



August 2009, Vol. XXVI, No.8

# The Daymarker

## OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

Web site: [www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org)

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Harry Croft

### OYC captures the GOLD!

Forget the mundane articles, stop the presses, and pass out the champagne . . . OYC won the 2009 PRYCA Cup by such a wide margin as to be indisputable!

For those who have never been to a Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association Float-In, the PRYCA Cup is the highly prized trophy awarded to the club that accumulates the greatest number of points in a series of events designed to foster boating skills and safety awareness. As those who have attended in the past are well aware, the competition is keen!

Since 1992, OYC has won the Cup only three times; our last victory was in 1997. This year we started with a leg up on the points for vessel safety checks – all 9 boats arrived with current safety check stickers in place, (even our newest members, Tom and Liz Plewes on *Double Eagle*), a tribute to our team spirit and our dedication to boating safety. After a planning session/happy hour aboard the *Gail Lynn II*, hosted by Joe and Gail Livingston on Friday night, the contestants for the four events scheduled for Saturday were chosen, and OYC was ready to compete.

The first event was the Navigation/Skills Test. The format was changed this year, requiring separate tests from each team member, one male and one female, ending with the tying of five knots. Pat Croft and Tom Lensis represented OYC admirably; most notably, they were the only team in the competition to have both members demonstrate ability to tie all five knots! (I take some measure of credit for this, having tutored Pat personally in knot tying the night before the test.)

Jim and Judy Dooley arrived at Port Kinsale on Saturday morning with just minutes to spare before entering the Life Jacket Skills event.

Standing on a small box, back-to-back, Judy and Jim demonstrated perfect balance as Judy first donned the life jacket, tied it securely, then removed it and passed it off to Jim, who managed to put it on and tie it securely, all without falling off the box. We knew they had done well, but the results were not yet announced.

Also still on the river Saturday morning were Eric and Carol Belcher, who were entered in the next event, the "Boson Skills with a Twist" contest. I called on the cell phone several times just to make sure they would make it. Eric poured the coal to the engines and made it to Kinsale in record time. They docked their boat and dashed up the hill to the contest site just in time to hear the contest instructions: contestants had to work in pairs to carry a ball on a tray, step up on a box, then go under a net, then step up on another box before hurrying across the finish line. Eric and Carol performed these tasks with great balance and alacrity. They then had to pick up a life ring and toss it to hit a target box; Eric flung the ring and hit the target on his first try, and Carol nailed it on only her second try, no small accomplishment. Other teams were still flinging the ring long after Eric and Carol finished. It was a wipeout, with OYC clearly the winner, even though results were not yet announced.

At this juncture, although official results had not yet been tallied, I could sense that OYC was really in the race for The Cup, and because of this great anticipation, I engaged in a bit of premature celebration. I soon succumbed to Smirnoff's virus, which required a little bed rest, but Team OYC forged on!

The last event was the Kayak Relay Race, which consisted of two elements: fastest time and least amount of water lost when carrying water in a bucket from point A to point B in the kayak. Again, pairs worked together, and each club entered two pairs. The twist to this event this year had the pairs sitting in two kayaks hooked side by side, facing in opposite directions, each person with one paddle, and each person having to pick up a bucket full of water, place it in their kayak, and then race to a finish line, whereupon

the second pair for the club would begin the same maneuvers. Rick and Teresa Sorrenti, and Jim Hawley and Meimei Tidrow performed flawlessly for OYC, maintaining a steady combination of good speed and careful water handling. The results were not announced until later that night, but we all knew OYC was looking good.



Jim and Meimei show good form in the kayak event

After a rapid recovery from the aforementioned virus, I rejoined Team OYC on the lawn to await the much anticipated announcement of official results, which came after a wonderful buffet dinner at the Moorings restaurant. Tensions mounted as we listened to each result. We were given full credit for our 100% vessel safety checks. Pat and Tom took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Navigation Test, earning 4 points. Jim and Judy added 2 points with their 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Life Jacket event. Eric and Carol brought home 5 big points with their 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the Boson Skills event. The combined teams of Rick and Teresa and Jim and Meimei earned two 'medals' – 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the timed event and 1<sup>st</sup> place for water handling. I held my breath for the final announcement –doubt no longer existed – it had to be an OYC victory!

Sure enough – when they announced us as the winning club, Team OYC burst into rousing cheers! It was a moment to cherish!! Later that evening, Team OYC assembled on *Copy Cat*, hosted by Tom and Donna Lensis, to celebrate, and celebrate we did! As Rick Sorrenti was oft quoted, "To the Cup!!!" was always followed by another round of good spirits. The last time OYC won the cup was twelve years ago. We now have twelve months to enjoy the victory and bragging rights, and to hone our skills in preparation for another victory next year. I am proud to be the Commodore of the winning club. To the Cup!!! To Team OYC!!!



Harry, Pat and the Cup



A happy group of OYC-ers celebrate with the Cup



**Vice Commodore**

**Larry Freedman**

## Good to Know—Coast Guard's Notice to Mariners

We have been out on the Chesapeake Bay twice now this year. Most recently, we were at Annapolis for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We stayed at Mears Marina in Eastport on Back Creek, which is very nice and a very short bike ride to the main Annapolis waterfront. We shopped, watched a very nice fireworks display, and enjoyed a great steak dinner at Lewne's Steakhouse (we still thank Pat Croft for that tip every time, although it's not our first time there!). I mention this trip specifically because the leg back from Annapolis to Pt. Lookout Marina was one of those absolutely great days on the bay that are the reason that we cruise. The weather was just great, the waves were around one foot, and we just thoroughly enjoyed ourselves checking out the other boats going by, identifying the landmarks that we were passing, and talking about the places on the bay we'd like to go next.

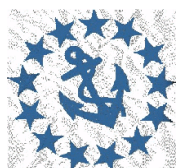
One other item to mention about cruising on the Potomac River below the 301 bridge. You really do need to subscribe to the email updates of the **Coast Guard's Local Notice to Mariners (LNM)** and glance through them when they come every Tuesday for items of interest to where you are going to be cruising. You can use this link to sign up: <http://cgl.uscg.mil/mailman/listinfo/fifth-cg-dlnm>. You might learn something that will come in handy or guide your cruise plans. For example, it might be nice to know when the U.S. Navy will be shooting into the river from their Dahlgren facility so you can work your schedule around this, because it appears to me that they shoot directly at the channel markers that we tend to follow.



Yes, they were shooting when we came by last time. There is a big boom followed shortly by a big splash. The shells skip sometimes too. Of course, they station range boats at both ends of the target area to direct you to the safe path around the action. However, the splashes still aren't very far away. The LNM has information on issues like channel markers that are missing or have their lights not working and shoaling in different places (good stuff that is helpful if you are cruising in those areas). They will also mention bridge work underway that might cause the passage to be closed at certain times, which is not that relevant to us usually but you get the idea. This used to be very important to us before the *Mr. Wilson Bridge* was done. Check it out. It could come in handy one day.

Larry, *Takin' to the Sea*

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### Rear Commodore

**John Heinze**

### Labor Day Cruise to St. Mary's Yachting Center, September 4-7

It is not too late to sign up for the OYC Labor Day cruise to St. Mary's Yachting Center. SMYC is located in a beautiful wooded setting on the Maryland side of the Potomac River just before you get to Point Lookout (). This is a friendly, well-run marina with bar, restaurant, swimming pool, clean restrooms and showers and musical entertainment on the weekends. This promises to be a fun and relaxing holiday weekend.

The following couples have indicated an interest in participating in the cruise: Eric & Carol Belcher, Nabil & Lucy Dubraque, Duane & Jan Jeirles, Carl & Pat Maxwell, Steve & Sue Thompson and Randy & Susan Willetts. Rebecca and I will serve as cruise coordinators.

If you wish to join us, please contact me ([jheinze@johnadams.com](mailto:jheinze@johnadams.com)) as soon as possible so your slip space can be reserved. Simply indicate:

1. Whether you will be arriving Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be arriving Friday afternoon and there will be a Happy Hour and dinner on your own that evening.
2. Boat length and width and electrical requirements.

For more information on SMYC, please see their informative website: <http://www.stmyc.com/>.

Looking forward to more fun...  
John & Rebecca, *Great Escape*



### Secretary

**Pat Croft**

### Thoughts of Christmas in July

I'm sitting in the cockpit of our boat, enjoying the bright sun and a gentle breeze, watching the stream of boats heading back up the Occoquan on this lovely Sunday afternoon in July. *BayDreamer* is back in her berth at Fairfax Yacht Club after extensive cruising to various destinations such as the York River, Cape Charles, White Point, Port Kinsale, and The Tides, all with the great companionship of OYC boaters. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of OYC cruise coordinators, we've enjoyed the South Bay cruise, coordinated by Steve and Sue Thompson, the PRYCA Float-In, with OYC participation coordinated by Tom and Donna Lensis, and a post-Float-In cruise to The Tides, coordinated by Joe and Gail Livingston. It's been a fabulous summer so far, but as I sit here with my laptop, my thoughts are already jumping ahead to December and the OYC Holiday Party and Change of Watch.

The committee for planning the Holiday Party this year consists of Sharman Harris, Kathy McCormally, Susan Willetts, Patricia Maxwell and myself. We've already begun working on the details, but we have just one request for all other OYC members: Please circle the date for the party – **Saturday, December 12** – on your calendar NOW, and make sure you are available to attend.

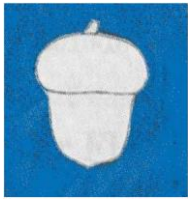
It's an event you don't want to miss – the one night each year when we don formal attire and exchange deck shoes for dancing shoes. It's black-tie optional, which simply means that you can wear anything from slightly dressy attire to tuxedos or gowns if you wish – just not the swimsuits, shorts, and casual attire we usually wear to boating events. After a fine dining experience and the installation of the new Board, the rest of the evening is spent dancing to the music of a live band, and catching up with good friends on the latest post-boating season news.

Many times, friends in the club have been heard to say, "Oh, I wanted to go, but I didn't realize what day it was until I had already planned something else." The committee will be doing its best to get the word out – the date to remember is **December 12** – and we hope you'll not only mark that on your calendar but help us spread the word – the date to remember is **December 12!!!**

The Holiday Party is one of those events where the more the merrier is the operative cliché. We don't have to guarantee a certain number of participants, but we do guarantee it will be more fun if you're there!

**THE DATE TO REMEMBER IS DECEMBER 12!!!**

Pat, *BayDreamer*



## Treasurer

**Kathie McCormally**

## River Recipes

Here are a couple of recipes that are easy to take along when you hit the river. One is a spin on chocolate chip cookies, and the other is easy to make on the go with few ingredients and no bother.

**CONGO SQUARES** (bake ahead and take in a sealable container to keep the bars soft)

2  $\frac{3}{4}$  c flour  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  t. salt  
2  $\frac{1}{2}$  t. baking powder  
1 lb. brown sugar (box)  
 $\frac{2}{3}$  c. melted butter or oleo  
3 eggs  
1 c. chocolate chips  
1 c. chopped walnuts (optional)

Sift together all dry ingredients. Mix together the butter, brown sugar, eggs, nuts, and chocolate chips, and add the flour mixture to this mixture. Pour onto a large cookie sheet which has been well greased. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven when golden brown. Cut into bars. The smaller the bars, the more you have.

## CHERRY NUT SALAD

1 can of cherry pie filling (I use the light)  
1 c. mini marshmallows  
1 c. finely diced walnuts  
1 container cool whip (I use Cool Whip free—no fat, no sugar)

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and serve. No mess, no hassle. I love this recipe.

Kathie McCormally, treasurer  
*Jayhawker*

## Anniversaries

Larry & Barbara Freedman	8/7
Goodwyn & Janice Morgan	8/18
Randy & Susan Willetts	8/18
Timothy & Maria Gibbons	8/22
Walt & Susan Cheatham	8/30

## New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our club:

Dave Tuttle & Carolyn Wixson of Woodbridge VA. They keep their 26' SeaRay, *Princess of Tides*, at Belmont Bay Harbor Marina.

Thomas & Elizabeth Plewes of Annandale VA. They keep their 35' SeaRay, *Double Eagle*, at FYC.

## Great Cruise Reviews

### The 2009 OYC South Bay Summer Cruise

Well, there are two parts of the title that can be placed into question as a result of this cruise. The first part is "Summer". Although July is considered a month of high temperatures, on this cruise it felt more like spring. A couple of times sweaters had to be dug out from the depths of lockers and drawers. The second part that could be questioned is the word "Cruise". Although there was a lot of cruising going on, on at least two occasions the water was rough enough that the OYC power fleet was forced to slow down to the point that they were being passed by boats with that other type of propulsion.

Ten boats participated, to one extent or another, in this cruise. There was a side trip to points east for several boats while the rest moseyed on down south. And then there were others that could only join us for a part of the cruise. But that's okay. Cruising is cruising and we'll take what we can get.

Participants included new members Kevin and Pamela Bell on *Déjà vu*, Pat and Harry Croft (with Dave and Linda Nelson accompanying) on *Bay Dreamer*, Sharman and Kenny Harris (who were joined by family members in Yorktown) on *Darn Tootin'*, Duane and Jan Jeirles on *Touch of Fate* (yes both engines did work and they were able to get on plane, although fuel consumption was a tad high), Mary Ann and Mark Schall (with daughter Alexis at Yorktown) on *Jet Global*, Rick and Teresa Sorrenti on *Sea Duck Too*, Susan and Randy Willetts on *Takin' it Easy*, and Jeff and Vicki Wallace (joining us from White Point) on *Snake Eyes* joining us (Sue and Steve) on *Forever Dreamin'*. Arleen and Ned Rhodes on *Impulse* were able to join us for the last couple of days. And then there were the four-legged crew

## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Alison Rose	8/1
Mark Barita	8/9
Carolyn Dabney	8/11
Sharon Striker	8/12
Diane Ward	8/21
Monica Lovell	8/26
Paul Linse	8/28

members Biscuit, Corkie, Nick, Samantha, Abby, and OYC's newest member Sadie (boy, what a sight those last two days at the beach – not a dry pooch to be found).



Happy Hour at YRYH

It all started at White Point where everyone gathered for the trip down to York River Yacht Haven on, you guessed it, the York River. The first night found everyone enjoying a good meal at the River's Inn Restaurant where the chef, who we were told has cooked for presidents and royalty, served up some fantastic meals. On the Fourth there was a good old-fashioned hotdog and hamburger afternoon barbeque where the chef, it is reported, entertained the masses with unique holiday garb, which just might have showed up Rick Sorrenti's traditional outfit. Later that evening everyone found their unique place on the dock to view the fireworks show from across the river at Yorktown, accompanied by Dave Nelson on his trumpet playing some patriotic melodies. The following day found many OYC'er's walking the streets of Yorktown, where most were positive that it occasionally rained throughout the day. (Perhaps that unique holiday garb from the previous day had some ill affect in the thought processes of the lone individual who repeatedly insisted it wasn't raining.)

For those that headed south there was a fun (read larger then considered comfortable wave height) trip to Ocean Marine in Portsmouth, on the Elizabeth River. One word to the wise, the No Wake zone begins at Hospital Point. The sign can be a bit confusing but don't worry if you miss it; you WILL be advised shortly after passing. Ocean Marine is a very nice facility (sorry – no pool) that is managed by John Roby, a past Commodore of the PRYCA. John was happy to catch up on items of interest further north and was a wealth of knowledge on the local area and happenings. Here the shoppers descended upon the field of play, only to discover that many shops are closed on Mondays (note to cruise coordinator – check on store hours at destinations). But, not to fear, a dinner location had been located. Everyone took off to The Commodore (how appropriate) for a dinner and a movie (The Proposal). This old movie

theater also served from a small dinner menu that you enjoy while watching the movie. The chairs were plush and the food was good (you ordered dinner using a phone on the table), as was the movie. Even the guys liked this one. The next day saw most of the group board the ferry to Norfolk where there was some more browsing of shops and a visit to Nauticus, a museum at the Maritime Center next to the battleship *Wisconsin*. After some intense shopping (the Sorrentis win for most spent with the purchase of a very nice antique telescope) and a dinner at The Bier Garden that night everyone took off the next day. Took off would be the correct word if you used full throttle as you would probably be flying between the tops of the 6-foot waves at the mouth of the Elizabeth River. Although the water calmed down some in the afternoon it was still an experience not soon to be forgotten. A loooooong time later, and with a better knowledge of the forces of the sea, everyone finally made it to their next destination.



Dozier's Regatta Point Marine

Heading back north towards home, Deltaville was the next stop where we stayed at the Dozier's Regatta Point Marine (the publisher of the Waterway Guide) on the Rappahannock River. Because of the excessive travel time involved, the pleasures of the pool were not experienced. But, a bike ride into Deltaville with some shopping and late lunch at Cocomos was a very enjoyable experience. Here at least one small shop enjoyed an economic stimulus package bestowed upon them by the Occoquan Yacht Club. Still recovering from the ill affects of holiday garb (or it could have been his experience with maintenance work done at Ocean Marine), Steve would most often be found outside riding his bike in circles around the parking lots. However, most everyone would probably agree that the best part of Dozier's is sitting on the dock or on the covered porch in the evening sipping on your favorite drink and watching the sun set as a cool breeze blows. Only the knowledge that soon we would need to return to work pried us away.

The last stop on this cruise was again at White Point Marina. Here the four-legged members can have as much fun at their two-legged owners. New member



Sadie showed that even at the most inopportune time (falling off the bulkhead) a puppy can figure out how to make it to solid land. Not to be outdone Corkie jumped right in (at least that's what Ned says) and followed suit. Watching six dogs vie for attention, whether the human or canine kind, was almost as confusing as trying to keep track of Harry with his dispensing of apple-tinis. I still can't remember if this was a morning or an evening event. Harry probably wouldn't be able to tell you either. But, as the saying goes, all good things must end. So, on that Sunday morning, we all got together for a group breakfast by the pool, had one last blast, and then, resigned, returned to home ports. The water up the Potomac was smooth with a threat of rain off to the west. But everyone made it back and now the task of working to earn that money needed for the next cruise begins. Just wait until next year ...



Crabbing at YRYH

### **PRYCA Float-In, Port Kinsale, 17-19 Jul 09**

Tom and Donna Lensis, Coordinators

The PRYCA Float-In this year was at Port Kinsale Marina in charming Kinsale, VA. This Northern Neck marina was at full capacity with the 62 boats that participated from all the PRYCA clubs. There were nine vessels from OYC. Welcome to Tom and Liz Plewes, on the *Double Eagle*, who just joined OYC and this was their first event. *Copy Cat* arrived on Wednesday, the *Gail Lynn II* arrived on Thursday, and the majority from all clubs arrived on Friday. Friday night's meal was a

BBQ Dinner at the Moorings Restaurant on their outside deck and big tent. There was a very entertaining Talent Show after dinner and a Trivia Contest throughout the evening.



Harry Croft presents an OYC burgee to newest members, Tom and Liz Plewes aboard the *Double Eagle*

Saturday morning seminars included a talk about the Triangle Loop, given by Capt Bolin, while outside under the tent participants learned culinary tips from Chef Hall on how to spice up your appetizers and meals on board. Also, Stephanie, the bartender from Dockside Restaurant, gave instructions and a sample of her specialty Mojito cocktail. Second set of seminars were on Fire Safety and Flares demos given by Capt Lovelace and Capt Edgar, while under the tent 'Mixologist' Fiero demonstrated helpful tips for being a 'Mixologist' aboard your vessel.

At 1130 the competition began with the Navigation/Skills Testing, where a man/woman team took a written exam followed by a knot tying test. The team of Tom Lensis and Pat Croft came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and were the only team to know all 5 of the knots, thanks to Harry's crash course on knot tying. The next competition was due to start at 1245. Commodore Croft called the Dooleys and the Belchers, who were still enroute, to hurry them along. The Life Jacket skills test featured the Dooleys, and at 1415 the Belchers were participating in "Boson Skills with a twist". The Dooleys didn't arrive until very nearly the beginning of the event. The Belchers also arrived with minutes to spare for their event. Both of these teams scored big for Club OYC and put us in a great position prior to the kayak race. Once again Commodore Croft picked the winning combination for the two teams with Rick and Teresa Sorrenti and Jim Hawley and Meimei Tidrow. Each team member had their own kayak, one facing front and one facing backwards. The teams had to maneuver around the course and each had to carry a bucket of water in a collapsible bucket. There were two ways to get points, one for fastest time, and one for having the most water leftover at the end of the race. Club OYC came through

once again and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in fastest time and 1<sup>st</sup> in having the most water. After another yummy buffet dinner at the Mooring Restaurant, the winners were announced and OYC won the cup! It had been a long dry spell for OYC since we'd last won the cup in 1997. Needless to say there was much celebrating going on long into the evening. Mooring's Sunday's brunch was the finale of the weekend. It was a great weekend, with great weather, and a lot of fun. Thanks to all who participated. As Northern Neckers like to say,..., "If you're lucky enough to be at the Rivah, you're lucky enough."

Donna Lensis, *Copy Cat*



Rick Sorrenti aboard *Copy Cat*, toasting "To the Cup!"—to the delight of neighboring vessels at Port Kinsale



Joe and Gail Livingston pose with the Cup

### ***The Daymarker***

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Ilona Zsirai, Circulation

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Jim Hawley and Meimei Tidrow display their winning spirit



Port Kinsale cruise coordinators for OYC, Tom and Donna Lensis, celebrate with the Cup

### **On the Internet**

Occoquan Yacht Club:

[www.OccoquanYachtClub.org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org) \*

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:

[www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org](http://www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org) \*

Occoquan River Maritime Association:

[www.ormaweb.org](http://www.ormaweb.org) \*

Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:

[www.cbyca.org](http://www.cbyca.org)

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Ned Rhodes, President and CEO

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703-765-2380

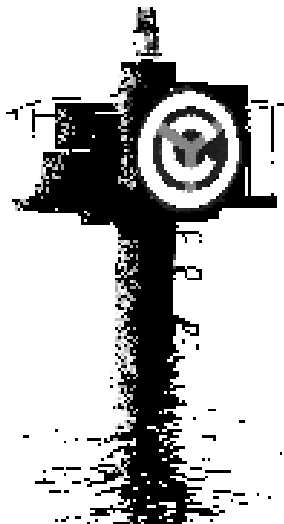
4-7 September 2009  
Annual Crisfield Crab Derby  
Somers Cove Marina MD  
Larry Freedman  
703-855-1826

**A huge cause for celebration: OYC wins the PRYCA Cup—see what the Commodore has to say about it.**

**Write ups and photos of Port Kinsale events and the South Bay Cruise.**

**Some excellent, simple recipes you can take with you boating.**

**More exciting summer cruises that will be fun to attend—see the column to the left and talk to a cruise coordinator today!**



*The Daymarker*

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