



# The Daymarker

## 2009 PRYCA Cup Champions

### OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

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703 830-1826

**Rear Commodore**

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Harry Croft

### Adios, Adieu, Sayonara, See Ya Later....

It's been another great year of cruising and socializing with OYCers! While we just completed the Santa Cruise to Occoquan, we still have the December 12<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party/Change of Watch to attend, and my term as Commodore is rapidly coming to an end. It has been an honor that I wish all members could enjoy. OYC is a special yacht club by virtue of our "no Clubhouse", no pomp and ceremony, and possibly the most ambitious cruise schedules of any other club on the river and bay.

The highlights of the past year included the December Change of Watch holiday party at Laurel Hill Golf Club, cruises all over the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, our victorious capture of the PRYCA Cup, and once again, ending with our holiday party. One of the hardest duties I had this year was selecting the recipient of the Commodore's Cup. There are so many people over the years who have graciously donated their time and efforts to OYC for the benefit of all. To select just one person or couple is a task that I would not wish on anyone. This year's recipients have quietly and unobtrusively supported OYC in many ways. Most people don't notice all the little things that so many do to make OYC the special club that it is. So when you hear the winner of the Commodore's Cup, you can take a measure of pride in that the Cup is a reflection of the volunteer spirit that you all

seem to have. OYC thanks you and I thank you.

This year also brought some sadness with the passing of Tom Coldwell, a dear friend and ardent OYC supporter. It was my first cruise with OYC and on Tom's boat (in Yorktown) where I celebrated my first wife's birthday and our anniversary. The warmth and humor that Tom and Mary Ann extended to us convinced us of the value of belonging to OYC. Tom had a great sense of humor and wit that we all will miss. So, while celebrating our good fortune at this year's holiday party, lift your glass to Tom and tell a good joke. He'd like that.

The 2010 OYC Bridge will be left in good hands. The new Commodore, Pat Croft, is a bit inexperienced and will require much counseling and help to be as successful as me. She also has a new Vice Commodore who, when not being argumentative, is a very experienced mariner and even has a few good ideas to make the coming year a successful one. Seriously, this new Bridge is top notch. Pat Croft will bring a great sense of order and detail to an otherwise unruly bunch of mariners and Tom Lensis is a very experienced boater, aviator, and entrepreneur, and very lucky to have a beautiful and supportive wife, Donna!

As I leave the Bridge, my heartfelt thanks to those who have supported me and OYC. As IPC, Joe Livingston made sure I didn't make any **serious** errors. Larry Freedman put together a great cruise schedule; John Heinze provided the best behind-the-scenes logistical support; Kathie McCormally squeezed every penny out of the budget; and lastly, my Secretary provided me with no end of literary criticism of my articles!

(cont'd page 2)

(Cont'd from page 1)

Our support staff was outstanding. I have never received so many membership spreadsheets as I did from Ilona Zsirai. Carol Belcher kept my spelling and syntax in order. Jim Dooley did a fantastic job of Quartermaster for which he will receive a brand new 36" Sea Ray. Did I mention we need replacements for Jim and Carol? Call the new Commodore! Ned Rhodes worked his electronic wizardry on our website. Nabil Dubraque, our Historian, having joined the ranks of those who cruise faster than a sailboat, outdid himself with the new Directory. Now if I could understand all the other things he says I would be considered educumacated, or is it erudited... any way you get the pint!, er point!

Without further ado, Harry, *Bay Dreamer* out.



### Rear Commodore

**John Heinze**

### Tom Coldwell – A Farewell

Rebecca and I had the privilege of attending the memorial services for Tom Coldwell, long-time OYC member, held November 23rd at Arlington National Cemetery. Tom was buried with full military honors as fitting his 26 years as of active service in the U.S. Navy, including service during the Vietnam War. Typical of Tom, he seldom mentioned his military career or the fact that he had retired as a navy Captain.

The reception following was full of great memories of Tom, thanks to his gracious wife Mary Ann and a packed reception hall of family and friends who gathered to share some of the memories of a full life well lived.

Tom and Mary Ann had moved to Cary, NC, several years ago and so may not be known to newer members of OYC. Prior to relocating, they had been very active members of the club, with Tom serving as *Daymarker* editor, and Mary Ann as the editor's editor, for over 11 years, a feat of service beyond any recognition OYC could offer.

Many people have stories about Tom's sense of humor – and he had a great one – but my favorite story is about his kindness – he was always willing to help. When I was getting starting in boating and needed a more experienced boater to help me bring *Great Escape* around from Harrington Harbor to Fairfax YC, Tom helped me bring it around. And he taught me to look for safe short-cuts and many other practical boating skills.

Thanks, Tom. John Heinze, *Great Escape*



**Secretary**

**Pat Croft**



**You are Cordially Invited....**



When your mail arrived, the envelope appeared to be the first Christmas card of the season, sent on its way early by some over-achieving Martha Stewart-type. But then you saw the "You're Invited" seal, and you knew it was something special. Here it was, the invitation you'd been waiting for – to attend the OYC Holiday Party and Change of Watch.

So if you are an over-achieving Martha Stewart-type, you sat right down, wrote out the check, and tossed that reply card right back in the mailbox. An amazing number of you must actually be that type, based on the replies that have been filling up the OYC Post Office Box. But for those of you who may have filed the invitation in that 'inbox' basket you keep on the kitchen counter, or even better, stuck it to the fridge with a seashell magnet, I just want to remind you that by now it is December 1, the RSVP date noted on the reply card.

Not to worry; if you stashed your invitation away in a drawer when you performed the clean sweep just before your Thanksgiving guests arrived, there is still time to dig it out and send in your reservation for the best party on the OYC calendar. And if you stashed it away so deep you can't find it, call me. I'll understand. Whatever it takes, just get your reply to us so you don't miss out on all the fun.

The party will again be held at Laurel Hill Golf Club, with the cocktail hour starting at 6:30. Dinner will be served at 7:25, and will include a salad, a prime rib carving station, a buffet with chicken marsala, cheese tortellini, mashed potatoes, and French beans, all masterfully prepared by chef Edison Rosales. After the presentation of awards and installation of the new board, we'll dance the night away to the live music of *Small Town*, the same band that performed for us last year.

Bring along the green stuff in your wallet, because there will be a 50/50 drawing, as well as a raffle and all manner of opportunities to spend a little cash. There will also be door prizes and table prizes, with no cash necessary.

The suggested attire for the evening is black tie optional; it's the one event of the year when we put away the



deck shoes and strap on the dancing shoes. If you have been wanting a chance to dress up, this is the night you've been waiting for; if dressing up isn't your thing, that's OK, too. But, just as your boat has been winterized, so too should your wardrobe be; don't show up in your swimsuit!

This event, more than any other on our schedule, presents an opportunity to adhere to our club motto: "Eat, drink, and have fun, in the company of good boating friends. See you at Laurel Hill, December 12!

Pat Croft, *Bay Dreamer*

## Great Cruise Reviews

### Hardy Souls Cruise 6-8 November It Was Easy to Be Hardy

Depending on when you counted and who you counted, up to fifteen boats braved the 70+ degree weather for the annual Hardy Souls cruise this year. Like last year, our destination was the National Harbour and dock master Eric made the whole process easy and parked us all in a line on A dock. The ride up on Friday was a bit brisk and due to the cool weather, we moved the Friday night cocktail party inside *Impulse*. I am not sure how we got 20+ people on the boat, but I do know that we had to turn the heat down since we were generating so much of it on our own. Snacks were rotated between the cockpit and the lower deck so everyone got to sample everything. Only the hardest of souls returned after dinner for dessert on *Impulse*.



Hardy Dog Walkers: Steve, Nick, Samantha, "Swabby" AKA Kiersten, Arleen, Abby, Teresa and Corky.

The 7:30 dog walk on Saturday started out brisk but the day was clear and bright. The goal was to walk over the Wilson Bridge and I am happy to report that we accomplished our goal as shown in the accompanying picture above. Although the walk was longer than normal (three hours), we all found it rewarding for the

views we had of the River and Old Town, Alexandria. There was a lot to see and the full complement of pictures may be viewed at [http://picasaweb.google.com/nedrhodes/HardySouls02?authkey=Gv1sRgCKPuxuPw\\_86hBg&feat=directlink](http://picasaweb.google.com/nedrhodes/HardySouls02?authkey=Gv1sRgCKPuxuPw_86hBg&feat=directlink).

After an afternoon of shopping and lunch, we all assembled for light cocktails at the T-Pier. At 7:30 we all made the walk up to the Public House where we had made reservations for dinner. Not only did they take our reservations, but they had our table ready for 28 people and two attentive waitpersons took good care of us throughout the evening. Everyone reported that the food was good and that it was nice to be able to get the whole group in one location for dinner. After the lengthy payment process (one bill, but separate payments), half the group went to the piano bar across the street while others went back to the boats.

Sunday we were greeted with sunny weather for the 7:30 dog walk and continued on throughout the day. The dockside brunch was well attended and no one went without enough food and the Bloody Marys supplied by the Sorrentis.



Sunday Morning Brunch on the Docks—it looks like Thanksgiving dinner arrived early!

The fleet departed throughout the day with some staying to soak up the welcome sun on the docks. All agreed it was a good weekend.

The following families have been deemed “Most Hardy” by the Hardy Souls Cruise coordinator: Rhodes, Bozoky, Dooley, Thompson, Freedman, Willetts, Morgan, Nalevanko, Bell, Sorrenti, Jorsey, Schall, Gibbons and Mansour.

Ned Rhodes, *Impulse*

## Santa Cruise 28 Nov 09

The write up for this year's cruise to deliver Ole St Nick from OHM to the Occoquan Town Dock to kick off the Occoquan Merchant Association's holiday season will be different from those in the past. In addition to listing all the participating boats, this year I will list both boats and participants.



Santa, aboard *Plane to Sea II*, waves as he passes under the I-95 bridge (is that the Grinch hanging over the bow?)

This is easy (and necessary to fill up copy space) because we had only two boats parading: *Plane to Sea II* with Allen and Lynanne Jorsey, and *Bay Dreamer* with Harry and Pat Croft. More shockingly, we had only six additional individuals participating: Mindi, Tim and Carl Harbin, Walt and Susan Cheatham, and Dave Moore. Yes, that's a total of two boats and ten people (plus Santa). And, this was on a beautiful late fall day with plenty of sunshine, crisp, but moderate, temperature, and a brisk, but acceptable, breeze. I've sent along the extra picture in the next column so all who were absent can see what a nice event it actually was. Start planning now to participate next year the Saturday after Thanksgiving when the economy will be back, we will all have free health care, and it will be 80 degrees and sunny for the annual OYC Santa Cruise.

Walt Cheatham, *Walt's on Water*



Safe on the docks with Santa! Aren't you sorry you weren't there?

## What I am Thankful For



With the Thanksgiving holiday just over and that great turkey meal finally digested, I took time to pause and remember to be thankful. I find it delightful that the US Thanksgiving holiday is five weeks later than the Canadian holiday. This is undoubtedly because of the earlier onset of really serious winter weather north of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel—in most of Canada, winter sets in before mid-October. By now, rain is just a faint and fading memory in the minds of Canadians and we tend not to think about any hint of warm weather precipitation, if we can avoid doing so, because the next time most Canadians will experience rain again will be in mid-April. I am not kidding!

I am very thankful for a great OYC boating season that Eric and I enjoyed on the 'rivah' (thanks for making this Canadian aware of the proper spelling and pronunciation, Donna. Really, until I came here, I had no idea what 'rivah' was...this southern term really doesn't travel well north of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel). As always, we enjoyed the company of the most convivial and experienced boaters around and explored new marinas as well as returned to some of our old favorite marinas.

I am so thankful for all the wonderful memories of this summer's cruising. While on route to the Memorial Day event in Solomons Island, we will never forget that very still Saturday morning at Tall Timbers with Randy and Susan Willetts when we saw a beautiful ray glide past us in the still water, just the tips of his fins breaking the surface. That was a truly enchanting sight. We loved

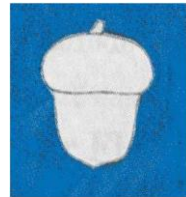
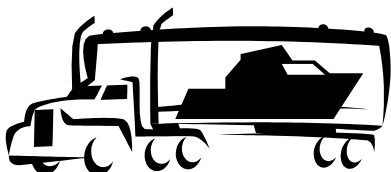


rafting-up on the river with friends. We will always remember the 'Not quite 4<sup>th</sup> of July' event at Tims I when we were middle boat in the three-boat raft-up. And who could forget the most amazing fireworks display put on by Tims that night? We want to thank Tom and Donna Lensis and Joe and Gail Livingston for such a remarkable experience! And of course, the most amazing sight ever—coming back from the Tides cruise in August, we spotted a pod of river dolphins racing between our boat and *Copy Cat*. The dolphins stayed with us for about a nautical mile and then they went on their own way.

The boating season was wonderful but our boating here in Virginia is now officially over. We will be leaving next spring for Kansas and Eric made the difficult decision to pull the boat this fall, winterize it, shrink wrap it and store it for the next two years at Holly Acres. I am thankful that we timed the boat pull-out for late morning the day after Thanksgiving at Leesylvania State Park as the tide was coming in. This countered the effect of the lower water levels from the strong north-westerly winds the night before. If we had taken the 9 am pull out timing, we might have scraped into the bottom and been unintentional recipients of some OYC 'boating award.' As we eased in towards the dock, the wind started to pick up and the water in the river behind us started to whitecap. Fortunately, the land mass protected us from the worst of the wind gusts and we floated up to the dock smoothly, as if the boat wanted to go in and rest against the dock (although I suspect that Eric's captaining skills had more to do with the overall success of this maneuver). Fortunately, the truck and trailer arrived early and the driver fully immersed the trailer as deeply as he could into the water. We all held our breath, hoping we had sufficient water depth to move the boat onto the trailer. Oh me of little faith: the boat floated right onto the trailer without incident.

We followed the boat all the way to her new home as she waddled up the road and we were thankful that the radar cover only scraped one low-hanging stop light on Route 1. We are also very thankful that the scrape is minor and can be buffed out! We were thankful that most of the 'Black Friday' shoppers weren't in such a hurry to get to those Christmas deals that they cut off the truck and her precious cargo. The staff at Holly Acres was professional, courteous and prompt; we are very thankful that they will be taking care of the big girl for the next few years. See you on the river...ah, rivah...in the summer of 2012.

Carol, *Time2Play*.out.



**Treasurer**

**Kathie McCormally**

## **Start Thinking about Next Year's Boating**

The boating season is over for all but the heartiest of boaters, and our focus is now turning to the holiday season and the winter months ahead. If you still have the OYC and boating on your mind, don't despair. The pre-plan fest and the plan fest are just around the corner, and it won't be long before we are in full swing once again, with a whole new season of cruising and fun social activities.

Until then, think about things you can do to better prepare your boat and yourself for next spring. Do you have a wish list for equipment for your boat? Perhaps you can put them on your Christmas list this year. We keep talking about adding a grill on our boat, but never seem to get around to it. Do you have items on your boat that need to be replaced or updated? January might be the perfect time to shop and replace worn out bed linens, towels, dishes, or pots and pans on your boat. The sales prices for these kinds of items are great during the winter months. What is the condition of your lines? Your life jackets? Your fenders? Check out sales at your local marine store or online. It's a slow season for them, and you can get some good deals.

Have you had a boating safety course or if you have, how many years has it been since you completed it? Could you benefit from a refresher course or additional information? Do you want to take a Captain's course? Many are offered after the first of the year. If you don't have time to attend a weekly course, go online. You will find many courses offered. Just *google* "boating safety" and it will take you to multiple sites with information and online courses. Whatever activities you choose over the coming winter months, I hope to see you at holiday party and again at the plan fest in February. I know we will all be ready to head to sea again by then.

Kathie McCormally, *Jayhawker*

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## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Dan Parsons	12/1
Eric Belcher	12/3
Michael Samphilipo	12/3
Larry Freedman	12/9
Robyn Strobel	12/9
Thomas Plewes	12/12
Milissa Samphilipo	12/17
Harry Croft	12/21
Becky Quentmeyer	12/22
Susan Thompson	12/26
Donald Miller	12/27

### Anniversaries

Ned & Arleen Rhodes	12/21
Steven & Becky Quentmeyer	12/28
Michael & Susan Dugan	12/30

### New Members

We welcome Don and Laura Powell of Fairfax, VA. They keep their 37' SeaRay, *Wavedancer*, at Fairfax Yacht Club.

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### 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)

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

## Winterizing tasks that Make a Difference

In the BoatU.S. on-line edition for November 2009, there is an excellent article that highlights those winterizing tasks that can get forgotten, even by the most diligent of boaters. Once again, BoatU.S. Marine Insurance has scoured its many claim files and has listed some of the most overlooked tasks that can have the most serious consequences. Sinking, water damage, engine repairs are all nasty outcomes of a momentary brain cramp on the part of otherwise meticulous boaters. In the spirit of prevention being so much more cost effective than repairs, the BoatU.S. findings are provided below. (for those who want to read the full article, please go to

[http://www.boatus.com/insurance/insurance\\_eline1109.asp](http://www.boatus.com/insurance/insurance_eline1109.asp) )

1. Visit your boat regularly during the winter months. Keeping an eye on your boat will let you catch sudden changes such as animals moving aboard (your boat is not the Ark), sudden leaks from expanding ice. If you can't be there, have a friend drop by.
2. Add extra lines and chafe protection. Winter winds can be more destructive than those gentle summer breezes. Don't let a winter storm abrade your dock line and possibly put a hole in your hull.
3. Keep the cockpit drains clear. A few leaves blocking the drains can let water get into the companionway, stain the interior and lead to rot in the future.
4. Drain the engine intake sea strainer. Water left in the strainer can freeze. Ice expands and can break the watertight seal. Then when warmer weather hits and the ice melts, water can enter boat through the intake seacock when it is opened.
5. Close all the seacocks when the boat is left for the winter on the water. This one goes without saying! The only exception is cockpit drains, which must be left open to drain water accumulations in the cockpit.
6. Close thru-hull fittings above the water line too. Boats have sunk because cracked thru-hulls near the waterline were submerged enough by the weight of snow and ice in the cockpit to let water into the boat.

7. If your boat is stored ashore, ensure it is supported properly. While most boatyards do a competent job of positioning supports, involve yourself by discussing how it will be done with the manager. Jack stands should be positioned perpendicular to the hull so the boat's weight is directed towards the ground. If the jack stand is not properly aligned, the weight of the boat can force the stands outward. The boatyard must use safety chain between the stands on the same side to stop the stands from slipping out from under the hull. For boats over 26', at least three jack stands should be placed per side and additional supports are required at long overhangs. Plywood or similar material should be placed under each stand to distribute the force and stop the base from sinking into the ground.

For sailboats, keels must be supported by wide, thick timbers to distribute the load. On powerboats, additional support is recommended for inboard engines, fuel tanks, and heavy machinery. For outboards and outdrives, weight should be taken off the transom by lowering the drive units onto a block.

After the boat is blocked, sight along the hull to make sure the jack stands are not distorting the hull's surface. Check again in a few weeks, once the boat has settled.

8. Cover your boat. Winter covers must be adequately ventilated. A lack of ventilation may cause mildew or rot problems. Never secure the boat's winter cover to the jack stands or support blocks.

9. Store biminis and dodgers inside. While they do protect the crew from sun and spray during the boating season, they cannot protect the boat during freezing rain and snow. Cold weather can cause biminis and dodgers to rip or age prematurely while doing little to protect the boat. Also, aluminium support frames can bend under the weight of snow.

10. Take your batteries home. Unless you need one battery aboard to operate a bilge pump, all batteries should be removed, taken home, recharged and stored for the winter.

11. Remove any material that holds moisture. Rugs, bedding, cushions and clothing are materials that retain moisture and encourage mildew to grow.

They should be removed from the boat and taken home.

12. Keep your boat insured. Even when you can't take it out on the water, protect your boat because sometimes, even with all your best efforts at preventing damage, things can happen.

Last chance to take your boat in a December parade. Consider joining other boats at the **Annual Parade of Lights**, a boat gala from the Washington Channel to the Alexandria Waterfront. See the flyer on page 7 of last month's *Daymarker*. Prizes will be awarded. For more information and to register, contact Lorraine Lloyd at 703-746-3303.

***The Daymarker***

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Carol Belcher, Editor  
Ilona Zsirai, Circulation

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Washington Channel and  
Alexandria  
Parade of Lights  
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703-746-3303

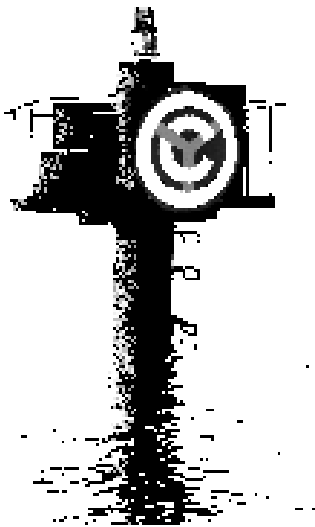
12 December 2009  
OYC Holiday Party  
and  
Change of Watch  
Laurel Hills Golf Club  
OYC Party Committee

*Inside this edition...*

**Your current Commodore, Harry Croft, says goodbye in his final column.**

**Write ups on the last cruises of the season—Ned and Arleen Rhodes led the November Hardy Souls Cruise and Walt and Susan Cheatham led the Santa Cruise to Occoquan**

**Take your boat for a pre-Christmas run up the river in DC/Alexandria's Parade of Lights—call Lorraine Lloyd today**



*The Daymarker*

Occoquan Yacht Club  
P.O. Box 469  
Occoquan, VA 22125

Change Service  
Requested