



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Harry Croft

Hockey, Basketball, Golf, and Boating

The months of February and March are my least favorite months. I would use an expletive, but it would never make it past my first-draft editor! It's too cold to take the boat out; it's almost too cold to just sit on the boat; and for damn sure, it's too cold to clean and do all the stuff I'd like to do on the boat. So I'm stuck watching a lot of television shows that really don't qualify as entertainment; specifically, TV sportscasts.

Since football season is over, sports on TV is pretty much limited to hockey, basketball, or golf. I'm not thrilled about watching a bunch of simian-like guys, missing a few teeth, beat the daylights out of a puck and each other, or a team of giants loping halfway across the court (they used to call that traveling,) to stuff a ball into the net, and then lose the game in the last five nanoseconds anyway. (Actually, just forget tuning in until the last ten nanoseconds to see the outcome; all the rest is just filler.) So that leaves golf, which involves listening to a somnolent voice whispering about eagles, birdies, and ducks (ok I made up the ducks). Actually, I like watching the last day of a tournament, as it helps to put me to sleep for my afternoon nap. So what's a boater to do??

Thank goodness for E-Bay!!! E-Bay provides the opportunity to bid on things you may not need, but the bargaining and bidding is just too much fun to pass up.

Sometimes I bid on an item just to push up the other guy. Hopefully, he wants the item more than I do. As an aside, that's how I got an oxygen analyzer for scuba diving. You really don't need your own personal analyzer, but if you dive with Nitrox, you must check the percentage of oxygen. Now, the dive people I will be traveling with have an oxygen analyzer for everyone's use; but at half price, the opportunity to bid overcame all my sensibilities. Lesson two: if no one else is bidding on it, be sure you want it. It is a cool device, but now I'll have to allocate matching funds for my first mate to offset the purchase. I'm sure all you Captains know that rule: for every dollar I spend on my toys, she gets to spend \$100. That way, I don't get that "why on earth did you buy that?" look.

Bidding or "buy it now" on E-bay is a great way of saving sales tax and many times you get a great deal as well. Oh, as bit of advice for Turbo Taxers: when doing a State return and the question pops up, "did you buy anything out of state for which you didn't pay the state sale tax?" . . .well, you know the answer.

The great news is that Spring is almost here, and before long we will have forgotten all the hockey games, and the game winning baskets at the buzzer, and even all the birdies and ducks. Boating season will be here!

Harry, *Bay Dreamer*



Vice Commodore

Larry Freedman

Pre-Season Maintenance

We are now “over the hump” in our winter boating break and eagerly looking forward to the coming year’s activities. Now is the time to start thinking about getting your boat ready and preparing a checklist of things you need to do, so that you are ready to get started when the weather starts to warm up. Everyone’s checklist will be slightly different depending on the type, size, and other details of your boat and how and where you cruise, but here are some things to consider for your list:

1. Engines

- a. You should have already changed your oil as part of your winterization routine. If you didn’t, now is the time. Engine oil and filter(s) should be changed every year, even if you didn’t put many hours on the boat. Think of it as cheap additional insurance.
 - b. Change your fuel filters. Same reason. By the way, do you have extra fuel filters on the boat? If you are planning to cruise downriver or beyond, having a spare set could save you several days of sitting around if you get some bad fuel in an out of the way place. Don’t forget a spare for your generator’s fuel line too.
 - c. Check your pencil zincs. They are in your engine. They don’t need to be replaced every year, but they do need to be checked and it’s easy to do. If you don’t know where they are, ask.
 - d. Check your hoses. Use your eyes and your hands. Feel for soft spots, particularly on the outside of curves. Hoses wear faster on the inside here and you can’t see it.
 - e. Your strainer baskets are all clean, right? Including the ones for the generator and air conditioner? You should be checking these at least monthly during the season, even if they are hard to reach. Now is also a good time to pull them out and make sure the baskets themselves are not deteriorating and replace them if they are.
- f.... There are lots more maintenance you can do, but writing about this stuff has made me tired.

2. Electronics

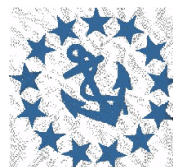
- a. You read lots of articles about how you should update your paper charts periodically (which you should). Don’t forget to update the equivalent for

your chartplotter – the chip that provides the charting data. *Navionics* and *C-Map* both have programs that allow you to get a rebate when you buy a new chip by returning your old chip, making it essentially a trade in program. How long has it been since you’ve updated this chip? Never, you say? Time to do it then. The manufacturers of these chips are packing more information on them each year. It’s a good thing to do.

- b. Speaking of your chartplotter, you should also check to see if there are any software upgrades available for your model. The place to do this is the chartplotter manufacturer’s website. I have a *Raymarine* chartplotter, for which a new software update is usually available every year. Last year’s update included support for AIS and several nifty screen enhancements. These updates are free. You only need to buy a blank chip just like your chart chip, download files from the manufacturer’s website to that chip, plug that chip into the chartplotter, and follow the manufacturer’s instructions from there. Do NOT use the chip with your charts on it for this.

Remember that the goal is to get out on the water and enjoy it. A well maintained boat goes a long way toward letting you do that (vanilla rum on board helps too, but not as much). Try someplace new this year that you haven’t been to before. Pair up with someone else if you don’t want to go alone. Feel free to ask me or any other club member a question about maintenance, cruising, or just boating in general. That’s what the club is for.

Larry, *Takin’ To The Sea*.



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Wasn’t the Plan Fest a Blast?

I hope you had chance to attend the Plan Fest (February 20th) because it is always one of my favorite OYC events. And if for some unfathomable reason you were unable to attend, don’t despair, you’ll have a second opportunity to preview the coming year’s events at our General Membership meeting March 21st, 2-5 pm at Fairfax Yacht Club.

The Plan Fest, and all the rest of the fun that OYC organizes, doesn't just happen, of course. It is greatly facilitated by a number of volunteers, who through their collective efforts make these activities happen without an undue burden on any one person. For instance, consider the Plan Fest. How did Vice Commodore Larry Freedman organize such a terrifically informative and enjoyable event?

Here's how. First of all, we have a Pre-Plan Fest, an informal party of individuals who have indicated an interest in being more active in OYC, as well as those who previously led cruises and helped organize events. This is a fun activity in which the outline for the year's events is established.

The working draft for this event is based on our previous years' experience with cruises and activities as well as the 2009 calendar of events from the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association. PRYCA, a volunteer association of all the yacht clubs on the Potomac, is the overall coordinating organization for the ORMA Blessing of the Fleet in the Occoquan River, the summer float-in and other activities. In addition, OHM and Hoffmasters Marina sponsor OYC events such as the Flag Raising in the spring and the Shrimp Fest in the fall.

In short, the Plan Fest was a success because of Larry's efforts, as well as the efforts of a large number of volunteers who contribute to make OYC activities so much fun. I hope you signed up for a bunch of cruises and perhaps even volunteered to help.

Looking forward to more fun...

John Heinze, *Great Escape*

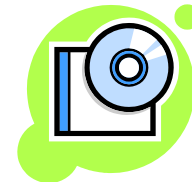
Did You Like the DVD?

Nabil Dubraque, Lucy E

Did you like the DVD—the "Historic Retrospective" distributed as a party favor at the Holiday Party? Hopefully it brought back memories of fun, camaraderie and warm days on the water, of acquaintances who have since become friends, and of friends—some of whom have moved on. And, perhaps, it brought a little warmth to your hearts in this cold time of year. We could not have

put it together without the many pictures you shared: thank you.

This coming year looks promising and, once again, we look forward to capturing some of its memories to share on DVD. Send us photographs to include in our next project. Share with us those moments that capture the essence of who we are as we do what we love to do best. Either mail me your pictures or short videos on CDs, or email them to me at Dubraque@aol.com



Historic Gathering of OYC Past Commodores

Ned W. Rhodes, IMPULSE

A few days after the New Year, Steve and Mary Jo Worcester hosted an historic summit of six OYC past commodores on a boat trip from Carolina Beach up to the town of Wilmington, North Carolina. During lunch there was much discussion on what a great club we belong to, how it has positively affected our lives and the lifelong friendships that have been forged in the club.

On the following page, pictured from left to right are Ron Tilmon (1988), Aaron Martin (1986 & 1991), Ned Rhodes (1990), Teresa Sorrenti (1998), Rick Sorrenti (2004 & 2005) and Sue Thompson (2006). In addition, it is interesting to note that Aaron Martin is also a founding member of OYC and there is much argument as to the exact year (1984) and how many sailboats were in the club at the beginning. There is total agreement that the club was conceived on a cruise of four boats to the Dunes up Mattawoman Creek. Or maybe not. All these people are old so they don't really remember.



navigation required a different means of measurement. Spherical trigonometry has been used as the basis of nautical navigation. The sailor measures progress in nautical miles, which are not based on paces or arm spans as in the cable and fathom.

Spherical trigonometry was used to develop a model of the earth's surface as a sphere or globe. Our charts are, in turn, a mathematical projection to accurately depict the surface as flat. On the water, **distance is measured on degrees of latitude**--or sixtieths thereof--because a nautical mile is one sixtieth (one minute) of a degree of latitude. Know this. North-south latitude is measured along lines of Longitude and east-west longitude is measured along lines of Latitude. Do you know the definition of a line of latitude and a line of longitude? Find out...class excused.

Go to <http://www.tollesburys.co.uk/knots> to learn the knots you can/should use on your vessel.

Cheers, Joe.

**IPC/Delegate PRYCA
Joe Livingston**

Refreshing your Boating Knowledge

While scanning the recreational boating magazines, I noticed the *Chesapeake Bay* magazine has highlighted our very own Club member, Ralph Burner, in their Yacht Broker Showcase. Congrats to Ralph, but probably more importantly, give him a call if you're in the market to sell your yacht or purchase a new yacht. He is with the Mid Atlantic Marine Group and can be contacted at 410-268-1572, ext. 113, or ralphb@midatlanticmarinegroup.com. Ralph and his wife, Anne, have been active with the FYC, the PRYCA, ORMA, as well as the OYC on the Occoquan River for a number of years.

Class is in session. Remember a fathom, as in water depth, is a vertical distance equal to six feet. In early times the term "cable" was used to measure horizontal distance. A cable is a distance of 600 feet or 100 fathoms. These measures were effective for land distances, but blue-water

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Sharman Harris	3/1
Janice Morgan	3/1
Kris Butera	3/4
Lucy Dubrque	3/4
Frank Spikes	3/4
April DeHanas	3/12
John Corley	3/13
Martha Jane Dodd	3/13
Allen Jorsey	3/15
Al Stewart	3/17
Bill Francis	3/20
Theodore Zsirai	3/20
Duane Jeirles	3/24
Chuck Cantello	3/27
Lynanne Jorsey	3/30
Betsey Nalevanko	3/30

Anniversaries

Brian & Kathie McCormally	3/13
Eric & Carol Belcher	3/22
Jim & Judy Dooley	3/24
Paul & Virginia Linse	3/27
Mike & Cindy Hollingsworth	3/28

First Cruise of the Season! The Early Bird Cruise is on again

April 17-19, 2009

Cruise Coordinator: Laslo Bozoky

So you are sick of the cold weather and the Market's got you down! Just hang in there as boating season is around the corner.

The first cruise of this year will take us to **National Harbor** for a fun filled weekend! (**not** to Alexandria as originally planned and as announced at the Plan Fest).

We will arrive Friday afternoon and return Sunday, April 19th. We are working on entertainment plans for Friday and Sunday. On Saturday we are invited to the Old Dominion Boat Club to their "Sock Burning Party" which is always a great event, and includes live music, a pig roast and lots of laughter. More details about it will be provided in the April edition of *Daymarker*.

I talked to the National Harbor Dockmaster, Eric, and he is waiting for your phone call to reserve a slip for you! His phone number is 301-749-1582. Please have your credit card and boat info ready! Also, please call Laslo at 703-590-8440 or send me an e-mail at hotschatz2@aol.com to let me know when you are coming and the number of people you are bringing.

We are looking forward to seeing everybody at National Harbor. Linda & Laslo!

Early Registration Recommended for 2009 Crisfield Hard Crab Derby, Waterman's Docking Contest and Fair

Barbara & Larry Freedman, Takin' To Sea

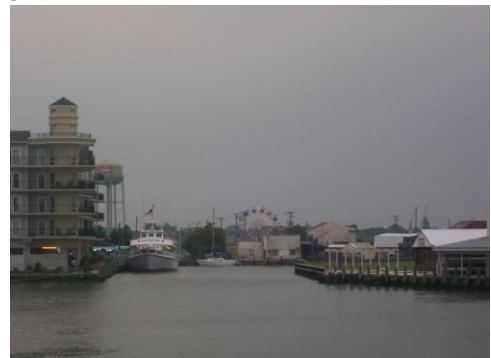
For the past two years, the crew of Takin' To The Sea attended this event and we had a blast. The event is spread over Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, and includes something for everyone's tastes, from carnival rides, to food, exhibits, boat races, numerous games of chance, and of course the namesake crab derby, all right there on the marina's property. In this event, crabs race down an elaborate track in the marina's small stadium, with lots of spectators cheering them on. There are live concerts on

Saturday and Sunday night and the weekend's events conclude on Sunday night with fireworks. The highlight for us was the boat docking contest, where Chesapeake watermen (no amateurs here) vie for a lot of money and significant bragging rights to see who can take their boat from a side-tie on the main dock and turn it around 180 degrees and back it into a slip in the shortest amount of time, usually under one minute. Once again, the stands will be filled with cheering spectators and serious beer drinkers.

If you would like to attend these events, you will need to call Somers Cove Marina at 410-968-0925 to reserve your spot now. It is best to do this as early as possible as you may encounter a waiting list already but chances are very good that you will be able to get in. We did this last year in early June and were notified about a month later that a spot had opened up for us, so calling them now is highly likely to get you in. You should also mention that you are with OYC, which will help the marina to place us all together.

If you haven't been there before, Somers Cove Marina is a very large marina run by the State of Maryland. It has rental bicycles as well as an Olympic size outdoor pool. It is a nice run directly across the Chesapeake Bay from the mouth of the Potomac, between 2 islands into the Tangier Sound, and then south a short way until you turn into the channel that runs into Crisfield's harbor. The town has several good restaurants and shops to browse through, all within walking distance, and the sunsets are fantastic.

This is a great family friendly event that has lots of things for everyone. Let us know if you make plans to attend or if you have any questions. We hope to see you there.



Approaching Crisfield--Ferris wheel in distance



Contenders for the Boat Docking Contest

Beware the Tides of March*!

With due apologies to the Great Bard* himself, have you ever noticed that our tide depths vary significantly throughout the year? This phenomenon is the result of alignments between the sun, moon and earth. These alignments strongly influence tidal heights and the basic astronomy behind this is fascinating. Gravitational pulls of the moon and sun cause the earth to stretch slightly. This elongation effect on solid earth is very slight but has a dramatic effect on the world's oceans. As we all know, in one 24-hour period, we experience two high tides and two low tides. Near the times of the new and full moons, the sun and moon are aligned together and their gravitational influence is aligned as well, causing higher tidal bulges (high tides) and lower tidal troughs (low tides). These tides are called **spring tides**; they create the largest variance of tidal range. Conversely, at the time of the first and third lunar quarters, the gravitational forces of the moon and sun are at right angles to each other. In this instance their gravitational forces partially offset each other, producing lesser daily tidal ranges. These are called **neap tides**. This theoretical model explains the basic causes of tides and tidal patterns; however, determining the height or time of actual tides on any coastline is based on actual observations. The predictions in tidal tables and tidal data on nautical charts are based on these observations.

Tides are further classified into three types, according to the tidal pattern occurring at a particular location. A *semidiurnal tide* fits the twice-daily pattern with two high and two low tides each tidal day, and relatively small differences in high and low water heights. This pattern is seen on the Atlantic coast of the United States. *Diurnal tides* are described as those with a single high and low water height in each tidal day. Examples of this type of tide are seen along the northern shore of the Gulf of Mexico. The third tide type is called a *mixed tide*. This tide pattern is more common than a diurnal tide. A mixed tide is characterized by a large inequality in high water heights, low water heights or both. In mixed tide areas, there are usually two high and two low water tides daily. These tides can be seen on the Pacific coast of the United States.

Finally, the discussion of tides wouldn't be complete without reviewing tidal current. This is the term used to denote the horizontal movement of water accompanying the rise and fall of a tide. As the tide rises, water flows towards the shore—this movement is called a *flood tide*, as the water floods the low-lying coastal zone. When the tide falls, the horizontal movement of water is reversed out to sea, exposing the flooded portion of the shoreline—this movement is called an *ebb tide*.

Armed with the tidal data provided by our local observation points along the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River, and aided by a better understanding of how the moon and sun affect our tidal depths, we will be

in a better position to avoid accidental 'groundings' on those pesky sand bars or any normally submerged rocks this boating season! Safe boating rules!

Plan Fest photos

If you were unable to make the Plan Fest, here are some photos of the fun on 21 February!



With Larry coordinating the process, the crowd listens intently to cruise discussions



Oooh, which cruises should we select? Can we go to all of them?

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

Planning Calendar 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 OYC Board Meeting	13 Earmuffs Day	14 International Fanny Pack Day Boating Course
15 Ides of March: Brutus Day Boating Course	16 Curllew 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 OYC Membership meeting
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						

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 April Fool's Day	2 International Children's Book Day	3 Pony Express Day	4 Tangible Karma Day
5 Palm Sunday	6 Tartan Day	7 World Health Day	8 Buddha Day	9 National Cherish an Antique Day OYC Board Meeting	10 ASPCA Day Good Friday	11 International "Louie Louie" Day
12 Licorice Day	13 Thomas Jefferson Day	14 Be Kind to Lawyers Day	15 Take a Wild Guess Day	16 High Five Day	17 Blah! Blah! Blah! Day	18 Pet Owners Independence Day
19 National Hanging Out Day	20 Boston Marathon Day	21 National Chocolate-Covered Cashews Day	22 National Jelly Bean Day	23 World Book and Copyright Day	24 Arbor Day	25 Bulldogs are Beautiful Day
26 Richter Scale Day	27 Morse Code Day	28 Workers Memorial Day	29 Sense of Smell Day	30 Beltane Walpurgis Night		
Fresh Florida Tomatoes Month Holy Humor Month National Garden Month National Kite Month						

14-15 March
CG Auxiliary
Boating Course
Fairfax Yacht Club
Harry Croft

17 March 2009
Impromptu
St Patrick's Day Party
TBD

21 March 2009
General Membership
Meeting
Fairfax Yacht Club
OYC Board

17-19 April 2009
Early Bird Cruise
National Harbor
Laslo Bozoky

Inside this edition...

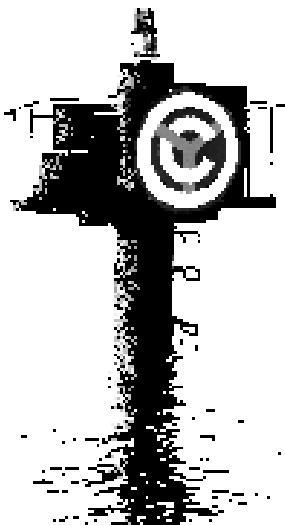
Maintenance tips for your engines and electronics that you can do now.

How EBay can help you beat the winter blues, according to the Commodore...

Yes, it's time to sign up for our first cruise of the year!

Why do the tides vary in height throughout the year? Answer inside.

IPC Joe Livingston sharpens your knowledge of blue water navigation principles.



The Daymarker

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Change Service
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