



July 2009, Vol. XXVI, No.7

# 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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**Webmaster**  
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**THE DAYMARKER Editor**  
Carol Belcher  
571 312-6968



## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Harry Croft**

### Early Summer Musings

The hardest part of being on the OYC Board is the writing of monthly articles. Even though the *Daymarker* is OYC's official clubhouse, and, as such, is the main source of communication for the membership, it remains a chore to create interesting articles. I often worry that the articles will become like those in some other unnamed yacht associations. You know, the ones that go on and on about virtually nothing. "Blah, blah, blah, here's another picture of us shaking hands about Blah."

Fears aside, the *Daymarker* remains an interesting and fun newsletter to read. It also serves as a fine record of a lot of fun events and cruises, and provides a great way to thank a lot of hard working volunteers who make OYC the great club that it is. The most recent event, the Shrimp-Fest, is a good example. Thanks to the work of John Heinz, more than 35 members had a great time eating, drinking, tying knots, taking a nautical quiz, tossing the life ring, and just plain hanging out together and talking. Nabil Dubraque once again took wonderful pictures, (samples included in this issue,) to document the event. No hand shaking here! Jim Dooley set up the Q-M shop and offered some great deals on OYC apparel. **As an aside, OYC sells shirts and other items nearly at cost; it is not a fund raising function!!** The OYC logo on the various items provides a commonality and recognition that we are shipmates.

You do **not** have to be on the Board to write *Daymarker* articles! Recipes, pictures of nautical things, and any non-political thoughts (except those that agree with me) are more than welcome. Safety and repair articles are highly regarded as well, so please, if the writing muse is on your shoulder, send the materials to our talented *Daymarker* Editor, Carol Belcher.

Our membership is down a bit this year, so keep your eyes peeled for potential cruising mates to recruit as new members. The only requirements are paying the annual dues and a keen interest in boating good times!

As we are entering the busiest time of the year for cruising, we have cancelled our July board meeting and will reconvene in August. There are some changes to our cruising calendar: the Columbus Day Cruise to St. Mary's is cancelled and we will go to Aquia Harbor marina instead (a PRYCA event - great food, dancing, and golf). The jazz festival cruises to National Harbor are also cancelled, as National Harbor moved the jazz concerts to Thursday nights. We will broadcast these changes as we know of them and will try to keep you informed.

See you on the water, *Bay Dreamer* is cruising!

**It's still not too late to register for the  
Colonial Beach Dogs' Day Cruise,  
Aug. 7-9**

**E-mail me ASAP if you are interested,  
[hpcroft@verizon.net](mailto:hpcroft@verizon.net) This is another great  
short trip with lots of fun planned.**



## Vice Commodore

Larry Freedman

### A Cruise Change

If you expressed an interest in attending the Jazz Cruise to National Harbor for some of the summer weekends, you need to know that plans have changed. Unfortunately, since we originally planned the first cruise for June 26, National Harbor has changed their event schedule. Instead of a weekend-long jazz festival, National Harbor is having weekly concerts just like last year, except that the concerts are on Thursday nights. Therefore, we are dropping the concert cruises from our schedule. Maybe next year. If you were planning on going to National Harbor for the weekend, please don't let this stop you. It is a great cruising destination; if you've never been there before, it's a treat. There are two new restaurants that have opened in the last month and the Gaylord Hotel's atrium is a sight to see. Alternatively, that Saturday night should be the fireworks display at Tim's Rivershore 1.

Larry, *Takin' to the Sea*



## Secretary

Pat Croft

### Cruising the Caribbean

The crystal blue waters of the Caribbean surrounding the Virgin Islands are a siren call to boaters with just a little of the wanderlust in their veins, especially when the gray days of winter preclude cruising familiar waterways closer to home. While you're not likely to take your own vessel on the long journey to warmer waters, a little planning now could put you on a bareboat charter in the British Virgin Islands next winter. To get in the mood, listen to some island music while you surf the net; try Kenny Chesney's, "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problem".

A little on-line research will bring up more information on chartering in the islands than you really wanted to know. There are many variations on the charter theme, from 100 ft. luxury yachts with crew and chef for \$100,000 per week, to 30 ft. bareboat sail boats for \$1500 per week. Narrowing the search to MooringsPower.com will limit the results to the enticing information that drew Harry and I to the BVI a year ago with non-boating friends, and again this April with OYC friends, Kenny and Sharman Harris, and my sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Dave Nelson. Originally, we had planned on four couples, but when the fourth had to decline, Harris's daughter, Catherine, and Harry's niece, Amy, rounded out our crew of eight.



The cruisin' crew enjoying dinner at Oceana, on St. Thomas, the night before the charter began. From left - Linda Nelson, Pat Croft, Harry Croft, Amy Fletcher, Catherine Harris, and Sharman Harris. Not pictured - Kenny Harris and Dave Nelson.

We wanted a power boat with relatively equal accommodations for four couples. These criteria led us to the Moorings 474 power catamaran, also known as the Leopard 47. It is available for charter with a captain

### ***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 **20<sup>th</sup>** of each month. Please submit your copy by email to:

[ericncarol.belcher@cox.net](mailto:ericncarol.belcher@cox.net)

### 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

or as a bareboat; we opted to bareboat and provide our own captain and crew. With an almost 25 ft. beam, the boat is spacious and functional, offering 4 private staterooms, each with a queen sized berth and ensuite head and shower stall. The forward port stateroom includes an extra bunk in the bow, and the starboard bow has the optional crew bunk space, accessible from the deck, which we used to store empty luggage after unpacking.

The 474 PC is an upgraded model that has been so well received that Moorings has added more than a dozen to their Tortola fleet since we were there last year; it is likely to become the most-often chartered vessel among the many types they offer. It has a large salon with dinette seating area, as well as desk space for charting your course or using your laptop. (WiFi is available throughout the islands.) The galley is laid out in a u-shape, with a propane stove and oven, a sink, and adequate counter space for meal prep. The separate freezer and refrigerator provide plenty of cold storage for provisions. The galley opens directly outside to the roomy cockpit, which has a built-in table and seating for eight or more, shaded by the fly bridge deck above. The fly bridge offers more seating options, also under shade; sun worshipers can soak up the rays on the broad forward deck and sun lounger pads. With all that space on three deck levels, even eight passengers never feel cramped or crowded. In fact, it is quite possible to find a quiet corner for reading and look up to wonder, "Where is everybody?"

At 47' LOA and 24'10" beam, the Leopard 47 moves through the water smoothly on its twin hulls, but maneuvering alongside a dock is a bit tricky. Fortunately, you don't have to do that very often, as BVI cruising involves tying up to a mooring ball in a quiet cove and spending the night on the water. In fact, the entire trip is spent on the water, with short forays to land, by dinghy, to the occasional beach bar or gift shop.



The Moorings' 474 Power Cat at anchor in The Bight off Norman Island, as it is too big for the resort's dock.

The British Virgin Islands are like a string of pearls in the turquoise Caribbean Sea. Inside this chain of islands, the waters are generally calm, with warm trade winds and smooth cruising. Most of the islands are sparsely populated, with the exception of Tortola, the largest island, and all are relatively devoid of the type of large, commercial development that neutralizes the unique, local character, so visitors are treated to all the charm and colorful atmosphere the islands have to offer. We managed to visit ten islands on this 10-day trip, staying overnight at six, including Peter, Norman, and Cooper Islands, Marina Cay, Virgin Gorda, and Jost Vandyke.

We actually began our trip on St. Thomas, one of the US Virgin Islands. It is possible to fly directly to Tortola, landing at the Beef Island airport, but we opted to fly to St. Thomas, spend the night at Emerald Beach Resort, and take a ferry the next day to Road Town, Tortola. Among the reasons for doing this was that it allowed us to dine at our favorite restaurant in Charlotte Amalie, the Oceana. We highly recommend this plan! It is important to note, by the way, that you will need a passport to travel to the BVI, whichever route you take.

When you charter with the Moorings, they can take care of all of your travel arrangements on the islands, including taxi drivers to meet you at the airport, take you to the ferry, transport you to the marina charter base, drive you to the nearby grocery store and beverage mart, etc. They also have very nice motel accommodations right at the marina, recently remodeled and expanded. If the boat you reserve is available, you can choose to sleep on the boat the night before your charter is to begin, for a fee, of course. A word of caution regarding this option: the process of checking out the boat before you leave the dock is serious business, getting the orientation, making sure all systems are in working order, (especially the toilets!) and stowing all your gear and provisions. Get a good night's sleep before that busy first day!



The fuel dock at Pusser's Marina Cay.

You have many options for provisioning for your cruise. We had the Moorings provide split provisioning for 7 days of our 10 day trip. This gave us breakfast and lunch supplies for 7 days, and dinner for 5 days, leaving



us opportunities to eat out often. With this plan, everything they provided was on board when we got there; the freezer and refrigerator were fully stocked. It is also possible to have them provision for every meal, or none; if you wish, you may shop for all the provisions yourself at one of two nearby markets that offer a wide array of groceries at reasonable prices. As noted, taxi service is available, but you will still have to cart it all down the docks yourself. That, of course, is also true for beverages – the wine and rum supply alone for eight people for 10 days requires a run to the Rite Buy, with at least one cart load for the booze and another for the ice!

Relaxation is the prime motivator on a trip like this. With no timelines or deadlines, no rigid itinerary, you can move from one secluded cove to the next whenever the mood strikes. Our trip this year was just slightly more planned out and plotted because we had five scuba divers among us this time, which required coordination with the dive master, who rendezvoused with us at Norman Island and again at Cooper Island.



It's a tough job, but Kenny will do it. (This is how you review dive tables in BVI.)

Some of the best diving in the world is available in the BVI; choices of dive centers with equipment rentals and dive masters are numerous. Harry found UBS Dive Center on line, and was pleased with the individualized service they provided. They brought tanks and equipment to the docks at the Moorings before we set out, and the dive master came out to our moorage twice to lead the diving members of our group, which included Harry, Kenny, Dave, Catherine, and Amy. Diving on the wreck of the *RMS Rhone* was a thrill for them, but their favorite dive was at The Chimney, off Great Dog Island, which they accomplished on their own, without the dive master.

But it isn't necessary to dive to enjoy the BVI. The calm waters are superb for swimming and snorkeling. My favorite spot for those activities is White Bay, on Jost Vandyke. The sparkling water allows for clear viewing all the way to the white sand bottom, and close



Sharman is ready to snorkel at White Bay on Jost Vandyke

in reefs harbor multitudes of colorful fish and beautiful coral. White Bay is also popular because of its many beach bars, including the Soggy Dollar Bar, where we spent one afternoon at a table shaded by a thatched-roof, sipping Pusser's Rum Painkillers and Mangoritas for hours, listening to the breeze rustling the palm trees and the waves washing ashore. Ahhh – I can almost hear it now.

High season in the BVI is December through April; the staff at Oceans 7, the beach bar on Peter Island, told us that January and February are the busiest months. We went in mid April, when the daytime temperatures were in the low 80's, and the tourists were not quite as numerous as in January. Low season is September – November, but the bargain rates may not be worth the risk of hurricanes.

If a chartered-yacht vacation sounds appealing, you should begin your research phase soon, because despite the recession, the prime weeks get booked well in advance. You may even have an opportunity to get a first-hand look at one or two potential charter vessels this fall, close to home. The Moorings usually has a booth at the Annapolis boat show, and last fall even had a 473 PC, the three-cabin version, available to tour; they will likely be there again in October, 2009. Voyage Charters offers a Stealth 540, a 54' hydrofoil catamaran, for charter with a captain only, and it reportedly will be on exhibit at the Annapolis boat show, also.

And if you decide to indulge in this delightful style of vacation, there will be, as usual, no shortage of advice from your fellow OYC members. You will find that many of them have already enjoyed distant waters on a borrowed vessel, whether it was a sailboat or a tri-cabin motor yacht, and all will happily share their experience with you. But since the 474 Power Catamaran is a relatively recent addition to the charter scene, there is still time for you to go on your own adventure and become the Old Salt, ready to offer up advice on the perfect charter. No problem.

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## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Brian McCormally	7/1
Pat Croft	7/2
Michele Price	7/8
Mary Ann Coldwell	7/14
Joseph Ward	7/17
Steve Krouse	7/18
John Wix	7/25
Joseph Hoffmaster	7/26
Bob Nalevanko	7/28
Susan Dugan	7/30

### Anniversaries

Harry & Pat Croft	7/2
Bob & Lynn Wilson	7/2
Tom & Mary Ann Coldwell	7/6
Brian & Maria Bryant	7/22
Jack & Sharon Striker	7/30

### New Members

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

Kevin & Pamela Bell of Alexandria, VA. They keep their 38' Chris Craft, *Déjà Vu*, at FYC.

Michael & Susan Dugan of Springfield, VA. They keep their 30' Chaparral, *DeoGratias*, at Hoffmasters.

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## Great Cruise Review

### Memorial Day Weekend Cruise to Colonial Beach

Twelve families made their way to Colonial Beach for another superior OYC cruise. Teresa, Corky and I arrived on Friday and were greeted by the five boats that had arrived on Thursday. Our ride was as smooth as glass, with us arriving just in time for Happy Hour since we were already a few bottles of wine behind those OYC-ers already on the docks. Kenny and Sharman Harris had several tours of their new 52 Sundancer. Congratulations on a beautiful boat!!

Saturday started with the normal 7:30 dog walk followed by the annual Fire House breakfast fund raiser in Colonial Beach. The rest of the day was focused on bike riding, shopping, dogs on the beach, then came happy hour and finally the evening ended with 34 members having dinner on the back deck of the Dockside Restaurant. On Sunday the group went for our annual bus journey to the Strawberry Farm where we had chili dogs and strawberry shortcake. We then

went to Ingleside Winery for a wonderful wine tasting which turned into happy hour. The high point of the winery tour was wandering through the gift shop where it was reported that one member bought a fibreglass fish as a new home "decorator" item. It was also reported that the club members bought 12 cases of wine, and 43



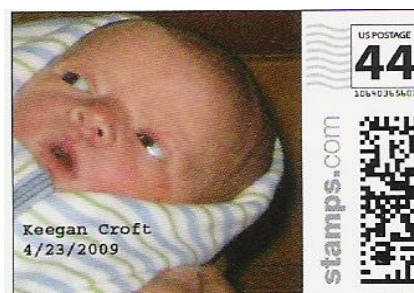
**At the Colonial Beach Yacht Center  
Memorial Day 2009**



items from the gift shop...making this a real BIG day for Ingleside. We love to kick start the economy! Great fun and lots of laughs. On Monday, we shared brunch on the dock and a feeling of general relaxation as members started to head home. If you went, I know you had a great time. If you did not go.....I'm sorry you missed a great time. My thanks to the OYC members who brought the great food to share and to the Colonial Beach Yacht Center staff for their hospitality.

Rick and Teresa Sorrenti, *Sea Duck Too*

Remember last month's photo montage for the OYC dogs? Well, Commodore Harry has also shared his latest stamp with us (see below). Surprisingly it's not a stamp with a dog on it—it's a stamp for the Croft's grandson, Keegan, who was born this April. (I note that Biscuit the dog had her stamp first...*Editor*)







## Summer Cruise Reminders

### PRYCA Float In

Tom and Donna Lensis, Coordinators  
17-19 July at Port Kinsale

A weekend filled with challenging exam questions, knot tying, feats of heroic physical effort and FUN! Come out and join the club as we valiantly attempt to win the PRYCA event this year!  
Call us at 703-794-9589 for slip availability

### Tides Inn Cruise

Gail and Joe Livingston, Coordinators  
(Complete cruise details in the June edition of *Daymarker*.)

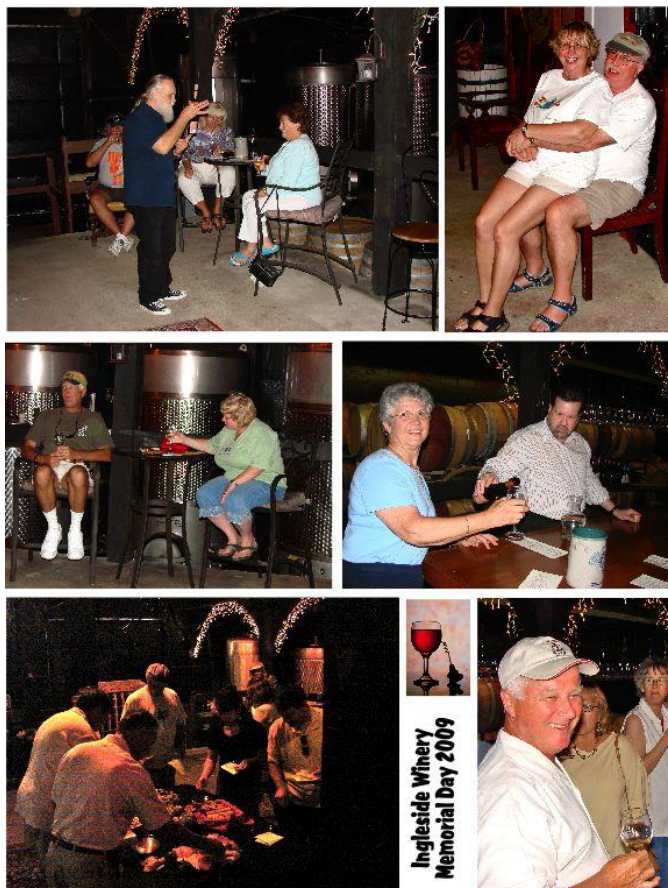
Summer Cruise to the Tides Inn and Resort. The crew of the *Gail Lynn II* will host the week-long cruise **20-26 July**. We will depart Sunday noon from Port Kinsale Marina following the close of the PRYCA Float-in events. Come join fellow OYC members for a week of special shopping, spa treats and golf combined with pool time, socials, fine dining and, of course, the Fifth Annual Croquet Tournament.  
Call us at 540-373-9203 with any questions.  
Cheers, Joe and Gail, *Gail Lynn II*

### OYC Boat Dogs—Sometimes we have to say Goodbye

Kelsey Jeirles was a constant companion for her humans, Duane and Janet Jeirles, as well as her best dog friend Abby. She passed away suddenly of apparent heart failure, shortly after attending her last OYC event, the 2009 Memorial Day Cruise. She was full of energy, happy to see everyone, greeting her human friends by gently holding their forearms in her mouth.

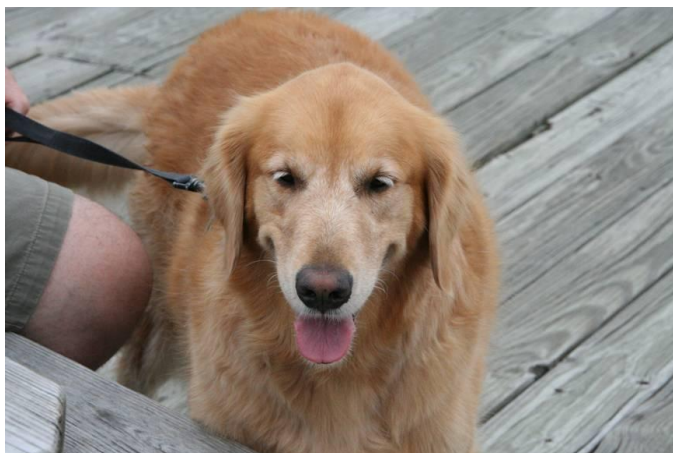


Kelsey (left) and Abby (foreground)  
Kelsey and Abby met each other the 2001 Memorial Day Cruise. Kelsey was 12 weeks old and Abby was two years old, already confident in water; Kelsey was tentative, but that weekend was the start of their friendship. Each would look around when the other's name was mentioned. They liked the same toys and





Kelsey took care of Abby in Richmond when their humans were away for long periods of time. They were the best of friends. Her friends and family miss her and will remember the fun times with her while boating, swimming and going for walks.



Kelsey Jeirles

## Shrimp Fest Montage—June 6



## Heard around the Docks...

Is it true that Steve and Sue Thompson are thinking of replacing *Forever Dreamin'* with this boat in the next column to the right?



The *Emelina*—168 feet long—seen at Capitol Yacht Club, DC, June 6.

Or is the Thompson's secret dream boat really found at <http://www.regalboats.com/44SportCoupe> ?

## Errata, Additions and the Jealous Gods

It is said that potters of old placed some flaw in their wares, a thumbprint perhaps or some minor blemish, for perfection was considered the domain of jealous gods. We who toil in the Club's Division of Historic Preservation (Directory Division) are keenly aware of this, and are thus pleased to present the following errata in the hopes of staving off any such jealousy.

**Page 2.** Under 'Webmaster,' Arlene is properly spelled "Arleen", and Ned Rhodes' email is [ned@softsysgrp.com](mailto:ned@softsysgrp.com). We knew that, but our fingers fumbled!

**Page 4.** Add **Cunney, John**, 12329 Oakwood Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192, 703-501-2737, [johnc5@comcast.net](mailto:johnc5@comcast.net), Regal, *Harmony*, OHM

**Page 4.** Add **Bell, Kevin and Pamela**, 7973 Central Park Circle, Alexandria, VA 22309, [bellk@aol.com](mailto:bellk@aol.com), Chris Craft *Déjà Vu*, FYC

**Page 5.** Add **Dugan, Michael & Susan**, 6837 Camus Place, Springfield, VA 22152. [Susandugan@aol.com](mailto:Susandugan@aol.com), Chaparral, *DeoGratias*, Hoffmasters.

**Page 6.** Add **Jun, Kee & Joe**, 6754 Blanch Drive, Lorton, VA 22079, 703-919-0600, [Keesookjun@yahoo.com](mailto:Keesookjun@yahoo.com)

**Page 7.** McCormally—*Jayhawker* is a **SeaRay** and correct email account is [KathieMcCormally@gmail.com](mailto:KathieMcCormally@gmail.com)

**Page 8.** Add **Reed, Sharon**, P.O. Box 3528, Manassas, VA 20108, 571-991-4628, [shreed12@yahoo.com](mailto:shreed12@yahoo.com)

**Page 8.** Add **Ward, Joseph T. & Diane F.**, 3029 Creel Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192, (h) 703-494-1406, (c) 703-401-1503, [JTWard5@verizon.net](mailto:JTWard5@verizon.net)

**Back Cover.** Add 1.2...3...Go: **Bryant, Brian & Maria**; *Déjà Vu*: **Bell, Kevin & Pamela**; *DeoGratias*: **Dugan, Michael & Susan**; *Harmony*: **Cunney, John** to 'Our Boats.'

We submit this with imperfect humility, conceding perfection where it's due—with our spouses.

*Inside this edition...*

2-12 July 2009  
South Bay Cruise  
Steve Thompson  
703-963-8783

4-5 July 2009  
DC Fireworks/Raft Up  
DC Potomac River Channel  
Al Jorsey  
703-850-2888

17-19 July 2009  
PRYCA Float In  
Port Kinsale Marina  
Tom & Donna Lensis  
703-794-9589

20-26 July 2009  
Tides Cruise  
Joe & Gail Livingston  
540-373-9203

7-9 August 2009  
PRYCA Dog Days of Summer  
Colonial Beach  
Harry Croft  
703 451-9147

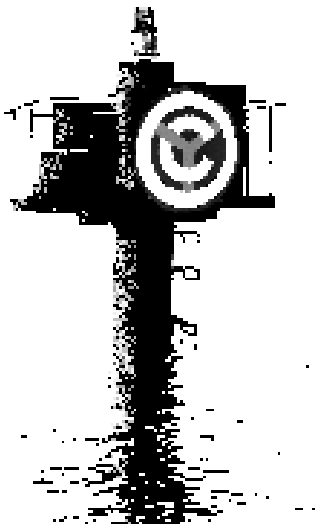
14-16 August 2009  
Lower River Soiree  
Marina TBD  
Eric and Carol Belcher  
571-312-6968

**A chartered yacht, the British Virgin Islands, congenial OYC-ers and their families...what a way to banish the late winter blues!**

**Photos of the Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach, proving that what happens at a winery doesn't stay there.**

**Photos of the ShrimpFest, including empty wine bottles wearing bowline knots.**

**Exciting summer cruises that will be fun to attend—talk to a cruise coordinator today!**



*The Daymarker*

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

**Change Service  
Requested**