



September 2009, Vol. XXVI, No.9

The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

Web site: www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org

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

Dirty, Filthy Bilges!!

Water always seeks a lower point to flow to and on your boat, this is called the bilge. Clean bilges are a genuine asset whereas a dirty bilge can result in all sorts of hassles. First, some bilge basics. A dry bilge is a rarity and probably means the boat is stored on land! Standing water in a bilge is more the norm for boats due to variety of reasons. Rainwater, air conditioner drainage, condensation, leaks, and shaft cooling are just a few of the many sources of water in the bilge. Sinking is another source but I assume you would notice that and take immediate action!

It is a good practice to look into the bilge at the start and end of running the engines. It is amazing how things will show up **between** trips. There is a great deal of useful information that can be discerned just by looking. The best part is that it doesn't cost anything, a real rarity when it comes to boating.

For instance, a little water means that your bilge pumps are probably working versus a lot of water in the bilge, indicating that the pumps or float switches aren't working. Then there are the inevitable oil spills into the bilge. No matter how careful I try to be while changing the oil and filters, oil finds its way into the bilge. On older boats, the many years of changing oil can result in a black sludge-like coating all over the engine space. Keeping your bilge clean is the lowest-cost, automatic problem detection mechanism that can make the difference

between a fun cruise and a shortened cruise. I put white absorbent pads under each engine. That way, if there is any new oil spilled that is not from the last oil change, I will detect it instantly. If there is any amount of shredded rubber on the pads, I will inspect the belts on the engine and change them before they fail. Perhaps the most important use of absorbent pads in the bilge is to prevent oil or other toxic fluids from being automatically and accidentally pumped overboard. This can and does happen and you are liable for the clean-up!! Floating a pad on the bilge surface can prevent this and spare you embarrassment and fines. Just be careful to place the pads so as to not interfere with the float switches on your pumps.

Recently I noticed some nasty looking brownish-red stuff floating in the bilge. At first I thought it was a left-over screw-up spill on my part, but, because I check my bilge often, I knew something else was amiss. As it turned out, the transmission oil dip-stick was not secured properly (yes, I screwed up) and a little amount of transmission fluid splashed out. Fortunately the absorbent pad collected all the bad stuff and the *Bay Dreamer* was once again good to go.

Clean bilges indicate good maintenance and diligence on the owner's part. Dirty bilges mask problems and usually indicate lack of maintenance or inspection. So, the next time you return to port, open the hatch and look in. You never know what you might find. The best thing you might see is nothing—a good thing. If the bilge is dirty, you won't be able to spot anything, so let's clean up those bilges, and make sure nothing bad finds its way into our beautiful rivers and bays.

Harry, *Bay Dreamer*

Your Commodore's EPA and safety tip: Never mix detergent with oily bilge water as this mixture can be more toxic than the oil and more difficult to clean up. Use approved enzyme-based bilge cleaner which is less polluting!



Vice Commodore

Larry Freedman

Get on the water and enjoy Fall Season Cruises

While the summer cruising season will be nearing an end by the time you read this, don't forget that fall is probably the best time of the year for cruising in this area. Marinas and anchorages are a lot less crowded, the temperatures are more comfortable, and there is a lot less traffic in the tight Occoquan River channel. In that spirit, a great place to go in the fall is the PRYCA End of Summer Cruise to Aquia Harbour on October 9 – 12. This cruise is being coordinated by Joe and Gail Livingston, so let them know if you want to go, if you haven't already done so.

That said, hopefully you have been out and about to different places this year. But maybe you have also been reading or talking about places that you would like to go. Please let me know about these places, so that we can begin accumulating a list that can serve as the basis for planning next year's trips. We're thinking about an Eastern Shore trip that covers Cape Charles, Onancock, Tangier Island, Crisfield, Salisbury, and possibly Seaford, Delaware. Any takers?

Larry, *Takin' to the Sea*



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

It's not too late for the Labor Day Cruise to St. Mary's Yachting Center, September 4-7

SMYC is located in a beautiful wooded setting on the Maryland side of the Potomac River just before you get to Point Lookout. This is a friendly, well-run marina with bar, restaurant, swimming pool, clean restrooms and showers and musical entertainment on the weekends. This promises to be a fun and relaxing holiday weekend.

If you wish to join us, please contact me (jheinze@johnadams.com) as soon as possible so your slip space can be reserved. For more information on SMYC, please see their informative website: <http://www.stmyc.com/>.

Looking forward to even more fun...
John & Rebecca, *Great Escape*



Secretary

Pat Croft

Dog Days of Summer at Colonial Beach

This is the first time that OYC has attended this event in any sizable numbers. We had six boats, including the *Summer Breeze II* with Eric and Nancy Henry; *Bout Time* with Steve and Jil Stanley; *Sunshine* with Patricia and Carl Maxwell; *Time2Play* with Eric and Carol Belcher; *Down Time* with Bill and Beth Francis; and, of course, the *Bay Dreamer*!



Aboard *Bay Dreamer*, Commodore Harry carefully reads the label on how to make margaritas

Beautiful weather, flat waters, all made for an easy trip by boat. Gail and Joe Livingston joined the party by land, staying on the *Time2Play* for the evening. The Francis' also had guests, Bill's parents, just to make sure no one got crazy!

A tour of the Ingleside winery and a fun pig roast and dance were highlights for an otherwise low key and lazy adventure. Colonial Bay had organized a great evening of fun that included two live bands: first, *Old School* played outside under the marquis tent; when they finished, *Rebelicious* kicked off inside the restaurant. Both bands provided excellent entertainment.



Carl and Patricia Maxwell agree to try the margaritas

OYC does have some gamblers and they took off on the golf cart to take advantage of the gambling facilities at Colonial Beach. As far as I know, no one lost (very much) and there were no golf carts accidents!



Eric Francis selflessly demonstrates what happens if you drink too many of Harry's margaritas

A late brunch on Sunday with delicious Bloody Marys at the Dockside restaurant capped off a great adventure with good friends and shipmates. We are looking forward to next year's fun already!

Pat, *Bay Dreamer*

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Rob Grant	9/5
Carl Maxwell	9/6
Jun Stewart	9/7
Barbara Freedman	9/10
Joan Hicks	9/11
Mary Ann Schall	9/12

Tom Lensis	9/16
Brian Bryant	9/17
Ralph Mason	9/17
Margaret Grant	9/18

Anniversaries

Joseph & Diane Ward	9/3
Allen & Lynanne Jorsey	9/5
Terry & Trish Mattke	9/8
Bob & Betsey Nalevanko	9/11
Dick & Caroline Lynn	9/12
Steve Bell & Carolyn Dabney	916
Buzz & Kim Lasch	9/16
Carl & Patricia Maxwell	9/21

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our club: William & Sandra Meyers of Manassas VA. They keep their 38' ChrisCraft, *The Sandra Luise*, at Hoffmasters.

Tom, It Was an Honor to Know You

Ned W. Rhodes

And it was fun, full of laughs and memories. Past Commodore (1993) Tom Coldwell passed away in August and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Possibly a "legend in his own mind," Tom set the standard for stories, regaling us with his exploits as a Navy Captain in Vietnam where he jumped a lot of waves, with the Loran Cruise of 1988 (told and retold) and with his photographic abilities. Those were his stories, and he was sticking to them.

Tom and I were in constant competition to take the best pictures. His photographs were artsy and well composed, while mine were pictures of dogs. His exploits will always be a part of the Occoquan Yacht Club lore, especially the time in Crisfield when he kept backing up to compose that perfect picture of the group and actually walked off the dock while looking through the viewfinder. True story and we never tire of telling it (though Tom might have gotten a little tired of hearing it).

I recall one afternoon years ago when Tom drove us to West Marine ("we can have it for you on Thursday"). He was weaving in and out of traffic and chastising the other drivers for their slow driving. When asked about it, he said he had "so little time" and he didn't want to be kept from the good times.

And he and Mary Ann had good times, on and off the boat. It was a sad time for those left behind when they sold *Shalimar* and headed off to Cary, North Carolina, for their next adventures together. We kept in touch via email and the exchange of original (and doctored) pictures. Arleen and I spent a memorable weekend last

year celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with their extended family and friends. The picture from the event shows a lot of happy people, and Tom made us all take off our sun glasses for the shot (a pet peeve). And best of all, he had no need to photo-shop himself into the picture.

Tom's memorial service will be November 23rd at the Fort Meyer Chapel followed by interment at Arlington National Cemetery. There will probably be a reception afterwards at the NCO club. As the date approaches and the plans firm up, we will publish an update.



The Liars' bench, Onancock, 2002. L to R: Tom Coldwell, Bob Wilcox, Rick Sorrenti, *Ralphie*, and Ned Rhodes



Let us
remember
the smiling
the laughing
the talking
the sharing
the caring
and let us
remember the
good times
always.
Fair winds and
a following
seas, good
friend.

Tom Coldwell
In Memoriam



Activity and Comment

from IPC/PRYCA Delegate Joe Livingston

The Tides Inn Cruise was a success. Dolphins playfully followed our boats as seven crews navigated the calm Chesapeake to the Rappahannock River and into Carter Creek to experience several days of great weather and relaxation. The croquet tournament was again suspended but an evening dinner at Trick Dog Cafe made the event list for Saturday night and everyone agreed that the food and service was excellent. We also made an "event" out of the arrival night meal in the Inn's East Room...*what happens there...stays there...*but the management and staff were talking for days! Always a good thing, I'm sure. There were golf, spa and pool activities combined with social hours where a phrase "I have three cases of wine aboard" was often heard as a refrain. Arrival of frozen margaritas set the pace for the Tides and rum runners finished the cruise back, once at Port Kinsale.



The *Miss Ann*, formerly of the Tides Inn Marina, was spotted in June at the Gangplank Marina, DC by the Freedmans. *Miss Ann* has been repowered and is now being used for river tours

Heads Up!! OYC's '09 Calendar has been changed.

The **Columbus Day Cruise** is to Aquia Creek to attend the "Little Italy Comes to the Aquia Harbour Yacht Club for its Annual End of Summer Party". This activity is scheduled for 9 October (Friday) to 11 October (Sunday), with the option to stay Sunday night and return on Columbus Day (Monday). Planned events include Club House hors d'oeuvres on Friday, Social and Dinner Dance with live band on Saturday and Club House Breakfast on Sunday. This event was great last year with a cowboy theme and I am sure it will be even better this year with the Little Italy theme and Italian food. *Gail Lynn II* crew will coordinate the cruise. An OYC Email Broadcast will soon forward a flyer/registration form. When you receive it, please send your completed form and check (Payable to AHYC) to Joe Livingston, 259 Bridgewater Circle, Fredericksburg, VA 22406, for registration.

Finally, it is that time of year to prepare a slate for the upcoming **Election of Officers** at our General Membership Meeting on Saturday, 24 October. As Immediate Past Commodore, I request that you consider serving your Club in a leadership position by contacting me by phone (703-505-8313 or by e-mail: joseph.livingston@verizon.net. **We need volunteers (please step forward) and put your name before the Nominating Committee so that the Occoquan Yacht Club remains strong.**

Cheers, Joe.

Great Cruise Reviews

Lower River Soiree—Corinthian's Yacht Club

The morning of 14 August was clear, cloudless and calm as four boats headed out the Occoquan River for Corinthians Yacht Club: *Time2Play* with Eric and Carol Belcher aboard, *Takin' it Easy* with Randy and Susan Willets, *Great Escape* with John and Rebecca Heinze, and *Déjà Vu* crewed by Kevin and Pam Bell. There weren't enough 'o's' in smooth to describe the cruise down the Potomac River and we pulled into Corinthian's in the early afternoon right on time. Dave Fuchs of Corinthians' Yacht Club guided us into our slips and then took us on an orientation tour of the club and grounds.

What a club! It is beautifully maintained with new or newer docks throughout the majority of which are covered docks. This place is a secret jewel off of Calvert Bay. A beautiful former home is now the fully air conditioned Clubhouse, there is an outdoor pool, guest showers, spotlessly clean bathrooms and laundry facilities. Plus, friendly club members to welcome us. Who could ask for anything more?

After we got our boats secured in the large slips, we headed off to the pool to unwind, beverages in hand. We marvelled at the view of the gorgeous sunset over the Smith River while Eric and John grilled three kinds of chicken wings, sweet white corn on the cob, and red potatoes. There was considerable discussion as to which were the best tasting wings; after several pounds were sampled by hungry boaters, the honey garlic wings were considered the winner but the 'hot and spicy' wings and the 'hint of lime' wings were close contenders. We waddled back to our boats, well contented with the day.

Next morning, but not before 0830, Eric and I prepared Mimosas for all. We had a great time, sitting back, enjoying the morning (especially the low humidity) and preparing our strategies for the poker run. Finally, it was time to start the deck-side poker 'run' that didn't involve any running or any particular poker skill. Each boat was dealt two cards and would be dealt another five cards over the next few days. The object was to get the best

possible or the worst possible poker hand in order to win one of two prizes: a \$35 or a \$25 West Marine Gift card.



L to R: Susan Willets, Carol Belcher, Randy Willets, Kevin and Pam Bell, John and Rebecca Heinze

Many of us wandered up to the pool and worked on relaxing, while Eric kept his phone with him, awaiting a call from our last boat to join us: *Takin' to the Sea* with Mr Wilson, Larry, Barbara and Kiersten Freedman aboard. They arrived by early afternoon in time to be greeted by Paula, another Corinthian Yacht Club member. She had come over to make sure we were having fun at the club. We were. A gracious hostess, Paula requested that we join the club members that night for a chicken roast that they intended to organize for us. We were delighted to accept.

What a meal! Chef Jeff had whole chickens, seasoned and slowly spit-cooked over added wood chips for a wonderful flavour. We ate and talked and enjoyed the company of the Corinthian Yacht Club members. As the evening progressed, tales were swapped of brave boating exploits and big fish. After an evening that included adult beverages, we all retired to the porch of one of the Corinthian's guest cottages to have a sing along. Speaking only for myself, I admit that I sing with great enthusiasm and no particular skill; fortunately I was drowned out by others and Darryl, our CYC guitarist, was very skilled.

The next morning we had our usual OYC brunch on the dock; as always it was another fabulous meal. And the big moment was at hand for the Poker Run. Tensions were high as the boat teams re-examined their strategy. Final cards were dealt and when the top hand was revealed, John and Rebecca Heinze went home with the first prize. The lowest hand prize went to Larry, Barbara and Kiersten Freedman. Before we broke up from the brunch, Dolores, former CYC Commodore, re-appeared at our dock, and presented a Corinthians Yacht Club burgee to our company. Larry, as the OYC Vice-Commodore, accepted the burgee on behalf of all OYC members. Sadly, we had to leave this idyllic jewel and head up river, back to our marinas. I have a feeling that we'll be back again, soon. Ciao, Carol, *Time2Play*



Larry accepts the Corinthian's Yacht Club burgee from Dolores, former Commodore CYC

Sally's Super Reviews

Corinthians Yacht Club



Five Stars: I loved it!!!

Corinthian's was awesome, Mateys! The people were more than hospitable, they even served us dinner! They have a pool to satisfy all your lads and lasses' needs! The pool has a covered area and open areas. The closed area was large enough to make several Shirley Temples with extra cherries on top. There is lots of grass to make your pirate dog (a.k.a. Mr. Wilson, esq.) happy. There are three large grills, two rotisseries, and a large picnic spot. There are five docks. There are summer cottages that the CYC members with the most seniority could rent. They have a *fabulous* clubhouse with a big dining (or dancing) room with lots of tables and chairs, a big living room, some smaller living rooms, a piano, and a very colossal, *huge-o-licious* kitchen with professional refrigerators and fine china provided for your convenience. Ice may be purchased for the massive fee of \$1 per bag. The only bad point was there is no town, but with a marina like this, there is no need for a town!

Until next time, best wishes to all; it's Time to Take To The Sea! Sally, a.k.a. Kiersten Freedman, *Takin' to the Sea*

(Editor's comment: We did not pay her to say nice things)



Kiersten and Mr Wilson laugh outright at OYC-ers' bad singing on Saturday, 15 August

The Boating Dog's Life

Here are a few more photographic testaments to the OYC dogs, the beloved companions of many of our club members. They continue to rack up more travel miles than the president.



Abby Rhodes, who takes care of her humans, Ned and Arleen, shows that she will do anything to capture her beloved tennis ball.



Not to be outdone in the total cuteness category, Corkie has a winning smile. She was so named by her human companions, Rick and Teresa Sorenti, because, in her youth, she was the color of a wine cork.

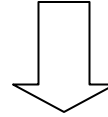


CommoDog Biscuit, a photo-savvy dog if there ever was one, shows off her best side. She is seen here attending the Colonial Beach Dog Days 2009 with her best friends, Harry and Pat Croft
(continued next page)



Nick, who is constantly supervising his humans, Steve and Sue Thompson, would like to say that vacations are tiring...see his demonstration at the left.

Clip out and mail in your application for Aqua Harbour End of Summer Party to Joe Livingston. See pg 4 for details.



Little Italy Comes to the Aqua Harbour Yacht Club for its Annual End of Summer Party

Friday, October 9th thru October 11th 2009



COME AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF ITALIAN FOOD & WEEKEND OF FUN AS WE ENJOY THE END OF SUMMER

Friday, Oct. 9th, 2009
Clubhouse opens at 4pm
Free hors d'oeuvres, pay as you go bar.



Saturday, October 10th, 2009
Transportation available for Golf, visit to Oktober fest 2009, etc
Clubhouse Opens at 8:30am with a Free Continental Breakfast

At the Harbour Inn: 6 - 7:30 pm Social;
7:30pm Dinner followed by Dancing to the music of a Live Band
Cash Bar

Sunday, Oct. 11th, 2009
Clubhouse Opens at 8:30am with a full breakfast to start the day



I plan on attending the "Little Italy End of Summer Party." Please make the following reservations:

Reservations. Your Name _____, Number of Guests _____

Multiple guest reservations will be held under your Name. Club Name _____

Position _____ Your Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Telephone (H#) _____

Cell # _____ Email Address _____

Total number of reservations _____ X \$45.00 per person equal \$ _____

Slip Reservations: Boat Name _____ Length _____

Beam _____ Cost: \$0.75¢ a foot per night. Ft _____ X # of nights _____ equal \$ _____

Power: 30 amps. Cost - \$5.00 each. Number Required _____ X \$5.00 equal \$ _____

Questions Contact: PVC Tom Klapak, (H) 540-659-6124 --- (C) 703-772-6145

Total Costs:

Reservations \$ _____ Slip \$ _____ Power \$ _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Please send this form with your check, marked for: End of Summer Party, for the total amount to: Steve Martino, AHYC Treasurer, 2006 Buoy Drive, Stafford, Va 22554.

Important: Reservations with payment must be received by September 20th, 2009.

4-7 September 2009
Labor Day Cruise
SMYC

John Heinze
jheinze@johnadams.com
703-765-2380

4-7 September 2009
Annual Crisfield Crab Derby
Somers Cove Marina MD
Larry Freedman
703-855-1826

3 October 2009
Shrimp Fest
Hoffmasters
OYC Board

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

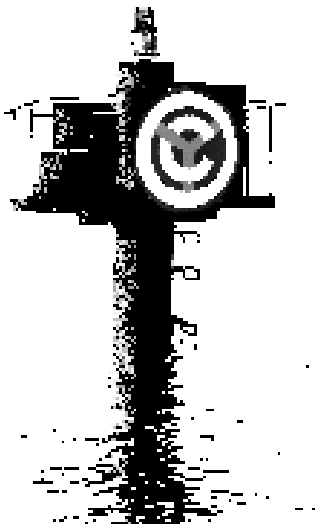
24 October 2009
General Membership Meeting
Election of Board
Fairfax Yacht Club
OYC Board

Inside this edition...

Have you checked the status of your bilges lately? Do you make that a part of your regular maintenance routine? See the Commodore's comments.

Cruise reviews from Colonial Beach Dog Days Cruise and Corinthians Yacht Club. One of the OYC-junior members writes of her experience.

We say goodbye to Tom Coldwell, a good friend and long-time member of OYC



The Daymarker

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

Change Service
Requested