



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

Web site: www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Joe Livingston

Boating's Law of Probability... *The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.* Have you seen the carefree boater going up and down the Occoquan with several adults and children (mostly under the age of thirteen) with no one wearing a life jacket? How about the teenage daughter riding on the bow with her legs dangling in the water? How about the family's five year old twins running the docks without a life jacket? How about the first mate standing with docking pole and bare feet on the swim platform? Two of these acts are against the law and the last two should be.

We have entered the high season for boating related accidents and the examples above serve as a reminder to follow safe recreational boating practices. Execute a written or mental check list of safety items prior to getting underway that should include the following actions. (1) Shore power cords disconnected and stowed properly. (2) TV cable disconnected. (3) Fuel, oil and water levels okay; no fumes in machinery compartments. (4) Battery(s) charged w/ proper water level. (5) Fire extinguishers charged and serviceable. (6) Navigation/anchor lights operational. (7) Equipment properly stowed. (8) Carbon monoxide/gas fume detectors functional. (9) Life jackets serviceable and in sufficient numbers aboard to ensure there is one per passenger. (10) Engine room blowers operational. As a bonus, test the horn as

you make headway in the slipway and enter the main channel, while keeping in mind that one prolonged blast is the correct signal. Be safe and avoid accidents.

Boating accidents may require a report in most states. Generally, if one or more of the following conditions exist, report the incident. (1) A person dies. (2) A person is injured and requires more than first aid medical treatment. (3) Damage to boat and other property exceeds \$2000 or results in a complete loss of the vessel. (4) A person disappears under circumstances that death or injury is likely.

Be courteous on the water and **fly your OYC Burgee with pride.** Our Club and club members have a great reputation up and down the Potomac River, whether it is with other recreational boat clubs or marina operators. The little things like controlling your wake or giving berth (distance) when overtaking another boat can and does make a difference to everyone's overall enjoyment on the water. Remember, *you* are legally responsible for damage or harm that your vessel's wake causes. By the way, our Quartermaster has a supply of burgees for sale if yours is tattered and faded; the Commodore can get you a mount and flag pole for your new burgee.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 11 September. All members are welcome to attend and encouraged to forward items for board consideration. Call me for location/time of the meeting.

Cheers, Joe



Vice Commodore

Harry Croft

Mid Bay Cruise

By Pat and Harry Croft, *Bay Dreamer*

Cruising the Potomac River along its full length and then into the Bay is always special for us. As many times as we have been on the Bay, we are always in awe of the beauty, majesty, and adventure that it offers. This year's cruise lived up to its promise of great weather, calm seas, and a chance to use *Bay Dreamer* for her intended purpose: cruising the Chesapeake.

St. Mary's Yachting Center, aka, Dennis Point Marina, was the first stop for *Bay Dreamer* (Pat and Harry Croft, with guests Linda and Dave Nelson,) and *Darn Tootin'* (Sharman and Kenny Harris,.) The quiet, serene setting made it the perfect beginning for our two-week adventure, offering a chance to relax. *Darn Tootin'* had a minor engine problem that threatened to spoil the trip, but concerns were quickly dispelled by the efficient, capable, (and inexpensive!) work of the SMYC mechanic. We had planned to grill steaks for dinner that first night, but decided, instead, to try the recently remodelled restaurant, which proved to be the right choice for our celebration – "Yea! We're cruisin'!" – great food, pleasant ambience.



River Marsh Marina at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake, Cambridge, is a social opposite of SMYC, with an abundance of things to do, upscale facilities, a magnificent "infinity" pool with bar service...the pina-coladas are to die for, and then there is the golf. River Marsh is a beautiful, verdant course. The cost was as upscale as the

course, but worth it. Five OYC captains hit the links, but we're not reporting the scores.

River Marsh was the first destination for three boats joining the cruise: *Bat Too* (Trish and Terry Mattke), *Party Time* (Kris and Ralph Mason,) and *Kaylee E* (Bill Mansour and Lobanah,) so of course we had to celebrate – "Yea! We're Cruisin'!" – all over again, with Hurricane drinks provided by our happy hour hosts, Kris and Ralph Mason. The service at River Marsh was outstanding, with friendly staff to assist docking, deliver ice, or transport guests by golf cart. On the last night of our three-day stay there, we also crossed paths with *Takin' It Easy*, (Susan and Randy Willetts,) and her FYC cruising partner, *Déjà Vu* (Pam and Kevin Bell,) which prompted another happy hour, this time hosted by Trish and Terry Mattke.



The next destination was Rock Hall, which was a switch back to a more sedate, rural setting. As planned, we joined *Takin' to the Sea* (Barbara, Larry, and Kiersten Freedman,) and *Jet Global* (MaryAnn and Mark Schall,) as they returned from their Cape May journey.

We stayed at Rock Hall Landing Marina because of the floating docks and proximity to Watermen's Crabhouse. The quaint Main Street is just a short walk from the marina. The ice cream malts and floats at Durdin's Store were as delightful as we remembered, and were a treat for those who were discovering them for the first time. Terry Mattke couldn't decide between a vanilla malted and the deluxe banana split, so he devoured both! On the walk back from town, we purchased fruits and vegetables from a front-yard produce stand – fresh-picked corn on the cob for the BBQ that evening!

Baltimore Inner Harbor Marina, as close to all the downtown action as one can get, was our floating

address for July 2-4. We had six OYC boats in our entourage, minus *Party Time*, which parted company with us after Cambridge for The Tides. Several of the boat crews were joined in Baltimore by guests who came by car to participate in the July 4th festivities.. *Takin' it Easy* and *Déjà vu* came in on July 3, so we became a flotilla of 8 boats with multiple guests. *Takin' it Easy* and *Darn Tootin'* vied for the title of 'Boat with the Most Landlubber Guests', but the Willetts took it with nine guests on July 4, and three more on July 5.

Bay Dreamer had her usual cruising partners, Linda and Dave Nelson. Dave performed, once again, the patriotic medley of songs on his trumpet as the fireworks lit the sky above us; the Star Spangled Banner never sounded better than in that venue where it was born.

The Inner Harbor is a terrific destination for boaters, offering a variety of activities within close proximity. The Rusty Scupper restaurant easily won the 'Best Seafood within Walking Distance' title, but there was no consensus on which restaurant in Little Italy was best: they were all fantastic! Some of us were treated to an after-dinner bonus as we waited for the water taxi at the Little Italy stop - a Lyle Lovett performance at Pier Six, the outdoor concert pavilion just across the canal. Also on the list of favorite activities was the Body World exhibit at the Maryland Science Center, the aquarium, the carousel at Federal Hill Park. We had a great view from our boats of the acrobats practicing on the flying trapeze across the street from the marina.

The highlight of the cruise, for us, took place on the aft deck of the *USS Constellation*, the oldest commissioned sailing vessel in the US Navy, berthed at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Our OYC contingent was honored to perform the evening colors ceremony aboard the ship on July 3. Harry plans to write a detailed article about the event for next month's Day Marker; suffice to say here, it was a moving and patriotic experience we will never forget.

The most memorable negative event is one the *Kaylee E* (Bill Mansour,) won't soon forget. With his boat safely docked well within its large slip, Bill was enjoying a refreshing beverage when it came to his attention that the captain of the 66' yacht coming down the runway was having difficulty manoeuvring his vessel, and, unsure of where the dock master wanted him to go, the captain left the

helm in order to talk to the dock hand. Oops! Unattended boats go where they will, and this one crashed right into *Kaylee E's* bow, ripping off the spot light and a good bit of the bow rail. Bill took it all in stride with a good attitude – the damage didn't alter *Kaylee E's* seaworthiness, so he didn't let the incident spoil his cruise.

On July 5, the group broke up again, *Takin' It Easy* and *Déjà Vu* stayed in Baltimore one more day, while *Bat Too*, *Kaylee E* and *Takin' to the Sea* set out for Solomons Island before heading back up the Potomac. *Jet Global* returned to her homeport, Spring Cove.

Bay Dreamer and *Darn Tootin'* moved on to St. Michaels, since no cruise on the Bay is complete without a stop in St. Michaels! As many times as we have visited St. Michaels, we re-discover it each time as if it were our first time, only better. It is a delightful community to explore on foot or bicycle. The dining choices are varied and excellent. The shopping is dangerous, and Harry would especially recommend that Captains keep their First Mates away a certain tiny jewellery store with the big price tags. Dining at the Harbor Inn and 208 Talbot were the highlights here, although Sharman says that the high point for her was the sight of Kenny, Dave, and Harry riding bicycles on the streets of St Michaels – she has pictures which may be worth a fortune!

Port Kinsale was the last stop on the way home. We encountered the Willetts and the Bells, who were leaving as we arrived, but then we had the place to ourselves to watch the eagles, osprey and great blue heron over the Yeocomico River, and to let boat-dog- Biscuit play in the water. It was a very pleasant end to a wonderful two-week cruise.

A word about gasoline prices: we paid as high as \$4.89/gal and low as \$4.25/gal. Compared with previous bay trips, the fuel cost us about \$600-700 more; for 14 days on the bay, that's \$50 extra a day. We could convert that number that into wine or margarita or dining equivalents, but that would only diminish the value of the joy of boating on the Bay: **PRICELESS!**

Crisfield National Hard Crab Derby and Fair **August 29-31 2008**

Coordinators: Mark Schall, Larry and Barbara Freedman

Last year, *Takin' To The Sea's* crew attended this event for the first time; it was a lot of fun. Spread over Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, there were carnival rides, food, exhibits, boat races, numerous contests of various types, and of course the namesake crab derby. In this event, crabs race down the track in the marina's small stadium, with a lot of spectators cheering them on. If you have guessed already that alcohol is involved, you would be right. There are live concerts Saturday and Sunday night (exactly who it will be is not yet known for this year but it was pretty good last year), and Sunday night will also feature fireworks. The highlight however for us was the boat docking contest, where Chesapeake watermen (no amateurs here) vie for a lot of money and significant bragging rights to see who can take their boat from a side-tie on the main dock and turn it around 180 degrees and back it into a slip in the shortest amount of time. Once again, the stands will be filled with cheering spectators and yes again, alcohol will be involved (on the part of the spectators only and possibly the announcer; the boat captains are deadly serious).

If you would like to attend, the event is held on 29-31 August, mostly within the grounds of the Somers Cove Marina. You need to call this marina to reserve a spot (410-968-0925). You will encounter a small obstacle when you do that – the marina is already full for event days (the last confirmed spot was taken by us right before we left last year). However, the secret is to ask to be placed on the waiting list. We did this last year in early June and were notified about a month later that a spot had opened up for us, so by calling them now, you are highly likely to get you in. You should also mention that you are with OYC, which will help the marina put us all together.

If you haven't been there before, Somers Cove Marina is a large marina run by the State of Maryland. It is a nice run directly across the Chesapeake Bay from the mouth of the Potomac, between two islands into the Tangier Sound, and then south a short way until you turn into the channel that runs into Crisfield's harbor. The town has several good restaurants and shops to browse through, and the sunsets are fantastic.

This is a great family friendly event that has lots of things for everyone. If you make plans to

attend or if you have any questions, call us at 703-830-1820. We hope to see you there.

Presidential Candidates Visit Occoquan!

by IPC Sue Thompson

Well maybe not, but now that I have your attention perhaps you'll read further. It's that time of year when we start looking for volunteers to serve on our club's board. We need your help to succeed. Below is a précis of our officers' roles and responsibilities. Please take a few moments to seriously consider submitting your name for one of these positions.

Commodore

Principal leader of OYC, with emphasis on leadership and overall administration.

Duties include: Schedule, convene and chair meeting of the board and general membership. Directly, and through club delegates, maintain inter-club relationships and liaise with the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Associations. Ensure through the board members, committee chairs and the *Daymarker* editor, that OYC members are promptly and fully apprised of Club plans/activities and safety/legal issues related to pleasure boating. Submit articles to the *Daymarker*. Liaise with OYC website Webmaster or delegate a board member to do so.

Vice Commodore

Assistant to the Commodore in those duties, is second-in-command and, in the Commodore's absence, assumes those responsibilities.

Duties include: Overall coordinator for OYC's afloat and land based events. Prepare and distribute draft and final schedules for club's yearly events. Coordinate the annual planning meeting and the annual change-of-watch/ holiday dinner dance. Appoint event and cruise coordinators for the year. Serve as principal leader, trainer and manager of Fleet Captains. Submit articles to the *Daymarker*.

Rear Commodore

Responsible for logistical support of land-based club activities.

Duties include: Maintain club's storage shed. Provide supplies, foodstuffs, utensils, disposable materials and equipment required for support of club events. Maintain a clear and detailed record of supply purchases and distribution to assist future Rear Commodores in their duties. Submit articles to the *Daymarker*.

Treasurer

Accounts for all income and expenses of the club.

Duties include: Maintain the club's bank account and club funds according to the bylaws. Prepare an annual budget at the beginning of the year and prepare periodic variance reports throughout the year to measure actual performance. Prepare financial reports for each board

and general membership meeting. Coordinate with the Membership Chairman to ensure all members are in good financial standing. Submit articles and/or periodic financial reports to the *Daymarker*.

Secretary

Responsible for club records and written correspondence.

Duties include: Prepare and preserve minutes of board and general membership meetings. Annually update the Event Coordinator's handbooks. Prepare correspondence for the club such as sympathy cards, replies to CBYCA and PYRCA and solicitations. Maintain current addresses of PYRCA clubs and other boating organizations, keeping both the membership chairman and the *Daymarker* editor informed of changes. Submit articles to the *Daymarker*.

Please contact Sue Thompson at 703-440-8114 or at foreverdreamin@earthlink.net, if you are interested in filling one of these important positions. Don't wait for others, volunteer today.

GREAT OYC Cruise Reviews

Cobb Island Days Cruise June 14-15 2008

Eric Belcher, *Time2Play*

Those of you who couldn't make the Cobb Island Days cruise missed a fun event. The cruise took approximately two hours for Tom and Donna Lensis' *Copy Cat* and our boat, *Time2Play*, once we entered the Potomac River. As we pulled into The ScuttleButt Marina, Larry and Barbara Freedman's *Takin' to the Sea* was docking. Steve and Sue Thompson (*Forever Dreamin'*) and John and Rebecca Heinze (*Great Escape*) were on the dock to greet us. The marina is well run and staffed with helpful people who wanted our stay to be an unforgettable and friendly experience.

Without a doubt, it was. I truly appreciated the personal touches that made us feel welcome: especially Don Thayer, Commodore of the Cobb Island Yacht Club, being on hand to greet us as we came into our slips and the Sunday paper hand-delivered to our boats.

Although our flotilla was small in size, we made up for that smaller presence with our convivial spirit and willingness to have fun, while hanging out with the locals at ScuttleButt's Restaurant and Bar, or at Captain John's for breakfast/brunches. After docking and securing our boats Friday night, we showed the Cobb Islanders that we could dance and sing karaoke with the best of them. Okay, the last bit is not quite true: there were at least two locals who had fantastic singing voices that put our teams to shame but we made up for that with our

enthusiastic attack on the lyrics. Don and Barbara Thayer hosted the Captains' hour on Saturday afternoon and the pig roast that night was a huge success. I think the entire town turned out for it, as we all squeezed into ScuttleButt's to mingle and eat some of the finest BBQ pork I've had in a while. The Cobb Island Days displays were set up at the park near the marina and were filled with many arts and crafts designed to separate you from your money—the First Mate managed to purchase a few things when my attention was distracted elsewhere. Many of us spent some time at the kiosk that offered remedial knot tying lessons. (Reminder to Tom on tying a Bowline: up through the hole, around the tree and back down the hole again).). Honorable mention to the air conditioned ice cream store and art gallery next to the craft fair – a terrific treat following the “rigors” of the craft fair and parade! Kudos to John and Rebecca Heinze of *Great Escape* for organizing this fun and relaxing cruise

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Bryan Burrows 8/12
Edward Karpinski 8/17
Mike Hollingsworth 8/26
Paul Linse 8/28
Alison Rose 8/1
Carolyn Dabney Bell 8/11
Sharon Striker 8/12
Jody Miller 8/19
Monica Lovell 8/26

Anniversaries

Larry & Barbara Freedman 8/7
Randy & Susan Willetts 8/18
Dave & April DeHanes 8/22
Timothy & Maria Gibbons 8/22
Walt & Susan Cheatham 8/30

GREAT OYC Cruise Reviews 2008 Cape May Cruise Journal

Larry and Barbara Freedman, *Takin' To The Sea*

Our trip started at Point Lookout Marina, now under new ownership, although the place looks the same. We had dinner at Spinnakers Restaurant, and the rockfish stuffed with crab was excellent. We spent an extra day at Point Lookout given a forecast of rough, following seas in the bay.

Our smooth ride around Point Lookout and up to St. Michaels allowed us to meet up with Mark and MaryAnn Schall, of *Jet Global*. After shopping and a mandatory stop at Justine's ice cream store, we had an excellent dinner at the Town Dock Restaurant, overlooking the marina.

The next morning we elected to head north through Kent Narrows. We made it through successfully. But I wouldn't want to attempt it even now on a Saturday or Sunday as the north side of the passage is very narrow with the 90° turn.

After leaving Kent Narrows behind us, we went through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, where we stopped for the night at the Chesapeake Inn & Marina. The C&D Canal is 14 miles long, 450 feet wide, and at least 35 feet deep all the way across. The last part helps a lot when a huge containership is coming your way straight down the middle of the canal (okay that didn't happen this time, but it did the last time we went through).



The C&D Canal

We went down the Delaware River, across the Delaware Bay and into the Cape May Canal, with river swells flattening out in the bay – some say good planning on the part of the cruise coordinator, some say good luck. After a short stop at the entrance to the Cape May Canal to let the local ferry back out of its slip (since it was just a bit bigger than us), we went through the canal to Cape May Harbour and then into South Jersey Marina.

We spent a leisurely three days at Cape May enjoying the beaches, shops, museums, and restaurants. Barbara and Kiersten (aka Sally, also now aka Swab – if you saw Captain Ron, you'll know the nickname) took a whale and dolphin watching cruise. Grocery shopping, laundry, pump outs, and routine boat maintenance were done. Also, Mark was seen polishing his boat just a little.

Prior research had indicated that, while dogs were not permitted on Cape May's main

beach, there was a beach they were allowed on at West Cape May called Sunset Beach. So that's where we headed, since Mr. Wilson likes the beach and we're well trained by him. We spent a couple of hours there and then biked off for a short tour of the town. We cruised the main beach road and then turned up to view the gingerbread houses.



Gingerbread Houses

On Saturday afternoon shortly after the charter boat opposite us on the dock returned (I forgot to mention this is the capital of sport fishing in New Jersey, where charter boats routinely go well out into the Atlantic), an OYC happy hour broke out on the dock (what were the odds?). After observing our setup on the dock, the captain of the charter boat was heard to remark that maybe we'd done that once or twice before. We later learned the captain was an IT guy who lived in Ashburn, worked in Reston not far from Larry's office there, and drove to Cape May every weekend to run the charter boat. Small world.

The next day, we left very early for the *Takin' To The Sea* crew, casting off at 7:20 am (we have witnesses), in order to take advantage of slack winds and beat any afternoon thunderstorms but had to contend with a large wake from a 70-foot Coast Guard boat in the C&D Canal. At Georgetown Yacht Basin we did some damage in their excellent combination marine store and gift shop. After some excitement negotiating the channels inside Rock Hall's harbour, we made it safely into our slip at Rock Hall Landing Marina where we met with the OYC mid-Bay cruisers, signalling the end of the Cape May portion of the cruise.

We had a great trip, with good weather and favorable seas every time we had to travel. Cape May is a great destination that is reachable by anyone with the proper planning and attention to the weather, marine forecasts and tide tables.

Planning Calendar August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Work like a Dog Day	2 National Mustard Day
3 Friendship Day	4 Coast Guard Day	5 National Night Out	6	7 Happiness Happens Day	8 National Garage Sale Day	9 S'mores Day
10	11 Eleanor Roosevelt Day	12 International Left Handers' Day	13	14 National Men's Grooming Day	15 Sandcastle Day	16
17 Bad Poetry Day	18 Aviation Day	19	20	21 Southern Hemisphere Hoodie Hoo Day	22	23 Vesuvius Day
24/31 Kiss and Make Up Day	25 National Dog Day	26	27 Crackers over the Keyboard Day	28 More Herbs, Less Salt Day	29 National Holistic Pet Day	30 Love Litigating Lawyers Day
Happiness Happens Month National Win with Civility Month National Inventor's Month						

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Chicken Boy's Day	2 V-J Day	3	4 Newspaper Carriers' Day	5 Be Late for Something Day	6
7 Google Commemoration Day	8 International Literacy Day	9 Wonderful Weirdoes Day	10 Swap Ideas Day	11 Remember Freedom Day	12 Video Games Day	13 Bald is Beautiful Day
14	15 National Women Road Warrior Day	16	17 Pledge across America Day	18 Air Force Birthday	19 Talk Like a Pirate Day	20 Big Whopper Liar Day
21	22 Hobbitt Day	23 Innergize Day	24 Punctuation Day	25 National One-hit-Wonder Day	26 Love Note Day	27 National Hunting and Fishing Day
28 Fish tank Floorshow Night	29 Michaelmas	30				
National "Coupon Month National Honey Month Sea Cadet Month						

August 29-31
Crisfield Crab Derby
Somers Cove Marina MD
Mark Schall
Larry Freedman

Early Reservation Alert:
August 30-Sept 1
Labor Day Cruise to St
Mary's Yachting Center
Harry Croft

October 11-13
Columbus Day Cruise
Joe Livingston

October 18
General
Membership/Election
Meeting
OYC Board

Late Summer Boating is the best time to be on the water!

Inside this edition.....

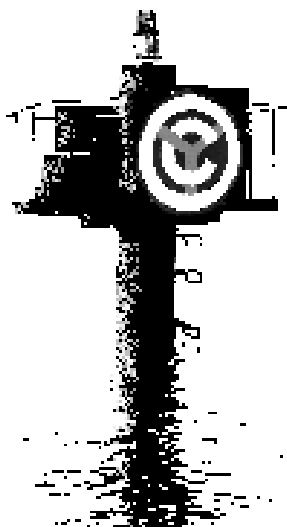
**Action packed adventures described in
Cruise Reviews:**

**The Mid-Bay Cruise,
Cobb Island Days Cruise,
and The Cape May Cruise,**

**Call for Volunteers—YES, the Board
needs YOU!,**

Upcoming late summer cruises,

... And other exciting articles



The Daymarker

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Change Service
Requested