



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

Boating Safety

I hate to be a nag but a recent accident highlights the need for constant vigilance on the water. DON'T DRINK and DRIVE is a great rule for boat operation as well as car operation. As the pictures on the next page (this is on the little island in Occoquan Bay) so clearly illustrate, there are several lessons that can be expounded on here.

1. **Don't drink and drive** – The local authorities are really clamping down on drinking while steering a boat. Not only do you imperil your life and the lives of those traveling with you, but you could easily harm other boaters, me perhaps! Travel the river and bays, park the boat, and enjoy your favorite beverage, but be aware of your condition before you drive away!
2. **Avoid night boating** – Night travel is inherently dangerous due to debris in the water, logs etc., other boats that aren't well lit, disorientation due to lights, and of course, inexperienced boaters. Even experienced Captains take night operations very seriously. I'm sure the owner of the marooned boat didn't intentionally run up on the island, but limited night vision, alcohol perhaps, and knowledge of the area all may have been factors.
3. **Speed** – Many boaters simply go too fast for the conditions. Limited visibility and wave action all dictate a change in speed. Lowering the

speed can often result in a more comfortable ride and increased time for reacting to dangerous conditions, such as meeting a boat head-on in the fog!

4. **Dock safety** – Wear foot covering whether it is flip flops, deck shoes, sneakers, etc, but bare footing the docks can result in a serious splinters, cuts, and slipping. How many times have you seen kids running on the docks with no shoes? Not a good thing! Another safe practice is for kids to wear a floatation device when on the docks at any time. Kids will be kids and running and playing without some measure of safety is perilous. Protect them with safety vests. There are a wide variety of comfortable vests that will keep their heads above water.

As we come to the end of another successful boating season, I was really pleased to see how many OYCers were out cruising the river and bay on Labor Day weekend. OYC had boats in Crisfield for the Crab Derby and Boat Handling contests; several boats in Solomons Island, and several boats in St. Mary's River. As reported to me, even with a few mechanical problems, everyone had a grand time and made it back to their home ports without injury or harm to the boats.

The "CUP" from our victory at the PRYCA Float-In is making the rounds for those who participated in the contest. We've allotted a month's time for bragging rights with Jim Hawley and Meimie Tidrow having the first go at displaying the trophy for their kayak race. Tom Lensis is next up for his masterful navigation test results.
(cont'd page 2)

(cont'd from page 1)

Rick and Teresa Sorrenti, Jim and Judy Dooley, Eric and Carol Belcher and lastly, my first wife and current bride, Pat, will all get a chance to display The "CUP" for a month's time!

Volunteers Needed: Please consider volunteering for a position on the Board or Staff. OYC cannot operate without the assistance of volunteers to do a wide variety of jobs. Many of the same people, year after year, step forward and keep the club going. None of the positions take a lot of time, but they are all critical to the continued operation of OYC. Call our OYC IPC, Joe Livingston, or me if you interested.



Whew! I'm glad the Captain had a fender out, just in case he hit a tree!



Maybe the Captain wanted a closer look at the duck blind? After all, it's almost hunting season.

Harry, *Bay Dreamer*



Vice Commodore

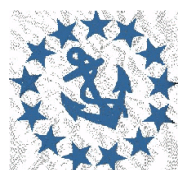
Larry Freedman

Fall Activities and Boat shows

While we enjoy fall cruising with its cooler weather and less crowded destinations, it is also the start of the boat show season. You all may be familiar with the two big shows in Annapolis – on Oct. 8 -12 for the sailboaters and 15 – 18 October for the rest of us, including Nabil. These shows are huge and a great experience even if you are not looking for a boat, because of all of the equipment vendors who will have booths set up at the shows. Check out www.usboat.com for more information.

You may not be familiar with another, smaller show that will take place in Solomons, MD at the Calvert Marina – TrawlerFest on Oct 2 - 4. This show specializes in that hazy class of boats known as trawlers and is much less crowded than the Annapolis shows. This means that you can take your time poking around the boats more and chatting with the boat designers who are sometimes at these shows. It's a lot of fun to ask these guys why they did something the way they did. If you are an express cruiser/go fast person, you are going to want to skip this show. Check out www.passagemaker.com for more information.

Larry, *Takin' to the Sea*



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

OYC Labor Day Cruise to St. Mary's Yachting Center

The Labor Day Cruise to St. Mary's Yachting Center had everything you could want in a cruise – good weather, good friends, good food and good times in a lovely setting. Randy and Susan Willetts (*Takin' it Easy*) and Rebecca and I (*Great Escape*) arrived on Friday afternoon, just in time for afternoon libations. This was followed by dinner under the stars at the Tiki Bar, and karaoke music featuring surprisingly good performance by 8-year old Caitlin and old timer "Wild Bill," who received a standing ovation from us.

Saturday morning included walks around the well-kept marina and campgrounds followed by the arrival of Eric and Carol Belcher and their friends Skip and Julia Beall (*Time2Play*) and Steve and Jill Stanley (*Bout Time*).

After a “brutal” afternoon of relaxing by the pool, we had a delightful group dinner at the restaurant followed by live music under the stars from a quite decent band at the Tiki Bar.



OYC members enjoy dinner at the Torpedo Grill restaurant at St. Mary's Yachting Center. L to R: John Heinze, Steve and Jill Stanley, Randy and Susan Willetts, Rebecca Heinze, and Carol and Eric Belcher (blocked from view in background: Skip and Julia Beall)

Sunday was another beautiful day and we made the most of it by relaxing by the pool and by kayak rides on the river, truly one of the best ways to appreciate the scenic beauty and serenity of the St. Mary's river. Sunday evening we cooked out on a grill furnished by the marina, listened to the band play at the Tiki Bar, watched the sunset and just enjoyed the conversation.



Eric and Carol's friends Skip and Julia Beall.

Monday morning we were up at the crack of 9:30 for a delicious shared brunch featuring bellinis (sparkling wine, peach purée and peach schnapps) provided by Rebecca. I am pleased to report that all of us made it safely back to the marina, where we shared tall tales of our adventures with others who had celebrated Labor Day by enjoying boating.

Looking forward to more fun...

John & Rebecca, *Great Escape*



Secretary

Pat Croft

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO FEATURE TRIPLE EPICUREAN CHALLENGE:

APPETIZERS CHILI DESSERTS



Sometimes it's hard to break from tradition. The OYC board found that to be the case when it tried to bring a little variety to the October Membership meeting this year by replacing the time-honored Chili Contest with something – anything – different.

Many ideas were discussed, including Oktoberfest, which is the event the published calendar proclaims to be taking place, along with the annual election of board members. However, while the election will indeed be held, don't expect to find any bratwurst on the menu. That is, unless some inventive chef finds a way to include it in their chili recipe.

When it came down to the final decision, the board concluded that it just wouldn't be an October Membership Meeting without the chili. So we are challenging all OYC members, culinary novices and chili champions alike, to enter the annual **Chili Cook Off** at our October Membership meeting. **Show us whatch ya' got, pawdner!** Bring on the hot sauce, the chipotle, whatever secret ingredient your 'as yet to be discovered' or 'world-famous' recipe calls for, and lay it on the line – this year's winner will take home the first-ever OYC Chili-Champion trophy! That's right – trophy! – along with the obvious, associated bragging rights and a \$20 gift certificate to the OYC Quartermaster Store.

Keeping tradition in mind, the usual **Dessert Contest** will also be on the agenda, so if chili isn't your thing, you can compete against fellow dessert specialists. But in the interest of adding new spice to the event, you can also enter a bid for most **Awesome Appetizer**.

You will, by now, have noticed that these three contests span the culinary courses necessary for the menu of the day. By entering the contest(s), you are fulfilling the usual 'bring a dish to share' concept, but with a competitive twist. First, second, and third place winners in each category will receive \$20, \$15, and \$10 Gift Certificates to the OYC Quartermaster Store, which will be open for business at this event.

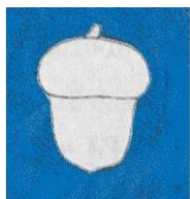
Competitors may enter any one, two or all three of the categories. Those who do not wish to compete, but do

want to fulfill the 'bring a dish to share' request, can bring whatever they would like, but only the homemade entries will be judged for prizes.

Start planning your culinary strategy now – October 24 is the date, Fairfax Yacht Clubhouse is the place, and while the election of officers is the reason for the general membership meeting, the main event will be the **Triple Epicurean Challenge – Appetizer, Chili, and Dessert Contests**. Remember, **only homemade entries** will be judged, so, gentlemen, ladies, tie your aprons, don your chef's hat: the oven-mitt glove has been thrown down. May the best cook win!

(Please note that we will also hold a 50-50 draw at the membership meeting...come prepared to win!)

Pat, *Bay Dreamer*



Treasurer

Kathie McCormally

Cruising the Northern Neck

For the past 8 months, Brian and I have been looking at properties in the northern neck of Virginia. We hope to find a second home on the water that might eventually become our permanent home when Brian retires some day. Our search has helped us become more familiar with the area and has provided us with some enjoyable cruises on our boat and some great places to wine and dine as we explore some of the rivers and creeks that flow into the Potomac along the northern neck.

One of the first warnings given to us by fellow OYC members was to avoid properties near the fish plant in Reedville, Virginia. The Reedville fish plant is located on Cockrell Creek, the first creek on the right as you enter the Great Wicomico River. The Great Wicomico flows into the bay just south of where the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay meet. One of the properties we visited was on Barrett Creek, located halfway up the Great Wicomico on the left side of the river. We decided to take the boat to the area and see for ourselves if odor would be a determining factor when considering this property. We soon discovered that the smell from the fish plant travels north, not south, so most of the properties on the Great Wicomico are odor free. We actually travelled up Cockrell Creek into Reedville and found that the odor on that day was really just strong around the plant. As we moved past the plant and into Reedville, the odor faded. We docked at the Reedville Marina, had a great dinner at the Crazy Crab restaurant, located at the marina. We took a long walk up the street from the marina and enjoyed looking at all

of the historic properties that line the street on both sides. On the way back to the boat, we stopped for ice cream at a great little ice cream shop about a block from the marina, and ran into some friends of our daughter who already own a vacation home just across the Great Wicomico at Sandy Point. They did not feel that the smell from the fish plant was a problem at their property. They also recommended another restaurant, Tommy's, which is about 2 blocks up from the marina. We spent the night at the Reedville Marina and returned home the next day.

As we continued our search for property, we soon became familiar with two other rivers in the area. Just up the Potomac from the Great Wicomico is the Little Wicomico. We found several homes for sale on this river but received mixed messages about the water depth at the mouth of the river and the fish plant smell. Our real estate agent surveyed several neighbors about both issues and found that each resident had his/her own opinion. The long time residents did not notice the fish smell, but some newbies found the smell to be an issue, but not one that was noticeable very often. Since this river is just north of Reedville, we were concerned the smell might be something to consider. The water depth can be an issue, but the river is dredged from time to time at the mouth. Rumor has it that it might be due for another dredging soon. Since we did not find just the right property in the area, we moved on to the second river in the area, the Yeocomico.

The Yeocomico River meets the Potomac well before the Potomac and the Bay meet and is far enough north that the Reedville fish smell is not an issue. The mouth of the river has deep water, but make sure to follow the daymarkers as you enter the river since the water can be shallow on the north side of the river as you leave the Potomac. We found this area desirable for many reasons, but the biggest benefit was the time we would save travelling to the area on our boat. It had taken us 3 ½ hours to get to the property on the Great Wicomico. On our second trip, we were able to get to a property on the Yeocomico in just 2 ½ hours. We had no problem navigating the river, even with three branches that each led to something different. We had a great dinner at The Moorings Restaurant, located on the middle branch of the river at the Port Kinsale Marina.

As we continue to search for just the right property in the Northern Neck, we have become more and more convinced that it will be a great area for weekend home and for a permanent home if we decide to retire in the area some day. The people we have met have been friendly, helpful and very welcoming. The pace of life is much slower with very little traffic and quiet, peaceful neighborhoods where the people look out for each other and have time to just enjoy their beautiful surroundings. If you are looking for a quiet place to spend the weekend on or off of your boat, consider driving or cruising to the northern neck and check out all it has to offer.

Kathie McCormally, *Jayhawker*

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Nancy M Henry	10/2
Jill Stanley	10/2
Bob Wilcox	10/2
Mark Schall	10/4
Carolyn Wixson	10/8
Carol Belcher	10/9
Terry Matkke	10/11
Caroline Lynn	10/19
Peggy Johnson	10/24
Rebecca Heinze	10/31

Anniversaries

Joseph & Sally Hoffmaster	10/1
Rick & Teresa Sorrenti	10/6
Kenny & Sharman Harris	10/18
Peter & Pamela McLeod	10/26

Funeral Arrangements for Tom Coldwell

Final arrangements have been made for Tom Coldwell, intrepid OYC member extraordinaire. His funeral will be held on 23 November 2009 at 1 pm at the Ft Meyer's Chapel, officiated by a retired Navy Chaplain. The ceremony will be followed by an in-ground interment, with full military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery. Following interment, a reception will be held at the Community Club on Ft Meyers. Please attend and pay your respects to our good friend and long-time member.

Great Cruise Reviews

Crisfield trip – Boat Docking Contest – Labor Day Weekend

We had a good crowd that attended the Crisfield trip over Labor Day Weekend. In attendance, the Harris aboard *Darn Tootin'*, The Mansours aboard, *Kayley-E*, Crofts on *Bay Dreamer*, Myers on *Sandra Louise*, Lensis and guests aboard *Copy Cat*, Dooleys on *Just Chillin'* and the Bells aboard *Deja Vu*.

We arrived on Friday around 3:30 p.m. and were greeted by *Darn Tootin'*, *Bay Dreamer*, *Sandra Louise*, *Copy Cat* and *Kayley-E*, who were already in port ahead of us. The Dooleys were the last to arrive around 6:30 p.m. The early arrivers reported rough seas on the way to Crisfield but Captain Larry and I got a late start, as usual, and we did not encounter anything more than a few three foot ripples around Point Lookout.

On Friday night, we dined at Olde Crisfield Crab and Steakhouse, and after a two hour wait, yes, that's right TWO HOURS, we finally got our food, well, most of us got our food. They got half the orders wrong and I never got a meal at all. After I voiced my complaints to management, my meal was delivered to me. I refused to pay for it or for Larry and Kiersten's meals. I do not recommend this restaurant to anyone, no matter how hungry you are. The service was bad and the food was not worth the wait.

We headed aback to our boat, and chatted with some of our friends from PW Marina, who were there for the weekend as well.



A merry group of OYC-ers dining at Waterman's Inn

On Saturday, everyone did their own thing. Larry and I walked into town to watch skiff races, which were a hoot. By evening, we were famished so we went to Waterman's Inn for dinner and the service and food at this restaurant is fabulous! What a difference from the night before. We had 16 people for dinner and everyone enjoyed their meal. We waddled back to the marina, just in time to hear the Rolling Stones tribute band, Hot Rocks, perform. Personally I thought the lead singer looked more like Steven Tyler than Mick Jagger!



Boat docking contest: from docked to spun around, backed in, 4 lines over 4 pilings in under a minute—priceless!

Sunday was the main event of the weekend: the boat docking contest. The weather was perfect. The contest was fierce and object is to back into a slip and tie up all four lines and get off the boat as fast as you can, most

boats complete this in under one minute. The winner takes home a very nice trophy and several thousand dollars. This year, we had a new winner, some young 'un who beat out the champion from years past.

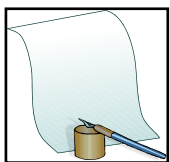


Wearing Harry's crab hat as a stylish accessory, Kiersten is featured on the local Crisfield news.

On Sunday night, some of us gathered for a pizza dinner on the docks; I missed it, as my back was out of commission for most of Sunday and I was stuck on the boat in one position. It is tough getting old....There was a nice fireworks display on Sunday night, which I was able to watch from our boat, then on Monday we skipped the planned brunch as the weather was unstable and the forecast called for rain. There were quite a few black clouds hovering so we departed before 9 a.m. for home ports.

The crew of *Takin' To The Sea* stayed for awhile longer and enjoyed one more morning at Somer's Cove. Before departing, we signed up for next year's events and who knows, maybe this time a girl will enter the boat docking contest and win! I have my fingers crossed.

Barbara Freedman, *Takin' To The Sea*, back on 16!



OYC Junior Reporter
Kiersten "Sally" Freedman

Somer's Cove Marina—Crisfield

A Five Star Review

Crisfield was awesome, as usual. They had a carnival with games and rides. They had vendors and lots of crabs, so if you like crabs, take a vacation day and go down there for a three-day weekend. Every year Crisfield, Maryland has a festival with crab races, skiff races, crab picking contests, and a boat docking contest, my favorite. Many fishermen with big

workboats come to win \$15,000. Anyway, I was on TV for this event (Channel Four), so you should go to their website and look for the person with the crab hat (compliments of Mr. Harry Croft.) Some people fall in the water during these races, though only one person did this time. These fishermen must dock their boat, and loop four dock lines around the pilings. That's funny stuff! They group the boats into four categories: small boats, medium boats, large boats, and wooden boats. All in all, I had a great time and I hope everyone else did too. I look forward to walking your dogs at the Hardy Souls cruise! PS: I have a reward after every walk for the dogs!



Until next time, best wishes to all!
Over and Out, Sally, AKA Kiersten

Nabil and Lucy Dubraque have joined the dark side! Leaving their sailboat behind, they have entered the 21st century in their recent purchase of a Nimble pocket trawler, *High Cotton*, with dimensions of 25' long, 8.5' beam. They continue to keep it at Colonial Beach Yacht Club. Yes, that's right folks, they have embraced the internal combustion engine at last.

Hardy Souls Cruise November 6-8, 2009

Coordinator: Ned Rhodes

November will be soon upon us and that means it is time to think about making reservations for the Hardy Souls Cruise which is traditionally the last big cruise of the season. Like last year, we will again be heading up to the National Harbor. The marina has floating docks, spacious, plentiful slips with adequate power and a friendly dockmaster that make this an ideal location. Most importantly, a Ben and Jerry store is close by. Arleen and I are working on a list of activities which could include drink contests, dog walks and the usual complement of eating and telling lies. Unlike last year, the Cirque du Soleil is not scheduled to be in town, so we will have to put on our own show.

If you need to shop in Old Town, a ferry will take you there and back for a nominal fee, or we could all hop on one boat and make the trek. Our plan is to go up Friday Nov 6, returning on Sunday, Nov 8. I have not made the

final arrangements with the marina, but you should email me (ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com) and let me know you are coming, along with the number of people, number of dogs, number of nights, boat specifics and power requirements. I will get back to you with instructions on how to make the final arrangements.

The facility is beautiful and more and more stores and restaurants are opening all the time. I am confident we will have a grand old time.



This hat is loved by everyone, it seems. Here, Harry models the latest boating fashion trend at Crisfield

The Boating Dog's Life

As this year's boating season nears its end, we have captured a few more of the OYC dogs for your viewing pleasure.



After a rough day of boating, we get hungry at sea. Mr. Wilson prepares to "chow down" at Pat Troy's Irish Pub.



Mr Wilson chose the chicken entrée off the doggie menu. Who knew dogs could read?



Honorary OYC dog Caper, recently visited the home of his human friends, Tom and Donna Lensis. His human caretakers wryly noted that, "I guess if you attend a dinner party that includes the OYC Commodore as a guest, you get your picture in the newsletter." Correct you are! Dogs rule.

Please note that the OYC Shrimp Fest scheduled for October 3 at Hoffmasters has been cancelled by the Board due to other conflicting marina activities

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

9-11 October 2009
Columbus Day Cruise
End of Summer Party
Aquia Harbour Yacht Club
Joe Livingston
703-505-8313

24 October 2009
General Membership Meeting
Election of Board
Fairfax Yacht Club
OYC Board

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

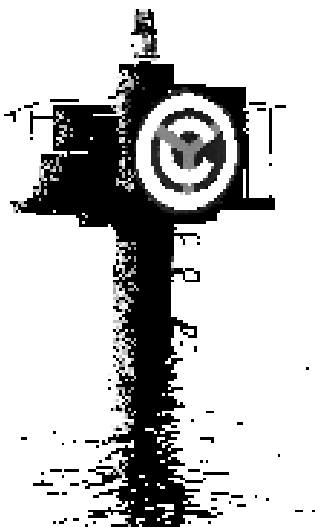
28 November 2009
Santa Cruise
OHM to Occoquan
Walt Cheatham
703-243-2430

Inside this edition...

See the Commodore's comments on boating safety and view the photos of a recent incident in which an island rose up and struck an unsuspecting boat.

Cruise reviews from St Mary's Yachting Center and Crisfield. Our intrepid junior reporter chimes in on the events.

As we near the end of another fabulous boating season, set time aside now to join Ned and Arleen Rhodes in the November Hardy Souls Cruise



The Daymarker

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

Change Service
Requested