



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

Web site: www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org

Commodore
Joe Livingston
703 505-8313



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Joe Livingston

**Vice Commodore/
PYRCA Delegate**
Harry Croft
703 451-9147

Rear Commodore
Allen Jorsey
703 850-2888

Secretary
Pat Croft
703 451-9147

Treasurer
Trish Matke
703 690-3966

Quartermaster
Jim Dooley
703 493-8481

Membership
Ilona Zsirai
703 476-6717

Historian
Nabil Dubraque
703 791-3755

Webmaster
Ned Rhodes
703 741-0861

THE DAYMARKER Editor
Carol Belcher
571 312-6968

Summer is ending but Fall is a great time for cruising and enjoying activities on the water. I want to thank Pat and Harry Croft for hosting the Labor Day Cruise and cheers to the OYC crews who made the weekend at the St. Mary's Yachting Center such a wild "flashing and pirating" success. Look forward to our membership supporting the Columbus Day/End of Summer Cruise to Aquia Creek and your attendance at the 18 October Membership/Election meeting.

I would also, with little fanfare but tremendous appreciation, like to thank our OYC Board and Staff for their service to the Club (most members have been serving for two years). Please come to the meeting and say "Thanks!" to your serving members and then stay to elect and meet your 2009 Officers.

FYI, the *West Marine* Woodbridge Store is holding a "**Winterization Demo**" on Saturday, **4 October, at 11:00 am**, rain or shine. Sign up in the store or call Greg Hancock, store manager, at 703-492-6225. You can get further details from the store, but one lucky person will be selected through a draw to bring their trailered boat for winterization by Greg Ward of *Atlantic Marine*. Winterization supplies will be provided. If your boat is

on a trailer and can be taken to the Woodbridge store, you can be entered into the draw, and if selected, have your boat winterized free of charge. This session is great for folks with I/O and O/B or dinghy motors. The store also has some great items on sale now, so stop by and get your winterization supplies and those items you cannot do without. Think Christmas!

Mark your calendar for the US Sailboat (39th) and Powerboat (37th) Shows in Annapolis on October 9-19 and October 16-19, respectively. This is the annual original in-water show featuring all types of vessels, a vast array of equipment, accessories and gear, as well as seminars each day. Open 10 am, with varying closing times daily. Tickets are \$35 per person on Thursday (VIP Day) and \$16 on the remaining days. Buy your tickets at www.USBOAT.com or at the gate.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9 October. All members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to forward items for board consideration. Call me for the location/time of the meeting.

Cheers, Joe.



Vice Commodore

Harry Croft

Buying Boat Parts

I'm sure most of you like to save money, especially when it comes to buying boat parts. Here's a tip that many of you probably already use, but for those who don't, you should always try prices and availability on E-Bay first. Once you know the exact part and retail price, you should hunt for bargains in the E-Bay listings. Some items are for bid and others are "Buy It Now" items. For instance, I just recently bought four 8.5 inch fenders. In a well known boating catalog, they were listed for \$49 each! On a "Buy it Now" listing, I got all four for \$89! To help those who have never used E-Bay before, there are some things about the seller that you must check on before you buy. Some key factors to look for are as follows: satisfaction rating must be 99% or better; no name changes of the seller within last several years; seller conducts high volume sales; and lastly, the site should always require you to pay using PayPal for protection. Try it sometime; you could save enough to offset the high price of fuel!!

Nominees for 2009 OYC Board

Sue Thompson, IPC

It is with great pleasure I announce the following nominees for the 2009 OYC Board:

Commodore – Harry Croft

Vice Commodore – Larry Freedman

Rear Commodore – John Heinz

Secretary – Pat Croft

Treasurer – Kathie McCormally

Thank you all for stepping up and volunteering for these important positions. All OYC members: please remember to come out and vote at our annual membership meeting on Oct 18, starting at 1 pm. See you at the Fairfax Yacht Club's clubhouse.



Secretary

Pat Croft

Great Cruise Review-Labor Day Cruise 2008

Labor Day weekend signals the beginning of the end of the boating season for most of us, so it is always a treat to cruise down the river for one last hurrah with good friends.

Thirteen OYC boats gathered at St. Mary's Yachting Center on Carthegena Creek, August 29 – 1 September, for a long weekend of merriment, camaraderie, and relaxation.

The cruise began early for *BAYDREAMER* and *DARN TOOTIN'*. Hoping to get to SMYC a little early, since we were the cruise coordinators, we set out on Thursday. The weather was grey and misty, with a little chop on the water, but we were making way just fine until we passed the 301 bridge. About 10 minutes past Dahlgren, the waves were swirling higher, the troughs between them were growing deeper, and the wind was increasing steadily. About every fourth wave crashed so hard over the bow that water sprayed over the top of the fly bridge. We'd made very little headway after 30 minutes of pounding, so we opted to pull in to Colonial Beach for the rest of the day and see what tomorrow might bring.

Friday brought slightly improved conditions, and by noon, the small craft warnings were lifted, so we got ready to go again, figuring we still had plenty of time to beat the crowd to SMYC. But *BAYDREAMER*'s starboard engine wouldn't cooperate. The mechanic determined that the fuel pump was the culprit, but unfortunately, he couldn't repair it and get us on our way until Saturday. By then, most of our cruise group was already at St. Mary's - the weekend had started without us.

And it was a great weekend! Since the schedule of events had already been amended by our late arrival, we set up the margarita machine, and the Happy Hour that was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Saturday night began at 3:00 p.m. instead. We were very happy by the time we went to dinner! Dinner at the recently remodeled restaurant, *The Torpedo*, Saturday night, was a success. The food was excellent, the service was good, and they handled our somewhat rowdy group of 26 with ease.

Lynn and Bob Wilson arrived just in time for dinner after traveling down the Bay from Kent Island on their brand new Meridian 391, aptly named *19th Hole II*. This was a weekend of 'firsts' for them: first trip in their new boat, first time on Chesapeake Bay, first time on the St. Mary's River, first time at St. Mary's Yachting Center.

St. Mary's Yachting Center is a serene setting on a quiet creek. Carthgena Creek is an ideal waterway to explore by kayak or dinghy, as several folks did. Others took to the road on bicycles. Still others found comfortable Adirondack chairs, and needed no more activity other than shifting the chairs to stay in the shade as the sun moved through the day. It would appear that many in our group are quite experienced at this activity, as they came prepared with their own chairs, folding tables, and small coolers to keep refreshments at the ready. Labor Day is all about relaxing, isn't it?



But on Sunday, Captain Harry put everyone to work on a Pirate's Treasure Hunt. The group had decided that, since there would be two teams, they wanted to split up along gender lines, pitting Captains against First Mates. All were forewarned that the clues had been designed to make this year's hunt more difficult than the previous one, with more obtuse clues intermingled with pirate lies. Captain Harry informed both teams that he could be bribed to offer assistance, with the proceeds going directly to the OYC coffers.

And so the First Mates used every means at their disposal, including cash, to find their way to the Treasure Chest before the Captains. The chest was filled with sailor's grog on ice, and rations of rum and chocolate, which the First Mates happily shared with the Captains. (Would it be stereotyping to note that it was no surprise to any First Mate that the Captains did not ask for directions or part with any cash?)

Sunday ended with a pot luck/barbecue; as usual, the culinary prowess of OYC members was in abundant evidence. Monday morning found us back at the picnic tables for a Farewell Brunch, and then, with sunny skies and calm water, boats began departing for their homeports.

If we'd had prizes to give out, we could have awarded the following:

- Traveled the shortest distance: *Touch of Fate*, Jan and Duane Jeirles, from White Point
- Traveled the longest distance: *19th Hole II*, Lynn and Bob Wilson, from Kent Island
- Traveled at the slowest pace: *Safe Return*, (a trawler) Gail and John Wix,
- Traveled for the least cost: see above
- Took the longest time to get there: *Bay Dreamer*, Pat and Harry Croft
- Best support to a disabled vessel & crew: *Darn Tootin'*, Sharman and Kenny Harris
- Stretched the weekend to Wednesday: *Impulse*, Arleen and Ned Rhodes
- Best Pirate Impersonation: *Great Escape*, Rebecca and John Heinz
- Best Pirate Attire (for boat and crew): *Sea Duck, Too*, Teresa and Rick Sorrenti

- Best Photographer: *Wild Horses*, Diane and Frank Macchi
- Best Flying Leap off a Dock by a boat dog: *Forever Dreamin'*, Nick (Sue and Steve Thompson)
- Most Daring Revival of a '70's Fad: *Sea Venture*, Walter Krauss and Joan Hicks
- Most Photogenic Runner (while wearing an OYC banner): *Bat Too*, Trish and Terry Mattke
- Best Role Model for How to Relax on a Cruise: *Time Away*, Peggy and Bill Johnson
- Drove the furthest by car to join us for dinner: Gail and Joe Livingston

The staff at St. Mary's Yachting Center went out of their way to accommodate our group and make our stay enjoyable. Robin, Brian, Jackson, and their "service first" crew were impressive with their cheerful willingness to do anything we needed, starting with the ease of making reservations, to the prompt radio replies and directions upon arrival, and including their ready assistance with docking. Brian even moved the heavy picnic tables up the hill with a forklift so we could be under the shade trees for the barbecue dinner and brunch. They made our stay at SMYC delightfully enjoyable, and we *will* be back!

October Membership/Election Meeting

Scheduled from 1-4 pm on Saturday, 18 October, at the Fairfax Yacht Club. We will conduct our annual "Chili and Dessert" contest with bragging rights and prizes awarded. The Club will provide drinks (beer, sodas and water) and table service items. I request that you bring a potluck dish to share and your own wine or beverage of choice. Past experience sez the food will be great!

A short business session will also be held. There will be two items to be voted on. First, there will be a motion to raise annual Club dues. The Board is recommending a change to the annual membership renewal for a Family from \$60 to \$75, membership renewal for an Individual from \$40 to \$55 and the cost of a burgee for a new member from \$15 to \$20. Other categories of dues would remain unchanged. Second, OYC members vote for the 2009 Slate of Officers. Schedule your trip to the Annapolis Boat Show for a day other than Saturday and come on out to your Club's annual membership meeting. Fun and a good time to be had!

Results of 2008 PRYCA Float-In Competition

Harry Croft, PRYCA Delegate

Whatever OYC lacked in numbers, it more than made up for in team spirit! There were more than 50 boats from all over the Potomac, representing 10 or more clubs. OYC was represented by nine boats and 21 members; two couples stayed at the rental cabins. The weather was hot, as was the competition. PRYCA changed the events from previous years! No dinghy race, no scavenger hunt! Details for the contests were a closely guarded secret. I couldn't even get our Commodore to leak any information... The only recognizable contest was the navigation and seamanship test. According to Joe, OYC hasn't won any points in this

test in a long time, and I am VERY pleased to report that Pat and I, redeeming ourselves after last year's loss, won the event with 96 points!! Unfortunately, we didn't fare as well in the other events. Jim and Judy Dooley gave it a go in the life-jacket-exchange-while-standing-on-a-milk-crate event. Eric and Carol Belcher almost won the ball balance, life ring toss, and knot tying....damned knot!! And Frank Macchi/Dianne Brinker and Jim Hawley/Meimei Tidrow teamed up for the kayak race. Great efforts from all, coming ever so close to victory.

We are proud that all OYC boats had current Vessel Safety Exams, and we had four Safe BOATR certificates, which also counted in the point total. (One club had ten safe BOATR certificates!!!) All the events were fun, with good sportsmanship and cheering as the only requirements. Victory next year!!

As always, the food was great, starting with the PRYCA BBQ. The Beer Can Chicken was outstanding. The Moorings Restaurant staff went out their way to provide a great Saturday evening feast and a dance band. Sunday's brunch topped off a great weekend at Port Kinsale.

PRYCA and Port Kinsale always go the extra mile to insure a great time, and, once again, they delivered. We highly recommend that you stop by this marina as you travel the Potomac. Put this event on your calendar for next year! It is guaranteed fun!

Last Chance for this Cruise! Columbus Day/End of Summer Cruise

Coordinator: Joe Livingston

The Columbus Day/End of Summer Cruise, Saturday to Monday, 11 to 13 October, will go to the Aquia Harbor Yacht Club. The cruise up the Aquia Creek is very scenic and the creek has been recently dredged. This will be a fun filled weekend hosted by AHYC and supported by the PRYCA, so come out and make some new friends from other Clubs on the Potomac.

The clubhouse will be open to early arrivals on Friday, 10 October. **Registration is required** The **registration fee** for the weekend is **\$40.00 per person** and includes Friday night activities, dinner (burgers, etc) and 'Kickin' band Saturday night, Sunday night dinner (please also bring a dish to share), and breakfast on Monday. Activities are planned for each day and transportation to the golf course is available. **Slip fees** of approximately 75 cents per foot plus shore power, are in addition to the registration fee.

Please call 703-505-8313 or email Joe Livingston at joseph.livingston@verizon.net, if you plan to attend or need additional information. Space may be limited for dockage so assist me in this memorable event by making your reservations now. Thank you, Joe.

Hardy Souls Cruise November 7-9, 2008

Coordinator: Ned Rhodes

Book your boat for the Hardy Souls Cruise, traditionally the last "big" cruise of the season. This year, we have chosen the National Harbor as our destination. Floating docks, spacious, plentiful slips with adequate power and a friendly dockmaster make this an ideal location. Most importantly, a Ben and Jerry franchise is close by. Arleen and I are working on a list of activities which could include wine tasting, rum tasting, Bloody Mary contest, dog walks and the usual complement of eating and telling lies. If you need to shop in Old Town, a ferry will take you there and back for a nominal fee, or we could all hop on one boat and make the trek.

Our plan is to go up Friday Nov 7, returning on Sunday, Nov 9. As the Federal holiday is November 11, some many opt to stay longer. You will need to do two things in order to register for this cruise:

1. Email me (ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com) and let me know you are coming, along with the number of people, number of dogs, number of nights, boat specifics and power requirements.
2. Call Debby at the National Harbour (301-749-1582) and give her your boat and credit card information to reserve your slip

The facility is beautiful and more and more stores and restaurants are opening all the time. I am confident we will have a grand old time.

Save the Date!

The **OYC Holiday Dinner-Dance and Change of Watch Ceremony** is an event you don't want to miss! The party will be held at Laurel Hill Golf Club, a change of venue this year, with catering by Chef Edison Rosales, and live music by *Small Town*, a small band with a large repertoire. More details will follow in the next *Daymarker*, and you will be receiving your personal invitation by mail in November, but for now:

Mark your calendars!
**December 13, 6:30 p.m. –
10:30p.m.,**
Holiday Party at Laurel Hill Golf Club

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bob Wilcox 10/2 | Mark Schall 10/4 |
| Richard Axtell 10/10 | Terry Mattke 10/11 |
| Jill Stanley 10/2 | Carol Belcher 10/9 |
| Anna Burner 10/11 | Cheryl Garrison 10/14 |
| Caroline Lynn 10/19 | Peggy Johnson 10/24 |
| Diane Machi 10/26 | Rebecca Heinze 10/31 |

Anniversaries

Joseph & Sally Hoffmaster 10/1
Rick & Teresa Sorrenti 10/6
Kenny & Sharman Harris 10/18
Peter & Pamela McLeod 10/26

Santa Cruise to Occoquan 29 November 2008

Coordinator: Walt Cheatham

Saturday, 29 November, will launch OYC's holiday season as we gather on the OHM docks for food and drinks, followed by our traditional ferrying of ole St Nick himself to downtown Occoquan. So, decorate your boat, crank up some holiday tunes, bring some libations and munchies to share, and be in place on the OHM gas dock around 10:30 AM so we can enjoy an hour of merry-making before blasting off promptly at 11:40 to ensure that Santa arrives at the Occoquan Town Dock at noon for the Occoquan Merchant Association's Christmas kickoff. This is a really fun event with horns blaring and kids cheering and waiving, as we circle the Occoquan Harbor.

This year's notification process will be a little different as Susan and I will be out of the country for seven weeks prior - returning just in time on 24 Nov. I always ask skippers to send me an e-mail or telephone message to indicate their participation, insuring we have at least one boat there, and this year I ask the same, but please wait until the 25th, after I have cleaned out my in-boxes. Yes, Ned/Rick/Allen/Harry, I am going to take the GSM and the new laptop to see what communications I can tie into on the trip, but I am not counting on much connectivity.

We've had very mild weather the past few years, so there are no excuses for not skipping your boat in this event. See you there Nov 29th at 10:30 am.

Aboard the U.S.S. Constellation A True July 4th Patriotic Experience

By Harry Croft

The simple but time-honored custom of lowering our nation's flag as the sun sets for the day, gathering it in

carefully so that it never touches the ground, folding it into a precise triangle to be stored until the next dawn, when it will be raised once again to fly proudly overhead, is one all Americans know and respect. During an OYC cruise this summer, some of our members had the privilege of performing that custom aboard the US Navy's last commissioned sailing warship that has served proudly for 100 years since its launching in 1855.

The highlight of the 2008 Mid-Bay cruise, for many of us, took place on the aft deck of the **USS Constellation**, berthed at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, operating as a floating museum, open for daily tours. Just visiting this fine old warship is a pleasure unto itself. On a previous trip to Baltimore, my brother-in law, David Nelson, and I happened to be visiting the ship on the last tour of the day when we were asked if we wanted the honor of lowering the colors. We were proud to accept the task. Afterwards, while telling our wives of our great luck at being allowed to perform that ceremony, we both thought it would have been even more exciting if the moment could have been accompanied by a little more military fanfare.



USS Constellation

Skip forward a few years, and our cruising schedule brought us, once again, to Baltimore's Inner Harbor. On the morning of July 3, Dave went to the museum director to ask permission for himself and his guests to board the ship and conduct the evening colors ceremony. The Director thought it was a novel but commendable plan, so he gave Dave a card on which he wrote, "Please admit Mr. Dave Nelson and guests," and then informed the ship's staff that a visiting group would be taking care of the evening colors.



Back row: Stan Harris, Kenny Harris, Harry Croft, and Dave Nelson.
Front row: Catherine Harris, Avery Harris, and Bryce Harris.

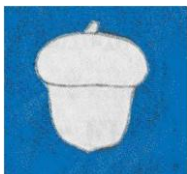
Since the card did not stipulate the number of guests, we took everyone in the cruising group who wanted to attend; the entourage numbered 20. While a full OYC audience stood at attention with their hands over their hearts, Catherine Harris, (daughter of Kenny and Sharman) signaled the start of the ceremony with six rings of the ship's bell.

As Dave played Taps on his trumpet, Kenny Harris and I lowered the giant flag, which Stan Harris, (son of Kenny and Sharman) collected into his arms. The three of us then folded it in the prescribed, triangular manner. Terry Mattke and Amy Fletcher, (my niece) photographed the event. Many people on the adjacent docks stood at attention at the sound of the bugle.



It was brief and simple, but this time, the ceremony included the fanfare those Stars and Stripes deserve. Our OYC contingent was honored to perform the daily ritual.

We fly our nation's flag on our boats, and we all are cognizant of the symbolism, but somehow, lowering the Constellation's flag with the bugle playing was an extra special event that moved us all. It was a patriotic experience we will never forget.



Treasurer

Trish Matke

As the occasional crisp autumn evening adds seasonal variety to September, we are reminded that the 2008 boating season is waning as fast as BAT TOO runs

down river on a smooth sea and following breeze. For this crew, this season has been special. The weather, even the dreaded days of August, treated us to a wonderful cruising environment. With only a few exciting exceptions our members enjoyed safe and comfortable conditions up and down the Potomac and the length of the Bay.

Could it be five months ago that the Occoquan fleet cast off for points north, bravely dismissing reports of ice floes, migrant caribou and marauding polar bears and rendezvoused near the Capital of sub-prime politicians at the Alexandria Marina? Not a soul lost, and only a few brain cells damaged, the short cruise set a standard for cruises to follow. Fellowship, seamanship and membership improved. In sum, it has been and continues to be the best of seasons for our favorite pastime. We can hardly wait for the snow to follow, for the next Early Bird cruise cannot be far behind. And when it does...

We will have relinquished our position on the Board, passing the keeping of the treasury to another after three short years. As many of you have witnessed, the normal tenure of Board members is about two years. However, to sustain the ancient tradition that ship's quartermasters and club treasurers, custodians of the public and private funds entrusted to them, somehow all get new boats during their period of service, we were forced to toil over the books an extra year. But when you see the result, the glistening elegance to come, you will understand.

No need to be concerned that we may have contributed to the massive mess in the financial world either. No sub-prime loans or repackaging financial instruments and selling worthless paper at premium prices. No, it took three years, but your Treasurer took her spouse's advice and, with a modest down payment, found a way to get it done. For those of you who wonder if public service is truly rewarding, the words of the Indictment are relevant. And I quote,

"...the State finds it questionable, however tempting it may be, for a Club Treasurer to award him/herself a \$675,000 cruiser paid for by membership dues raised from \$65 per year per family to \$8,200 per month, guaranteed by liens against member's home..."

Now seriously, who would, who should object to this perfect example of our American tradition of rewarding those who carry the heavy burden of guarding the public purse? Anyway, that's our story and we're sticking to it--believe it or not (NOT).

Your treasurer, one of **'BAT TOO'**

Planning Calendar October 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 Fire Pup Day | 2 Guardian Angels Day | 3 Lee's National Denim Day | 4 Ten-Four Day |
| 5 World Teachers Day | 6 Mad Hatter Day | 7 | 8 International Top Spinning Day | 9 Lief Erickson Day | 10 Naval Academy Day | 11 Reptile Awareness Day |
| 12 Reptile Awareness Day | 13 Int'l Moment of Frustration Scream Day | 14 Be Bald and Be Free Day | 15 National Grouch Day | 16 Get Smart about Credit Day | 17 Mulligan Day | 18 Sweetest Day |
| 19 Evaluate your life Day | 20 World Osteoporosis Day | 21 | 22 International Day of Radiant Peace | 23 National Mole Day | 24 Lung Health Day | 25 Make a Difference Day |
| 26 World Priest Day | 27 Cranky Co-workers Day | 28 National Chocolates Day | 29 Internet Day | 30 National Corn Candy Day | 31 National Knock-Knock Jokes Day | |
| Adopt a Shelter Dog Month Go hog wild—eat country ham Month National Dental Hygiene Month Squirrel Awareness Month | | | | | | |

November 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 2 Cookie Monster Day | 3 Cliché Day | 4 Election Day | 5 | 6 National Men Make Dinner Day | 7 | 1/8 |
| 9 | 10 Gingerbread house Day Marine Corps Birthday | 11 Veterans Day | 12 | 13 World Kindness Day | 14 Loosen Up, Lighten Up Day | 15 America Recycles Day |
| 16 | 17 Homemade Bread Day | 18 Mickey Mouse Day | 19 Have a Bad Day Day | 20 Great American Smokeout | 21 World Hello Day | 22 Int'l Aura Awareness Day |
| 23 You're Welcome-giving Day | 24 D.B. Cooper Day | 25 Shopping Reminder Day | 26 Tie One On Day | 27 Thanksgiving Day | 28 Buy Nothing Day | 29 Electronic Greetings Day |
| 30 Stay Home Because you're well Day | 31 | | | | | |
| Aviation History Month Celebrate Empty Nester Month I am so Thankful Month | | | | | | |

October 18
General
Membership/Election
Meeting of
OYC Board
at FYC

November 8-11
Hardy Souls Cruise to
National Harbor
Ned Rhodes

November 29
Santa Cruise to Occoquan
Walt Cheatham

Cold weather is coming. Have you got a winterization plan?

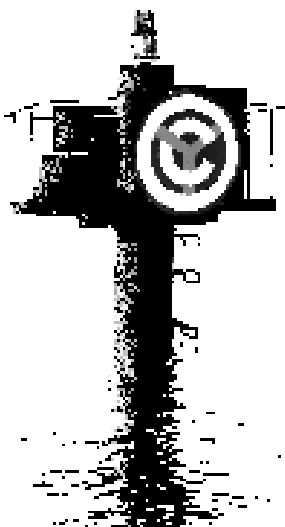
Inside this edition.....

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

- The Labor Day Cruise,
- July 4th aboard USS
Constellation,
- PYRCA Competition

**We have a list of Volunteers for OYC
Board—but YES, we still need you to
VOTE!**

**A few cruises yet to come before
winter!**



The Daymarker

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Change Service
Requested