



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

Boating Season At Last!!

Hopefully no has quit the club because of the barge purchase as described in the *May Darker!* I actually did meet with the NOAA people and provided the jon boat transport out to the barge for them and a Fox News crew. If funds are available NOAA may cut the barge into pieces and fly them out of the river, but that's a big "if." Alas, no clubhouse for OYC!

On a lighter note, the first cruise of the season has already occurred with the Early bird venture to National Harbor. Our thanks go to Linda and Laslo Bozoky for coordinating this event. I have heard that the early registration for cruises is difficult for many whose calendars are unsettled. Unfortunately, several of our cruises require very early registration just to hold a spot, but almost all have escape dates if something happens that prevents you from attending. So, if you are even thinking of going on a one of the cruises, please sign up early for planning purposes and that way a spot is available should you decide to attend.

For those of you who haven't de-iced your boat, make sure everything is shipshape and most importantly, get a Coast Guard Auxiliary Inspection. These inspections are for your safety and often detect something you may have overlooked. Last year, the inspector, OYC's own Steve Thompson,

found my spark arrestor on one engine to be especially dirty. While that may be a normal occurrence after much cruising, in this case I did have a combustion problem that was relatively easy to fix (it only takes money!)

Our membership is a bit down this year and while I am often to blame for many things, I would like to believe that it's the economy that is at fault in this case. We all should be on the lookout for boaters who share some of our better values, cruising the rivers and bays, socializing and just plain having good fun. Give them a brochure and encourage them to join our great club.

There are several events coming up in May: the flag raising at Occoquan Harbor Marina on the 2nd, Blessing of the Fleet on May 9th, and the Memorial Day cruises to Solomons Island or Colonial Beach. OYC is off on another great boating season. I hope to see you all on the water!

Harry, *Bay Dreamer*

FLAG RAISING AT OCCOQUAN HARBOR MARINA MAY 2

Come join us at the 25th Anniversary of OYC! The activities start at noon with the raising of the U.S., Virginia, and OYC flags, the firing of the cannon, and if no is hurt from that, a barbecue of hamburgers and hot dogs! Members should bring a side dish of their choice, and their favorite adult beverage. Sodas and water will be provided. Jim Dooley, our noteworthy Quartermaster, will have a great selection of OYC apparel to purchase. You will also have a chance to pick up your **2009 Directory**. Nabil Dubraque really outdid himself once again with the artwork and presentation of the OYC membership in this year's Directory! H.C.



Vice Commodore

Larry Freedman

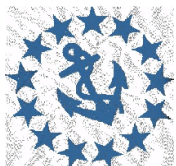
Plan for your Summer Cruising

Cruising season is just about underway – it's about time! For a lot of us, planning and setting out on a cruise have become second nature because we've done it often. For many people though, heading down the Potomac River a ways or out to the Chesapeake Bay and beyond is something they don't really consider, so I thought I would take this opportunity to talk about cruise planning.

1. *Determine what places you would like to visit.* Once you do, locate a cruising guide that covers this area. There are several guides out there for the Chesapeake Bay. I like the one published by *Chesapeake Bay Magazine*. If you don't know what's out there, buy the guide first.
2. *Determine how long it will take to get there.* You should know the speed at which your boat cruises in knots. You can then use a set of dividers on your paper charts (you have them, right?) and work out how far your destination is. Think about how long you are comfortable travelling on your boat, as well as how far you can go before you need to refuel. Some destinations will be reachable in one leg (everywhere on the river and a few places on the Chesapeake Bay), and some will not (most of the bay). So then you need to plan that travelling to your destination will take two days and so will the return.
3. *Determine where you want to stay when you get there.* Do you want to be in a marina or anchor out? The cruising guide can help with information on what marinas are available and where the good anchorages are. The guide will also tell you where you can get fuel (very helpful). If you want to stay at a marina, you should generally call ahead and make a transient reservation to insure that you have a place to stay. Marinas in popular destinations will usually be full on many summer weekends. We made our reservations for 4th of July weekend in January. One good thing to know – what time they close for the day. It's a good idea to get there well before that if you have never been there before.
4. *Determine what you might want to do once you get there.* What special events are planned there? This could affect the dates you travel. The cruising guide can help but also check local websites for any special events they might have scheduled. For example, cruisers on this year's Memorial Day cruise to Solomons Island will have their choice of a Hank Williams Jr. concert, two performances of the Blue Angels, and an Arts & Crafts show going on that weekend.
5. *Once the date gets close (7 days away), start watching the weather.* Look up the tide movement for your travel days and match it against the forecast wind direction and velocity. You want to be travelling when the tides and wind are not opposing each other. For example, try not to travel out the mouth of the Potomac on an outgoing tide when the wind is blowing from the east or southeast – it will be much rougher than if the tide was incoming. Also, you must always be prepared to adjust your dates to accommodate the weather. If the forecast turns bad before you leave, don't go. Marinas will be accommodating of weather-related changes, but you must call them to keep them informed of your plans. Don't forget to monitor the weather once you reach your destination. If it turns bad while you are there, you must also be prepared to stay longer.
6. *Make sure you have paper charts for your route.* Mark your route on them. Look for landmarks to watch for on the way, depths along your intended path, and any obstacles. Having an electronic chartplotter does not excuse you from the paper exercise. Are you 100% sure that your chartplotter will never fail? If you do have electronic chartplotter, it is a good idea to mark your route on it as well. This has helped us many times when entering new places.
7. *A few days before you go, be sure to file a float plan with someone to insure that your failure to return is noticed and reported to the Coast Guard.* Hopefully, you will never need to rely on this, but it's good practice to do so and it could save your life. Information about what goes in a float plan is available on the BoatUS website, or you can ask me and I'll email you one of ours (yes, we file them for every overnight trip we take).
8. *Before you leave, make sure you have important phone numbers stored in your cell phone and that it is charged up and with you.* These should include the following numbers:
 - a. BoatUS' TowBoat dispatch (get the unlimited towing package)
 - b. Your insurance company
 - c. Your marina's service department or the technician who usually repairs your boat (if you have one)
 - d. West Marine or whoever you like to buy your parts from, in case you need something you can't get locally
 - e. Your destination marina(s), in the event that you are going to be late
 - f. The USCG National Response Center (877-24WATCH), in the event that you need to report any suspicious activity

Fellow club members will be very helpful with cruise planning. People love to talk about places they have been, and they will have lots of knowledge about where to fuel up, things to avoid (like sand bars), and things to make sure you don't miss (like tiki bars). The main thing is to get out there and enjoy the great cruising area of the Chesapeake Bay that we are fortunate enough to be near. And to quote Captain Ron, "if you get lost you can always pull in somewheres and ask for directions."

Larry, *Takin' To The Sea*



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Shrimp Fest – New Fun and Games this Year on 6 June 2009

For the past several years, OYC has organized a dinghy race and Shrimp Fest as a warm-up activity for the PRYCA float-in, which this year will be held July 17-19 at beautiful Port Kinsale marina. The float-in features - among the many fun activities - a series of contests, which in past years have included a dinghy race. Of course, there are prizes to the top boating clubs on the Potomac River. Well, PRYCA is now on to us and the other clubs who have tried to prepare for the competition and is varying the contests. Never fear, your Board has risen to the occasion and is preparing a variety of games and activities that will help you prepare not only for the PRYCA float-in, but also sharpen your skills for the boating season.

So mark you calendars for **Saturday, June 6th at 12:00 noon, at Occoquan Harbor Marina**. The OYC Board will provide the boating-related games and activities as well as the shrimp and soft drinks. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite libation.

And if you wouldn't mind, please send me an e-mail (jheinze@johnadams.com) with the number of people that will be attending so we have the right amount of shrimp!

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

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



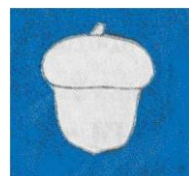
Secretary

Pat Croft

Have charter boat, will travel

Watch this space in next month's issue for a review of bareboat chartering in the British Virgin Islands, which will be written from first-hand, personal experience. Given the lag time between the writing of this message and the publication of the *Daymarker*, you will be reading this after I have returned from what I'm certain will be an idyllic, relaxing, 10-day vacation in paradise. But at this very moment, the pre-publication moment two weeks before you have the *Daymarker* in hand, I am sitting at the computer feeling anything but idyllic or relaxed. In about four hours, I will be on a plane heading for St. Thomas, and then on a ferry to Tortola, and then on to a 47' power catamaran. I'm certain that will cure this writer's block from which I currently suffer. Until then . . .

Pat Croft, *Bay Dreamer*



Treasurer

Kathie McCormally

Come out –the water's calling!

The summer is almost here and hopefully, most of you have your boats in the water, have de-winterized them, and are ready to cruise. If you haven't signed up for any of the OYC cruises, it is not too late. If you are on a budget this year and don't feel you can afford the gas, consider some of the cruises that are closer to where you keep your boat. Even if you don't feel you can take an entire weekend or longer for one of the organized cruises, day trips to area marinas may still be an option. With National Harbor and Old Town Alexandria so close, cruise up the Potomac and spend the day seeing the sights without fighting the traffic. Tim's Crab Shack is always an option for a weekend afternoon, and there are always many great places along the river to anchor out and spend the day. Boats are made to travel the waterways, and it is a shame to just leave them docked week after week. A tank of gas will last quite a while if you are creative and plan your trips. I hope to see you on the river soon. It is calling to all of us.

.Kathie McCormally, *Jayhawker*

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Teresa Sorrenti	5/4
Jim Dooley	5/6
Linda Bozoky	5/7
Kathy Hatton	5/7
Jim Hawley	5/11
Gail Livingston	5/14
Tom Coldwell	5/15
Steve Worcester	5/15
Myndi Harbin	5/22
Beth Francis	5/23
Steve Stanley	5/24
Dave Moore	5/26
Gina Croci	5/29
Bill Johnson	5/29
Lynn Wilson	5/30

Anniversaries

John & Kathy Corley	5/5
Stephen & Paula Wexler	5/5

First Cruise of the Season is a Success

The 2009 Occoquan Yacht Club Early Bird Cruise departed for National Harbor on Friday, April 17 under blue skies and warm temperatures. Twelve boats participated this year; ten docked at National Harbor and two boats docked at Old Dominion. Special mention must go out to Sue and Randy Willetts (*Takin' It Easy*) -- two very determined boaters -- who drove from Florida straight to their boat at Fairfax Yacht Club to join the Cruise.

Our Happy Hour on Friday was well attended by all boat members and we had a special surprise from Mike and Sarah who arrived by car. We wished Sarah a Happy Birthday. Rudy's boat also arrived from Old Dominion Yacht Club with the Jorseys, the Livingstons and the Cheathams on board. *SeaNisle*, *Copy Cat*, and *Time 2 Play* all had guests on board this year; everyone enjoyed spending time with their friends. After Happy Hour, we all went out on our own to enjoy National Harbor.

Saturday dawned sunny, gorgeous and warm. Club members shopped, strolled, lunched and visited Old Town Alexandria. Some members toured D.C. (by limo) with their guests. On Saturday evening, most of the group attended the Sock Burning Party, hosted by Old Dominion Yacht Club. The weather remained perfect and we were joined by Ted, Ilona and their guest from Hungary as well as by Mike and Sarah, who again arrived by car.

Everyone enjoyed Happy Hour and a delicious pig roast buffet. The traditional Sock Burning event took place after dinner. We were then entertained by "The Fuzz," and enjoyed ourselves on the dance floor with our friends from Old Dominion.

The weather turned a bit by Sunday but it did not stop the group from enjoying brunch on the dock, and warming themselves with adult beverages. The food was terrific as all of the members seem to bring their best recipes to the brunch. *Walt's On Water* arrived with their guests and we wished Susan a Happy Birthday, much to her surprise.

By early afternoon it was time to leave the marina and boat home. Special thanks to Dockmaster Eric and his staff for helping to make this a memorable, fun and safe weekend.

Linda and Laslo, *Hot Schatz*

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

DC waterway enforcement

IPC/PRYCA Delegate
Joe Livingston

Be advised. We have all known for a long time that the Potomac river north of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is under the jurisdiction of DC and in addition, that you, as boaters, have been required to have completed a "Boaters Safety Course" and to show proof by displaying a card or certificate aboard your boat. Liaison with the Coast Guard Station Washington Sector has indicated this requirement is now being enforced. Without the certificate, you may not be permitted to continue further up river and will be turned around. Additionally, the violation will cost you a \$40.00 fine. Please follow boating safety procedures on the water and enjoy your cruises to our Nation's Capital, with your Boaters Safety Course card on board.
Cheers, Joe.

Memorial Day Cruise to Spring Cove Marina, Solomons, MD. 22-25 May 2009

Now that the Early Bird Cruise is under our belts, and our engines are raring to go further, we are more than ready for some bay cruises. The first cruise out to the

Bay for us is Solomons. To date, we have five boats going with us and a couple more 'maybes.'

We plan to arrive at Spring Cove Marina sometime Friday afternoon and will host the first Happy Hour on the docks. Time of Happy Hour is planned to start around 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. to whenever. Please bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. Depending on what time everyone arrives and how late happy hour ends, we may go out for dinner as a group. We do not have firm plans on that yet and will wait to see how everyone feels and how hungry we are.

Saturday morning and afternoon is free to enjoy the pool, dinghy around Solomons, etc. The OYC rowdy friends plan to attend the Hank Williams Jr concert at Calvert Marine Museum that night. We can also plan a group dinner on Saturday night at one of the local restaurants and can take a vote on Saturday afternoon as to which restaurant everyone would like.

Sunday morning and afternoon is free to do whatever you like as well. Some suggestions are biking, enjoying Spring Cove's pool, which by the way, has piped in music, reading in their lending library, fishing at your dock, or heading to the infamous Tiki Bar! Spring Cove has plenty of bike rentals—hourly or daily. All the bikes have baskets for all those shopping bags you will surely accumulate after visiting the local gift shops. There is an ice cream shop along the boardwalk in town as well, where you can sit, enjoy some ice cream, and watch the boats go by.

We plan a barbecue at Spring Cove for Sunday night. Again, please bring a dish to share and whatever beverage you fancy. The Captain and I will supply the burgers and fixings. If you are stumped for a dish, Woodburn's Grocery is a mere 10-minute walk from the marina and has the best libations. I feel like a kid in a candy store every time I shop there! There is an excellent liquor store and even a West Marine in the next shopping plaza over from Washburns. You may need that bike with the shopping basket after all!

Monday morning is a sad day when we all have to head home, so we would like to have a quick breakfast on the docks, and then head home at your leisure. We will supply the coffee and the mimosas. Please bring a breakfast dish to share. *Takin' To The Sea* is a slow boat and will take us about 6 hours to get home, so we plan on heading out by noon. I assume others will want to follow suit, so I suggest breakfast on the docks around 9 a.m.

If you would like to sign up, please email Larry at freedman420@gmail.com, or call his cell at 703-855-1826. He will give you the specifics for the marina. We will email more information as the cruise date gets closer.

The Captain and I look forward to seeing all of you there! Barbara Freedman, *Takin' To The Sea*

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).

A list of the planned activities are:

- A kayak adventure in company with a local naturalist taking paddlers through interesting and historical areas (home of the "Oyster Wars"). Newbies or the less adventurous are welcome with a shorter route. A small number of kayaks will be available for borrowing but it is recommended you bring your own kayak, water shoes, and life vest.
- Scavenger Hunt. Participants will be given a series of challengers and/or clues for their all day private scavenger hunt. Hunters with the most items collected will receive special awards, presented during Captain's hour.
- Cobb Neck Crab Cook Off. This event will be held at the Cobb Island Gallery and Coffee Shop at 1400. Entries will be limited to 12 cooks, who will compete for the coveted Cobb Neck Crab (King or Queen) Crown. Attendees/tasters will be welcomed for a small fee. (All proceeds are donated to the local Wayside Food Bank.)
- Best dressed boat. For those who want to spend a leisurely day, walking, biking, or whatever, but who would like to compete, we will have a judging during the afternoon for the best dressed vessel(s). Prizes will be given at Captain's Hour.
- Captain's Hour. Commodore Don Thayer, and his wife Barbara, will greet all yacht club members and guests at "Someplace Special." Attitudes can be adjusted while enjoying our view, collecting prizes for the Scavenger Hunt, and the Best Dressed Boat. The crowd will also be honoured by the presence of the newly appointed 2009 Cobb Neck King/Queen Crab.
- Scuttlebutt's Sun down Pig Roast. Scuttlebutt's pig roast received rave reviews last year, and we look forward to a repeat performance this year.
- Coast Guard inspections. Inspectors will be out and about.

Also taking place will be the arts and crafts show run by the Cobb Island Citizens Association and various activities by the Fire Department.

This is a very low key event that people always enjoy. It's an easy cruise from the Occoquan and the destination poses no trouble getting into (just don't cut inside the spider light – ask me if you don't know what this means).

Larry Freedman, *Takin' To The Sea*

Sprint/BoatUS Discount

For all you BoatUS members who are also Sprint PCS customers out there, you can now receive discounts on Sprint wireless services. Through this new partnership, you can receive discounts on most devices and a 10% discount on Sprint's monthly wireless services. The partnership offers a variety of promotions and special offers on the portfolio of Sprint products and most offers apply to new and existing Sprint customers. Existing Sprint customers can add the BoatUS discount to their account by visiting BoatUSphones.com, calling 1-866-784-5154 or visiting any Sprint retailer and mentioning the BoatUS discount code: NABHW_BUS_ZMB.

South Bay Cruise 2-12 July 2009

It's that time of the year again. Do you ever get tired of hearing that? Well, the statement stands true. The first OYC cruise of the year has come and gone and it's time to start planning for the rest of the summer. The Fourth of July time frame is especially hard to plan because transient slips fill up quickly for this holiday period. So, if you would like to spend a week or so, on your boat away from home, sipping margaritas or rum and cokes or vodka martinis, or if you want to walk around historic sites, now is the time to let me know.

The OYC South Bay cruise will be departing on July 2nd, heading south to White Point Marina on the Yeocomico, staying over night before heading off to York River Yacht Haven on the 3rd. There we will spend three nights where we can relax by the pool, enjoy the fireworks over Yorktown, and even spend a day there visiting the fort and all that goes along with it.

We'll depart on the 6th and head for possibly Downtown Hampton Public Piers to spend two nights. If this is the place I can get us into, you can spend a day visiting the I-Max Theater and walking the streets of downtown Hampton, another historic area of our great state. Another option is to stay at a marina on the Elisabeth River in Portsmouth where there is also quite a bit to do. Who knows, we might even get a boat to go over to Norfolk for a day and take a walk around the battleship *Wisconsin*.

Departing on the 8th, we will head up to the Rappahannock River where we will stay at a marina (still

researching these) for two nights. Here you have time to relax by a pool, again with one of your most favorite drinks, if needed. And, there may even be a day trip up river.

From there we will travel back to White Point Marina for two nights of party hardy, or just relax, revamping yourself for the inevitable start of work the next week. (After all, how else are you going to pay for having all this fun?)

And 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. Hurry up and make those plans now before all the slips are taken. Let me know now if you think this could be your cruise to happiness.

OYC Dog wins Nor'easter Boat Dog category



Mr Wilson, a two-year old Maltipoo, in his award winning photo above, was selected as the *Nor'easter Boat Dog* for the April 17 edition of the *Nor'easter Boat Magazine*. He can be seen on page 62 of that publication or any day with his companions, the Freedmans.

(Editor's comment: Boaters sure love their dogs and love bringing them on their boats! Some are photographed, some are immortalized in other ways. For all you other boating-dog enthusiasts send me your pet photos and I will publish them as often as possible.)

Planning Calendar May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Beltane May Day Amtrak Day	2 OYC Flag Raising at OHM
3 Garden Meditation Day	4 Respect for Chickens Day	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 No Diet Day	7	8 No Socks Day	9 ORMA Blessing of the Fleet
10 Mothers Day	11 Eat What you Want Day	12 Limerick Day	13 Root Canal Appreciation Day	14 OYC Board Meeting	15 National Bike to Work Day	16 Preakness Stakes
17 NASCAR Day	18 Visit your Relatives Day	19 Boys Club Day	20 Turn Beauty Inside Out Day	21 I Need a Patch for That Day	22 Memorial Day Cruises	23 World Turtle Day
24 Brother's Day 31 WhitSunday	25 Geek Pride Day	26	27 National Senior Health and Fitness Day	28 Slugs Return from Capistrano Day	29	30 Hug Your Cat Day
National Military Appreciation Month Motorcycle Awareness Month National Physical Fitness and Sports Month						

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 National Go Barefoot Day	2 National Bubba Day	3 National Tailors Day	4	5 World Environment Day	6 Do-Dah Day Regatta OHM
7 National Cancer Survivors Day	8 Upsy Daisy Day	9	10 Ball Point Pen Day	11 OYC Board Meeting	12 Loving Day	13 Wicket World of Croquet Day
14 Army's Birthday	15 Nature Photography Day	16 Fudge Day	17 Stewart's Root Beer Day	18 Recess at Work Day	19 World Sauntering Day PRYCA Cobb Island Days	20 World Juggling Day
21 Family Awareness Day	22 Perigan Spring Tides Day	23 Let it Go Day	24 Celebration of the Senses Day	25 Hand Shake Day	26 Take your dog to Work Day National Harbor Cruise	27 "Happy Birthday to You" Day
28 America's Kids Day	29 Please take my Children to Work Day	30 Leap Second Time Adjustment Day				
Adopt a Shelter Cat Month National Accordion Awareness Month National Bathroom Reading Month						

2 May 2009
OYC Flag Raising at OHM
OYC Board

9 May 2009
ORMA Blessing of the Fleet
Occoquan River
OYC Board

22-25 May 2009
Memorial Day Cruise
Solomons Island
Larry & Barbara Freedman
703-855-1826

22-25 May 2009
Memorial Day Cruise
Colonial Beach
Rick & Teresa Sorrenti
703-494-3302

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

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

Inside this edition...

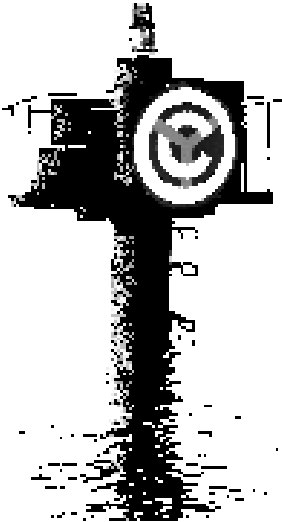
What actually happened on the abandoned barge near FYC—alas, no clubhouse this year.

Step-by-step cruise planning guide.

Successful first of the season cruise!

Lots of upcoming summer cruises—let your coordinators know early that you are attending.

Come out and play on the water this summer.



The Daymarker

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

Change Service
Requested