



November 2009, Vol. XXVI, No.11

# The Daymarker

**2009 PRYCA Cup Champions**

**OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB**

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

**Commodore**

Harry Croft  
703 451-9147

**Vice Commodore**

Larry Freedman  
703 830-1826

**Rear Commodore**

John Heinze  
703 765-2380

**IPC/PYCRA Delegate**

Joe Livingston  
703 505-8313

**Secretary**

Pat Croft  
703 451-9147

**Treasurer**

Kathie McCormally  
703 690-9470

**Quartermaster**

Jim Dooley  
703 493-8481

**Membership**

Ilona Zsirai  
703 476-6717

**Historian**

Nabil Dubraque  
703 791-3755

**Webmaster**

Ned Rhodes  
703 741-0861

**THE DAYMARKER Editor**

Carol Belcher  
571 312-6968



## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Harry Croft**

### Cruising Through the Lily Pads

If you have never been up Aquia Creek, you are missing a boating adventure. There are three parts to Aquia Creek and all three demand your attention. The entrance to Aquia Creek is well defined in the sense that if you miss the red number "2" buoy at the entrance, you could go aground. Then there is the large open bay feature that has a nearly flat bottom. Unfortunately, if there is west wind, your depth gauge will read less than three feet in spots, but don't despair as the bottom is soft and mud will pass through your water pump! The third part is the best and the most scenic. Just when you think you've come to the end, you spot an opening in the lily pads. The depth actually increases a bit, but the channel narrows and you must follow the landform to maintain depth. For the larger boats such as Darn' Tootin', there is little room to maneuver especially on the creek bends. Our travel time down to Aquia Creek was one hour, but it took another hour from the time we entered Aquia Creek until we arrived at Aquia Harbor Marina. There are submerged trees in the narrowest part of the creek, as well as fishermen who do not want to give way even for the larger boats.

In spite of the tricky navigation, the PRYCA event was well worth it. OYC had five boats on this cruise, *Gail Lynn II* with Joe and Gail Livingston; *Bay Dreamer* with my first wife, Pat, and myself; *Al* and Lynanne Jorsey on *Plane to Sea II*; Kenny and Sharman Harris on *Darn Tootin'*, and Goodwyn and Jan Morgan on *Golden Opportunities*.



Here's a picture of the Morgan's showing their colors. Judging from the logo on their stern, I'm sure we have more dog pictures for the *DayMarker* in the future!

The Aquia Harbor Yacht Club members were attentive hosts, making sure everyone had a great time. Italian cuisine was the theme of the Saturday night dinner along with a great band and lots of fun dancing. The AHYC also put on a splendid Sunday brunch complete with the usual beverages. Ken Harris and I also managed to get in a couple rounds of golf, and no, we are not reporting our scores. I'm sure we may have annoyed a few other PRYCA clubs with our flagrant display of "The CUP", but it was well worth it! Thanks to Jim Hawley for having the cup inscribed with "OYC" in one inch letters! **Joke!**

Aquia Creek can be a challenging trip, but if you watch the winds and tides, it is a trip that is worth the beauty of lily pads and marshes, and of course, the great hospitality of AHYC.

(cont'd on page 2)

(cont'd from page 1)

We made sure no one stole the cup by putting CommoDog, Biscuit, on guard duty. She is adopting the 'bird-dogging, low-profile position,' all the better to watch the approach of unaware AHYC members.



Here's picture of two OYCers at AHYC, Kenny Harris and Tom Lensis, doing what we do best, sitting on the docks doing nothing!



**OYC Elects a New Slate of Officers** – As is the tradition, a new slate of officers was presented at the fall Annual Meeting and by unanimous acclamation, elected. For those who did not attend, our new Board is as follows:

**Pat Croft – Commodore; Tom Lensis, Vice Commodore; John Heinze, Rear Commodore; Kathy McCormally, Treasurer; and Mindy Harbin, Secretary.**

I would have liked to remain Commodore for another year but the club wouldn't buy me a Commodore hat with all the "scrambled eggs" on the visor and a nifty anchor medallion. In addition, my involvement with

Fairfax Yacht Club and their dock rebuild project has consumed much of my free time this year and, with construction starting in November, I felt I could not do the quality job that I would like to do for OYC.

A special thanks to **Larry Freedman** for his work as Vice Commodore this year. OYC had a very ambitious cruise schedule this year and Larry was instrumental in this effort. Larry's job, yes, he really has another job, prevented him from moving up to Commodore in the normal succession plan. After much arm twisting, and with Joe Livingston's help, we were able to assemble a new Board that will follow the succession from Rear to Vice, and Vice to Commodore positions. Thanks to all on this year's Board who helped me throughout the year to keep OYC going. The instalment of this new Board will keep us on track for at least three more years.

Five other positions on the staff of the Board are the appointed, non-voting participants. These include **Membership Chair**, which will continue to be ably filled by Ilona Zsirai, **Historian** *par excellence* by the venerable Nabil Dubraque; **Webmaster**, which will continue to be filled by the wry wizard Ned Rhodes; **Quartermaster which will become vacant** as Jim Dooley steps down due to work demands; and **the DayMarker Editor, which will also become vacant in June**; alas, Carol Belcher will be moving to Kansas (Kansas?! Where do you boat in Kansas?) (*editor's response: nowhere, but thanks for asking*) Any volunteers for those two positions? Just give me or the Commodore-Elect a call, same number, 703-451-9147. I'll take a message!

See you on the river, Harry, *Bay Dreamer*, out.



Above: Your intrepid Commodore, Harry Croft, braves the driving rains to conduct water resistance assessments with one of the new OYC jackets. This is quality control/product testing at its best! Harry didn't even get damp. Jim Dooley, our Quartermaster, has these jackets for sale, so contact him to get yours.





**Rear Commodore**

**John Heinze**



**Secretary**

**Pat Croft**

## Winterizing Choices – OR—Why I like White Point Marina

It's getting that dreary time of year when the boating season starts to wind down and we have to plan for the winter season. I really admire Harry Croft and other members of the club who don't let winter force them into doing anything more than installing engine room and space heaters. That way then can enjoy the boat all winter long and even take the boat out on mild sunny days. What fun!

I'm more comfortable winterizing the boat and leaving it in the slip at Fairfax Yacht Club. But this year with the dock rebuilding, FYC is encouraging everyone to make arrangements to store their boats for the winter outside the marina. If you don't know what to do, or are looking for more options than what you have done in the past, ask around as many of our members are very knowledgeable about the options.

My preferred option, if I have to move the boat, or have any work done on it, is White Point Marina on the Yeocomico River in Virginia, about 75 nautical miles south of FYC. A disadvantage of White Point is that there are no facilities to store on land, something that other marinas in the area do offer. The advantage that White Point offers is outstanding service. Time and time again, marina owner Rob Redfearn and his crew have taken excellent care of *Great Escape*. It seems that everyone who has taken their boat there has been pleased with the expert repair and maintenance services they provide. And, as a nearly 20-year old boat, *Great Escape* needs all the help she can get.

So if you want to have any more work done on your boat over the winter, and you ask my opinion, I'll say White Point Marina every time.

John Heinze, *Great Escape*  
Fooling forward to more fun!

**Don't' forget to mark off your calendar on 12 December 2009 so you can join us for the OYC Holiday Party and Change of Watch. It is going to be a great time, so don't miss it!**

## OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING DAZZLED IN THE FEATURE TRIPLE EPICUREAN CHALLENGE: APPETIZERS CHILI DESSERTS



More than 60 OYC members came in out of the rain last Saturday to fill the FYC clubhouse with good cheer and great food. It was billed as the Triple Epicurean Challenge: contests for the most Awesome Appetizer, the most Dazzling Dessert, and the ever popular Chili Cook-Off. The event was truly an epicurean delight, providing OYC with yet another opportunity to indulge in our second and third favorite group activities: eating and talking. If we can't be cruising on our boats, the next best thing is sharing food and boat stories in a room with a view of the river! (We thank FYC, by the way, for allowing us to use their beautiful clubhouse.)

While everyone had an opportunity to sample all of the delectable dishes and vote for their favorite in each category, the Chili-Cook-Off also included an impartial panel of judges. The panel consisted of **John Heinze, Carol Belcher, and Nabil Dubraque**, none of whom had a vested interest in the outcome, i.e., neither they nor their spouses had an entry in the chilli contest. In order to ensure a blind taste test, the judges were sequestered in a small room and served the numbered samples of chili – all eight entries. That's a lot of chili-tasting! But they never tired of their work, which is evident in their eloquent reviews of the top three chili's, published following this article.

The judges' ranking and the general membership votes were factored together to arrive at these results:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Patricia Maxwell**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Kathy Hatton**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Linda Bozoky**

One very special entry stood apart from the rest, a sort of cioppino chili, with an abundance of fresh seafood mixed in with the usual chili. The judges bestowed the Honorable Mention award on this entry. Congratulations, Kevin Bell!

The most **Awesome Appetizer** was judged to be **Arleen Rhodes'** sausage dip, while **Dave Moore's** chili-cheese spread came in second, and **Nancy Henry's** spicy hot crab dip took third prize. **Yum!**

The most Dazzling Dessert title went to **Kathie McCormally's** Warm Apple Crisp. Talk about homemade – the apples came from the McCormally's own tree! Second place honors went to **Rebecca Heinze's** Crème Brule Pie, and **Steve Thompson's** first-ever attempt at making Chocolate Fudge Pie netted him third prize.

In all three categories, the winners received gift certificates for the OYC Quartermaster: \$20, \$15, and \$10 respectively. In addition, **Patricia Maxwell** took home the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Chili Cook-Off Champion, 2009, trophy. Congratulations to all!

The official purpose of Saturday's bi-annual general membership meeting was to elect a new slate of officers for the 2010 OYC Board. With a quorum present, the slate was approved and the 2010 Board elected.

Pat, *Bay Dreamer*

### Just Released: The Judges' Secret Commentary on the Chili Cook off

First, I have to say that it was a great opportunity to taste these wonderful dishes, even if Pat brought them into the office where we were sequestered and ordered us to "stop goofing off and get serious!" So, we did.

It was tougher than we thought it would be: all the dishes brought their own special merit to the palate. With Nabil's assistance, we went with a "Western Theme" when describing the winning chillies, as we liken chilli to the Wild, Wild West. Perhaps chilli even had a large part in opening the west to the explorers of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Who knows?

After a long verbal wrestling match and finally resorting to "rock, paper, scissors" (just kidding!), we came up with the top three and an amazing "honourable mention. Here are our commentaries on those most excellent chillis:

**Honorable Mention (Number 5):** This is an *avante garde* blending of sea and land not often found in the Wild West. Its mixture of shrimp, mussels, and chicken lassoed together with cilantro and other spices reminded us of the jambalaya found in the Creole section of Ole N'Orleans. YeeeeeeHaw!

**Third Place (Number 7):** It's a downright down-west off the Pecos trail "Feed Me Seymour" delight, full of just enough cactus to bring a touch of Ole! to the old Chisholm trail, or to remove old paint from your driveway. Please use proper hazmat procedures when handling it.

**Second Place (Number 8):** This is a delightful reminiscence of how the West was won: robust and full

bodied, it dances on your tongue with the verve and panache of a dance hall maiden trying to sing a soothing lullaby: you love it, but it sure doesn't put you to sleep. Sing us another song, honey!

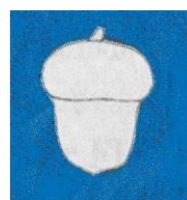
**First Place (Number 2):** This first place winner is a saucy little chilli, with subtle hints of tumbleweeds and roadrunner, an overpowering concoction which quickly sneaks up on you like an old maid at a Sadie Hawkins dance. Stay sharp and watch yourselves, gentlemen!

In other words, we loved them all! And we loved the appetizers and the desserts...oooh, yeah.

Carol, *Time2Play*



Some of the fun at the October 24 Membership Meeting captured by Nabil.



**Treasurer**

**Kathie McCormally**

### October Election Meeting Turns Profitable for OYC

A huge thank you for all of you OYC members who attended the October election meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed all of the great chili, appetizers and desserts that members made to compete for prizes, and the club benefited from the 50/50 raffle held to boost our declining treasury. The club and lucky winner, Maria Gibbons, each made \$153.00! Congratulations Maria!

The additional money will help pay for the up-front expenses for our upcoming holiday party, and for the

monthly printing of *The Daymarker* which we all look forward to receiving in our mailboxes each month. Since we are a non-profit group and have very few fund raising events throughout the year, we depend on members' dues and little money makers like the 50/50's sprinkled throughout the year to keep us afloat. The merchandise offered by the quartermaster has little or no profit margin since we are not in the money-making business but still want to offer items with our club logo to club members. When the holiday party invitations arrive at your house in November, you will also receive a form to renew your OYC dues. Consider renewing at the same time you RSVP for the holiday party and thank you for your continued support of our OYC.

Kathie McCormally, *Jayhawker*

## Don't Forget...

### Hardy Souls Cruise November 6-8, 2009

Coordinator: Ned Rhodes

Contact Ned for your place on this last major cruise of the season. Don't delay, act today. Ned and Arleen will be taking those weather-hardened OYC-ers to National Harbor, with its floating docks, spacious slips and great restaurants. Ned and Arleen are working up a fun schedule that might include shopping in Old Town Alexandria, drinking contests, dog walks and the usual complement of eating and telling lies. Sadly, unlike last year, the Cirque du Soleil is not scheduled to be in town, despite Ned's many calls to those wily acrobats.

Please email Ned at [ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com](mailto:ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com) to let him know you are coming, along with the number of people, number of dogs, number of nights, boat specifics and power requirements. Ned promises to get back to you with instructions on how to make the final arrangements.

Bonus Offer: don't forget that Kiersten (AKA "Swab" or "Sally") Freedman has offered to walk your dog at the Hardy Soul's Cruise!

## 28 November Santa Cruise to Occoquan

The Saturday after Thanksgiving will again inaugurate OYC's holiday season as we gather at the OHM gas dock for food and drink followed by our traditional ferrying of ole St Nick himself to downtown Occoquan. So, decorate your boat, crank up some holiday music, bring some libations and munchies to share, and be in place on the OHM gas dock around 10:40 AM so we can enjoy an hour of merry making before cruising away at 11:40 in order to have Santa arrive promptly at the Occoquan Town Dock at noon for the Occoquan Merchant Association's Christmas kickoff. Our horns will be blaring and hundreds of excited children will be waiting and cheering.

We've had very mild weather the past few years, so no one has an excuse for missing this fun event. See you there Nov 28th at 10:40.

Skippers planning to attend: please e-mail me or call 703-243-2430 so I can make sure we will have at least one boat for Santa. This is especially important this year as FYC closes four docks in late October for rebuild and many boats will be moved or pulled out for the season.

Thanks, Walt Cheatham, your Santa cruise coordinator

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## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Kathy Corley	11/2
John Heinze	11/3
Trish Mattke	11/6
Dick Lynn	11/7
Kevin Bell	11/11
Kee Jun	11/16
Kim Lasch	11/16
Stephen Wexler	11/16
Christian Rose	11/18
Henry Lovell	11/19
Randy Willetts	11/20
Donna Lensis	11/23
Ilona Zsirai	11/27
Joe Livingston	11/30

### Anniversaries

Theodore & Ilona Zsirai	11/7
Mark & Mary Ann Schall	11/13

### New Members

We welcome Tom and Robin Strobel of Sterling, VA. They keep their 19' Bayliner at EZ Cruz in Woodbridge.

We welcome Michael and Milissa Samphilipo of Westminster, MD. They keep their 35' Chaparral *Spartina* at Hoffmasters.

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### 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



## More photos from the October Membership Meeting and Epicurean Challenge



Larry Freedman (OYC Vice Commodore) and Barbara Freedman with Sue Thompson

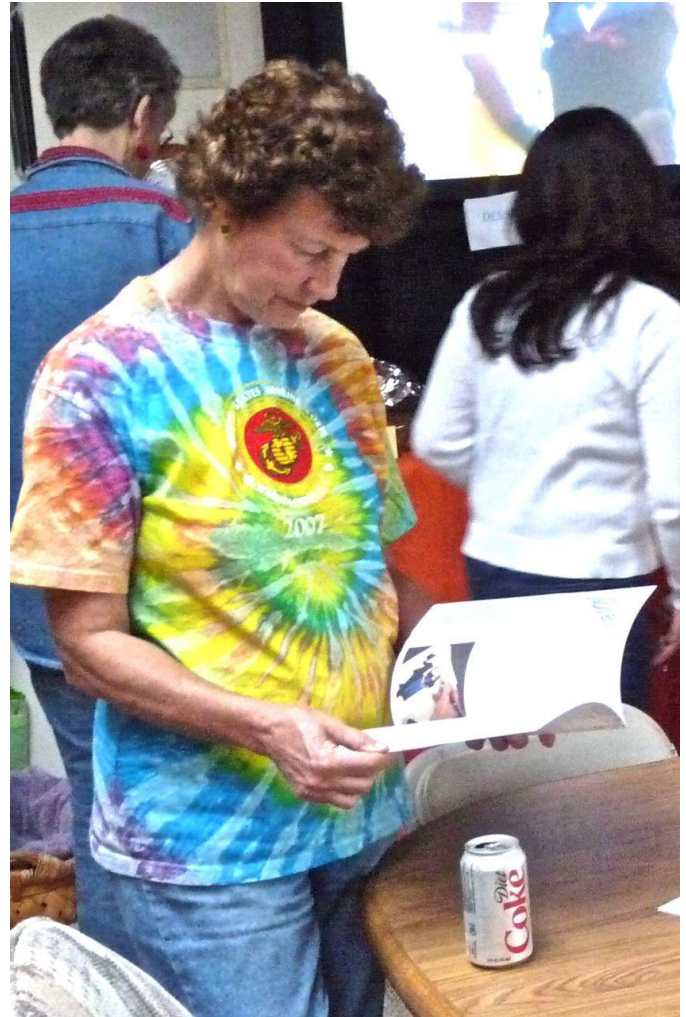


Harry Croft, Commodore, raises the Chili Cup for presentation to this year's winner, Patricia Maxwell



They can't believe they ate the whole thing! L to R: Joe Livingston, Eric Belcher, Al Jorsey and Lynanne Jorsey

Want to boat in December? If you answered yes, then consider joining the **Annual Parade of Lights**, a boat gala from the Washington Channel to the Alexandria Waterfront. See the flyer on page 7. Prizes will be awarded. For more information and to register, contact Lorraine Lloyd at 703-746-3303.



After dinner studies: Gayle Wix pages through the 2009 OYC directory



That look of surprise on Steve Thompson's face (left) must have been captured the moment he discovered he had swept up Third Place in the desserts category with his Chocolate Fudge pie, as it was his first pie attempt. Thanks Steve! It was delicious.



# Parade of Lights



**\$2,000  
CASH  
PRIZES**

**Saturday, December 5, 2009**

**Washington Channel & Alexandria Waterfront**

**10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary**

**WASHINGTON CHANNEL TO ALEXANDRIA  
PARADE ROUTE**

**AWARDS PARTY & CELEBRATION IN ALEXANDRIA**

Have Fun & Win!  
Join your fellow  
boaters for some fun  
& friendly  
competition! Win  
Cash Prizes,  
Shopping Spree,  
Weekend Get-a-  
ways, Marina Stays  
& more!

**FESTIVITIES IN GEORGETOWN  
ON SUNDAY!**

For registration & further information  
contact Lorraine Lloyd at 703.746.3303

or [LorraineLloyd@AlexVA.com](mailto:LorraineLloyd@AlexVA.com)

or

**Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/HolidayBoatParadeofLights/](http://AlexandriaVA.com/HolidayBoatParadeofLights/)**



6-8 November 2009  
Hardy Souls Cruise  
National Harbor  
Ned and Arleen Rhodes  
703-741-0861  
ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com

27-29 November 2009  
Tree Lighting/Fireworks  
National Harbor  
OYC Board

28 November 2009  
Santa Cruise  
OHM to Occoquan  
Walt Cheatham  
703-243-2430

5 December 2009  
Washington Channel and  
Alexandria  
Parade of Lights  
Lorraine Lloyd  
703-746-3303

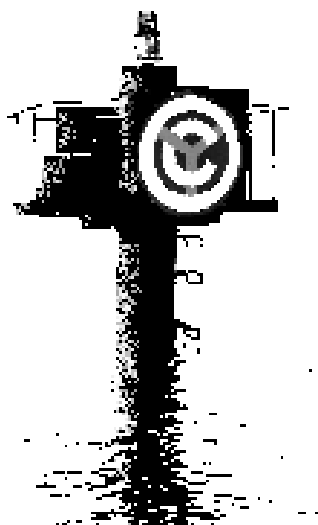
12 December 2009  
OYC Holiday Party  
and  
Change of Watch  
Laurel Hills Golf Club  
OYC Party Committee

*Inside this edition...*

**Details on the Membership Meeting in  
Commodore's Comments and  
outcomes of the Epicurean Challenge  
in the Secretary's column.**

**Just a few cruises left this year! Join  
Ned and Arleen Rhodes for the  
November Hardy Souls Cruise and  
Walt and Susan Cheatham for the  
Santa Cruise to Occoquan**

**Take your boat for a pre-Christmas run  
up the river in DC/Alexandria's Parade  
of Lights (see page 7 for details)**



*The Daymarker*

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

**Change Service  
Requested**