Was my Captain really in charge? (How he got assigned to that post is another article.) Could there be similarities between what happened in Germany over 30 years ago and what is about to happen on December 8th at Ft Belvoir?

O.K. let's talk about our OYC Holiday Party and the secret power behind the Treasurer's throne.

To move or not to move.....that is the question.



When I asked him all he could talk about was flaming deserts, flaming main courses, eventually flaming salads. All very nice, but what we want to achieve is less spectacular and less likely to burn down the Club. We are in the OYC to meet and enjoy the company of boaters. But what do we usually do? We settle comfortably into familiar groups, and miss the opportunity to meet new people. Now how are we going to change that for the better? I'm looking for suggestions here. Any suggestions?

Well, we found one in *The Washington Post* article on Thursday, November 16th, titled, "For the Pleasure of Their company." Emily and Mitch Willey, successful Innkeepers in Charlottesville, recommend sit-down dinners, "but what we like to do halfway into the meal is switch places. We ask people to unfold their place card and flip it over, then they move around the table(s) and find their new dinner partners. This way everyone meets more people." It involves some shuffling about with glasses and napkins, but we are boaters and can meet the challenge.

For advice I consulted the old Captain. He was going on and on about the mess a flaming pig made when the staff dropped it as they carried it into the hall. No, no, what we need is a seating plan, a mobile plan that will gracefully mix our membership and produce improved conversations and a memorable evening for all. "Oh," he said. "I can do a seating chart." And so he will.

See you all there (somewhere).

Your Treasurer,
One of Two Bats

What Will They Think of Next!

by Steve Thompson

Just when you thought you were getting the best they had to offer, marine manufacturers are adopting the latest and greatest yet again. And this time, you don't have to own a mega-yacht to take advantage of the development. This time we are talking about stern drives; yes, you heard right, the developers have been listening to smaller boat owners and have taken action.

Everyone has heard of the IPS and Zeus marine drive systems. Originally designed for use with diesel engines they are now being adopted for use with gas engines. But wait ... these drives only apply to inboard engine installations. There are a whole lot of people out there driving boats with other types of drive installations.

Well, now the stern-drive boater can have his/her cake and eat it too, just like the big boys (girls). That's right; *Axius* is on its way to a boat manufacturer near you. Until now dual stern drive units were typically physically connected to each other, usually with a metal bar, to ensure that both engines turned at the same rate and in the same direction. *Axius* now allows the drives to turn in opposite directions. (Unfortunately, you have to have two engines for the system to work. A single stern-drive unit can not point to two directions at the same time. It has something to do with the laws of physics. Or was it aerobics?) And just like IPS and Zeus, when doing so with opposite thrust, the boat is able to move sideways. This, of course, will require the installation of a joystick control similar to the other systems.



Just think of it, a boat so simple to drive that your six-year old can park it (after all, they probably have more time behind a joystick than you do). The only problem with this new development is it can only be found on new boats. So Captains, save those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Start rehearsing all those reasons to give to the First Mate as to

why an upgrade is imperative. Hint ... think of the increased safety; no more reasons for swearing; fewer repair bills from those mistakes you made using your boat to play pinball at your slip; and a newer boat means newer creature comforts (did somebody say vacu-flush).

Axius is a development for MerCruiser and Cummins MerCruiser Diesel marine engines. I would think that other marine engine manufacturers will be coming out with their versions soon.

So for all those First Mates out there, if you should see your Captain napping with a smile on their face, don't think the worse. The Captain is probably only thinking about replacing the boat, not you. Can you say "Boat Show!"

*For more info on the PRYCA Change of Watch
contact Harry Croft*



Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association



*You are cordially invited to the
Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association
2007 Change of Watch Dinner-Dance
Saturday, January 19, 2008*

Place: Hilton Springfield
6550 Loisdale Road
Springfield, VA
(703) 971-8900

Program: 1800 to 1900 - Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres
1900 to 2000 - Dinner
2000 to 2030 - Change of Watch

Dress: Winter Uniform or Business Suit
(Black Tie Optional)

Cost: \$65.00 per person, or \$125.00 per couple if
mailed to PRYCA and
postmarked **before** December 31, 2007

\$70.00 per person if mailed to PRYCA and
postmarked **after** January 1, 2008

Parking: Complimentary

Menu
Far Eastern Salad Assorted Rolls and Butter
Oven Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes Roasted Vegetables
Beefeater - Slow Cooked Prime Rib of Beef Accented with Moselle Creamy Horseradish Sauce
Chesapeake Crab Cakes – Delicately Seasoned Lump Crab Cakes, Lightly Sautéed and Served with Golden Pepper Coulis
Chef's Mint Chocolate Tartufo Coffee and International/Herbal Teas
Vegetarian Meal Available by Request

Make your reservations now through your Club's Delegate or mail to: Frank Erwetowski, PRYCA Treasurer, 11420 Mohawk Court, Swan Point, MD 20645. Telephone: 301-259-2523; e-mail: fpge@comcast.net.

Reservations with full payment must be received by PRYCA no later than Friday, January 4, 2008. Cancellations after January 12, 2008, are non-refundable. Acceptance of late reservations will be subject to the availability of space.

There will be a block of rooms reserved at the hotel. Cutoff date for reservations in the block is January 12, 2008. If you plan to stay for the night, make your reservations directly with the Hilton Springfield Hotel, telephone (703) 971-8900. Room rate is \$109.00 plus State and local taxes (10.5%).

Reservation Information	
Name: _____	Title: _____
Guest: _____	Title: _____
Yacht Club: _____	
Dinner Selection:	
# Prime Rib _____	# Crab Cakes _____ # Vegetarian _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____	

Member National Boating Federation

Occoquan Yacht Club

<i>December 2007</i>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month National Tie Month						1 Parade of Lights - Alexandria
2 Parade of Lights - DC Channel	3 Special Kids Day	4	5 Bathtub Party Day	6 Coats & Toys for Kids Day	7 * National Cotton Candy Day	8 OYC Holiday Party
9	10 Human Rights Day	11 UNICEF Birthday	12 Poinsettia Day	13 Day of The Horse	14	15 Safe BoatR Pgm at Aquia YC
16	17 Wright Brothers Day	18	19 Underdog Day	20 Mudd Day	21 Hanukkah	22
23	24	25 ** Christmas	26 National Whiner's Day	27	28 National Chocolate Day	29 Tick Tock Day
30	31 Make Up Your Mind Day	* National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ** A'Phabet Day or No "L" Day				
<i>January 2008</i>						
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
National Hot Tea Month		1 New Years Day	2 55 MPH Speed Limit Day	3	4 Trivia Day	5 Fruitcake Toss Day
6	7 Thank God It's Monday Day	8 Show and Tell Day at Work	9	10	11	12 Penguin Awareness Day
13	14 Organize Your Home Day	15 Humanitarian Day	16 Nothing Day	17 Customer Service Day	18 Winnie the Pooh Day	19 PRYCA Change of Watch
20 World Religion Day	21 * Martin Luther King Day	22 ** Celebration of Life Day	23 National Pie Day	24 National Compliment Day	25 Fun at Work Day	26 National Peanut Brittle Day
27 Holocaust Memorial Day	28 Bubble Wrap Appreciation	29 Free Thinkers Day	30 National Write to Congress Day	31		
* National Hugging Day and Squirrel Appreciation Day ** Rid the World of Fad Diets and Gimmicks Day						

Celebrating Boating, and The Holidays

Inside . . .

Marine Propulsion, Something New-Again,

Buoyancy, Need One Say More? Yes,

When the Music Stops, Take a Seat,

Hardy Souls Braved a Hardy Cruise,

And Much More.

December 1-2
Parade of Lights
Alexandra and
DC Channel
Al Jersey
December 8
OYC Holiday Party
Ft. Belvoir
Officers Club
Sue Thompson
December 15
Safe BoatR Training
Aquila Yacht Club
Joe Livingston
January 19
PRYCA Change of
Watch
Springfield Hilton
Harry Croft



The Daymarker

Occoquan Yacht Club
P.O. Box 469
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Change Service Requested

