



February 2009, Vol. XXVI, No.2

The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Harry Croft

Spring is NOT far away!

One of the things I like most about Virginia is that winter doesn't last very long, and that means boating season is not far away. Just think, the Early Bird cruise is less than 90 days away!

Until then, there are a few things that you should do if your boat is still in the water. Most boats sink due to lack of attention. Visit your boat often! Check the batteries. Check the electrical connections to the dock. Are they warm? They shouldn't be! Open the bilge covers and inspect for any leaks. Even if your boat is on land, now is a good time to inspect the thru-hulls, especially plastic ones. How about the cutlass bearings? Grab the shaft and try to move it around. Does it feel loose? Is the prop dinged? These dark months provide a good time to go over last years records and make sure your boat is prepared for the upcoming boating season. Too many Captains wait too long and miss the many early opportunities to cruise.

In this issue of the *Daymarker*, on page 6, you will find our preliminary plan of activities for 2009. We have found it far easier to settle this schedule at the Plan Fest (February 21, at Fairfax Yacht Club, 2 P.M.) if we start with a rough outline. Nonetheless, this schedule is not cast in stone and your input is important and we invite your comments. Better yet, we would like you to participate as a cruise coordinator. It's not that hard and there are many experienced coordinators to give you assistance. Bring your ideas to the Plan Fest and consider taking on an easy but essential chore. Looking over the schedule you will notice a couple of new cruises and land activities. It all promises to be an exciting boating season. Hopefully the price of fuel will remain low enough for all to join in the fun..

This is also a good time of the year to take a Coast Guard Boating Skills and Seamanship Course. If you and your first mate would like to attend such a class, please let me know, hpcroft@verizon.net, and we can arrange it, if we have enough students. Maintaining your skills on the water and knowing the rules of the road are critical to a safe and fun time. See you on the river, *Bay Dreamer* out.



Vice Commodore

Larry Freedman

2009 Boating Schedule is under Construction

The OYC Board held the “Pre Planning Fest” with the goal of drafting a schedule of activities for the coming year that will be enjoyable for all and not just be the same old thing again. The Plan Fest meeting where this schedule is presented to the club will be held on February 21 at 2 pm at the Fairfax Yacht Club. Soda and water will be provided. Please bring your own adult beverage and an appetizer or dessert to share. This is a great time to reconnect with other members, especially if you couldn’t attend the holiday/COW party in December, and talk about where you would like to go on or do with your boat with other boaters. Also, keep in mind that the schedule is never final. We can always (and do) add to the schedule during the year as you come up with new ideas. Feel free to call me at 703-855-1826 or email me at larry.freedman@appliedis.com

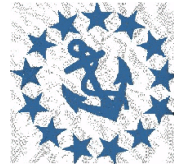
At the Plan Fest, we will as always be asking for volunteers to help as cruise coordinators. If you are unsure about what this involves, please take a look at the Cruise Coordinator’s Handbook on the OYC website or give me a call to talk about it. We will also be asking for signups for the activities, which is done so the organizers for each have some idea of the number of people and/or boats they might expect. Here are a few schedule highlights for the coming year:

- Another winter party, but much more casual and with casino games played for prizes and not real money. More details will be forthcoming very shortly on this.
- A short Chesapeake Bay cruise option to Solomons Island on Memorial Day weekend.
- A longer south Chesapeake Bay cruise, with Hampton Roads as the farthest destination.
- One or more Concert Cruises to National Harbor, assuming they continue their weekly concerts from last year.
- Conversion of the October election meeting into more of a party, using the Oktoberfest theme. *(Editor’s comment: please see page 6 for the complete draft activity list)*

We would also like to get more members out on our cruises. If you think you would like to go but are unsure about taking your boat to any of these destinations, please feel free to contact me, Harry, or the cruise coordinator. We will be happy to answer your questions. Keep in mind – National Harbor is a great place for a first time cruise. It is very close by for most members and has floating docks with wide slips. Come on out,

OYC is well known for our cruising schedule, but we are famous for our dock parties.

Larry, *Takin’ To The Sea.*



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Racing Cars and Boating

Over the Christmas holidays, while Rebecca and I were visiting with our three grandsons and our son and daughter-in-law in Austin, Texas, I had the opportunity to ride in a real race/sports car. This was in Dallas, while we were spending a few days visiting with my sister and brother-in-law, Sam, an engineer who, in his spare time, has built a 1965 Ford Cobra. This is a replica of the two-seater sports car made in very limited production – only 1200 made – that won the 24-hour La Mans race in 1963 and 1964.

Needless to say, riding in the sports car was a real thrill as Sam showed me some of what the Cobra is capable of doing – accelerating to high speed so quickly that it pushes you very firmly back into the bucket seats. Our excuse was that we had to verify the settings on the new speedometer – and so we used his hand-held GPS with the speed function. The speedometer settings were correct.

I was also fascinated with the Cobra club of which Sam is an active member because it provides so many of the same benefits that OYC provides for its members. Like OYC, the Cobra club exists so that the members can help each other and share their experiences and fun activities. They go on trips together to area restaurants and on longer trips to events (races). It seems that even if you own a Cobra, to get the most out of it you need to be a member of a club where you can share experiences and plan fun activities. The same applies to us boaters in the OYC!

See you at the Plan Fest, February 21st at Fairfax Yacht Club, where we’ll plan our fun trips and activities for 2009. *(Editor’s comment: please see page 6 for the complete draft activity list)*

Looking forward to more fun...
John Heinze, *Great Escape*



Secretary

Pat Croft

It's So Easy to Get Side-tracked . . .

Ever stop to think . . . and forget to start again? That happens to me more and more lately. I'll walk out of the house to get the mail from the curbside box, but then I catch sight of a pesky weed in the flower bed beside the front porch that just dares me to snatch it out of the dirt. Once I'm down there, closer to the culprit, I can see there are many more little green intruders just waiting to be pulled, so I dutifully oblige. By the time I stand upright again, I have a significant mound of limp weeds clutched between both hands, so instead of walking down the driveway to the mailbox, I head around the corner of the garage to the garbage can. After depositing the spoils from my weed-picking side-track, I notice that the pathway stepping stones are covered over with the pea gravel that should be surrounding, not obscuring, them. So I grab up the broom from the shed and sweep my way down the path until all of the stepping stones are clean. By now, I'm all the way around to the back yard, where I see that fallen leaves have covered the surface of our small pond, so I grab the leaf net. After skimming the foliage from the water, I take an appreciative glance at the cleared pond. Happy with my handiwork, I open the back door and head into the house to grab a cool drink from the fridge. Only after Harry asks, "Did you get the mail?" do I remember - *that* was what I set out to do when I went out the front door.

It's so easy to get side-tracked! You may have run into the same dilemma when you last read about OYC Membership Renewal. You saw that the membership year runs from January 1 to December 31, so renewal fees are due January 1. You had every intention of sending in your renewal check, but somehow, on your way to the mailbox, you got distracted and didn't get that check sent. And it slipped your mind so easily, since boating season itself is still a few months away, and your OYC membership isn't on your mind until warmer weather infects you with Boat Fever.

But OYC's calendar starts NOW; the first big event of 2009 is the Plan Fest, February 21, where you'll hear about all of the exciting possibilities for the year ahead. Some of them are land activities, meant to ward off the winter doldrums before the season opens. Take advantage of the renewal form enclosed in this issue of the *Daymarker* and get your membership renewal for 2009 completed right now. That way you'll be all set to take part in all of the fun activities being planned for the coming year. You will receive a membership card in return, good for a 50% discount on your BOATUS membership, and your name will appear in the new OYC Membership Directory, due for publication soon.

If you are among the many who have already renewed, congratulations! If you, like me, are easily distracted and forgot to get the check out to the mailbox, bring your check book with you to the Plan Fest. Treasurer Kathy McCormally and Membership Chair Ilona Zsirai will be there to officially record you as another proud member of the Occoquan Yacht Club for 2009!

A Winter Blues Break with a Casino Party!

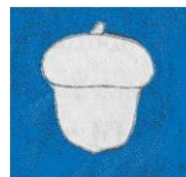
Have the cold weather and overcast skies got you down? Has the installation of engine compartment heaters and bubblers under the swim platform of your boat caused you actual pain? If so, help is on its way! Rick and Teresa Sorrenti have graciously offered to host an evening filled with games of chance and fun at their beautiful Belmont Bay Great Room on February 28. They ask you to bring a dish to share with your fellow OYCers, your favourite beverage and your willingness to laugh at winter while having some fun.

Where? 485 Harbor Side Street, Woodbridge (Belmont Bay). This is the nine-storey condominium building about one block from the marina. The Great Room is on the first floor. Parking is available on the street.

When? Saturday, 28 February 2009. The fun starts at 6 pm and lasts until...

Lost? Call Rick at 703-338-1246 for additional directions

Please RSVP your attendance to Rick at sorrentis@comcast.net



Treasurer

Kathie McCormally

Boater Safety

A new year has arrived, and boaters are eagerly awaiting the beginning of boating season in the coming spring. As you ponder any New Year resolutions, consider adding a boating safety course or a review of boating safety to your list. Whether you are a new boating family or a veteran boater who has always meant to take a class but have never found the time, these cold winter months may offer just the time you need to take a class. You can find locations and dates of area classes online, or you can actually take the safety class online, if that is more convenient for your

schedule. I have signed my entire family up for a Coast Guard Safety Class that begins at the end of February.

The recent ditching of the plane in the Hudson River in New York reminds all of us that safety should always be on our minds, regardless of whether we are flying a plane or cruising the Potomac. After the plane accident which miraculously resulted in no deaths and few injuries, I saw an editorial in the *Washington Post* in which a flight attendant reminded all people who fly that they must never take their safety for granted. He stated that everyone on the plane has the responsibility when an accident occurs, and that all should be aware of the procedures and rules when an emergency arises. Those passengers seated in exit rows must be able to open the hatches, so people can get out safely. All other passengers must know how to navigate to the nearest exit and must know how to exit as quickly as possible without impeding the progress of others on the plane. In the Hudson River incident, a flight attendant had to restrain one passenger who wanted to open the back hatch to exit. Opening that hatch on a ditched plane would have caused the plane to quickly fill with water and sink.

These same practices are just as important when boating. Everyone on the boat should have some idea of what to do in an emergency. It is imperative that the Captain and First Mate have some kind of safety training and knowledge, but any passengers aboard could also profit from a boating safety course. Safe boating can save lives, so if you or members of your family have never had a boating safety course or you just think you could benefit from a refresher course on safety, consider attending a class this winter or at least consider taking an online course. We will all be better boaters in the spring if we bolster our boating safety education this winter.

Kathie McCormally, *Jayhawker*



Gail Livingston poses beside the fabulous gingerbread house she won at the December OYC Holiday Party/Change of Watch.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque	2/1
Meimei Tidrow	2/2
Gayle Wix	2/2
Cindy Hollingsworth	2/3
Sabrina Worcester	2/3
Susan Quinn	2/4
Dianne Bricker	2/6
Maria Gibbons	2/9
Rick Sorrenti	2/9
Pamela McLeod	2/13
Charles Woodruff	2/17
Dwayne Johnson	2/18
Bob Wilson	2/22
Jack Striker	2/28

Anniversaries

Steven & Susan Thompson 2/16

New Members

We are pleased to welcome Tom Stierle and Myndi Harben who keep their 31' Pacemaker, *Wii Fish*, at Fairfax Yacht Club.

Securing the Homeland: A Simple Way to do Your Part

The Coast Guard needs your help! While you are out on the water this season, ***America's Waterway Watch*** asks for your help in securing the Potomac's shoreline. This program provides a way for citizens to report any suspicious activity they witness near bridges, tunnels, power plants and other critical infrastructure. Law enforcement personnel cannot be everywhere to observe what's going on and that's where you come in!

Citizens can telephone the National Response Center at 1-800-24-Watch to report any activity that just doesn't seem right. Examples would include: boaters videotaping or taking photos of waterfront installations, boating or scuba diving near sensitive waterfront locations and unusual night operations. Taking note of people asking odd questions is important too and that helped law enforcement nab one very dangerous individual.

Not long ago, a tour boat captain in Miami encountered a passenger asking unusual questions about access to bridges and cruise ships. The passenger also took numerous photos with his camera phone. Becoming suspicious, the captain immediately telephoned ***America's Waterway Watch***. The FBI soon questioned the individual, Sayed Abdul Malike, but released him after confiscating the camera phone. He remained

under surveillance though and was tracked to New York where he was arrested for attempting to purchase explosives, which court documents described as enough to "blow-up a mountain".

The strength of **America's Waterway Watch** is its simplicity. With just a set of eyes and ears, anyone can help protect our homeland. A local partner in this program is Division 25 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. We can supply you with decals and wallet cards so you can always keep the National Response Center phone number handy. There is also a brochure that gives examples of what to look for and where. You can call the Auxiliary's local Marine Safety Officer at 703-690-8341 or e-mail potomacam@earthlink.net for a supply of each. Or visit www.AmericasWaterwayWatch.org for all the details.

Vigilance is one of our best deterrents against terrorist acts. Become part of our nation's first line of defense and participate in **America's Waterway Watch!**

Thomas Musso
USCG Auxiliary



How we chose our Boat Name

Barbara Freedman, *Takin' To The Sea*

I always wondered how people chose the names for their boat and I am sure others have wondered the same. Here is how we chose the name of *Takin' To The Sea*:

Larry and I both grew up on the water and with boats, many, many boats. My father used to fish and Larry used to dive. Our first boat together was a 2001 34' Sea Ray Sundancer. We bought this boat in the summer of 2003. Larry and I were trying to come up with a different name that would stand out from all the common boat names such as "Nauti 'this or that'." I have a friend who lives in RI who happens to be a fishing charter captain. His name is Captain Bill and he charts the Erin Rose out of Charlestown, RI. He takes his customers through Block Island Sound and Long Island Sound on fishing charters in the hopes of catching "the big one."

His wife, Roz, my friend since 2001, who I met at a company we both worked for at the time, always teases her husband, Captain Bill, on his many "fish tales." Bill likes to tell stories of the sea, men of the sea, etc. When Roz asks Bill a question on why he did this or that on any of his charters, Bill will say "Because we are men of the Sea" or "because we are taking to the sea, AR, AR, AR." Well, Larry and I have heard Captain Bill say that

so many times it kind of stuck in our heads and we decided to name our 34' Sundancer, *Taking to the Sea*.

Boating season came to an end and we winterized our 34' Sundancer in November 2003. By January 2004, we were very bored with winter and eager to get back out on the water. Larry and I used to hang around our marina, just looking at boats and anxiously waiting for spring. On one particular day, we were hanging around the marina, and were just about to leave and drive home when we came across the 1996 42' Sea Ray Aft Cabin that we now own. It was in the garage at Prince William Marina. We peered through the windows and liked what we saw from the outside and wanted to see the inside so we made an appointment for the next weekend to see the interior. We climbed up the ladders that were set up in the garage at the marina, and climbed aboard. We could barely see inside as there was no power on to the boat; I sat on the bridge in the semi-dark and got "that feeling", all good, you know the feeling: when you know something is right. I followed my intuition and we pursued buying this boat. We were not in the market at that time to buy a new boat, but it just happened. You know what I mean, STEVE.

There was another person who wanted that boat as well, but we won out. We got the winning bid in just in the knick of time. Now the name: we wanted to keep the same name of *Taking To The Sea* but we did not like the style of letters or how they were applied by the first person who did the lettering for our Sundancer. We hired a different person, Dave Yarnell, to do the lettering for our new (new to us) Aft Cabin. We chose "hobo" lettering.

Dave misunderstood what we asked him to put on the boat, as I have a RI accent and by now everyone should know that Rhode Islanders butcher the English language. We don't say "ing" and we never say our "R's." Well, to make a long story short, *Takin' To The Sea* was born and we couldn't be happier. We are very pleased that this simple error, due to my butchering of the English language, gave us our unique boat name. It all started with my friend, Captain Bill from RI, who continues to say, to this day, "we are Takin' to the Sea, Roz, we are Takin' to the Sea!"

How did your boat name come to be? Tell us in the *Daymarker!*

The Daymarker

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Carol Belcher, Editor
Ilona Zsirai, Circulation

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

ericncarol.belcher@cox.net

2009 OYC Boating Season Preliminary Schedule

This is a **rough draft** of events and cruises for 2009 boating season: dates, cruise destinations and coordinators are all subject to change. The OYC Board hopes that you will review the activities below, note those of interest to you, and attend the upcoming Plan Fest armed with this information. For early sign-ups of interest, check your calendars! Please consider filling a cruise coordinator position for one of those activities: it's a fun experience and there are always OYC members with past experience in this role who are ready to assist you. Feel free you write your name on the line!!

Date	Activity	Responsible
21 February	Plan Fest at FYC	OYC Board
28 February	Winter Casino	Rick and Teresa Sorrenti
17 March	Impromptu St Patrick's Day Party	_____
21 March	General Membership Meeting	OYC Board
17-19 April	Early Bird Cruise	Laslo and Linda Bozoky
5 May	Flag Raising Ceremony	OYC Board
9 May	Blessing of the Fleet	OYC Board
23-25 May	Memorial Day Cruises:	
	a. Colonial Beach (PRYCA)	_____
	b. Solomons-Spring Cove	Larry and Barbara Freedman
6 June	Dinghy/Kayak Race/Pot Luck	John Heinze
19-21 June	Summer Kickoff to Cobb Island Days (PRYCA)	Joe Livingston
27 June	Tim's I Fireworks and Raft-up	_____
3-5 July	4 th of July Celebrations	
	a. Washington Channel	_____
	b. York/Hamptons Cruise (3-12 July)	Ned Rhodes
11-12 July	Tim's II Fireworks	_____
17-19 July	PRYCA Float In at Port Kinsale	_____
19-26 July	Après Float In/Tides Cruise	Joe Livingston
7-9 August	Colonial Beach Dog Days of Summer (PRYCA)	_____
28-30 August	Almost-to-the-Bay Soiree	
	St Marys and Corinthians YC	Eric and Carol Belcher
4-7 September	Labor Day Cruise-Crisfield	Larry and Barbara Freedman
3 October	Shrimp Fest at Hoffmasters	OYC Board
9-12 October	Columbus Day Cruise to St Mary's Yachting Center	Harry and Pat Croft
15-18 October	Annapolis Boat Show	
24 October	General Membership meeting and Oktoberfest	OYC Board
6-8 November	Hearty Souls Cruise to National Harbor	Ned Rhodes
28 November	Santa Cruise to Occoquan	Walt Cheatham
4-6 December	Alexandria Parade of Lights	_____
12 December	Holiday Party and Change of Watch at Laurel Hills Golf Club	Holiday Committee

Planning Calendar February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 GI Joe Day	2 Groundhog, Hedgehog, Sled Dog Day	3 Four Chaplains Memorial Day	4 Liberace Day	5 Weather person's Day	6 Wear Red Day	7
8 Boy Scout Anniversary Day	9 Read in the Bathtub Day	10 Plimsoll Day	11 Be Electric Day	12 Darwin Day OYC Board Meeting	13 Blame Someone Else Day	14 Valentines Day
15 Susan B Anthony Day	16 Presidents Day	17 My Way Day	18 Pluto (the planet, not the cartoon dog) Day	19 Iwo Jima Day	20 Northern Hemisphere Hoodie Hoo Day	21 Clam Chowder Day OYC Plan Fest
22 George Washington's Birthday	23 National Personal Chef's Day	24 International Pancake Day	25 Ash Wednesday	26 National Chili Day	27	28 Floral Design Day Open that Bottle Night
Adopt a rescued Rabbit Month Library Lovers Month National Weddings Month						

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Beer Day	2 Namesake Day	3 National Anthem Day	4 Old Inauguration Day	5 Nametag Day	6 Middle Name Pride Day	7 US Snowshoe Day
8 Check your Batteries Day	9 Get Over It Day	10 Organize Your Home Office Day	11 Johnny Appleseed Day	12 Girl Scout Day	13 Earmuffs Day	14 International Fanny Pack Day
15 Ides of March: Brutus Day	16 Curlew Day	17 St Patrick's Day	18 Forgive Mom and Dad Day	19 National Chocolate Caramel Day	20 Great American Meat Out Day	21 Maple Syrup Day
22 International Goof off Day	23 National Puppy Day	24 National Chocolate Covered Raisins Day	25 Pecan Day	26 Make Up your Own Holiday Day	27 Quirky Country Music Song Titles Day	28 Eggsibit (decorating egg shells) Day
29 Texas Loves the Children Day	30 Pencil Day	31 Bunsen Burner Day				
Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig Month Red Cross Month International Expect Success Month National Clean Up Your IRS Month						

Inside this edition...

21 February 2009
2 p.m.
OYC Plan Fest
Fairfax Yacht Club
OYC Board

28 February 2009
Casino Night
Belmont Bay
Rick Sorrenti

17 March 2009
Impromptu
St Patrick's Day Party
TBD

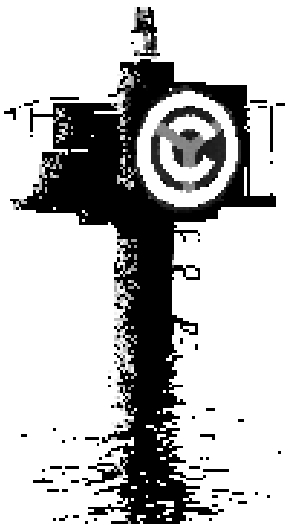
21 March 2009
General Membership
Meeting
Fairfax Yacht Club
OYC Board

Draft 2009 OYC Boating Activity List

How did *your* boat get its name? One member confesses all...

The Coast Guard needs your help— please read the article about America's Waterway Watch.

Boater safety, boater safety, and more boater safety! It's time to refresh your safety skills



The Daymarker

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Change Service
Requested