



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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There are three more events to go as I write this article and then 2008 will be in the books. First, we must get Santa to Occoquan on Saturday, the 29th on November. It's a fun filled morning with grog and sweets on the dock, a personal photo opportunity as Santa arrives for the kids and grandkids, and the joyful cruise up the Occoquan to be greeted by the excitable children of Occoquan waiting for the arrival of the "man in the red suit". If you missed this event in the past or cannot make it this year...plan for next year. Second, the Parade of Lights activities along the DC and Old Town Alexandria waterfronts will get you in the *holiday spirit*. The parade routes have changed, the prize list has grown and the Awards Party at the Waterfront Gourmet will offer a new venue for fun seekers to finish the evening. Finally, the last event of the year is your Club's **Holiday Party and Change of Watch**. The organizing committee, in concert with your board, has planned a special event at the Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton, Virginia. If you enjoy boating, you do not want to miss the celebration of the 2008 boating year and the rewards/awards that the season has provided. The invitations are out... are you in? I should hope so.

It's time for me to say farewell as Commodore. It has been great. All is well with the Club and the Club remains in good hands. "Thank you" to Rear Commodore Allen Jorsey and Treasurer Trish Mattke for their service as they leave the Board and best wishes to those remaining or newly elected. A "special thank you" to IPC Sue Thompson as you rise to that hallowed rank of Past Commodore. I will be there soon.

Rescue 21 Now operational on the Chesapeake Bay is a command, control and communications system that enables the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) feature on the newer VHF-FM radios. All boaters are encouraged to upgrade their VHF radios to those containing the DSC feature, to register for the MMSI number and to interface the radio to your boat's GPS. The new system closes many coverage gaps in coastal areas, enhances safety at sea and, when the DSC button is pressed, your boat's exact coordinates will be transmitted to assist emergency responders.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 11 December, 2008 and all 2009 Board members will be attending. All other Club members are welcome to attend as well and are encouraged to forward topics for consideration. Call Harry Croft, Incoming Commodore, for location/time of the meeting.

Cheers, Joe.



Vice Commodore

Harry Croft

Looking Back and Planning Ahead . . .

As the final days of 2008 draw near, it's a good time to look back over the wonderful OYC boating season and revel in memories of adventure, fun, and mishaps shared with OYC friends! About 12 Cruises, organized by club members, covering hundreds of miles, and many boats, went all over the Potomac River complex, Chesapeake Bay, and even Delaware Bay; all this in spite of fuel prices approaching the \$5 mark!! I personally spent more than \$3,900 in gasoline alone!! It is a true testament to the value of boating, the pleasures of being on the water, in the company of good friends that so many of you participated in so many cruises this year.

Additionally, we held several landlocked social events that brought us all together for a good time without the threat of becoming a nominee for the "Bent Prop Award". Starting with the Plan Fest, then the Flag Raising Ceremony, the Dinghy Regatta and Shrimp Fest, the membership meetings, and ending with the upcoming Holiday Party and Change of Watch, OYC has had a busy agenda and a fun year with good shipmates.

The Holiday Party and Change of Watch is not only a chance to party, but it is a chance to formally thank the many volunteers who keep OYC afloat, from Cruise Coordinators to Fleet Captains, to the Board and our Commodore.

In the case of our Commodore, special thanks are in order for Joe and Gail Livingston. Joe was Commodore for both PRYCA and OYC in 2007, and he stayed on for a second term with OYC in 2008. He has kept us on course with a steady helm. Our thanks go to Gail as well, as we are well aware of her support and of the time commitment both of them have devoted to the OYC cause.

Joe has provided excellent leadership for OYC, and has agreed to continue his support as PRYCA delegate. Much of Joe's work with the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association is seldom seen by most of us at OYC, but it is nonetheless important in maintaining the vital link with the other clubs and offering political insight on

legislation and government policy that can affect our boating. The gray-water disposal issue is a good example of where PRYCA watches out for our interest, and Joe has kept us informed.

OYC is a special club, operating with only volunteer service, with very little pomp and circumstance, with all of our activities oriented toward having fun while staying safe on our boats and on the water. We rely on each other to make it all work, and I encourage everyone to find a way to get involved - volunteer to carry some of the load - you'll find that it increases your enjoyment of the club activities.

Looking ahead, we may need a new *Daymarker* editor next year, if the Belchers move on to a new military assignment. I've petitioned the Army to keep Eric here in Northern Virginia, but I doubt they listened to my arguments. I claimed he was really a closet sailor! The position of *Daymarker* editor is a once-a-month effort that keeps OYC members connected. It is our clubhouse! Give it some thought. You might be just the person to carry on when Carol has to leave, though we're certain she and Eric will return someday.

We will also need cruise coordinators for the 2009 season. While some cruises are multi-day, multi-destination and require extensive coordination, others are single destination, long-weekend events. Both types require intensive effort, but for a finite period of time. All experienced OYC cruisers qualify for the position of cruise coordinator. I can assure you that if you volunteer as a coordinator, you will receive copious amounts of advice and guidance!

We'll be starting our planning for OYC Boating Season 2009 in January. We'll be looking forward to new adventures and good times with old and new friends alike.

I hope we can count on you, and count you IN as a volunteer!



Rear Commodore

Allen Jorsey



Secretary

Pat Croft

Flying the Boat

As this is my last article for the *Daymarker* as Rear Commodore (you will not have me to kick around anymore), it was suggested that I discuss why I love flying and boating and what is similar and different between these two activities. The first thing about both is that they are commanded by a CAPTAIN, both of whom wear four stripes. The Captain of the ship can marry passengers aboard the vessel but the Captain of the plane cannot, but please do not tell those young Flight Attendants that. Both travel in a medium that, at times, has a mind of its own and at any given time we captains are really just holding on, looking like we know what we are doing. It is very easy to put a plane in the water but quite hard to get the boat in the air; a fact which my submariner brother frequently reminds me—he has seen more planes in the underwater than subs in the air. Current navigation equipment is quite the same for both in that we use GPS, and, if you input the wrong info, the results are the same, with the plane's outcome quicker and more deadly. Planes and boats are different in that it is most difficult to get that big heavy plane in the air and, as its captain, you know it will be back on the ground at some time in unknown shape whereas the boat comes out of the slip with ease and is more difficult to back in. However in the boat's case, if the captain cannot back it in, he can just hold it in place with the anchor. And last but not least, the Flight Attendants treat the Captain as he should be treated (like GOD) whereas the First Mates' actions can be an unknown and sometimes they have a mind and opinions of their own.

Plane to Sea, back to plane
Allen Jorsey, soon to be IPRC



With Thanksgiving behind us, the next big event on my calendar is the OYC Holiday Party! Your party committee has been hard at work to make this Change of Watch Ceremony a festive gala. It's a formal dinner-dance, but with plenty of light-hearted fun in store for everyone.

Your formal invitation should have arrived by now – if it hasn't, let me know! The OYC post office box has been filling up with your replies, and we're excited about the number of "will attend" responses.

You may have noticed that you did not have to check an entrée choice for dinner on the reply card. That's because dinner will be served at buffet tables, allowing you to indulge in a little of both entrees if you wish. Chef Edison Rosales will be preparing both chicken cordon bleu and paprika-roasted pork loin with three-mushroom sauce for us, along with a tempting variety of accompanying dishes.

The Cocktail Hour will begin at 6:30, with beer, wine, and mixed beverages available at the Cash Bar. I emphasize the word **CASH**, since we will not be able to take credit cards for the purchase of beverages at the bar, and there is no ATM on the premises. So leave the plastic at home, but stock up on cash – you remember cash, that green paper with presidential portraits that you can fold up and stuff in your pockets. And since we want the bartender to be busier filling your beverage order than making change, we will sell Beverage Tickets, (\$3 for Beer, \$5 for wine or mixed drinks,) at a table near the entrance foyer. Beverage Tickets will be available all evening.

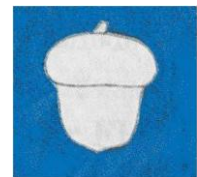
For this special occasion, instead of a 50/50 raffle, we will raffle off one of the beautiful cake creations of Sharman and Catherine Harris, which they have generously donated to us for this event. Their elaborate, oversized Gingerbread House is a work of art that has won prizes in national and international

cake show competitions, and was chosen as the December feature in 'A Baker's Dozen', the 2009 Sweet Life calendar, a coveted honor for competitive cake artists. Raffle tickets for this cake and candy sculpture will sell for \$5 each or \$20 for six.

The dance portion of the evening will get under way after the installation of the new board. Live music will be provided by Small Town, the small (2 guys!) band with the big sound. They come highly recommended from other yacht club dances. So strap on your dancing shoes – this is your chance to “cut up a rug”, or in this case, a mahogany dance floor.

And one little reminder – keep your invitation handy – the directions to Laurel Hill Golf Club are on the back!

More than any other OYC event, the Holiday Party offers us the opportunity to practice the motto Rick Sorrenti doesn't want us to forget – “Eat, Drink, and Have Fun!” This is one you don't want to miss! See you December 13!



Treasurer

Trish Matkke

A Final Farewell from your OYC Treasurer

Writing articles has not been my favorite part of the job but representing your interests and your money has been fantastic. I have enjoyed the many wonderful people I have met and cruised with, the many joys of boating and sharing experiences, most of them good. We have created a club in which members are people who support each other and who look out for the other guy. I am proud to have been a board member for three years and look forward to seeing and cruising with you all in 2009.

Support and congratulate your new board at the Holiday Party, December 13th. I'll see you there!

One of BAT TOO

Our historian needs your help!

Nabil is working feverishly to capture this year's OYC activities for posterity, both on the water and on the pier. If you have photos that show the fun you had this season and that he can use, please email them to him at Dubraque@aol.com

OYC Membership Renewal

If you've noticed a lot of mention of membership renewal recently, that's because, even though the actual boating season has pretty much ended for most of us, Membership Season is just about to begin. The membership year for OYC is January 1 to December 31, so as the 2008 boating year comes to an end, we invite you to renew your membership for **OYC Boating Year 2009**.

To make it a little easier to send in your renewal fees, the reply card for the Holiday Party includes an opportunity for you to include your dues payment in the addressed, stamped envelope provided. Our OYC treasurer receives each envelope, and will duly credit your membership as 'paid' when you mark the type of membership and include the appropriate payment in your check. For your convenience, you can write just one check for both Holiday Party fees and membership renewal dues.

**2009 OYC Membership Fees: Family - \$75
Individual - \$55 Associate - \$30**

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Dan Parsons	12/1
Eric Belcher	12/3
Dave DeHanas	12/8
Larry Freedman	12/9
Mike Robins	12/13
Frank Machi	12/20
Don Miller	12/27
Debbie Kent	12/22
Becky Quentmeyer	12/22

Susan Thompson 12/26
Cindy Kelly 12/17

Anniversaries

Ned and Arleen Rhodes 12/21
Steven and Becky Quentmeyer 12/28

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Bill Mansour of Burke, VA. He keeps his 44' Trajan, KAYLEY E, at Fairfax Yacht Club.

The Daymarker

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Carol Belcher, Editor
Ilona Zsirai, Circulation

Deadline for submission of articles to ***The Daymarker*** is the 20th of each month. Please submit your copy by email to:

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On the Internet

Occoquan Yacht Club:

www.OccoquanYachtClub.org *

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:

www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org *

Occoquan River Maritime Association:

www.ormaweb.org *

Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:

www.cbyca.org

*Web space donated by Software Systems Group
Ned Rhodes, President and CEO

Winterization: The Time is Now

Eric Belcher, Time2Play

By now, here in Virginia, the bite of winter has made its presence known to all of us. And it came much earlier than it did last year! The frost on the windshields in the mornings, the frozen summer plants that the First Mate forgot to bring in, and the bare tree branches in the past week have reminded all of us that we cannot delay on winterizing our precious boats. I always enjoy reading *Seaworthy* for its articles and kept the one from last fall because it contained useful winterizing tips and a great winterizing checklist that you can personalize. It contained detailed information on winterizing

engines, the sea strainer, portable heaters, water pumps, transmissions, fuel tanks, air conditioners, fresh water systems, hot water heater, and heads. I'm happy to consult a good winterization checklist—it keeps us honest and ensures that we don't forget a component as we go through the stem-to-stern winterizing schedule.

Seaworthy's article reminded us that boaters in all 50 states need to winterize to some degree, including those that we normally wouldn't consider to be deep-freeze states such as Florida, Georgia, Alabama and California. According to BoatUS Marine Insurance claim files from last year, the state with the most winterizing claims was, surprisingly, California. A certain degree of complacency settles into those residents because they only have occasional cold spells. However, a cold snap in even sunny California can result in serious boat insurance claims.

We were out on the boat last weekend, winterizing the water system and installing the engine compartment heater, along with several other boaters at our club. Everyone had the same glum expression on their faces: winterizing means the final days of the boating season are fast approaching. I think that's why we try all things in our power to delay winterizing for as long as we can—we hate to say goodbye to being on the water. That's why I can sympathize with those boaters in California who had winterizing claims! Who wants to see the end of the boating season anyway?

Great Cruise Review

Send in the Clowns

Ned W. Rhodes, IMPULSE

The Hardy Souls Cruise of 2008 is now history and is memorable for a number of reasons. It is the first time we traveled to National Harbor for this cruise. The dock staff could not have been easier to work with. Dockmaster Debbie took our reservations and assigned us slips that were close together and Harbormaster Eric came through with a 10% group discount on slip fees as well as free bus passes to the Cirque Du Soleil.

A small group of "hardy" boaters endured the gruelling 70 degree weather on Friday to make the trip up river to National Harbor. After cocktails on



The beautiful National Harbor

the dock and dinner out (at various places) a number returned to continue to socialize. A number of people came down with the dreaded "Harris flu" the next day and were slow to mobilize for the day. After extensive consultation and dock walking, it was decided that we would postpone the planned dock breakfast until Sunday due to the threatening weather. Bloody Marys and other libations magically appeared and the plan of the day was executed.



Another party on the dock...

The evening cocktail party/dinner had dishes too numerous to count and no one could have walked away hungry. Around 7, those attending *Kooza* found the buses and enjoyed a three hour show that included the Wheel of Death, clowns, acrobatics, contortionists, teeterboard and high wire acts. It was an amazing spectacle and we were all exhausted after the show.

Those not attending the show had mixed reviews of some of the various restaurants. Not all the

restaurants are open yet and they are still in the process of training the wait and cooking staff.

Shorts were the dress of the day for Sunday and once again the crews outdid themselves with a breakfast feast. In my opinion, Sharman Harris saved the day with the plate of bacon but it did not last long. Everyone seemed reluctant to head home, but eventually all good things must come to an end.

The Hardy Souls of 2008 included Ned and Arleen Rhodes; Tom and Donna Lensis (with friends Dan and Donna); Jim and Judy Dooley; Jim Hawley, Meimei Tidrow, Dianne Bricker; Kenny and Sharman Harris (and "crew" Harry and Pat Croft); Terry and Trish Mattke; Larry, Barbara and "Sally" Freedman; Sue and Steve Thompson; Laslo and Linda Bozoky; Tom Shank (with crew Matt, Scott, Tony and Jayson); Joe and Gail Livingston; Allen (AH) and Lynanne Jorsey; Walter Kraus and Joan Hicks. Four legged companions included Abby, Nick, Mr. Wilson, Alex, Molson and Walter's attack dog, whose name I have momentarily forgotten, and who we will call Killer.



Mr Wilson and his lady companion, Barbara

Rumor has it that there are some unofficial pictures taken at the cruise, and I hope you are not taken in by impostors. Only those photos taken by me can be considered an accurate representation of what really happened and fortunately, those have been included in this article.

Planning Calendar December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Day without art Day	2 Rockefeller Center Xmas Tree Lighting	3 Special Kids Day	4 National Dice Day	5 Bathtub Party Day	6 National Pawnbrokers Day
7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9 Weary Willie Day	10 Human Rights Day	11 International Mountain Day OYC Board Meeting	12 Poinsettia Day	13 Day of the Horse OYC Party
14 National Children's Memorial Day	15 Cat Herder's Day	16 National Chocolate-covered Anything Day	17 Wright Brothers Day	18 International Migrants Day	19 Underdog Day	20 Mudd Day
21 Hanukkah Winter Solstice	22	23 Festivus	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day (Canada)	27
28 National Chocolate Day	29 Tick Tock Day	30 Falling Needles Family Fest Day	31 Leap Second Time Adjustment Day			
Bingo's Birthday Month National Tie Month Universal Human Rights Month						

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Mummer's Parade	2 Happy Mew Year for Cats Day	3 Fruitcake Toss Day
4 Earth at Perihelion	5 Bird Day	6 Epiphany or Twelfth Night	7 I'm not going to Take it Anymore Day	8 National English Toffee Day	9	10 Positively Penguins Day <i>Full Moon</i>
11 Perigean Spring Tides	12 National Clean off your Desk Day	13	14 Ratification Day	15 Women in Blue Jeans Day	16 Appreciate a Dragon Day	17 Kid Inventors' Day
18 Do Dah Parade Day	19 Martin Luther King Day	20 Inauguration Day	21 National Hugging Day	22 Answer your Cats' Questions Day	23 Snowplow Mailbox Hockey Day	24 National Compliment Day
25 A Room of One's Own Day	26 Chinese New Year	27 National Speak up and Succeed Day	28	29 Free Thinkers Day	30 Fun at Work Day	31 Inspire Your Heart with Art Day
California Dried Plum Digestive Month Get Organized Month International Creativity Month						

The season of good cheer is here!

Inside this edition...

December 6
Alexandria Parade of Lights
Alexandria Harbor
Allen Jorsey

December 13
OYC Holiday Dinner/Dance
and
Change of Watch Ceremony
Laurel Hills Golf Club
OYC Board

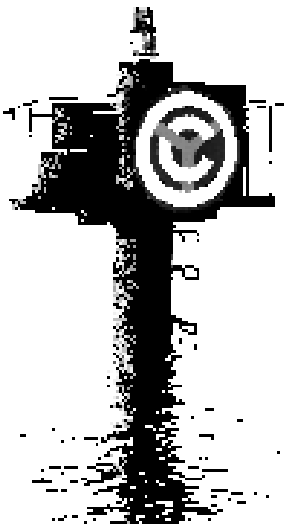
January 2009
Exact date to be determined
OYC Planfest
OYC Board

Farewells from your Commodore, Joe Livingston, Rear Commodore, Al Jorsey, and Treasurer, Trish Mattke

A few words about the past and future at OYC by the incoming Commodore, Harry Croft

Action packed OYC adventures by those Hardy Souls at the National Harbor

Santa to Cruise the Occoquan!



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Occoquan Yacht Club
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Change Service
Requested