



The Daymarker

OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

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Commodore's Comments

Joe Livingston

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Springs coming! Springs coming! The Club will renew our agreement with BoatU.S. to participate in the BoatU.S. Accord. A no cost arrangement wherein the Club agrees to remind the members of benefits of membership. As an accord # GA80907 member, the first benefit is 50% of the annual membership fee ... it should cost \$12.50. They represent the boating community well and I recommend a BoatU.S. membership be maintained and also suggest you consider the unlimited towing coverage...it can certainly save out of pocket expense. The OYC participates in the BoatU.S. Accord to advance recreational boating safety and education.

Best to telephone to get the discount ... online does not seem to work well.

OYC members know how to have fun and our eleven crews that attended the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association Change of Watch not only supported your Commodore (Thank You) but set the tone for the evening. Our new and adopted member, Dianne Bricker, accepted a PRYCA's Distinguished Commodore award on behalf of Joe Hadley's family. Then, the party and dancing started. The OYC trio of Terry M., Mike H. and Walter K. got the dance floor going ... not exactly



sure what the colored lights signified on Walter's head but the dance moves and shedding of clothing items was enough to get two more males dancing together.

A couple items I noted from Boat/U.S. indicated boaters need to check their Marina Slip Contract against their Boat's insurance policy. Be aware of "hold harmless and indemnify" and "defend and indemnify" and know what they mean and if your insurance protects you. Another item on their website is an offer of courses or forums for waterway rules, women-only seminars for the female boater and information on definitions of on-the-water towing services and salvage operations. Look to www.BoatUS.com and check it out.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 7 February. All members are welcome to attend and encouraged to forward items for board consideration. Call to get location/time of the meeting.

Cheers, Joe



Vice Commodore

Harry Croft



Rear Commodore

Allen Jorsey

SAFE BOATER TRAINING

This winter, when you are thinking about the upcoming boating season, you might want to think about how to become a better and safer boater. Do you know how to tie a bowline? Do you know how to shoot off a flare gun? How about towing another boat without ruining your boat?!



The Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association (PRYCA) is sponsoring the SAFE BOATR program. Simply put, this program is an adjunct to the Coast Guard's safety course. BOATR, **B**oat **O**peration **A**nd **T**raining **R**etention, is a hands-on program consisting of 10 basic activities that you and your first mate do all the time. At the conclusion of the course, you will receive a certificate and a sticker for your boat! You will also know how to tie knots, shoot the flare gun, and tow a boat, not just in theory, but in practice!

There will be announcements for training this winter to get you started to be a safe BOATR. It takes a commitment to finish all the activities and it takes time, but it is worth it! If you are interested, drop me an e-mail, hpcroft@verizon.net. If there are at least 5 members willing to start the training, I will coordinate the course for you. Your first step is to complete an approved Boating Safety Course. Please let me know if you are interested in the basic safe boating course and I will make the necessary arrangements. It's fun and, more importantly, it may save someone's life; most importantly, the life you save may be mine!!

The Daymarker
Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Steve Thompson, Editor
Sue Thompson, Editor's Advisor on Worldly Matters
Iona Zsirai, 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

GREETINGS FROM SUNNY FLORIDA (49°)

Hope you all had a great time at the COW. The Rear Commodore spent the day getting Plane to Sea ship shape so missed the party. Some observations about Florida boating vs. up North are that when the boat sits for very long (a day or two) it requires attention before using it. The warm temperatures, high humidity and salt air promotes mold inside the boat so we now have a de-humidifier which solves that problem in the living space of the boat. The engine room gets mold quickly so it has to be washed down on a regular basis. The high humidity takes it's toll on blowers, fans, shower pumps and will freeze a motor if not cycled every visit to the boat. The ultra-violet rays are stronger here so all the zippers on the top and sides had to be replaced. What seats that can't be brought in get mold quickly. White wall tire cleaner works best on that problem. The barnacles on the bottom and bottom machinery slow the boat and causes vibration so I have a diver that comes and cleans the little devils off. But while it is cold up North, at 2 PM it will be in the high 70's and we will be cruising the Halifax River (part of the inter-coastal) with a stop at Boondocks (local restaurant and bar similar to Tim's Rivershore) for a fish sandwich and a cool one.

Plane to Sea, back to plane

It's NEVER Too Early to Think About Buying a New Boat – Part Two.

It's the middle of winter. The boat is tucked away somewhere and you haven't seen it for a couple months now. You're getting that certain urge to get back on your boat but that's pretty much not an option. So, what do you do? Go to a boat show!! Try one or two, or all, of the following:

- Richmond Raceway Complex Boat Show, 14-17 February
- DC Convention Center Boat Show, 14-18 February
- Dulles Expo Center Boat Show, 7-9 March
- Hampton Roads Boat Show, 14-16 March
- Bay Bridge Boat Show, 24-27 April

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque, 2/1 Meimei Tidrow, 2/2
Cindy Hollingsworth, 2/3 Sabrina Worcester, 2/3
Dianne Bricker, 2/6 Maria Gibbons, 2/9
Rick Sorrenti, 2/9 Candy Clevenger, 2/11
Dwayne Johnson, 2/18 Bob Wilson, 2/22
Jack Striker, 2/28

Anniversaries

Sue and Steve Thompson, 2/16

Welcome New Members

Steve and Jill Stanley of Annandale. They keep their boat, *Bout Time*, at Fairfax Yacht Club.

Steve and Becky Quentmeyer of Dumfries. They currently do not have a boat.

OYC Membership – a Bunch of Ruffians and Law Breakers

by Steve Thompson

Well ... okay, maybe not ruffians but definitely law breakers.

When I first joined the Occoquan Yacht Club I did so because I wanted to meet people like myself, people who were interested in boating. Since those early days I have had countless memorable experiences, both good and bad, none of which I am sorry for encountering. I look upon those bad ones as learning experiences that will enhance and multiply the good times in the future. And what better way to do this but by sharing with others, such as you, my fellow OYC membership. Not only do you get to share in my experiences, but I have made many friends who ended up sharing their boating experiences with me.

For example, when a member ends up on the wrong side of a marker and bends a prop the experience is shared, voluntarily or not. When a member, for some unknown reason, ends up taking an unexpected dip in the water the experience is shared, again voluntarily or not. And these experiences are more often than not shared when members get together relaxing on a boat in the mid-day sun or the glow of a picturesque sunset munching on something tasty and holding in their



hand a glass of something or other.

I have to admit that I have participated in these gatherings on more than one occasion, and enjoyed them immensely. What better way can you relax than with good friends, good food, and good drink? But, alas, it is this last item that has me rethinking my association with other OYC'ers. True, I will sip a glass of wine or two (or was that a bottle) on occasion. And if wine is not available I will gladly partake in something or other alcoholic in a glass with some Coke (actually I'm a Pepsi fan).

But never before had I realized how lawless some of those around me are. And this comes in the form of another type of drink, specifically Sangria. Yes you read right, sangria. And what, you may ask, is so lawless about sangria? Well, for one thing, it is illegal, at least in Virginia. You see there seems to be a law, on the books since 1934, which prohibits the mixing of wine or beer with spirits. And what good sangria mix, I ask, is worth its name unless the two are mixed?

As recently as late last year a restaurant in Alexandria was fined and ordered to dump more than 30 liters of the tasty mixture down the drain. Now I must admit that, on occasion, I may have taken a sip or two just for the experience. After all, sangria is often found in great supply at many OYC functions. And with that great supply comes the great consumption of said drink.

Now I find myself asking whether or not I should remain associated with such a lawless group. True there is a bit of the wild side left in these old bones but they can only bend so far. I will, however, answer that question for you right here and right now by paraphrasing a well known quote; if you don't ask, I won't tell. After all, this newsletter is distributed to the public and I don't want to answer my doorbell to find the authorities holding a pair of stainless steel bracelets engraved with my name.

On the Internet

Occoquan Yacht Club:
www.OccoquanYachtClub.org *

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:
www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org*

Occoquan River Maritime Association:
www.ormaweb.org*

and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:
www.cbyca.org

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

Sounds of the Sea

by Nabil Dubraque

There is a tradition of expression built in love-hate fashion by men whose lives were intertwined with the sea. These expressions of the sea still remain in our everyday speech though their origins may often be shrouded by the mists of time and the inexorable passage into modern and often highly functional but decidedly unromantic expedience. There is much which is wondrous but little which is romantic about a fluxgate compass, compared with a gleaming brass binnacle, an oil lamp lighting the ornate, thirty two point compass within its gimbaled protective belly.

But the expressions live on. Expressions such as "son of a gun", which date to British sailors who were allowed their wives on board in harbor, and sometimes at sea (one per sailor, no questions asked), and whose offspring were often born twixt the twenty four pounders on the gun deck, perhaps the only available space aboard the cramped vessels. Tradition has it that male offspring were referred to as "sons of guns."

We all know that the "bitter end" is the end of a line, or the inboard end of the anchor chain. We know that being "three sheets to the wind" is being out of control as the lines used to trim our sails, due perhaps to a little too much splicing of the main brace, may be uselessly flapping in the breeze. Sailors coming back off of shore liberty had to take care not to show they were "under the weather" and keep an "even keel", else the skipper might "lower the boom".

That's the "scuttlebutt" anyway. The office water cooler may be the modern gossip exchange. On board ship, it was the barrel of drinking water amidships where sailors slaked both their thirst for water and gossip.

"Chock-a-block" is another expression commonly heard: passengers were chock-a-block in the bus during this morning's commute. This expression originates from the use of block and tackle (pronounced "tay-kel") and still means that the standing and moving blocks used for purchase are tight together and no further hauling is possible.

We "spin yarns" to while away time. Sailors spun yarns from cordage into strands which were hammered into spaces between boards and caulked. The long and tedious process was relieved by stories of adventures and misadventures recounted and embellished, helping to ease the tedium. We seldom take up a beetle, horsing iron, and oakum anymore, but we continue to spin yarns.

And a "fly by night" operation may be a bit sub

rosa, as was the use of a non-regulation sail as a studding sail on British naval sloops. Regulation or not, it was expedient, and it flew by night when chance of observation by another vessel was less likely.

So continues the influence of our seafaring heritage into a modern life often removed from the sea, and certainly from the days of oak and canvas, hardship and discovery.

A Few Pictures From the January PRYCA Change of Watch





Treasurer

Trish Mattke

THE DANGERS OF THE WINTER BLUES

It is well documented that lack of sun and shorter days is a recipe for emotional disaster. Unless you are one of the lucky ones and can get to Florida to be enlightened and rejuvenated by the Miami sun and the boats in the water there, then you need to take heed of the following advice.

Number 1.....Read all boat magazines in your car with the sunroof open only on sunny days.

Number 2.....Have your husband or first mate pay for a trip to Arizona to one of those

expensive spas.

Number 3.....Rent a space with a portable tanning booth available for all the cloudy, cold days.

Number 4.....And way down on the list, go to the marina and sneak into someone's boat that is not in the water and bring a space heater and a very good bottle of wine. No, forget I said that.

Number 5.....If all else fails, come to the Plan Fest in February and start fantasizing about the glory days without football, but with calm winds and following seas or whatever.

Number 6.....If that doesn't work buy a new boat or have a friend that buys a new boat and help him spend his money.

Your Treasurer,
One of Two Bats

PLANFEST

WHEN: Sunday, February 10, 2008
1p.m. - 4 p.m.

WHERE: Fairfax Yacht Club

WHY: View the proposed calendar of events and cruises for 2008 and start planning your boating season now!
Enjoy the good company of fellow OYC members!

WHAT TO BRING: Snack or Appetizer to share
Beverage of your choice

Soft drinks, water and table service items will be provided.



OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB STATEMENT FOR 2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Renewal Membership Dues are annual and payable as of the 1st of January. First time (new) members who joined on or after 1 October 2007 are deemed paid for the 2008 year. **Please update personal data and renew your membership now:**

***** Clip and Return with Payment *****

Captain's Name _____ Home Phone _____

First Mate _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City, State, Zip _____ Child(s) Name _____

Boat Data:

Name _____ Captain's BD (mo. /Day) _____

Builder _____ Power ___ Sail ___ First Mate's BD (mo. /Day) _____

Where berthed? _____ Wedding Ann. (mo. /Day) _____

Family Membership (\$60) _____

Please make check payable to Occoquan Yacht Club.

Individual Membership (\$40) _____

Mail check and completed statement to:

Associate Membership (\$30) _____

Occoquan Yacht Club

OYC Burgee (\$20) _____

P.O. Box 469

Occoquan, VA 22125

Total Enclosed _____

Occoquan Yacht Club

February 2008

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Bake for Family Fun Month National Cherry Pie Month Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month					1 Bubble Gum Day	2 Groundhog Day
3 Super Bowl XLII	4 USO Day	5 Pancake Day; Mardi Gras	6 Ash Wednesday	7 Chinese New Year's Day	8 Boy Scout Anniversary Day	9
10 OYC Plan-Fest at FYC	11 * White Shirt Day	12 Darwin Day	13 Get a Different Name Day	14 Valentine's Day	15 National Gum Drop Day	16
17	18 President's Day	19 Chocolate Mint Day	20	21	22	23 Clam Chowder Day
24 Academy Awards	25	26 For Pete's Sake Day	27 **	28 National Chili Day	29 Leap Year Day	

* Westminster Dog Show
** Inconvenience Yourself Day

March 2008

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
National Cheerleading Safety Month National Frozen Food Month National On-Hold Month						1 Peace Corp Birthday
2 Namesake Day	3 National Anthem Day	4 National Grammar Day	5	6 Name Tag Day	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Starts	10 Napping Day	11	12 Girl Scout Day	13	14 Pi Day	15 * OYC Mbrship Mtg at FWC
16 Palm Sunday	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 National Biodiesel Day	19 Act Happy Day	20 Snowman Burning Day	21 Good Friday / Purim	22 International Goof-off Day
23 Easter / National Puppy Day	24	25 Pecan Day	26 **	27 Kite Flying Day	28	29
30 Pencil Day	31 Bunsen Burner Day	* True Confessions Day/Ides of March ** Make Up Your Own Holiday Day				

You Can Still Think About Boating in February

Inside . . .

What Does Your Insurance Policy Say?

Sounds Like ;

Dangers of the Winter Blues,

Ruffians and Law Breakers,

And Much More.

February 10th
Fairfax Yacht Club
OYC Planfest
Harry Croft
March 15th
General
Membership
Meeting at
Fairfax Yacht Club
Harry Croft
Look for Other
Activities in
OYC e-mail
Broadcasts
and Future
Issues of
The Daymarker



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