



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

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Larry Freedman
703 830-1826

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For those who attended the holiday party and Change of Watch, WOW!! A great venue, good food, great company, beautiful table settings, and lots of fun!! Unless you have been involved with the planning for one of these events, you can't believe all the little details that make a special evening of dining, dancing, and celebration. I certainly didn't feel that happy on the Friday before. If my first mate gave me one more thing to do... "POW," a trip to the moon as Jackie Gleason was wont to say. I'll leave the specifics of the party to her article, but someone really needs to explain to me why floor length table cloths that are later topped by another table cloth are necessary. After all, the lights are dimmed, people are drinking, eating and dancing, why floor length? Regardless of all the pre-party annoyances, the end result was great. The three amigos—Pat Croft, Sharman Harris, and Trish Mattke—deserve many thanks for their hard work and diligence in planning and executing a splendid party!!

Even though December's weather was less than conducive to boating, I did manage one last trip down the river and bay, through the ICW and up the Pamlico River to help deliver Frank and Diane Machi's boat, *Wild Horses* to its new berth. Frank and Diane are building a new house next to a golf course on Chocowinity Creek. While it's sad to lose such good OYC shipmates, the trip was an adventure that I would recommend for others. First of all, you have the entire river and bay to yourselves...there's no one

else out there! Of course that also means that there is no one to listen to your radio calls except the Coast Guard. In retrospect, that's a good thing even though we later found out that the antenna was not functional so that we couldn't have called for help even if we needed to. In addition, gassing up becomes more of a chore in that you have to physically seek out the gas pump operator who is in a warm place doing winter maintenance chores on other boats. Bottom line, extra planning is required for winter travel!

Frank did a great job of selecting a suitable window of travel and that is something that all boaters need to do for every trip. We had canceled two other tries at going south because the predicted weather was not suitable for safe and comfortable boating. I know it's difficult not to travel when you only have a limited number of days of vacation but pushing the weather can result in angry first mates and perhaps worse, an unfortunate accident. So if you travel in spite of an adverse weather report thinking that NOAA is sometimes wrong, you should be mentally prepared to turn around and head for a safe harbor. Winter travel is also different in the most obvious of ways. Number one: it's COLD. Sitting on a cold bridge for four hours at a pop is miserable. Number two: it's COLD. The plastic windows (the ones that are difficult to roll up because they are so stiff) fog up and that requires someone to wipe them down often. That cold activity was assigned to me while the Captain stayed warm!!
(Commodore's comments con't on page 2)

(Commodore's Comments con't from page 1)

Remarkably, our trip down the river and bay was uneventful. Traveling the ICW during the week day is another adventure in waiting for seven bridges and one lock to open. Frank is now a master at idling and holding a boat in position. Winter months also mean shorter days, so planning one's stops is even more of a chore, especially considering the Alligator River swing bridge. We were running short of daylight and short of places to stay for the night and the Alligator Bridge doesn't open if the winds are greater than 30 mph. Unfortunately, you won't know that until you get there. We did hear of a previous week when many boats were holed up in Coinjock waiting for the winds to die down. Luckily, the wind wasn't a problem for us and we were able to make Bellehaven before dark. All in all, a fun trip without any problems.

2009 Prediction: gas prices will stay reasonable for the boating season. The new OYC Board has already started to plan for all the activities, but that's another subject for next month. We welcome your suggestions for places to visit.

Lastly, I personally want to thank Joe Livingston for his dedication and hard work for OYC over the last two years. His new position as Immediate Past Commodore (and PRYCA delegate) will help to keep me on course and off the rocks. OYC is a special club run by volunteers who work so that all might enjoy. We cruise more than most clubs (actually, more than any club I know) and it is because members step forward to become cruise coordinators. So, step forward and let's cruise!

With fuel prices on the decline and the hope that they stay that way through the summer, the crew of *Takin' To The Sea* are looking forward to a great cruising year in 2009.

Also, just because we lay out a cruising schedule for the year in February doesn't mean that schedule is carved in stone. Feel free to suggest new things we can do during the year and we'll do everything we can to make it happen. A good example of this is last year's Jazz Cruise to National Harbor that we set up in June after we found out about the jazz concerts they were having.

As is the standard for this month's message, remember that we cannot have cruises without cruise coordinators. So we will ask people to step up and volunteer for this job at the Planning Fest. This job is not that hard, we have a handbook that lays out all the steps, guidance is always available from experienced coordinators, and you will have the eternal gratitude of your cruise mates (well maybe not eternal, but they will probably share their vanilla rum with you – right, Ned?).

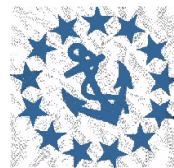
Here's to a safe and healthy new year and we look forward to seeing you on the water. Because we are *Takin' To The Sea*.



Vice Commodore

Larry Freedman

I would like to thank the search committee for their confidence in nominating me for this post. My goal for the year is to plan out a cruising agenda that has something for everyone, from experienced to new boaters, so that we can get more boats out and enjoying our waterways (and have some pretty good parties as well). While I have some ideas for that, I welcome any and all ideas that you have for trips you'd like to make and things you'd like to do. You can send them to me at larry.freedman@appliedis.com or call me at 703-855-1826. We will organize all the options and present them at the Planning Fest at our next OYC meeting sometime in February. This is an important meeting, so please plan to attend.



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

“Deadliest Catch” and What We Can Learn from the Pros

“Deadliest Catch” is a fascinating reality TV series. If you have never watched it, it documents what it is like for commercial fishermen who harvest Alaska king crab. This very lucrative harvest takes place in the winter months in the Bering Sea north of the Aleutian Islands and between Siberia, Alaska and the Arctic ice pack. These guys are handling 800-pound crab pots in long work shifts for weeks at a time in some of the worst winter weather imaginable. And yet what is most remarkable, they manage to do this job safely and return year after year. You certainly can get some clues of how they do this by watching the show – the boats and

equipment are designed and maintained for the rugged environment, the captain and crews are highly experienced and safety procedures are followed because if they are not, the result is injury or death. And yet the risks are still enormous.

I recently had a chance to talk to a researcher who was doing a study on the safety of ferry boat operations, which is a bit more relevant to the boating we do. The similarities, of course, are that we are also hauling passengers, namely ourselves, our first mates and our families and friends. Interestingly, the key factors in determining ferry boat safety - boat conditions, route and boating operating procedures – are in fact highly relevant for the type of boating we do, and for getting ready of the 2009 boating season.

Boating conditions – winter is the ideal time to survey your boat’s conditions, especially safety equipment, and to plan for repair and upgrades. Is your VHF radio DSC equipped? What is worn out, expired or in need of replacing? Now is the time to plan and maintain, so you can be ready to go as soon as boating season arrives...

Route and boating operations – The purpose of OYC - simply put - is to cruise safely to our destination(s), have a great time there and then cruise safely home. Cruising with OYC not only adds greatly to the fun but provides a network of fellow boaters who are always willing to lend a hand – and I’ve needed a lot of help over the years - and who often have the expertise to help on any boating issue, especially boating safety.

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



Secretary

Pat Croft

Wasn't that a PARTY!

It was a fitting end to a great boating season. The Holiday Party fulfilled our expectations of a festive evening spent with good friends – sixty-eight friends, to be exact. The setting was elegant, the food was fabulous, and the dance band was delightful. If only we could have partied longer!

The main event, of course, was the Change of Watch ceremony, and the official ‘thank you’ to those who helped to make the past year a success, including the Cruise Coordinators, the Fleet Captains, staff and board members. Joe presented ‘thank you’ gifts to Board and Staff members.



The 2008 Board and Staff (left to right): Joe Livingston, Harry Croft, Al Jorsey, Pat Croft, Nabil Dubruque, Trish Matke, Ned Rhodes, Jim Dooley, Sue Thompson, Carol Belcher, and Ilona Zsirai.

Joe installed Harry as Commodore:



Joe and Harry with the Commodore's Burgee

and then Harry installed the new board members.



Previous Page: (L to R) Kathie McMormally, Larry Freedman, and John Heinz are sworn in as members of the 2009 Board.

The other important business of the evening was the awarding of three special trophies. The first was the Commodore's Cup, given to recognize a couple or individual who has contributed exceptional service to the club. This year's Cup went to Nabil and Lucy Dubraque.



Nabil and Lucy Dubraque

The Bent Prop Award went to Chris Rose, who was not able to attend to pick up his trophy, but we'll make sure he gets it, since keeping it on display is required of the recipient. The Golden Snorkel Award went to Lynanne Jorsey, whose trip into the water on an earlier cruise resulted in a soggy cell phone and a slightly bruised ego.



Lynanne Jorsey receiving the Golden Snorkel Award from Harry Croft.

After Joe had sworn Harry in as Commodore, Sue Thompson presented a neck scarf emblazoned with the OYC logo and the title "Commodog" to him for his Yellow Lab, Biscuit, who was not able to attend the party, but promises to fulfill her duties as Commodog on every cruise.

As thanks for Joe's time and dedication to the club as Commodore, Harry presented Joe a framed OYC burgee and a jacket with the OYC logo.

Noting that the Commodore's wife also devotes time and dedication to the cause, Harry, on behalf of the club, gave Gail Livingston a gift card for services at The Red Door Spa.

Once the Change of Watch ceremony was complete, the party began in earnest, and the dance floor was put to good use. The band was great, and even played the obligatory OYC Anthem, known to outsiders as YMCA by the Village People. Line dances and group slides got the party movin'; check out the smooth moves captured below.



Front: Teresa Sorrenti, Betsy Nalevanko, Dave Moore, Sally Hoffmaster. Back: Ilona Zsirai, Terry Mattke, Steve Thompson, Arleen Rhodes, Lobanah Mansour



Background: Tom and Donna Lensis
Foreground: Steve Thompson, (wearing his official OYC Dance Cap), and Caroline Lynn.

Throughout the evening, Door Prizes were handed out. Six lucky winners took home gift boxes packed by Jim and Judy Dooley from the Quartermaster's Inventory. Two happy party goers walked off with the large poinsettias flanking the dance floor. Eight delighted diners, one at each table, discovered a sticker declaring "YOU WIN!" under the candle at their place setting, which meant they were taking home the gingerbread

house that was the centerpiece decoration at their table. The grand prize raffle ticket for the larger, more elaborate gingerbread house donated by Sharman Harris, was held by Gail Livingston, who was thrilled to be the winner of Sharman's cookie and candy sculpture.

Special thanks to Nabil Dubraque, for his wonderful party favor: "Occoquan Yacht Club: A Retrospective in Pictures" a DVD that was distributed to all OYC members at the party.

The end of the party came much too soon; we could have partied on much longer. Judging from the smiles all around, everyone went home happy.



Trish Mattke, Caroline Lynn, and Betsy Nalevanko

PYCRA Delegate and IPC Joe Livingston

Great finish to the year!! The Holiday Party-Change of Watch was a wonderful send off to the 2008 boating Season. As I look back upon the evening, it seems like we repeated many of the things that had been done in the past, but it was different. The room was full of Christmas colors and, as I noted on Ned's clip of photos, everyone was having a merry time with very large smiles upon their faces...that's life in the Occoquan Yacht Club. Commodore Harry Croft did a super job of directing the Committee of Pat Croft, Sharman Harris and Trish Mattke.

I want to thank the Club members again for the opportunity to serve as the Commodore of our fine group. Also, I want to thank you for the Commodore's gifts presented at the COW. I will certainly find a prominent place for the framed "OYC Burgee" and I appreciate the outdoor all weather coat. Thank you all, again.



Joe Livingston raises his framed burgee with Harry Croft

Maybe I will see where it goes and how much time it takes, but I thought I might start a theme for my articles this coming year: Some basics to build upon. Taken from the Chesapeake Bay Magazine, an article states, "Nautical words, like nautical measures, are more than just nouns and verbs. They represent the care and thought that guided countless sea-miles under the keels of many ships." **In nautical terms the fathom is a vertical distance, as in water depth, equal to six (6) feet.** Remember this and when the time is right, we will work on a **Cable** as being a horizontal distance of 600 feet or 200 yards. Class is excused.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

Barbara & Larry Freedman, *Takin' To The Sea*

Mr. Wilson, the crew of *Takin' To The Sea*, as well as their guests, Gail and Joe Livingston, Al Jorsey, and Dianna and Dave Dix, braved the cold on Saturday to take part in Alexandria's annual Parade of Lights out on the Potomac. This marks our third year as a parade participant. The cold weather did not place a damper on our spirits, nor did the snow flurries on Saturday, or the real icicles that formed on our outside icicle lights that we strung on the bow. It is a miracle that no one fell off our swim platform, especially on Sunday as the cold air and the spray from the Potomac made our platform a skating rink.



Brrrr!

Mr Wilson poses with 'Sally'

Our guests arrived at our slip in Alexandria around 3:30 and the party got started with some good food and

plenty of wine and hot toddies for an army. After everyone was fed and properly 'warmed up' from the hot toddies, we ventured out on the bridge to untie and get in line as a participant. We hovered out on the Potomac to await the arrival of the DC parade boats, and we fell in line toward the end. There were about 52 participants in all.



Ready for fun on the Dock



Dressed for the weather

When it was our turn to address the crowd standing out on the docks, freezing, Kiersten, a.k.a., Sally, and sometimes referred to as SWAB (you do your job, you get a better job!), did the main announcement and we all joined in to wish the crowd a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and to pay tribute to our troops in their support of this country so we can all continue to live free and be safe and enjoy events like this one.

After we made two loops around the judges, it was time to turn into our slip and join the festivities for the Parade participants in the Food Court. The Food Court featured a live band, and there was plenty of beer and even more wine! Now that is what I call Christmas Cheer!



Christmas Decorations



Gail raises her glass

We did not win a prize this year either, and we really don't care. We participate in this parade for the spirit of Christmas and to be out on the water one more time before the dreaded winterization (HUSH!).

For those of you who are not familiar with the Parade of Lights, it is held in DC and Alexandria on the first Saturday of December. If you want to be a participant, you will have to contact Lorraine Lloyd at Llloyd@thefunside.com. You can also find information on Alexandria's website as well as at the city dock. Slip fees are free in Alexandria for those who sign up to be a participant in the parade. We hope to see you there next year as a participant.

Barbara, Larry, Mr. Wilson and SWAB, signing off until March, *Takin' To The Sea*

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Patrick Worcester	1/2
Daniel Kent	1/10
Walt Cheatham	1/15
Stephanie Karpinski	1/19
Ned Rhodes	1/22
Shane Hatton	1/23
Vicki Hamp	1/28
Jan Wilcox	1/31

Anniversaries

Laslo and Linda Bozoky	1/3
Shane and Kathy Hatton	1/19
Michele Price and Chuck Cantello	1/22
John and Rebecca Heinze	1/30

Santa Cruises the Occoquan

Walt Cheatham, *Walt's on Water*

A host of OYC merrymakers and five boats converged on OHM the Saturday after Thanksgiving to celebrate the arrival of the holiday season and participate in the annual Santa Cruise. Munchies were munched and warm libations were consumed under bright 50 degree sunshine until Santa himself arrived to be ferried up river to the hordes of children waiting at the Occoquan town dock. Thanks to Commodore Joe and Gail Livingston aboard *Gail Lynn II*, Commodore-elect Harry and Pat Croft aboard *Bay Dreamer*, immediate past Commodore Susan and Steve Thompson aboard *Forever Dreamin'*, Allen and Lynanne Jorsey aboard *Plane to Sea II*, and Brian and Maria Bryant aboard *1-2-3-GO* for providing their boats for the event.



Santa waves as he enters the Occoquan town dock

Planning Calendar January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Mummer's Parade	2 Happy Mew Year for Cats Day	3 Fruitcake Toss Day
4 Earth at Perihelion	5 Bird Day	6 Epiphany or Twelfth Night	7 I'm not going to Take it Anymore Day	8 National English Toffee Day OYC Board Meeting	9	10 Positively Penguins Day <i>Full Moon</i>
11 Perigean Spring Tides	12 National Clean off your Desk Day	13	14 Ratification Day	15 Women in Blue Jeans Day	16 Appreciate a Dragon Day	17 Kid Inventors' Day
18 Do Dah Parade Day	19 Martin Luther King Day	20 Inauguration Day	21 National Hugging Day	22 Answer your Cats' Questions Day	23 Snowplow Mailbox Hockey Day	24 National Compliment Day
25 A Room of One's Own Day	26 Chinese New Year	27 National Speak up and Succeed Day	28	29 Free Thinkers Day	30 Fun at Work Day	31 Inspire Your Heart with Art Day
California Dried Plum Digestive Month Get Organized Month International Creativity Month						

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 Electrific Day	12 Darwin Day	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
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						

Inside this edition...

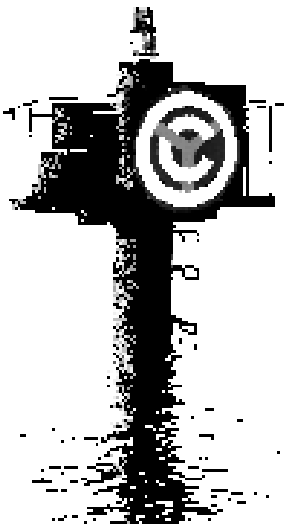
February 2009
Exact date to be determined
OYC Planfest
OYC Board

First of the year remarks from your new Commodore, Harry Croft; Vice Commodore, Larry Freedman; Rear Commodore, John Heinze; IPC, Joe Livingston; and Secretary, Pat Croft

Action packed OYC adventures by those who braved the cold for the Alexandra Parade of Lights

Confirmation that Santa did cruise the Occoquan

Change of Watch and Christmas Party Photos Galore!



The Daymarker

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Change Service
Requested