



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

Harry Croft

Flag Raising and Other Activities

I'm proud of OYCers! The rain couldn't dampen OYC spirits as, for the 25th time, the OYC banner and the American Flag were hoisted above at the Occoquan Harbor Marina by flag-raisers Brian McCormally and Eric Belcher. There were approximately 50 members at the flag raising ceremony along with Congressman Gerry Connolly, Mayor of Occoquan Ernie Porta, Prince William County Commissioner Michael May, and Sandy Doucette, Commodore of the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association. Rick Sorrenti once again managed to fire off the cannon to signal the start of the boating season without any damage to life or limb—either his or those of onlookers! A special thanks to Dickie Lynn, who graciously provides a great setting for our event at OHM.

Quote of the Day from Occoquan Mayor Porta on attending the OYC flag raising, "... a good place to avoid the chaos of the Riverfest!"

There were, as there always are, many who made this day a special event enjoyed by all. John Heinz provided all the logistics and set-up of the tents. Rebecca provided all the adult supervision. Ned Rhodes and Walt Cheatham made sure the burgers and hotdogs were cooked perfectly and the rest of us ate them up! Jim Dooley set up the Quarter Master store with new items guaranteed to complement your attire. OYC enjoyed record sales!

Thanks to the hard work of Nabil Dubruque, OYC once again has a directory that outshines all others. The talent and creativity to produce this directory is above and beyond! If you did not pick up your copy, we will have them at the next several events, including the Memorial Day cruise and June Shrimp Fest and Regatta.

Follow-up on the OYC Barge: I'm happy to report we have made great progress on the barge and as you can tell the paint job is sure to stand out on the river! Your contributions are most welcome! We haven't had a chance to get the OYC logo on the side yet, but this is clearly a big improvement!



OYC is a special club of volunteers who enjoy boating and each other's company. We strive to keep the club a low key but engaging organization. We know when to be serious, not often, and we certainly know when to have fun!

BUT....There are things to be serious about this coming month.
(cont'd page 2)

(Cont'd from page 1)

Things to be serious about this coming month:

1. Get your boat inspected by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or Power Squadron.
2. Check your batteries for water level. (batteries are one of the most common equipment failures)
3. Make sure you have you have the proper documents on-board (not at home).
4. Make sure your bilge pumps actually work!

Fun things:

1. Join one of the fun cruises
2. Join us at the June 6th Regatta and Potluck at Occoquan Harbor Marina. Contests, good food, great company, and lots of fun.

See you on the water, *Bay Dreamer* monitors Channel 16!

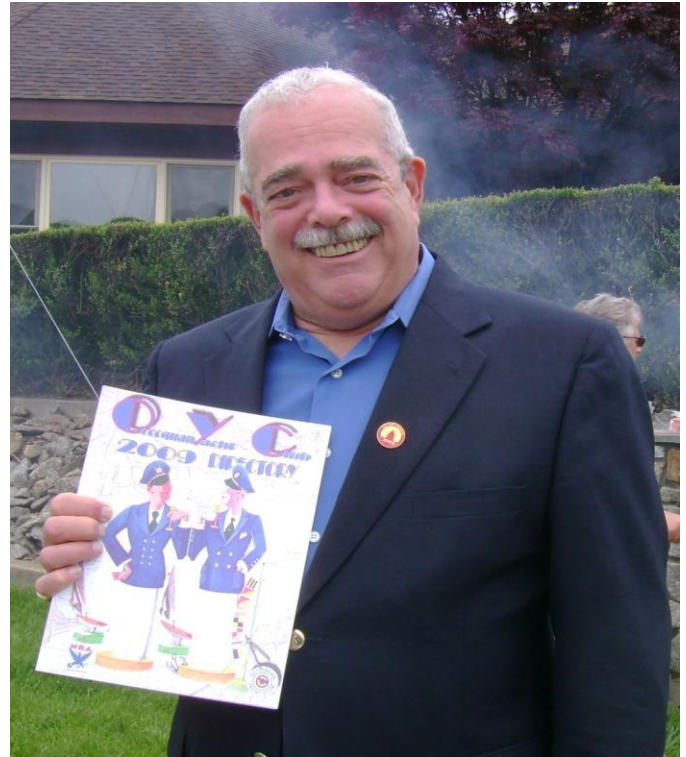
Harry, *Bay Dreamer*

Flag Raising Photos



An Official "line up" at the Flag Raising

Pictured above (Left to Right): John Heinze, Occoquan Mayor Eddie Porta, Harry Croft, Congressman Gerry Connolly, Nabil Dubraque, Kathie McCormally.



Congressman Gerry Connolly poses with our 2009 Directory at the Flag Raising on 3 May 2009



Vice Commodore

Larry Freedman

Cruising on the Potomac

After last month's column about how to plan a cruise, I thought it might be a good idea to list out the some of the many places there are to go just on the Potomac River alone. This is not intended to replace all the information you can get from cruising guides, but to give people who didn't know where to take their boats an idea of the possibilities. So here goes, from North to South:

- Georgetown Harbor
- Washington Channel
- James Creek Marina
- Columbia Island Marina
- Alexandria City Marina
- National Harbor Marina
- Piscataway Creek
- Neabsco Creek
- Aquia Creek
- Potomac Creek
- Port Tobacco River
- Upper Machodoc

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

- Monroe Bay/Mattox Creek
- Cobb Island/Wicomico River
- Coltons Point/St. Clements Island
- Breton Bay
- Herring Creek
- Coles Point
- Yeocomico River
- Coan River
- St. Mary's Yachting Center
- Smith Creek

The list above includes only places with marinas. There are also numerous creeks providing quiet anchorages that you can also visit, the best known of which is the nearby Mattawoman Creek but there are many others. Also as I mentioned last month, fellow club members have probably been to every one of the places on the list above and will be happy to pass along what they know if you ask. So try out a new place or two this year. You will be glad you did.

Larry, *Takin' To The Sea*

3 pm, Saturday June 6th at the Occoquan Harbor Marina picnic area. See you there!

More fun...
John Heinze, *Great Escape*

You will notice a content change on page 7. We have retired the two-month calendar on a trial basis. Let me know if you want to keep the new format or prefer the old one by emailing me at ericncarol.belcher@cox.net



Treasurer

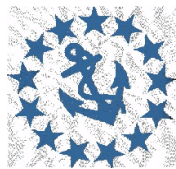
Kathie McCormally

Lines and Knots for your Boat

Taken from Chapter 11 of *Boating Skills and Seamanship* published by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

How knowledgeable are you regarding the lines used on your boat and the knots needed to secure it? Take this quiz to see what you really know.

- Which of the following types of line will float?
 - polypropylene
 - polyester (Dacron)
 - nylon
 - all of the above
- Which of the following types of line stretches the most?
 - manila
 - polypropylene
 - nylon
 - polyester
- A square knot is useful
 - For most purposes
 - When you are in a hurry
 - If it is not subject to a heavy load or critical load
 - For mooring a boat
- A bowline is useful when you want
 - a temporary, fixed-size loop in the end of a line
 - to tie two lines together
 - to tie a line to a cleat
 - to tie up to a mooring
- The "king of knots" is the
 - square knot
 - half hitch
 - clove hitch
 - bowline
- Protect synthetic and natural fiber lines from



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Shrimp Fest – More Information on this Fun filled Event

The Shrimp Fest – 12:00 Noon, June 6, 2009, Occoquan Harbor Marina Picnic Area

This year the Shrimp Fest will feature all-you-can-eat shrimp cocktail plus a variety of dipping sauces. Please bring a dish to share that will complement the shrimp. OYC will also provide sodas and water. Please bring your own favorite libation. In addition to an opportunity to enjoying the outdoors with your OYC friends, we will be offering nautical games and contests to sharpen your skills and allow you to demonstrate your boating expertise.

These contests might even be helpful for the PRYCA float-in in July, where we have no idea what the events will be, but know that OYC will have a strong contingent attending. We would like to continue the tradition of OYC doing very well at the contests. And perhaps this year, we will win the top prize!

Whether or not you are attending the PRYCA float-in, we hope you attend the Shrimp Fest from 12 to

- a. kinks
 - b. mildew
 - c. dirt
 - d. all of the above
7. The best knot for tying different-size lines together is the
- a. sheet bend or becket bend
 - b. square knot
 - c. bowline
 - d. clove hitch
8. One of the most secure knots for attaching a line to an object is the
- a. weaver's knot
 - b. sheet bend
 - c. clove hitch
 - d. anchor bend
9. If you tie a line to itself, it is called a
- a. bend
 - b. hitch
 - c. knot
 - d. reef
10. To make a clove hitch secure, finish tying it by adding a
- a. half hitch
 - b. square knot
 - c. reef knot
 - d. bowline

Answers: 1a, 2c, 3c, 4a, 5d, 6d, 7a, 8d, 9c, 10a

Kathie McCormally
Jayhawker

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Steve Bell	6/8
Virginia Linse	6/9
Tom Stierle	6/9
Judy Dooley	6/10
Goodwyn Morgan	6/11
Timothy Gibbons	6/12
Steven Quentmeyer	6/15
Mary Jo Worchester	6/15
Steven Thompson	6/16
Buzz Lasch	6/19
Walter Kraus	6/21
Bill Hamp	6/28
Robert Daugherty	6/29
Janet Jeirles	6/29

Anniversaries

Bill & Vicki Hamp	6/1
Tom & Donna Lensis	6/1

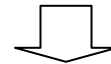
Rob & Margaret Grant	6/4
Christian & Alison Rose	6/4
Bill & Beth Francis	6/6
Duane & Janet Jeirles	6/15
Bob & Jan Wilcox	6/15
Mark & Patti Barita	6/18
Nabil & Lucy Dubraque	6/19
Robert & Carol Daugherty	6/20
Joe & Gail Livingston	6/20
Steve & Mary Jo Worchester	6/21
Bill & Peggy Johnson	6/22

New Members

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

Kee Jun of Lorton, VA,
Sharon Reed of Manassas, VA, and
Joseph & Diane Ward of Woodbridge, VA.

New Summer Cruise



TIDES INN CRUISE

Gail and Joe Livingston, Coordinators

Summer **Cruise to the Tides Inn and Resort**. The crew of the *Gail Lynn II* will coordinate and 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.

The Belcher's, Croft's, Harris', Jorsey's, Mansour's, and Willett's have indicated interest in this cruise at the Planfest. I have made tentative reservation and now request you confirm by email that you plan to cruise. Other OYC-ers are certainly welcome, so please contact me as soon as possible if you think this cruise will be an event you are interested in attending. I will then provide details to confirm, as the Tides Marina normally requires a credit card to hold your slip. It's best to cancel an existing registration if necessary, than to scramble for a slip in July.

Past cruises have been fun and relaxing...come enjoy and have a great experience. Call us at 540-373-9203 with any questions.

Cheers, Joe and Gail, *Gail Lynn II*

On the Internet

Occoquan Yacht Club:
www.OccoquanYachtClub.org *
Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:
www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org *
Occoquan River Maritime Association:
www.ormaweb.org *
Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:
www.cbyca.org

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

Potomac River Commuter Ferry

IPC Joe Livingston

Remember the past articles in the *MayDarker* concerning fast ferry rides to Washington DC? You thought it was a joke, didn't you? Reality sometimes mimics art, as in this case. This is not an April Fools' Day report. The Prince William County is conducting a Potomac River Commuter Ferry Study. in an attempt to bring an innovative, easily implemented, low cost solution to the commuting problems facing Northern Virginia.

Well, the crew of the *Gail Lynn II* established bragging rights when we took the first ferry ride on Monday, 4 May, from Occoquan to the Washington Channel, attended a Nationals (Nats) baseball game, and returned. The stadium is beautiful and a great place to watch a ball game. We certainly appreciate that this will not happen in the really near future, but...it might be feasible. Our trip was about one hour and a half up and back at approximately 30 knots. The ferry was a 100' Cat which travelled smoothly and offered great views and comfort on the trip north. The trip home was in the dark, but with the same comforts. What a great evening.

I will keep a copy of the study on the *Gail Lynn II* if you should desire some extra reading on one of our OYC cruises.

Cheers, Joe.

Great Cruise Review

Memorial Day Cruise to Solomons, MD.

We could not have asked for better weather. Larry and I were joined by five couples at Spring Cove Marina. The Lensis' aboard *Copy Cat* arrived on Thursday and we played hooky from work and left Friday morning to calm seas, sunny skies and warm temperatures. We arrived at Spring Cove to find that the Belchers on *Time2Play* and the Willetts' aboard *Takin' it Easy* already there and enjoying a refreshing cocktail. The Mansours, aboard *Kayley-E* were at the pool. I guess we were not the only ones playing hooky! We found our slip on "H" dock, and then headed over to "B" dock to chat with everyone. The Lensis' and the Belchers took a dinghy ride to Stoney's Kingfisher Crab for dinner and Larry and I headed to Captain's Table for a quick bite and then an early bedtime as we were wiped out from getting up early, the sun, and the long ride.



Blue Angels in formation during a fly-past

Saturday proved to be just as gorgeous and the Blue Angels were scheduled to perform a free air show at 3:00 p.m. They did not disappoint—Randy and Susan Willets enjoyed the show front row center, as one of their close friends took them onto the naval air station to watch the performance. Larry and I biked to the small beach along the boardwalk and plopped down in lawn chairs to watch the show. Mr. Wilson had a blast digging in the soft beach sand, although he still refuses to get in the water. I was in awe of the Blue Angels and the many loops, free falls and stunts that they performed for about 40 minutes. After the show, we did a little shopping and then biked back to the marina. The Francis' arrived mid afternoon aboard their boat *Down Time*. They reported a late start on Friday night and decided to duck into St. Mary's Yachting Center before trekking the rest of the way to Solomons the next morning. We had dinner at Dry Dock Restaurant with the Francis' on Saturday and chowed down on mahi mahi and filet mignon, cooked to perfection and of course, no dinner is complete without cocktails. None of us had room for dessert. The Belchers went to the Hank Williams concert at the museum; they reported that a fantastic time and the show was excellent. The Mansours decided to stay at the marina and take part in a barbecue, compliments of Shane Hatton and Mark Schall, who keep their boats at this marina year round.

I hear there were mimosas at the Belchers' boat on Sunday morning, but you know Larry and I, we are not early risers and we missed the entire thing. Sunday's weather was still nice, and the pool was hopping. Some of our group hung out at the pool, Larry and I hung around the marina, and then went food shopping at Woodburn's for libations for the barbecue we planned for the group on Sunday night. Scattered showers were predicted for late Sunday afternoon, but they never materialized so we were able to have the barbecue and talk about the day's activities. All were in attendance at the barbecue except for the Lensis and the Francis. Tom and Donna Lensis left early Sunday morning as they had prior obligations while Bill and Beth Francis left for a week long mid-Bay trip. They were supposed to stay through Monday, but had some trouble with their GPS and I suspect they wanted to get to their next

destination before the predicted bad weather on Monday.



The crowd hanging out at the evening BBQ

Because of that prediction, everyone wanted to get up early and head out so the gang departed around 9 a.m. and we departed a little after 10:00. However, both the bay and the river were calm and we did not hit any rain until we got past the 301 bridge. Our new hardtop and Stratoglas were installed just in time as visibility was compromised during the downpour and our shredded old top and scratched and fogged old isinglass would have left us wet and unable to see. (If anyone saw us on the river the weekend before, you would have seen us with no boat top whatsoever!).



Solomons' beach bliss

All good things must end and we arrived safely back at our marina around 4:30 p.m. Everyone had a good time and said they would be back to Solomons in the near future.

Barbara Freedman, *Takin' To The Sea*

ORMA Blessing of the Fleet

PRYCA Delegate, Joe Livingston

Mariners and vessels have been going to sea for adventure, exploration and their livelihood for years. Tradition is hard to change and the recreational boating community on the Occoquan River continued the tradition on the 9th of May. The morning was overcast, with a threat of rain and wind. Prior days of heavy rain

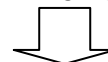
had brought the "alligators" and the large debris fields to the river. The day cleared as guests embarked and the designated VIP boat, a 55' Sea Ray provided by Prince William Marina, led a parade of fire, police and rescue boats down the river. Embarked on the "Blessing Boat" was the Reverend Hill, invoking a blessing as the boats slowly moved past him..."Protect the *Time 2 Play* and all that go on her as she navigates the rivers and seas. May she have fair winds and following seas." This year, some seventy boats participated; participant numbers were down from past years, but, nevertheless, the boating season has officially started.

The Blessing of the Fleet on the Occoquan is sponsored by the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) and is supported financially by the Town of Occoquan, the Yacht Clubs, Marinas and commercial businesses on the river. The Presiding Coordinator of ORMA is George Allen who is a licensed CG Captain, a Past Commodore of Prince William Marina and of the PRYCA. The ORMA serves to advance and improve the commercial and recreational boating on the Occoquan by promoting education and safety training and protection of the environment.

If you are interested in volunteering with ORMA, volunteers are always welcome, as they constitute the committee for planning and executing the ORMA activities. Several OYC members have served this organization well in the past and continue to do so in the present.

Cheers, Joe.

Delicious, Simple Recipes from our Club Members



Rebecca Heinze's VERY EASY CAKE

(this is a Paula Dean Recipe)

To a greased 9x12 pan add the following:

- 1 large can crushed pineapple (juice and all)
- 1 large can blueberry pie filling
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 1/2 sticks melted butter

Top with chopped nuts; bake 35-40 min at 350°
Fast, easy and oh, so good!

Susan Cheatham's Awesome Appetizer Brussels Sprouts

Ingredients

- Brussels sprouts (whatever quantity is desired)
- Olive oil, about 1-2Tbsp
- Seasoned rice vinegar, about 1 Tbsp
- Clove garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Steam Brussels sprouts (I steamed them using microwave steam setting for 2 minutes, no more) or cook in a small amount of boiling water until tender. You don't want them too mushy or too hard.
2. Heat olive oil and minced garlic in large frying pan
3. Heat the sprouts in warm olive oil and garlic. Heat sprouts long enough for them to absorb some of the oil and garlic flavour
4. Pour seasoned vinegar over sprouts and toss to absorb vinegar
5. Salt and pepper, enjoy!

Summer Cruise Reminders



PRYCA Summer Kickoff Event (AKA Cobb Island Day) 19-21 June 2009

This event is run by the Cobb Island Yacht Club, and you sign up with them to attend. If you are interested in going, please email me at larry.freedman@appliedis.com and I will send you the form (those you expressed interest by signing up at PlanFest will receive the form automatically). The weekend will be packed with fun events and activities.

South Bay Cruise 2-12 July 2009

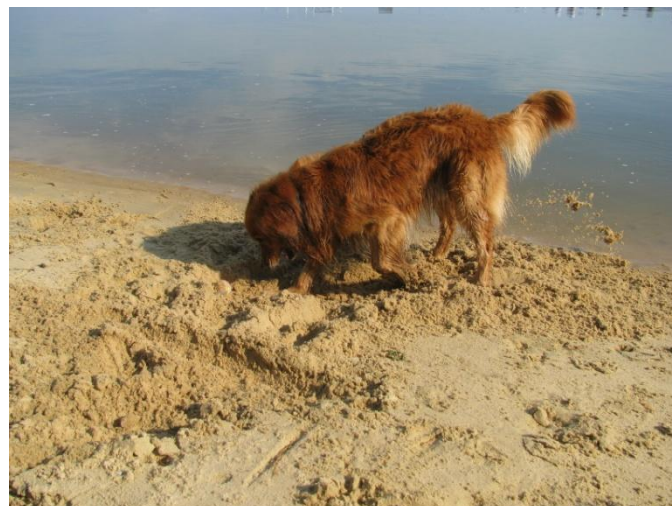
The OYC South Bay cruise will be departing on July 2nd, heading south to White Point Marina on the Yeocomico, then to York River Yacht Haven near Yorktown, for three nights.

Departing Yorktown, we will either head for Downtown Hampton Public Piers or to a marina on the Elisabeth River to spend two nights. From there, we will head up to the Rappahannock River where we will stay at a marina. Next we will travel back to White Point Marina for two nights. Remember, if you can't make the entire trip, let me know what parts you can participate in. I'll make reservations and we will look for you on the river, bay, or at the marina. My contact info is Steve Thompson, 703 963-8783, email opsco@earthlink.net

Boating and a Dog's Life

Here are additional photographic testaments to the OYC dogs, the beloved companions of many of our club members. They have been known to travel extensively with their boating buddies and attract more than their fair share of attention and adoration at various dock activities, both at their own docks and 'abroad.' They enliven the day for all who have the pleasure of meeting them in the company of their faithful human staff...er, companions.

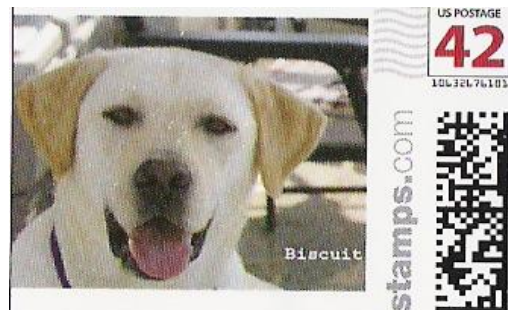
Next month...more boat dogs!



Nick, who travels with Steve and Sue Thompson, is quite certain that he will reach China soon. (Photo taken during a 2008 summer cruise)



Nick and new addition to the Thompson family, Samantha, are seen here eagerly awaiting the start of the 2009 boating season. Steve Thompson has declared that he will be making them a portable sand box to collect all the sand they have dragged onto *Forever Dreamin'*.



A first class act! Not many people have stamps dedicated to themselves. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that Biscuit, seen frequently in the company of her companions, Harry and Pat Croft, has her very own first class postage stamp (shown above), courtesy of the US Postal Service.

6 June 2009
Regatta/Shrimp Fest
OHM
John Heinze
703-765-2380

19-21 June 2009
PRYCA Kick off Cobb Island
Larry Freedman
703-855-1826

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

Inside this edition...

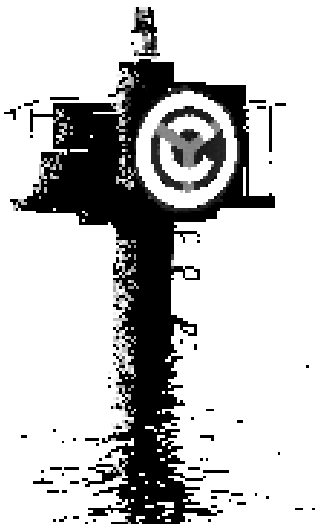
What actually happened at the Flag Raising and who was there—plus, the latest on that possible OYC clubhouse.

Some thoughts on where to cruise on the Potomac.

Do you know your knots? (*hint: knot a pickup line...*)

More exciting summer cruises that you would love to attend—talk to a cruise coordinator today!

Content change for page 7



The Daymarker

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

Change Service
Requested