

The Maydarker

OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

Web site: www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

Commodore
Vice Commodore
Rear Commodore
Secretary
Treasurer
Quartermaster
Membership
Historian
PRYCA Delegate
THE DAYMARKER Editor

Joe, Harry, Allen, Pat,
Trish, Jim, Ilona, Nabil,
Harry, Steve

Livingston
Croft
Jorsey
Croft
Mattke
Zsirai
Dubraque
Croft
Thompson

703-440-8114

703-451-9157

703-791-3755

703-476-6717

703-550-8495

703-690-3966

703-451-9147

703-850-2888

703-451-9147

540-373-9203

OYC Commodore Resigns!

To the members of the Occoquan Yacht Club. It is with sincere regrets that I find it necessary to resign as Commodore of the Occoquan Yacht Club effective 1 April 2008.

Volunteer work in a social Yacht Club takes a great deal of time to serve members in the manner deserved. Gail and I are entering a new phase of semi-retirement that we have enjoyed over the last few years. However, more of our time is now required.

We have formed a partnership to operate the former Motor Yacht Miss Ann as an excursion yacht in the northern waters of the Potomac River. The Miss Ann, recently put up for sale by the Inn of the Tides in Irvington, is pictured as she cruises up the Occoquan River on 31 March. She will be permanently berth on the fixed t-dock at Fairfax yacht Club as part of the Fairfax's dock renovation program. Excursions are planned from the newly established wharf in the Historic Town of Occoquan to the Mount Vernon Plantation to the National Harbour and Resort and return on a scheduled basis. Bookings for private parties will be available and the Yacht will serve as the permanent home of the Occoquan Yacht Club.

Your soon to be Immediate Past Commodore, Joe.



Top 10 Favorite Boating Movies

To bring more relevant and interesting boating info into the pages of this newsletter, the Editor performed an exhaustive survey of what people think are their top ten boating movies of all time.

This survey has a margin of error of 89 percent.



1. Captain Ronald McDonald
2. Master & Slave: The Far Side of the Dungeon
3. The Perfect Brew
4. Jaws of Life
5. The African Queens
6. Wind, or Maybe Not
7. Pygmies of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Peon
8. Dead Calming
9. Captains Courageous – NOT
10. A River Drains Through It

Watch for future announcements on plans for movie nights at the OYC clubhouse where these action packed thrillers will be shown.

Win a New Boat!!

Yes, you too can be a “new boat owner”, and you don’t even have to serve as treasurer to do it. Your board has decided that its coffers are running a little low and decided on a new approach to raise a few extra dollars.

Actually, the approach is not all that new, although it is fairly rare in the boating community. So, can you say “Raffle”? That’s right; the Occoquan Yacht Club is going to raffle a new boat. Now, you may ask, is this possible? Well, several factors come into play.

First, the term “new” is very subjective in nature. For a boater, this term usually refers to anything that has not been previously owned. However in this instance new is defined as not previously being sold. Yes, the winner of this raffle will be the first registered owner of the boat. On the down side, however, is the fact that the boat is a 2005 model and has been used as a demo boat.

The second factor was the concern over cost. In its search for an appropriate boat, the club was able to work out a deal with a local dealer who is willing to provide the boat for just a few dollars over cost. The main impetus for the deal was to clear precious storage space for newer 2008 models where a better expectation for a sale exists.

Tickets are \$89.99 each with a minimum of 2008 requiring to be sold.

And now some info about the boat. It is a 39 foot Crulinerton, classified as a cruiser with an extended fly bridge, an actual LOA of 37.73 feet, and a 10.01 foot beam. Crulinertons are well known for their all-electric motors and the use of auxiliary sails, thus greatly reducing cost of operations.

Tickets can be purchased, in person only, from the raffle coordinator at any Occoquan Yacht Club function where they are present. Payment must be either by check, money order, or bank check (sorry American Express is not accepted here). All checks will be placed in a temporary account for refunding should the minimum number not be sold. The drawing will take place three weeks following the sail of the minimum number of tickets, currently expected to be sometime in the year 2010.

The OYC board suggests that your chances of winning increases with the purchase of additional tickets and wishes everyone good luck.



Recipe of the Month – Spam Birds

Here is a special edition of the ever popular “Recipe of the Month” column hosted by your Immediate Past (yet again) Commodore.

We served these aboard *Forever Dreamin’* and they were a big hit. The recipe is pretty simple and used ingredients that we all carry on board.

This is from Steve’s favorite cookbook “Regulating Foods – Menus and Foods for the Laxative Diet.” Wrap thin slices of Spam around your favorite stuffing, fasten with toothpicks, brown in hot oven. Serve with garden peas, fried candied sweets.



A Pirate Looks Past Sixty

(With Apologies to Jimmy Buffet)

Patrick the Parrot, constant companion to Pirate Steve, passed away last month. “I just loved that damn bird” Pirate Steve was heard to remark. “That bird was like a dog, always following me around. And you know how much I love dogs!” Pirate Steve had Patrick the



Parrot stuffed and the two can still be seen shuffling around the marinas looking for handouts and someone to talk to. Pirate Steve has been heard to remark on occasion, “I can’t drink as much Scotch as I used to, but I still like to give it a go.” He makes living on a fixed income – sound like fun.

De Gustibus Non Disputandum

Some years ago while contemplating life to the rhythm of the copier beneath me; I had an epiphany undiminished in relevance by the boss walking in to collect my project. Life, it revealed, is a simple joyous journey confounded only by our penchant to complicate it. Subsequent retirement and some years later in the yacht club, the tenets by which I have since lived are unchanged: **Simplify.**

Boating at its simplest is pure catharsis. Yet we complicate it with gadgets, depth sounders and GPS, complicated charts and complicated rules, and who needs it? Boating classes, radars microwaving passing gulls, plotters plotting plots that would make a Medici blush, is this really why you joined the glass-reinforced plastic legions making the weekend pilgrimage to Mattawoman and Tim's Rivershore?

The answer lies in simplifying. Throw away that depth sounder and tide tables: a simple mark at your waterline should not only tell you what the tide is doing (it works on the dock pilings), but it's a most effective sounder. When the mark rises, your boat is aground. When it disappears, you are sinking. It's that simple.

And, as to cooking seagulls, wouldn't a plain, door-less microwave on your radar arch be cheaper and work more effectively than the radar you never learned to use anyway? Not only that, but it would introduce a certain élan, a West Virginia chic to your vessel. Simplicity!

Bilge fume detectors should pose no issue for those of you with dogs, and should send those without scurrying to the pound to adopt one. Borrowing a page from the land-locked state's early coal mining days, we simply keep our dog in our bilge. The walrus-with-a-hairball hacking sound is not only much more audible over engine knock than the croaking West Virginia canary, but you also get to establish that special bond with your pet as you perform mouth to mouth. For those mechanically inclined, this last is called *periodic maintenance*. On Corky, on Bisquit, go Cassie and Nestea and Marky and Sandy, the free ride is over.

Further, as congested as our waterways have become, why charts, horns, and rules of the road just add complication what greater contribution to the carnival atmosphere can you make than to gird your vessel's girth with fenders in colorful live rubber, county fair bumper car style? No more need for air horns on your forty footer: the squeak of rubber on rubber will quickly alert you to the proximity of one of your chums in plenty of time to moon them.

Alas, some will still opt for tradition over simplicity. In the words of my boss as I wiped the copier glass clean, "De gustibus non disputandum." No accounting for taste. And, after perusing my analysis with its direct simplicity of statement, he further added, "Semper ubi sub ubi." Always wear underwear.

The author is a club member of some years standing whose well found sailboat is often seen aground at the only shoal spot within miles of Colonial Beach. His wife, Lucy, demonstrably has a great deal of patience.



As seen on Captain Rick's Carver.

Pet News –

C Dock at Occoquan Harbour

Well, spring is here and everyone is excited to see what new pets will be making their appearance on C Dock. Bob and Betsy showed off their new "puppy" named Fluffy. "When we first saw her, we just fell in love," says proud mother Betsy. Proud papa Bob was heard to remark, "Now let's see who gets to those ducks in the water first!" We are sure that Fluffy will give Abby, Nick, Winnie, Kelsey, Rocket, Jacksom and Hank a good run for their money at the launch ramp where they chase duck decoys, tennis balls and sticks during the weekend.

Fluffy is not quite housebroken just yet, but Bob and Betsy are hoping she will be before the Early Bird cruise to Alexandria. Fluffy is reported to love the water and loves to wrestle with Bob on the living room floor. We welcome Fluffy to the C Dock family.



Fluffy – Feeling a Little Flirty



Gas hits a new high on the Occoquan River. Diesel is expected to be slightly lower. Note that taxes are still 1/3 of the cost of a gallon of gasoline.

Fleet Captain Rebellion!!



The OYC Fleet Captains, Harry Croft and Chris Rose, met for the first time in many years and expressed a lot of pent of dissatisfaction with the leadership and membership. First among their grievances was the very title Fleet 'Captain'. Who ever heard of a Captain in charge of a fleet? Admirals are in charge of fleets! So first and foremost they want their title changed to "Fleet Admiral." This minor change would bring new interest to the position!

Next among the angst items is the notion that OYC members are serious consumers of alcoholic beverages. The Fleet Admirals take exception to this impression and as soon as I finish rehab I will develop a series of ways we can better mask our drinking habits. Right now I'm thinking of brown paper bags with OYC decals on them, fake cola cans sleeves for beer, and clear plastic water bottles for wine. We'll have to forgo the cork but no one will think we are sipping wine! I have a lot of other good ideas for this but right now I'm a bit woozy from imbibbing. Ibibbing, er, drinking.

Another issue is that our Commodore doesn't look commodorish!! We are suggesting a tattoo on his arm, a BIG Star with OYC over it and Commodore under it. I'd provide a drawing except its getting difficult to see the keyword. I personally like a pirate's hat and an eye patch. It conveys a sense of adventure and at the same time, one of sinister leadership. We also suggest that every OYC meeting start with a rendition of "sixteen men on a dead mans chest" song. Think what a morale builder that would be!! Think of how loaded we would have to get to sing it!!!

Lastly, the Fleet Admirals (it does have a nice ring to it) want more aggressive recruitment for getting new OYC members. Chris Rose suggested shanghaiing but was loudly chastised for such silliness. I favor outright threats to the safety of their boats. How about this slogan, "If you don't join, you'd better be good at fiberglass repair!" Or, "Join Now while AA dues are Low" Or, we have a picture of you on your boat with another person not your partner"... all good ideas. We suggest a contest with the winner getting a bottle of his/her favorite beverage, in an OYC decaled brown paper bag of course!

As you can tell, the Fleet Admirals have valid concerns that need serious thought by serious people. As soon as we find out who they are, we'll let you know. Maybe they don't belong in OYC! Cheers and bottoms up!

[Although the meeting did occur and, I'm sure, libations were consumed in mass quantities, the editor thought the article entertaining enough to place in the April Fool's section of the newsletter.]



Tragedy Strikes Local Boating Family

Tragedy recently struck Toby Lager, a common and well known figure amongst boaters on the Potomac. The whole world was falling down around him. For you see, his entire family died in a horrendous car accident several months ago.

Toby was overcome with grief and soon discovered that he couldn't handle the loss. His options were dwindling and decisions were becoming harder to make. Finally, with little forethought, he decided to just leave it all and run away. In the process he ended up leaving all his worldly possessions behind.

Soon afterwards he became destitute, resorting to begging and, when that didn't work, theft to stay alive. At times he would become almost violent in his actions. He became a loner, wandering the streets at night and hiding during the day to keep from being noticed. But, alas, over time the authorities eventually caught up with him and soon he found himself behind bars.

His outlook was gloomy. Not many made it out of the place he now had to call home. But that gloom miraculously turned to rays of hope as authorities eventually were able to identify him and his lawyer notified. And that came just in the nick of time. For, you see, he was scheduled to be transferred to another cell from which nary a soul returned.

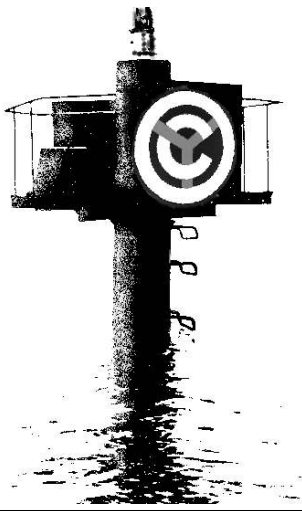
Upon his arrival, the lawyer had great news. The unfortunate demise of his family was not all gloom and doom. It seems that as the sole surviving family member, Toby stood to inherit a substantial sum of money. Unfortunately there was a pre-condition that stated an executor had to be appointed to manage the funds. Toby had hoped his lawyer could perform the task but, alas, he had too many other clients depending on him. And without an executor, Toby had to remain behind bars.

But not to fear, his lawyer quickly devised a method to find Toby the perfect executor; someone that could perform the requisite duties without fear of them taking advantage of the situation. He placed small ads in all the local papers. The ad said:

"Wanted, a loving, caring, and dedicated individual to take over the business and personal affairs of the survivor or a recent family tragedy. Although compensation is minimal, your services will be greatly rewarded. Please contact the Crulinerton County Animal Shelter at (555) 000-5555."

Soon Toby the dog was home again with a new loving family.

[NOTE: Although this article is a work of fiction written as an item for the April Fool's edition of the newsletter, the writer would like to say that this type of tragedy strikes many of our four-legged friends daily, although most likely without an inheritance. Please consider visiting your local animal shelter and adopting a new friend. If treated with love and affection, you will find the same returned to you over and over again. And with that you will, indeed, feel all the more richer.]



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

Web site: www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

Commodore

Joe Livingston
540 373-9203

Vice Commodore

Harry Croft
703 451-9147

Rear Commodore

Allen Jorsey
703 850-2888

Secretary

Pat Croft
703 451-9147

Treasurer

Trish Mattke
703 690-3966

Quartermaster

Jim Dooley
703 550-8495

Membership

Ilona Zsirai
703 476-6717

Historian

Nabil Dubraque
703 791-3755

PRYCA Delegate

Harry Croft
703 451-9157

THE DAYMARKER Editor

Steve Thompson
703 440-8114



Commodore's Comments

Joe Livingston

SPRING BRINGS A BIT OF THE GREEN

The Spring Members Meeting has passed and several reports of shrink wrap being removed and waxing begun signal that our boating season for 2008 is here. Congrats for Winter survival. At the Member Meeting the Club bestowed "honorary membership" to the serving commodore of Fairfax Yacht Club. Commodore Gayle Wix accepted a plaque suitable for display in Fairfax's club house to mark the occasion. OYC appreciates the continued support FYC provides us.

Several items were shared with those attending our 15 March meeting. The deadline for registration to the PRYCA Float-In is upon us, an urgent response to VC Harry Croft may make the 3 April suspense. The "swiveler" flag poles can still be ordered for \$50 per pole; determine the diameter of your rail, how many poles and email request to joseph.livingston@verizon.net.

Remember to register early for cruises and save the date of 13 December 08 to attend the Club's Holiday Party/Change of Watch at a new clubhouse venue — The Laurel Hill Golf Course in Lorton, VA. New Business: The board raised for discussion the need to raise our annual dues. Please share your comments with a board member. Membership cards for 2008 members in good standing were distributed or have been mailed. Request all members continue to seek out potential new

members to join the Club.

Irish stew, corn beef and cabbage, and several other delights including **green beer and wine** greatly enhanced our impromptu St. Patty's Day Happy Hour at Madigan's in the town of Occoquan. Ilona Zsirai was best dressed with her antler shamrock's flapping (how bad does that sound) but the other 15 OYC'ers came with a touch of green. New member, Brian McCormally, was requested to "buy a round" for abusing the "OYC time rule" ... came late and claimed he was "tied" up a work.

Hello members. Come up with some fun ideas for Club activities ... keep it simple and make it happen.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 3 April. All members are welcome to attend and encouraged to forward items for board consideration. Call to get location/time of the meeting.

Cheers, Joe.



April 1986 - OYC Conducts Safety Class
From the Archives of the
OYC Division of Historical Preservation



Commodore in Charge of
Vice
Harry Croft

FIRST CRUISE OF THE SEASON PREPARATION

As the boating season starts and before you launch your boat, there are several key maintenance features you **MUST** take care of expeditiously (that's a big word for "before you sink"!) Do not assume that just because everything was shipshape last October when you winterized your vessel, that it remains so. Somehow the magic of winter turns an otherwise fun boat into one from hell. If the boat was left in the water and has outdrives (I/O) propulsion, you should check all the rubber baffles. Critters have been known to gnaw through the rubber sleeves on outdrives and while the bilge pump may keep up with the seepage, you could be heading for bigger problems. For all boats with plastic thru-hull fittings, those are the ones that connect all sorts of water hoses inside the boat to the outside, close visual inspection is necessary. Freezing water often splits them, allowing for water to flow back into the boat. This is not a good thing.

OK, so now your boat is in the water, nothing leaks and you are feeling smug about all this maintenance stuff. That's your next mistake. Make sure the seacocks for the engines, generator, and air conditioning are OPEN. If they are closed, your first indication will be the temperature gauge warning you that you are about to have a costly experience with your mechanic. If your engines ever get hot, you should always inspect the water pump impeller. Impellers don't like hot and dry and the little impeller blades will break off and get lodged in the oil cooler. The next thing you will hear is the sound of your wallet getting ripped open! Worse yet, is the sound of your other half suggesting that boating isn't such a good idea. Scary thought!!

A general inspection followed by the turning on of all systems is another good idea. A better idea is to get a Coast Guard Vessel Examination. Last year the inspector noted that my spark arrester on one engine was dirty. This could lead to a fire, but it also revealed that the engine needed a tune up. Are you flares expired? Are PFDs clean and available?

Well you have been a diligent boater and the lights work, everything runs normal, nothing leaks, and your distaff crew person is a happy camper. You forgot the paperwork! Make sure you have your registration papers in a secure place as well as all the emergency numbers you might need. Don't wait until you really need these things; make sure they are easy to get at. Start a log. Record engines hours, people on board, gas consumption, places and people visited, maintenance performed, part numbers ... etc. Cruising logs provide a wonderful record of good and bad events.

These preparatory chores seem like a lot of work and sometimes they are a pain in the pocket book and other places. However, if done properly, you will really enjoy cruising knowing that you and the important people with you are safe and cared for. Now get out there and cruise and stop griping about the cost of gas! Consider the alternative, the cost of a therapist!

Helpful Hints from Chapman's

by Nabil Dubraque, Historian

With the coming of a new and exciting boating season, it serves us well to review some basic nautical knowledge. Being both cheap and a sailor (is that redundant?), I still use my 1944 edition of Chapman's ***Piloting, Seamanship, and Small Boat Handling*** which I keep next to my \$4.00 gas fund and change of underwear in my world-cruise ditty bag. The following quotes are from an extensive helpful hints section in Chapman's (pages 368-377).

"A small amount of canvas on a motor boat will steady her a lot offshore in a beam sea." Eat that, stinkpotters!

"In a pinch, ordinary soap will seal a gas line leak." Also provides the potential for a great nautical bonfire.

"A strainer in the gas line will trap more dirt than a carburetor will swallow." Great line for a fortune cookie.

"River sailing is intriguing. One always wonders what lies just around the bend ahead." Would you believe Conrad Island Shoals, the Graveyard of the Occoquan?

"Thin ice will often damage a hull more than a thick coating. 'Window pane' ice, an eighth of an inch thick, cuts cedar like a sharp chisel. Sheet copper at the waterline will protect the hull." Every well-dressed boat this season will sport a copper skirt. Hubba hubba!

"New lines have a mean habit of twisting themselves into hard kinks. They can be worked out by towing the line astern, one end made fast to the after bit." Spring on the Potomac becomes reminiscent of a Palermo spaghetti factory.

"A vessel's draft in salt water is roughly one-quarter inch per foot less than in fresh water." That's a lot more beer you can carry without overloading.

"There is a tendency to overestimate the distance of an iceberg." Boy, did the Titanic find that out!

"It is dangerous for the navigator to depend on his memory." Especially as the boating population ages. Ginko Biloba, anyone?

"When the star Mizar of the Great Bear and the star Ruchbah of Cassiopeia, which are in line with Polaris, are either above or below that star, the latter is bearing north true, and the error of the compass may be easily obtained." And, when the moon is in the seventh house, and Jupiter aligns with Mars, then peace will guide the planets, and love... Well, you get the picture.

Have a safe boating season.



Rear Commodore

Allen Jorsey



Secretary

Pat Croft

SLOW – NO WAKE!

On the 7th of March, *Plane to Sea* (the 333 Chris) with my First Mate (Trophy Wife) set sail from our slip in Daytona Beach for St. Augustine, which is 52 mile up the Intercoastal in the state of Florida. We were forced to pass up two better days for the trip due to the friends we were going to visit are golfers and you know that takes priority.

So the forecast was for thunder storms in the late afternoon with a front passing through at night and a chance of strong winds. We got an early start so we would miss all that and be at happy hour and dinner during any foul weather. As many know, there are quite a few no wake areas along the route and then you have to go slow for the big fat cows called manatees that can't seem to learn to keep away from props.

As it would happen, the weatherman was wrong again and about an hour out from our destination, the thunderstorm hit us and the lightning and heavy rain was a sight to see but we sailed into St. Augustine City Marina in a down pour so decided to get gas the next morning before starting back. We had a great visit with our friends, good food and drink and went to sleep as the front was passing. The next morning, the wind was blowing 40-50 from the west and we needed gas from a gas dock that runs north and south. Knowing the First Mate is not keen on the bow of the old Chris, I told the dock master that I would approach into the wind and the bow line would be on the bow rail, tie it off and I would swing it around. Gas was secured and off we went down the river with a big cross wind.

It was a nice trip until we got to where I have to take an overall 40 foot boat in a channel that is 30 feet wide with rocks on the port and yachts along the pier on the starboard in that same 50 mph cross wind. I knew I was going to have a problem when I had a call on the radio that this was a no wake zone but it took a lot of power and speed to stay in the channel. I tried to go slow into my channel between the rocks and yachts, both hard places, but at slow speed and all that crab, I could not fit in the channel. So I lined it up and at ten knots, I went into the channel to yells from the marina social boaters that this was a no wake zone to which I yelled back some good sailor words. Even the First Mate said it was this speed or hit their boats on the way in. They all watched as I tried to get close enough so the First Mate could secure a line, which after a couple of tries, we were secure. I yelled to them that they did not know what "slow – no wake" means.

I have since made cards with the definition of "Slow – No Wake" from the Coast Guard Manual. It reads: "That speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control." For us it was 10 knots.

Plane to Sea, back to plane

OYC MEMBERS CHOOSE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The main event of the March Membership Meeting was the Photo Contest, and while there were fewer entries than last year, there was no shortage of great photos. Twelve OYC photographers entered a total of forty-five pictures in the contest. With three prizes in each of the four categories, a total of twelve prizes were awarded. Those twelve prizes were divided among eight happy winners.

Ned Rhodes won four prizes, including 1st and 2nd place in the Pets category; 2nd place in the People category; and a share of 1st place with co-creator Tom Coldwell in the Phantasy category. Ned is an excellent photographer, to be sure, but some say the odds were weighted in his favor by sheer volume – fifteen of the forty-five photos in the contest were taken by Ned! The message to those who are green with envy is to enter your own photos – lots of them - next year!

The winners of \$20, \$15, and \$10 West Marine gift cards were:

PEOPLE

1st place – Patrick Worcester, for a photo of his son welcoming an incoming flock of gulls on Carolina Beach.

2nd place – Ned Rhodes, for a photo of Treasurer Trish Mattke and Vice-Commodore, (a.k.a. pirate,) Harry Croft at the Change of Watch/Holiday Party.

3rd place – Barbara Freedman, for a photo of Captain Larry and his buddy, Mr. Wilson, napping on the fly bridge of *Takin' to the Sea*, entitled "Another Rough Day at Sea".

PLACES

1st place – Lucy Dubraque, for a photo titled "Misty Morning" at Peggy's Cove, ME, taken on a cruise to New England and Canada last Fall.

2nd place – Tom Coldwell, for a photo of a butterfly on wildflowers at Hilton Head Beach.

3rd place – Nabil Dubraque, for "Portland Light" taken on that New England/Canada cruise.

[continued on next page]

The Daymarker
Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

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 20th of each month. Please submit copy by e-mail to:
opsco@earthlink.net

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

ORMA and its affiliates proudly announce the

2008 Blessing of the Fleet

May 10th 2008 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Captains and crews! Join your friends for a
special time-honored seafaring tradition...**

- ➔ **dedicated to safety afloat**
- ➔ **"Launching" the new boating season!**



Plan now to captain your boat and be among the hundreds of boats with festive flags and colors! Invite family and friends to participate in a traditional blessing for safe cruising the year ahead **for your boat and crew** with a "flair for safety" !!

This simple ceremony harkens back in history to times when fishermen and seafarers yearned for good fortune and safety at sea—which was nearly always perilous. As the fleet departed seaward, clergymen invoked a blessing on each vessel as it departed. The Occoquan community re-invigorated the Blessing of the Fleet in 1999 when the tradition was embraced by the yacht clubs of the Occoquan vicinity and the [Occoquan River Maritime Association](http://www.OccoquanRiverMaritimeAssociation.org) as a fun way to highlight safety afloat.

How does it work?

Fairfax and Prince William County First Responders, Cost Guard, and Law Enforcement will lead a procession of boats outbound from Prince William Marina passing the Blessing Boat moored at the Belmont Bay Harbor Marina. Participating boats will form-up proceeding outbound passing the Blessing Boat and, once "blessed", proceed outbound. The procession will include a host vessel with local dignitaries and media representatives embarked. The event is marked by recognition for our First Responders, for safety afloat, and for fun boating!

A detailed float plan and Notice to Mariners will be posted at local marinas and will be distributed through yacht club newsletters and Internet websites.

Plan now to take part!

The Blessing of the Fleet—an Occoquan tradition—is sponsored and coordinated by the [Occoquan River Maritime Association \(ORMA\)](http://www.OccoquanRiverMaritimeAssociation.org) and its member organizations, with support from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Fairfax, and Prince William County public safety agencies.

Point of Contact : ORMA Coordinator George Allen, jacksfull@aol.com

Photo Contest Winners [continued]

PETS

1st place – Ned Rhodes, for a photo of Abbey retrieving a tennis ball from the water, titled, "Ball Dog".

2nd place – Ned Rhodes, for "Happy Birthday", a photo of Abbey chasing a birthday balloon.

3rd place – Steve Thompson, for "Jail Dog", a photo of Nick behind the 'bars' of the pool fence at White Point Marina.

PHANTASY

1st place – Tom Coldwell and Ned Rhodes, for a photo altered by Tom and sent to Ned, who added his own computer enhancements to create, "Moonlit Bird".

2nd place – Nabil Dubraque, for "Steve's Happy Dance", depicting our favorite editor dancing in a ballet.

3rd place – Harry Croft, for "Our Next Boat", depicting Harry and Pat as the proud owners of the 'Jewel of the Seas'.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Sally Hoffmaster, 4/10	Kenny Harris, 4/12
Daria Lepisko, 4/12	Kathie McCormally, 4/12
Peter McLeod, 4/15	Sarah Robins, 4/17
Susan Cheatham, 4/19	Paula Wexler, 4/19
Maria Bryant, 4/20	Carol Daugherty, 4/24
Patricia Maxwell, 4/24	Jennifer Burrows, 4/26
Laslo Bozoky, 4/27	Arleen Rhodes, 4/29

Welcome New Members

John & Gayle Wix of Woodbridge. They keep their 36 footer, *Safe Return*, at Fairfax Yacht Club.

Anniversaries

Merri Jo and Bill Gamble, 4/3
Jill and Steve Stanley, 4/23
Gayle and John Wix, 4/24
Cindy and Ray Kelly, 4/26

OYC Flag Raising

by Sue Thompson

Boating Season is just around the corner! OYC will officially start the 2008 boating season at their annual flag raising on May 5th, at Occoquan Harbour Marina. The official ceremony will start at noon but why not arrive early to enjoy the festivities. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served along with lots to drink. You are asked to please provide a dish to share to round out our menu. If you know of any boaters (new or old) that are not members, this is a good time to introduce them to the club. In addition to raising the flag, the Quartermaster will be there with goodies. And don't forget about our club's annual cannon fire to officially open the season. If you have any questions contact any board member. Hope to see you there.

This Year's Not So Early "Early Bird Cruise"

by Terry Mattke

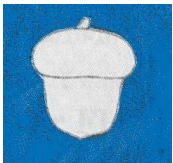
Scheduled for 26/27 April, the cruise is projected to include a record number of boats. To properly plan for this event it will be helpful if those of you attending would confirm your intentions to me via e-mail ttmattke@aol.com. We will be hosting a "HAPPY HOUR" on our boat on Saturday night, followed by a dinner at a local restaurant on Saturday night. Please mention if you would be interested in joining the dinner group. We will be happy to make the reservations. Mid-morning Sunday, join us for a continental brunch; food to be determined by the chef at a later date.

As you have heard and read, competition for slips is likely to be keen. So plan to register on or about the 12th of April to ensure yourself a place at Alexandria City Dock.

Again, details for registration can be found on the web: <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/marina/marina.html>. The City Marina can be reached at 703-838-4265. Mention the OYC cruise.

As of this printing the following people have expressed intent: Mattke's, Croft's, Harris', Rhodes', Thompson's, McCormally's, Dooley's, Belcher's, DeHanas'

This is the kick off to the boating season for 2008. If you cannot make it by boat, please join us for happy hour on Saturday night or for brunch on Sunday morning. Thanks for your interest and we look forward to a wonderful event in the normal OYC fashion. Fun, Food, Fellowship and Good Times.



Treasurer

Trish Mattke

Hello to All My Fellow Members

As requested, we have some financial news to pass along to our members. At the beginning of every season it is a good idea to have everyone on the same page with the real figures, the "red and black" of the OYC. Thankfully, I can report that there is no "RED". Thanks to all of you, your financial support and your dedication to the success of our organization, I respectfully testify that our club is solvent. Although I would like to see a little more discretionary money to support our activities, we DO have enough money to support the basics.

A few numbers that you might relish with your wine. It's always a good idea to look at the numbers with a glass of wine, it brightens the outlook. But on a serious note, our numbers are fine as long as we are careful.

A few facts:

MEMBERSHIP DUES: We have projected a total of \$4,800, only 80 members for 2008. To exceed that, we need everyone to help recruit new and returning members.

QUARTERMASTER: Jim has outlined something new this year. "You pick out what you want and he will order it". Our projected total quartermaster sales this year is a modest \$1,500, with a razor thin profit of \$300. Every little bit helps support our club.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: It seems like a long way away but Pat Croft, "with a little help from her friends" has new and exciting things planned. \$5,500 is our proposed budget for this event and we're looking at lots of fun and a great new experience. Maybe you should mark your calendars now. THE DATE: DECEMBER 13th!!!!

A special "Thank you" for everyone who paid DUES promptly for 2008. It has been a great start on what I'm sure will be a successful year. As boating season beckons, let us be thankful for all our blessings and the joy we receive from boating. But it is people who help with the "activities of daily

boating" that define what our club is all about.

The proposed 2008 Annual Budget is available for your review.

Respectfully submitted,
Your treasure,
One of "BAT TOO"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Steve and Jill Stanley of Annandale, VA

New members since November, 2007.

They keep their 32' Monterey 'bout Time at Fairfax Yacht Club. Welcome to OYC!

News From Your Quartermaster

In order to offer our members a range of OYC embroidered item, we have worked a deal with the Sign Shop in Woodbridge. Their catalog of apparel is at <http://www.imprintablecatalog.com>. Please take a look and email me at JDooley@Gilbaneco.com of any items you would like to purchase. The Sign Shop will then place our embroidered logo on your items.

Please specify size, color and quantity. I will notify you of your actual cost before ordering.

We will still have an array of items to sell at the flag raising, but by selecting from the catalog, you will be able to choose your correct size and color.

Thank you, Jim Dooley, OYC Quartermaster

2008 Occoquan Yacht Club Cruise Calendar

DATE(S)-DAY(S)-TIME(S)	EVENT-LOCATION	CONTACT-TELEPHONE
APRIL		
26-27 (Sat-Sun)	Early Bird Cruise/Old Town	Terry Mattke, 703-690-3966 ttmatke@aol.com
MAY		
3 (Sat)	OYC Flag Raising/OHM	Joe Livingston, 703-505-8313 joseph.livingston@verizon.net
10 (Sat)	ORMA Blessing of the Fleet/Belmont Bay Marina	Board
24-26 (Sat-Mon)	Memorial Day Cruise/Colonial Beach	Bill Hamp, 571-259-0403 bhamp@comstockhomebuilding.com
JUNE		
7 (Sat)	Dinghy Regatta-Shrimp Fest/Hoffmaster's	Al Jorsey, 703-850-2888 aj727sr@yahoo.com
13-15 (Fri-Sun)	Cobb Island Days Cruise	John Heinze, 703-765-2380 jheinze@johnadams.com
21-6 July (Sat-Sun)	Cape May 16-Day Cruise	Larry Freedman, 703-855-1826 freedman420@gmail.com
28-6 July (Sat-Sun)	Mid-Bay 9=Day Cruise	Shane Hatton/Harry Croft, 703-451-9147 hpcroft@verizon.net
JULY		
4-5 (Fri-Sat)	DC Fireworks/DC Channel	Al Jorsey, 703-850-2888 aj727sr@yahoo.com
19-20 (Sat-Sun)	PRYCA Float-In/Port Kinsale Marina	Harry Croft, 703-451-9147 hpcroft@verizon.net
19-3 August (Sat-Sun)	North Carolina 16-Day Cruise	Ned Rhodes, 703-741-0861 ned@softsysgrp.com
19-20 (Sat-Sun)	PRYCA Float-In/Port Kinsale Marina	Harry Croft, 703-451-9147 hpcroft@verizon.net
20-27 (Sun-Sun)	Southern Bay 8-Day Cruise	Joe Livingston, 703-505-8313 joseph.livingston@verizon.net
AUGUST		
8-10 (Fri-Sun)	Dog Days Cruise/Colonial Beach	TBD, Harry Croft (for information)
29-1 September (Fri-Mon)	Chrisfield Crab Races	M. Schall/Larry Freedman, 703-451-7309 mschall1134@aol.com
29-1 September (Fri-Mon)	Labor Day Cruise to St.Mary's	Shane Hatton/Harry Croft, 703-451-9147 hpcroft@verizon.net
OCTOBER		
11-13 (Sat-Mon)	Columbus Day/End of Summer Cruise	Joe Livingston, 703-505-8313 joseph.livingston@verizon.net
18 (Sat)	Membership Meeting/Election of Board	Board
NOVEMBER		
8-10 (Sat-Mon)	Hardy Souls Cruise/National Harbor	Ned Rhodes, 703-741-0861 ned@softsysgrp.com
29 (Sat)	Santa Cruise to Occoquan	Walt Cheatham, 703-243-2430 cheathamwalt@comcast.net
DECEMBER		
6 (Sat)	Alexandria Parade of Lights	Lorraine Lloyd, 703-972-5258 Lloyd@funsides.com
13 (Sat)	Holiday Party/Change of Watch	Pat Croft/Trish Mattke, 703-451-9147 hpcroft@verizon.net

Raft-ups & other social opportunities scheduled whenever someone is willing to coordinate the event.
OYC will broadcast e-mail such opportunities to general membership!

Occoquan Yacht Club

April 2008

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Couple Appreciation Month Jazz Appreciation Month Straw Hat Month						
		1 April Fool's Day	2 National Day of Hope	3 Pony Express Day	4 World Rat Day	5 National Birding Day
6 Teflon Day	7 No Housework Day	8	9	10 National Sibling Day	11 Barber-shop Quartet Day	12 Walk on Your Wild Side Day
13	14 Pan American Day	15 Income Tax Pay Day	16 *	17 High Five Day	18 World Amateur Radio Day	19 Passover
20	21 Astronomy Day	22 Earth Day	23 Secretary's Day	24	25 Arbor Day	26 Early Bird Cruise to Alex.
27 Early Bird Cruise to Alex.	28 Cubicle Day	29 ** National Dance Day	30	* National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day ** National Hairball Awareness Day		

May 2008

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Get Caught Reading Month Motorcycle Safety Month National Correct Posture Month				1 * May Day	2 No Pants Day	3 ** OYC Flag Raising
4 Respect for Chickens Day	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 National Teacher Day	7 Great American Grump Out	8 No Socks Day	9	10 ORMA Blessing of the Fleet
11 Mother's Day	12 Limerick Day	13	14 Receptionists Day	15 National Chocolate Chip Day	16 National Pizza Party Day	17 Armed Forces Day
18 NASCAR Day	19	20 Weights & Measures Day	21 I Need a Patch For That Day	22 National Maritime Day	23 National Taffy Day	24 Mem. Day Cruise Col. Beach
25 *** Memorial Day Cruise	26 Memorial Day	27	28 Senior Health & Fitness Day	29 *****	30 Hug Your Cat Day	31

* Mother Goose Day
 *** Indy 500

** Kentucky Derby
 ***** International Day of UN Peacekeepers

An Issue Jam Packed With Really Good Club News

Inside . . .

The TRUE Meaning of "No Wake",

A Fleet Captain Rebellion,

**Oh, and did I say the Commodore is
Resigning?,**

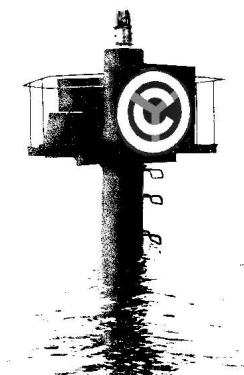
**Chapman's Knows Best,
And Much, Much More.**

**April 26-27
Early Bird Cruise to
Alexandria
Terry Matlke**

**May 3
OYC Flag Raising at
Occoquan Harbour
Marina
Joe Livingston**

**May 10
ORMA Blessing
of the Fleet
Belmont Bay Marina
Board Event**

**May 24-26
Memorial Day
Cruise to Colonial
Beach
Bill Hamp**



The Daymarker

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

Change Service Requested