

# The Daymarker

## OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

Member: PRYCA, CBYCA Boat/U.S. Accord # GA80970v

Web site: [www.OccoquanYachtClub.org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org)



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## Commodore's Comments

Joe Livingston

### HELLO ALL MEMBERS

One thing is for sure, this winter (summers blast) is going by quickly as your Board has been planning for our 2007 boating season. Is anyone traveling to Florida for the Miami Boat Show scheduled for 15 through 18 February...that can be a week away from Northern Virginia cold weather and a week finding all those things, "boating essentials", you just can not do without.

Our Club has a new volunteer. Jim Dooley, "Jus Chill~in" at Occoquan Harbour Marina, stepped forward to be appointed Quartermaster. I want to thank Ilona Zsirai for the great job done last year. However, after indicating she would need to be replaced, I guess she has the "quartermaster bug" in her blood. As a result, we have a great situation as Ilona and Jim are working out the details of a co-quartermaster to provide improved support to the Club. "See how much control I have or did I plan this outcome all along". Welcome aboard Jim and thank you, Ilona for your continued service.

Thank you to the members who came out to support "Commodore Joe" with their cheers, "go Joe, go Joe" at the annual Potomac River Yacht Club Association Change of Watch on Saturday, the 20th of January. IT was a cold evening outside, but it warmed my reserved natured heart inside as 35 OYCers attended the black-tie



Go Joe! ... Go Joe! ... OYC AND PRYCA Commodore.

event in a partying mood. Almost 200 attended this very enjoyable celebration. Eighteen yacht clubs of the Potomac River basin were represented as well as representatives from the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Association and the National Boating Federation were in attendance. The group was caught practicing at the OYC's pre-planfest the Saturday before, as Gail entered Ruth and Ted Eisenman's home just before Joe, who was dumb founded by the unexpected cheer.

Certainly sounds like the Occoquan Yacht Club...Just having fun with fellow boaters.

Our next Board meeting is schedule for the 8th of February. All members are welcome to attend and encouraged to forward items/suggestions for consideration. Please notify me of your plans and to get the location of the meeting.

Cheers, Joe



Vice Commodore

Ted Eisenman

### THE PLAN FEST

I thought I would start this article out with a transcript of the ACTUAL radio conversation of a US Naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland on bridge-to-bridge channel 16 (by the way, I was stationed there):

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: *Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees the North to avoid a collision.*

Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: *This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.*

Canadians: *No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.*

Americans: *THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, I SAY AGAIN, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.*

Canadians: *This is a lighthouse. Your call.*

After last month's article, I received many comments and suggestions that were acted upon and incorporated into this year's schedule. In fact, we had enough suggestions to fill out the schedule and make enough diverse activities that you can't help but have some type of fun this season. The OYC Board held the "Preplanning Fest" and incorporated all of the suggestions and feedback into this year's schedule. I would like to thank our board members and invited guests for taking the time out of their schedule to help us get the job done! Now on to our next venture...to kick off the season is the "Plan fest".

We are going to have a change of venue this year for the "Plan fest". It will be held at the Fairfax Yacht Club (vice Oasis) facility from 1400-1700. Food, sodas, and beer will be provided. If you desire another type of adult beverage (e.g. wine, liquor, etc), please bring your desired drink with you. Our intention is to get you seated and through the business part of this as fast as possible as we have a lot to cover for our 2007 season. One of the things we need you to think about is picking a cruise or event to volunteer to lead or help with (nothing says that two or more can't join up and co-lead). The draft schedule should be posted on the

OYC website and was sent around to the membership via email. Many of our cruises depend on your assistance to make it a success. Please download the Cruise Coordinator's Handbook from the OYC website and take a moment to glance it over. For those who have never done this before, you will have the support and advise of others who have performed this duty in the past. Believe me, it really doesn't take that much time & just a little effort to make any cruise a success. If you are in doubt, please don't hesitate to talk to myself, the Commodore, or any board member about the details. The other part of this is your participation in OYC activities. Many of you long time members know that the more people who participate, the merrier the cruise is. I ask that you look around and maybe take a new member under your wing and see what we can do to help them decide what cruises to take, what to plan for, etc. It just makes the entire experience more satisfactory. Here are a couple of the schedule highlights:

- Two more land events were added (Hampton's Landing BBQ and a Halloween Party at FYC)

- Several Raft-ups were added during off weekends to allow for all of our members, regardless of boat size or experience to participate.

- Three long trips are scheduled for this year's outings

- The Crab fest normally held in October was changed to a Shrimp fest in September.

Thought I would take the time to mention that we had a great gathering at the PRYCA Change of Watch. Our very own OYC Commodore is now the PRYCA Commodore as well! "Go Joe...Go Joe...Go, Go, Go Joe". Clearly OYC and PRYCA are benefitting from such a knowledgeable person! "Go Joe...Go Joe...Go, Go, Go Joe".

Last thing I will leave you with is the upcoming events. Again, if you have comments, suggestions, concerns, or just want to help, please don't hesitate to send me an email!

"C:\Sea Drive clear and monitoring channel 16!"

### Upcoming Schedule:

#### February

3 (Sat) – 1400-1700 - Planfest at FYC (Ted Eisenman, 703-491-5179)

11 (Sun) – 1000 - Brunch at Fort Belvoir Officer Club (Rick Sorrenti, 703-590-6724)

16-19 (Fri-Mon) – Land Cruise (Under research for destination)

#### March

24 (Sat) – 1400-1700 - General Membership Meeting (Al Jorsey, 703-850-2888)

#### April

21-22 (Sat-Sun) – Early Bird Cruise to Alexandria (Linda & Laslo Bozoky, 703-590-8440)



Rear Commodore

Allen Jorsey

### BATTERY TESTING

While winter is keeping most of us off the water, the batteries are connected to keep the bilge pumps ready to operate if needed. There are many types of battery testers but the best is the old hydrometer which will give you the best indication of your battery condition and may save you from buying a new battery in the spring.

The hydrometer measures the concentration of the sulfuric acid, which is called the specific gravity. The specific gravity ranges from 1.120 to 1.300, which is the state of charge of a battery.

Be sure that the battery is fully charged before taking the reading and it is good to wait about thirty minutes before taking the test to allow the electrolyte to be fully mixed.

Unlike some testers, the hydrometer gives you a reading that is the state of charge of each cell and any difference of .050 is an indication that the battery should be replaced.

As always, when adding water add only distilled water as other water may contain minerals or impurities which may prevent the electrochemical reaction from gaining its full potential.

Plane to Sea back to plane



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### ***A Cure for a Common Boating Illness***

by IPC Sue Thompson and her sidekick

Cabin Fever – Aaarrggghhhhh!

The nights are long, the days short, and the weather is COLD! You're at work and there is this feeling of malaise about you that you just can't seem to get rid of. You feel like yelling at the top of your lungs but you just don't know why. Sitting at your desk you're torn between a strong urge to get in a short cat-nap and an intense desire to bang your head on the desk. Your mind is roving thru an empty space where conscious thought is almost non-existent, as if you're in a cocoon longing to emerge into a world of light and happiness.

"That's it," you say to yourself. "I need to see my doctor." Well, before you go one step further, I can solve all your problems ... well, maybe not all of them. What you are feeling is, in layman's terms, the dreaded malady "Cabin Fever". It has several other names but for those reading this article it is more commonly referred to as "When Does Boating Season Start" syndrome. (That'll be ten bucks please.)

Yes, being detached from the things you love can cause your mind to do all sorts of strange and funny things. Why, you ask, do you have to be tied to your desk, or your work, during the entire sum of daylight

hours only to retire to your home for what seems to be an eternity of night? Mother Nature has played out her hand and it's a Royal Flush against your pair of deuces. But, not to fret, the days are getting longer and soon you will find yourself back in the Good Olde Days of floating on the river enjoying yourself with your family and friends. Fond memories are always a good way to get you through the rough times. Am I right?

But wait, if you stop to think for a minute, there are other things that will shortly need your undivided and everlasting attention. First, you have to open up your boat and awaken it from its long winter nap. Part of this activity will include cleaning and waxing The Entire B O A T. I'm sure everyone is eagerly looking forward to this pleasant and relaxing activity. Then, once it's clean you have to de-winterize it. Don't forget to get that lingering odor out of the fresh-water tank. If you didn't do it already, the next thing would be to perform a little maintenance on the engine(s). Hopefully the bilge is dry or you will have a nice un-pleasant odor to deal with. And let's not forget all that gear piled high at home that needs to be brought back with spaces to find to fit it in. If you were really good last year then Santa, I'm sure, delivered lots of goodies for you to add to that pile. And, finally, once everything is clean, working, in its place, and you are ready to take that first trip, let's not forget that maybe some of those good boating skills got a little rusty over the winter, possibly causing another trip to the marine maintenance shop or the fiberglass repairman and a resulting bill that will take another tank of fuel away from your planned season activities.

So, how's that cabin fever doing now? (That'll be ten bucks please. The first ten was for the diagnosis and the second ten was for the treatment. For another ten I'll provide you with a prognosis, but that isn't looking too good right now.)

Perhaps you should start the season off right by trying out another recipe. Try this one. We use this for winter holidays but it's good year-round. You can also add a bit of your favorite rum for a little extra taste.

### **Tangy Tutti-Frutti Punch**

½ cup lemon juice                      1 cup pineapple juice  
12 oz can frozen orange juice      Cherries  
¼ cup maraschino cherry juice  
2 liter Ginger Ale, or Sprite or 7 Up  
(diet can be used)

Combine all ingredients, chill, and Enjoy.

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Steve Thompson, Editor  
Sue Thompson, Editor's Advisor on Worldly Matters  
Ruth Eisenman, Circulation

The deadline for submission of materials to **The Daymarker** is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please submit copy by e-mail to:  
**opsco@earthlink.net**



# OYC 2006 Change of Watch



Everyone Had Smiles



The Lucky Bent Prop Award Recipient - in the Middle.



A Repeat Offender – er Recipient, of the Commodore's Cup



The Outgoing OYC Board



Another Happy Couple



The Food was Great

For more pictures go to:

<http://www.occoquanyachtclub.org/2006/Holiday%20Party/index.html>



Secretary

Patricia Croft

## BAY PHOBIA

*Editor's note: The Secretary's column has been usurped this month by her husband, Harry Croft, who will be the Cruise Coordinator for one of the week-long cruises scheduled for this summer.*

As I start to plan out this year's Southern Bay cruise, I reflect on how many OYCers do not participate in the week-long bay cruises, i.e., cruises that actually leave the river! There may be many explanations as to why more members don't choose to cruise with the group on expeditions beyond the Potomac, but surely one of the more common reasons is Chesapeake Bay Phobia – a fear of Big Water! After considerable analysis and exhaustive dock talk, (that's akin to scuttlebutt, gossip, or hearsay,) I have learned that there are several categories of boaters.

The first category includes boaters who rarely leave the marina, or, if forced, may motor out to Belmont Bay for a day trip. Perfectly understandable, but they would most certainly qualify for the "Who's Who of Maritime Cowards." This group saves a lot on fuel costs and keeps those engine hours low, but misses out on some of the more adventurous aspects of boating. There is little hope for this bunch, but we should still try to coax them out further onto the river at least.

The second category encompasses most OYCers. They will travel anywhere on the Potomac River system. If dangers lurk, they are always within a mile of the shoreline. The OYC cruising schedule reflects this preference, listing ten cruises within the Potomac and two outside the river. This is a good group of boaters who need encouragement to venture even further. There is hope they could overcome their fear of deep water and wide vistas, (the kind with no land in sight for 360 degrees!)

The third category takes in about one-third (I'm being generous here!) of the membership. These intrepid mariners will go just about anywhere for a good time, which is the OYC motto: "Semper Intoxicatus et Bene Spiritus". Within the past few years, OYC cruises have gone down the Bay, across the Bay, up the Bay, to Cape May through the fearsome C&D canal and then down the Delaware Bay, and even down the Bay to North Carolina on the ICW, and we have lost no one!!! Routinely, the Cruise Coordinators return to report that a good time was had by all!

And that is the crux of my diatribe, to encourage those who suffer from Bay Phobia to take the plunge. You have nothing to fear but fear itself! I think that's a quote from someone important about a larger issue, but none the less, bay cruising doesn't differ much from river cruising, it just offers more opportunities for

adventure. Additional planning is required and some minor navigational skills are an asset, but overall, a boat is usually within 5-8 miles of a shoreline. So if you feel lost and all else fails, you can steer a straight east-west course; you'll go aground somewhere and can ask the natives for directions!

The advantage of going with an OYC group is that you will be in the company of experienced boaters who will offer whatever assistance a fellow cruiser might need, from charting a course, to making minor repairs, to loaning spare parts. If trouble should strike while you're underway, out there in Big Water, members of the cruising group are as close as your radio, ready to help. Offering advice is what they do best!

A planned cruise doesn't always go as planned. If bad weather is imminent, or if the waves make for an unpleasant trip, we stay in port. On last year's Bay cruise, we had planned to go to Solomons Island, St. Michaels, and Cambridge. High wind and waves dictated an extra day at Solomons Island, and after crossing the Bay on calm seas, we were hesitant to leave St. Michaels for Cambridge when the forecast was for more stormy weather on the scheduled day of departure. So we cancelled Cambridge and stayed in St. Michaels. (Who could complain about an extra day in St. Michaels?) Flexibility is essential!

Some might say their boat is great for the River, but too small for the Bay. I would say size doesn't matter. My first boat was a 21' Bayliner Cuddy Cabin; no chart plotter, just charts and compass, and we went all over the Bay. Don't wait until you have a 70' Yacht before you venture beyond the Potomac!

And don't let Bay Phobia limit your horizons! OYC has a lot of very experienced mariners who will work with you all along the way. Join us for a great cruise. You'll never regret it! After all, we haven't lost anyone, YET!

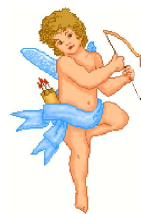
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## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque, 2/1	Meimei Tidrow, 2/2
Sabrina Worcester, 2/3	Maria Gibbons, 2/9
Rock Sorrenti, 2/9	Pamela McLeod, 2/13
Paul Koneig, 2/14	Ruth Eisenman, 2/16
Dwayne Johnson, 2/18	Bob Wilson, 2/22
Jack Striker, 2/28	



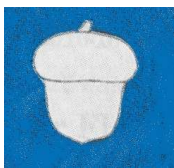
### Anniversaries

Sue and Steve Thompson, 2/16

### Welcome New Members

Sorry, no new members (or used members for that matter) joined during the month of January.





Treasurer

Trish Mattke

### LESSONS IN SEAMANSHIP

With the season's first little snowfall turning Sunday's roads into ice traps it's time to start planning where you want to be 5 months from now. By then the memories of snow will be lost, replaced by the thunder of throaty engines roaring up and down the log infested Potomac. Ah, yes, the logs. The river's version of icebergs drifting into the river channels, just breaking the surface, or lurking just below the choppy tops ready and capable of doing a Titanic on your pleasure cruiser.

Want to know how to avoid the menace? It is easy. Spend lots of time sitting in your slip. When you do go out, follow a friend and watch him carefully for signs of sheared props or sudden sinking. Sinking in the absence of fire is an excellent indicator of very large logs or even rocks, so don't follow so closely that you can't turn away before collapsing your hull on the obstacle that defloated your friend and leader. When given the choice, turn south, as most logs flow with the current. Why? you ask (showing your inexperience). Well, my little tadpoles, it's physics. You know water flows downhill. And we are in the northern hemisphere

... and ... look at any map or globe ... south is... you're right, it is "down." So your average log will be going down south. Better to run up on one than take it in the face (or "bough" as sailors sometime say). (For confirmation of this rule of seamanship, "Google" Titannic. Check it out. What direction was that pretty much unsinkable ship going? East, right? Which side did the iceberg hit? Right again, the right. So what direction was the iceberg going? Clearly it was speeding south, like a really, really big log.

This lesson, documented as Neighborhood Myth No. 14, can be studied in more detail in Ned's scholarly work, *Pleasure Boating in the North Atlantic*.

Another technique to avoid logs is going where they ain't. Virginia Beach, for instance. Especially if you spend lots of time on the beach. In all our time vacationing there, we have never heard of a single collision with a log on the board walk or on the pristine sandy beaches of our Commonwealth. We have heard of close calls with aircraft carriers, nuclear subs and bass boats as sailors cross Hampton Roads, but even these hazards can be avoided. Follow, but not too close, your cruise mate, and watch him closely. If a very large grey boat runs him down, or a black shape pitches him out of the water, note the position on your GPS, then turn left, hard left. Why? Well, it's obviously not a log.

Sincerely,  
BAT TOO Guest Author

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Did you know that at one knot a boat will travel approximately 1.7 feet each second?

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No, the boat's name is Not Pepto Bismal, but the color certainly is. Here you will find a brave Captain.



The OYC Commodore's Cup Being Put to Good Use.

# Occoquan Yacht Club

## February 2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month National Pet Dental Health Month				<b>1</b> Hula in the Coola Day	<b>2</b> Ground Hog Day	<b>3</b> Planfest – at Oasis Restaurant
<b>4</b> Super Bowl XLI	<b>5</b> Weatherman's Day	<b>6</b> Pay a Compliment Day	<b>7</b> *	<b>8</b> Boy Scout Anniversary	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Pro Sports Wives Day
<b>11</b> Brunch at Ft Belvoir O-Club	<b>12</b> Darwin Day	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> National Gum Drop Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Land Cruise to ?? <b>16-19 Feb</b>
<b>18</b> Chinese New Year	<b>19</b> President's Day	<b>20</b> Mardi Gras	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> National Chili Day	<b>23</b> Iwo Jima Day	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> National Tooth Fairy Day	* – Wave all your Fingers at Your Neighbor's Day		

## March 2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
American Red Cross Month National Caffeine Awareness Month				<b>1</b> Peace Corps Birthday	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> National Anthem Day
<b>4</b> Namesake Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Unique Names Day	<b>7</b> National Be Heard Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Panic Day	<b>10</b> Genealogy Day
<b>11</b> Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>12</b> * Girl Scout Day	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Pi Day	<b>15</b> Ides of March	<b>16</b> Lips Appreciation Day	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day
<b>18</b> Awkward Moments Day	<b>19</b> Act Happy Day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> First Day of Spring	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> National Puppy Day	<b>24</b> Mbrship Meeting at FYC
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Make Up Your Own Holiday Day	<b>27</b> Kite Flying Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> **	<b>31</b> She's Funny That Way Day

\* – National Workplace Napping Day

\*\* – Take Your Parents to the Playground Day

# ***Plans are in Full Swing for the 2007 OYC Boating Season***

Inside . . .

**If It's a Log – Turn South,**

**Yes, You Too Can Cruise the Bay,**

**Batteries, Lighthouses, Aircraft Carriers,**

**Cabin Fever ...**

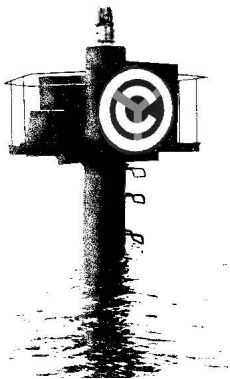
**And Much More.**

**March 21**  
**General Member-**  
**ship Meeting**  
**Fairfax Yacht Club**  
**Allen Jersey**

**February 16-19**  
**Land Cruise to**  
**[Put Location Here]**  
**(Cruise Coordinator**  
**Needed)**

**February 11**  
**Brunch at**  
**Fort Belvoir**  
**Rick Sorrenti**

**February 3**  
**Plantfest at**  
**Fairfax Yacht Club**  
**Ted Eisenman**



*The Daymarker*

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

**Change Service Requested**