



The Maydarker

The Mighty Cup Winners 2009

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

Commodore

Some woman

Vice Commodore

A guy

Rear Commodore

A different guy

IPC/PYCRA Delegate

Some former Commodore

Secretary

A woman who has all the details

Treasurer

A woman with the money

Quartermaster

A woman shopper with all the stuff

Membership

A woman with all the contacts

Historian

Some fellow who cares about the past

Webmaster

Some computer dude

THE DAYMARKER Editor

Some woman who cares about formats

Wow, there are a lot of women in charge at OYC!

These positions identify a bunch of worker bees but let's face it, who cares what their names and phone numbers are anyway?

It's not like you are going to call them, is it?



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Pat Croft

OYC Commodore Reports Theft of PRYCA Cup

Fairfax County Police have been called in to investigate the disappearance of a large trophy known as the PRYCA Cup. Officials of Occoquan Yacht Club, whose members won the trophy at last summer's Float-In, believe it may have been stolen by a rival yacht club.

Investigators asked club officers if they knew of anyone who might have wanted The Cup badly enough to resort to robbery. "There have been several attempts to take it from us during the past year," reported Commodore Pat Croft. "One club tried to bribe us to let them hold it, planning to simply run off with it once they had it in their hands, and another tried to ply members with tequila shots, hoping to get them inebriated, whereupon the rivals intended to grab the trophy and claim ownership." Vice-Commodore Tom Lensis told detectives he had thwarted one robbery attempt a few months ago, when The Cup had been on display at a PRYCA dinner dance. OYC members left the trophy unattended for a moment when all at the table were enticed onto the dance floor by a particularly rousing band number, and someone from another yacht club was seen whisking it away to another table. "We gave them a chance to come clean, but they denied knowing anything about it. So I went with my gut instinct and looked under their table – sure enough, there it was!" said Lensis. Someone in the rival group claimed that amounted to illegal search and seizure, so now OYC officers speculate that

the same group may be responsible for this latest disappearance of The Cup.

The Cup was last seen at Fairfax Yacht Club during the Occoquan Yacht Club March membership meeting on March 20.

Commodore Croft acknowledges that she and other officers of the Board may have let their guard down a bit, as they revelled in the camaraderie of fellow OYC members. "It was a spectacular day, a time to enjoy being with friends and plan future good times. We may have become a little too relaxed and at ease, thinking we were at a private OYC event," said Croft. But apparently there were others on the premises who were not OYC members, and when it came time to pack up, The Cup was nowhere to be found. "I think it's quite possible that it was an inside job," suggested Rear Commodore John Heinz. "I overheard someone from FYC noting, while looking at The Cup on display, that FYC had never won it. Perhaps they decided they would simply take possession of it."

Fairfax Yacht Club Commodore Harry Croft denied the accusation. "That's nonsense!" he claimed. "Many of our FYC members are OYC members as well, so we all take pride in the fact that OYC won that trophy. FYC has no need to steal it to share in the glory. There is no rivalry between FYC and OYC!" Investigators are checking out the guest list for any uninvited gate crashers who may have had access to The Cup, but Secretary Myndi Harbin noted that the invitation list, as is typical with all OYC events, included members and their friends and family, so it will be difficult to determine if any intruders were among those present. "We don't usually have to worry about security," said Harbin.

(Commodore's Comments con't on page 2)

(Commodore's Comments can't from page 1)

Meanwhile, Treasurer Arleen Rhodes noted that the cost of replacing The Cup would be devastating to the club's treasury. "We're low on funds as it is," she said, "and without any government stimulus coming to bail us out, it will be tragic if that trophy is not recovered."

Joe Livingston, the club's delegate to PRYCA, the organization which sponsored the trophy, said the dollar cost of replacing the trophy would be minor in comparison to the loss of reputation the club will suffer if The Cup is not recovered. "No club has ever won the esteemed trophy and then lost it to theft or negligence," claimed Livingston, "and that is not a distinction OYC wants to earn."

While the authorities continue to investigate the disappearance of The Cup, Tom Plewes, coordinator for the 2010 Float-In, made a plea to all OYC members to sign up for this year's event, and to brush up on their boating safety skills in anticipation of another victory for the club. "We'll recover that trophy in time for the Float-In," vowed Plewes, "and then we'll earn enough points in the competition to win for a second year in a row. Whoever took it from us will be looking at the OYC name engraved on it even bigger this time! Captains – get your vessel safety-checks!"

Pat, Bay Dreamer

**THE LATEST UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION
OF THE FAIRFAX YACHT CLUB DOCKS**

The new docks are getting closer to completion and the most unique dock will be on the upriver side of the Marina. This dock will be made of old beverage cork material. The Crofts have been **SAVING ALL BEVERAGE CORKS** for a few years now, however, more are needed as the construction date nears. OYCers' are being asked to send their used beverage corks to Harry and Pat's home in Burke (as soon as possible) to meet the scheduled construction date of the **FLOATING CORK DOCK!** OYC will hold a ceremony to officially open the dock. An engraved brass placard to be displayed on the **CORK DOCK** will be presented to Harry and Pat Croft by OYC. Watch for the date of this presentation so you will not miss the **RECOGNITION** of these two prestigious people of the **OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB.**

FROM THE OYC GHOST WRITER



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

**MayDarker Special Investigative Report:
Boating Safety Tips from Dog the Boat Repo
Man**

In last year's MayDarker, Rear Commodore and undercover operative-extraordinaire John Heinze exposed the existence of an alarming new business operating in our area - Dog the Boat Repo Man, who's

business focuses on repossessing boats over 100 feet in length. Due to the groundbreaking nature of this news report – and because parts of the initial interview seemed to have been garbled due to the amount of alcohol being consumed - we sent John back for a follow-up interview. Unfortunately, alcohol consumption appears to have affected the quality of this interview as well. Nonetheless, here is what we were able to salvage from the interview, conducted at the same local bar as last year:

John Heinze (JH): How is the boat repo business?

Dog: Terrific. Since the interview appeared in the *MayDarker*, I've cornered the lucrative repo business for 100-foot plus boats on the Occoquan River. It's almost all the business I can handle.

JH: Really! *[Editor: sound of drinks being consumed]*
Bartender, another round!

Dog: Also, I've branched out into selling a very popular line of marine equipment *[Editor: see ads in this issue.]* And I've even been able to buy back my beloved boat, the *Never Again III*. I am really looking forward to boating this spring.

JH: Well, have you at least signed up for the Safe Boating Class? We talked about this last year.

Dog: Don't need it. I've learned so much from trial and error that there is nothing left to learn. For instance, everybody knows about checking for gas fumes in the engine compartment before you start an inboard engine, but I ask you, what boating safety class tells you to put out your cigarette before you stick your head into the engine compartment?

JH: Is that how you got the eye patch?

Dog: Yep and how I lost the *Never Again II*. Another thing I've learned from trial and error is the importance of untying all the docking lines before departing the marina. Even one line can really hold you back!

Plus a tangled docking line can be really dangerous when you are trying to depart at full throttle.

JH: Let me guess, is that how you got the peg leg?
[Editor: sound of drinks being consumed]

Dog: Yep. And you wouldn't believe the expense of dock repair when you don't remember to disconnect the electrical lines. Electrical pedestals are expensive!

JH: I don't even want to think about it. Bartender, another round!

Dog: Another thing I've had to learn from trial and error is the important of not leaving anybody or anything behind. Like your crew – it's never a good idea to leave any of your crew behind. Of course if someone is really

not essential, or you really didn't want to take them along, that is OK, but you probably should tell them that before you leave them there. Otherwise, you're probably headed for a messy divorce, personal bankruptcy and living on the streets for five years, but that's a story for another day.

And you should never forget about your pets. Our guard tarantula was so upset at being left alone in the car for those few hours that she bit me. That's how I lost the use of my left hand.

JH: Seems you have learned a lot of useful lessons. *[More sounds of drinking]* Any other safety lesions you would care to share?

Dog: Well, we always take up-to-date charts and our own VHS radios with us, even when we repo boats. You would think that 100 foot boats with have up-to-date charts and functioning radios, but no – you just can't count on anything anymore.

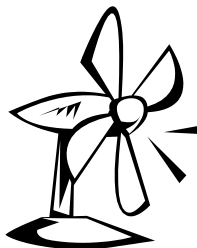
JH: Uh, tarbender...another round please...uh, zzzzz...

[Editor's comment: shortly after this last transmission from his hidden microphone, we once again lost contact with John until later the following day]

Dog's Doggone good Deals! BUY NOW These Items are flying off the shelves!

Docking Controllers – only \$9995 each (while supplies last)!

Do wind and currents sometimes make docking difficult in tight slips? Have we got the idea solution for you! You have seen them work on TV! These are the large fans that power swamp buggies. Now you can have these very same fans for your own boat! You would be amazed at how much maneuverability you will have with your boat with one –or even better – two of these powerful fans mounted securely on your boat's deck! And as an additional bonus, you'll never have to worry about getting stuck at low tide again! Contact Dog at 555-1212!



Cell Phone Back-Up!

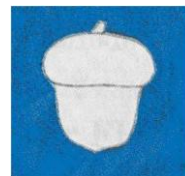
Tired of being without cell phone reception while cruising? Have we got a solution for you! Our guaranteed virtually almost 100% disease-free selection of homing pigeons will speedily delivery your message to

our headquarters where we will promptly forward your message per your instructions! Only \$.25 per word! Call Dog at 555-1212!



Guard Pet Available!

Most people think of guard dogs to protect their premises but tarantulas are proven to be effective in protecting their territory, such as a car or other similar sized property! Like dogs, tarantulas are normally affectionate pets, especially if they are regularly handled! We happen to have an experienced guard tarantula, available at a very reasonable price! Call Dog at 555-1212!



Treasurer

Arleen Rhodes

Ghostwritten by a secret OYC member

OYC Continuing Education Opportunities

Along with the various classes on boating safety, Occoquan Yacht Club is pleased to sponsor the following classes:

Mermaid Fender Inflation – Optimal inflation techniques will be discussed to create the desired bust size from C to Double D. One two-hour session. Please bring your own fender and inflation device.

Secret Shopper – Carl Maxwell will lead a discussion on techniques he has used to find the latest OYC fashions, including distraction, use of the husband chair and layering techniques for the fitting booth. One two-hour session.

Plausible Deniability – Past Commodore Harry Croft will demonstrate his patented deniability tactics using his dog Biscuit. One three-hour session which will include a Mexican dinner. Participants may bring their own pet or rent one at the class. Class needs to be held outside, weather permitting.

Hot Dogs: Beef, Pork or Chicken – Master Weiner Kenny Harris will lead a discussion on filling, length and plumping factors for the various dogs. One afternoon session at the OHM grilling deck.

* * * * *

NEWS FLASH and All the Gossip that's fit to print!!

Sorrentis Purchase New Boat

Rick and Teresa Sorrenti were seen lounging on the new 55 and 54 Sea Rays at the Prince William Marina boat show. Carlton Phillips was seen to pass them the fabled "yellow paper" containing the boat show special price. Knowing glances were passed between Rick and Teresa at dinner that night, and they were both conspicuously absent at the marina that Sunday. We suspect that the sea trial went as planned – all we know for sure is that their boat was scheduled to be pulled the following Tuesday for "waxing" which is probably code for "survey." When asked, Rick poo-pooed the notion of length envy, in comparing his boat to Kenny Harris's 52 docked in the slip next to his. He is reported as saying that his 48 is the 'new 52'. Possible names for the Sorrentis' new boat include "Sea Duck Too Too" and "Sea Duck Too Also." This news has generated a lot of action on C Dock at OHM in what could be considered the classic pyramid scheme. With the Sorrentis moving up, the Tim & Maria Gibbons are set to take over ownership of the Sorrentis' old boat. This leaves Bob and Carol free to move up to the Gibbons' old boat which, in turn, allows Mike and Sarah to move up to a larger boat. Whatever boat is left over will be taken to Tall Timbers for burning over the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

If Ned and Arleen Rhodes ever decide on another boat, there is another possible pyramid scheme involving the Worcesters and Hawaiian Brian (all on OHM's C Dock). It is rumored that the Rhodeses have stashed a new boat in North Carolina that they are keeping under wraps until the economy picks up.

Spring Training for PRYCA cup exposed



Harry Croft hones his skills for the 2010 PRYCA Cup competition with a friend in an undisclosed location

Quartermaster's Early Bird Flag Raising Sale

New OYC Merchandise – Something for Everyone!

(Carl says – "Quartermaster's been shoppin' again!")

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SWIMSUITS, BIKINIS, AND DENTAL FLOSS THONGS!

**Men's and Women's ALL SIZES
S, M, L, 1X, 2X, 3X and more***

***Visit our Special Order Section - Quartermaster will order to fit – limited color selection.
(Note - \$100 advance order service charge, but we guarantee to fit any size.)**

**Special Offer for Flag Raising Sale
Only –**

**All 2pc. Swim Suits
BUY ONE (top or bottom) GET the
OTHER HALF FREE!!!**

**Don't Miss this One-Day-Sale!!!
Quartermaster says, "SEE YA' MAY 1st"
at the FLAG RAISING!!!
(She'll be lookin' for ya'!)**

OYC members go everywhere



Our own past commodore Sue Thompson hanging ten in Hawaii. Looking good Sue!



The Daymarker

2009 PRYCA Cup Champions

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

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Vice Commodore

Tom Lensis
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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Pat Croft

Spring Equals Boat Fever!

Even though we have yet to officially open the 2010 boating season, OYC has already had two well-attended meetings to get into the swing of all things nautical. Outbreaks of boat fever have been quelled by heavy doses of time spent with fellow boaters, discussing summer cruising plans while taking in the water view from the deck at FYC.

And just when you think you can't stand the wait any longer, the pre-season Early Bird Cruise to National Harbor, April 16-18, will offer a little excitement and get you and your crew out for a shake-down run up the river. Are you ready for some cruisin'?

The Flag Raising ceremony at OHM, May 1, will be our 26th annual season opener. My quest between now and then will be to find out if anyone who was in attendance at that very first OYC Flag Raising twenty-six years ago is still a member of the club, and if so, will they be present for the 2010 ceremony? A related question: who is currently our longest-standing, active member, and how many opening-day ceremonies have they taken in? Not that we have a prize to award, but it would just be fun to know.

As for what we *do* know, Rick Sorrenti will be there once again to perform his one-gun

salute to the boating season. That's some starter pistol!

The flags will be raised. Local dignitaries will stop by to observe the festivities and offer a few encouraging comments. The Fairfax Marine Patrol will have their amazing new boat on display. And OYC chefs will grill the finest in burger and hot dog cuisine to be served picnic style with side dishes provided by the members. (This means you – do you have a great new salad recipe to try out on us? Maybe some brownies?) And of course, the Quartermaster will be open for business, giving you the opportunity to obtain the latest in logo fashion.

One other thing we do know - The Cup, having been safely in our possession all along, will be on display and well guarded.

See you on the waterfront,
Pat Croft
Bay Dreamer



ORMA and its affiliates proudly announce the Blessing of the Fleet

May 8th 2010 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Captains and crews! Join your friends for a special time-honored seafaring tradition...dedicated to safety afloat "Launching" the new boating season!

Plan now to captain your boat and be among the hundreds of boats with festive flags and colors! Invite family and friends to participate in a traditional blessing for safe cruising the year ahead **for your boat and crew** with a "flair for safety"!

!

This simple ceremony harkens back in history to times when fishermen and seafarers yearned for good fortune and safety at sea—which was nearly always perilous. As the fleet departed seaward, clergymen invoked a blessing on each vessel as it departed. The Occoquan community re-invigorated the Blessing of the Fleet in 1999 when the tradition was embraced by the yacht clubs of the Occoquan vicinity and the Occoquan River Maritime Association as a fun way to highlight safety afloat.

How does it work?

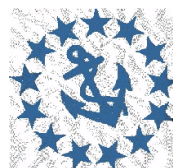
Fairfax and Prince William County First Responders, Coast Guard, and Law Enforcement will lead a procession of boats outbound from Prince William Marina passing the Blessing Boat moored at the Belmont Bay Harbor Marina. Participating boats will form-up proceeding outbound passing the Blessing Boat and, once "blessed", proceed outbound. The procession will include a host vessel with local dignitaries and media representatives embarked. The event is marked by recognition for our First Responders, for safety afloat, and for fun boating!

A detailed float plan and Notice to Mariners will be posted at local marinas and will be distributed through yacht club newsletters and Internet websites.

Plan now to take part!

The Blessing of the Fleet—an Occoquan tradition—is sponsored and coordinated by the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) and its member organizations, with support from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Fairfax, and Prince William County public safety agencies.

Point of Contact: ORMA Coordinator George Allen, jacksfull@aol.com <http://www.ormaweb.org>



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Preview of Upcoming Events –

June 4th Regatta/Potluck at OHM and the "John and Rebecca's Labor Day Cruise"

At our General Membership meeting on March 20th, we had a great time - as we always seem to do - at OYC events with sharing food and conversation. And we had an outstanding collection of photos for the photo contest that reminded us of what we all love about boating.

We also took care of a little business, distributing membership cards and reviewing and updating the schedule of upcoming events. And we had a chance to view the PRYCA Cup that the club won last year at the PRYCA Float-in last year.

June 4th "Regatta/Potluck at OHM" to be called "Prep for the Float-in/Fajita-fest"

And this brings me to an important update regarding the June 4th Regatta/Potluck at Occoquan Harbor Marina (OHM). We really have to come up with a better name for this event. It really isn't a regatta at all – it is a warm-up or an opportunity to prepare for the PRYCA Float-in. Of course, there is only a certain amount of preparation that can be done – the actual contests at the Float-in changes from year to year and none of the participants knows the exact events until the start of each competition. Nonetheless, there are some basic skills that are sure to be useful for the boating season and just may helpful for the float-in. These are the ones around which your Board will organize some activities to refresh everyone's boating skills and have some fun as well.

In addition, we'll provide fajitas as the main course for the meal. And so while we will ask members to bring a dish to share, this will not be your typical potluck. So what do we call this event? A "fajita-fest" is a better description than just a potluck. But it is more than just that. The real purpose, in addition to having fun, is to prepare for the PRYCA Float-in and the competition for the Cup. So how about "Prep for the Float-in/Fajita-fest"? Let me know your thoughts on the proposed new name for this important event.

September 3-6 Labor Day Cruise to St. Mary's Yachting Center to be called John and Rebecca's Labor Day Cruise

Rebecca and I are organizing a Labor Day cruise again this year. Last year's cruise went to St. Mary's Yachting Center but this year we are planning on traveling to a

different location, but one that is in the same general area of the lower Potomac River. Currently we are talking to the Corinthian Yacht Club as a possible location for the cruise. We cruised there last August and found it to be a great destination. However, many details remain to be worked out and until the location is finalized, we are simply referring to this as John and Rebecca's Labor Day Cruise.

Looking forward to more fun.

John Heinze
Great Escape

St Patrick's Day Fun at Madigan's Restaurant in Occoquan



Some of you probably didn't know that Joe Livingston and his friends (pictured above) were actually Irish; however the photo montage above proves it!



Secretary

Myndi Harbin

And the Winner is.....

March Membership Meeting and Photo Contest

There couldn't have been a more beautiful day for the general membership meeting. After the snows of winter and the dreary rainy days of late, that Saturday, March 20th was sunny and 70 degrees. There was a large group gathered on the deck of FYC soaking in the sun, photos from the previous boating season and chowing down on the good eats. This year's photo contest was a huge success. There were 60 entries in the 5 categories. All of the shots were gorgeous, but there can only be one winner so...

People:

- 1st John Wix – Coney Island Creek Shore Fishing
- 2nd Gail Livingston – We Deserve It
- 3rd Barbara Freedman – Hey Sailor!

Places:

- 1st Harry Croft – Sunrise over Aquia Harbour
- 2nd Susan Willets – Tall Timber Marina
- 3rd Barbara Freedman – Sunset over Cobb Island

Pets:

- 1st Lucy Dubraque – Master Chief and Miss Mousy
- 2nd Jill Stanley – Sea Bisquit
- 3rd Dave Moore – Max in the Snow

Phantasy:

- 1st Nabil Dubraque – OOOPS!!
- 2nd Dave Moore – Used Boat Salesmen of the Year
- 3rd Ned Rhodes – WIDE Wilson Bridge

Just Boats:

- 1st Laslo Bozoky - Boats at OHM in Autumn
2nd Ned Rhodes – Rick's Boat
3rd Gail Wix – Sailboat with Magenta Sunset

Winners were awarded with gift certificates to the OYC QuarterMaster. Congrats to all the winners!

Myndi, *Wii Fish*



Treasurer

Arleen Rhodes

At Long Last...SPRING!

And not a moment too soon! We thought this winter would never end! As I look at our yard and contemplate the 'repairs' that need to be done due to the heavy snows, I'm heartened to see crocuses, cherry tree blossoms and little green shoots everywhere (hopefully not weeds!) Now if only that neighborhood eccentric would take down his backyard Christmas tree...oh wait, that eccentric is my husband...

The Rhodes household is also trying to get ready for a new season of boating, of course, each in their own way – Ned is checking the props and ordering new canvas for *Impulse*; I'm exploring sugar-free margarita and low-cal snack recipes; Abby has her new duck for the season and swam herself silly at the launch ramp at OHM Sunday. I guess we're off to a good start.

It was great to see those of you who were at the general membership meeting Saturday. Food and high spirits were in abundance, as usual, and there were some outstanding submissions for the photo contest. And what a frenzy of shopping at the Quartermaster's table! Patricia Maxwell has outdone herself with new items for sale (don't miss her table at Flag Raising May 1st). After the meeting/party we went to the boat show at Prince William Marina to contemplate our next purchase, now that I'm OYC treasurer....

Speaking of which, if your newsletter includes a membership renewal form, it's time to renew! Your club needs you! If you renew now there's still time to include your info in the OYC membership directory, which we find to be of great assistance when we experience those 'senior moments' as we're headed downriver and need to connect boat names with owner names.

Hope you're getting ready for another great boating season – see you soon!

Arleen, *Impulse*

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Bill Mansour	4/1
Sally Hoffmaster	4/10
Kenny Harris	4/12
Kathie McCormally	4/12
Peter McLeod	4/15
Pamela Bell	4/17
Susan Cheatham	4/19
Paula Wexler	4/19
Maria Bryant	4/20
Susan Willetts	4/21
Carol Daugherty	4/22
Don Powell	4/22
Patricia Maxwell	4/24
Laslo Bozoky	4/27
Arleen Rhodes	4/29

Anniversaries

Eric & Nancy Henry	4/12
Steve & Jill Stanley	4/23
John & Gayle Wix	4/24

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

April 16-18, 2010

Cruise Coordinators: Laslo and Linda Bozoky

It's that time of the year again to get our boats ready for a fun filled boating season. Our first cruise of the season is the Early Bird Cruise, which will be April 16th through the 18th. We will be returning to one of our favorite destinations, National Harbor. So far we have twelve boats that signed up at the plan fest for this event.

We plan on arriving early in afternoon on Friday to begin the celebration of the new boating season. Happy Hour on the dock will start at 5:00. Please bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice.

Saturday is a day to spend as you like touring National Harbor or taking a shuttle to Old Town Alexandria. Happy Hour will be between 5:30 and 7:00 on the dock. We are planning a dinner at a restaurant in National Harbor around 8:00. Please let us know if you plan to attend the dinner so we can make reservations.

Sunday we will have brunch on the dock at 9:30. Please bring a dish to share. Check out is around noon.

Please contact the dock master at National Harbor, Eric, at 301-749-1582 for your slip reservations. Have your credit card and boat information ready. Eric has agreed to a 25% discount, so let him know you are with Occoquan Yacht Club. Also confirm your reservation with Laslo at hotschatz2@aol.com or 703-577-9911. Feel free to contact Laslo with any questions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at National Harbor,

Laslo & Linda, *Hot Schatz*

Join us for the OYC Flag Raising!

Take heart Boaters! Boating season is almost here and OYC will officially kick off the season with its annual Flag Raising Ceremony on 1 May 2010 at Occoquan Harbor Marina. The formal event begins at noon but please come early to mingle with your boater cohort, browse through the items for sale that Quartermaster Patricia Maxwell will have displayed, and munch on a few summer season foods. Once again, OYC will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. Please bring any other libations you want and we ask you to, once again, bring a small dish to share with others. This is a great time to introduce potential new members to the fun of OYC festivities. For the official event, we will run the flag up the flag pole and fire the cannon to kick off our boating season. The Board hopes to see all of you there!

Did we FOOL you?

Were you completely taken in by the hilarious articles in the first four pages of this edition? Did you check your calendar? Yes, that's right folks; those pages were a giant April Fool's Day joke. Once again this year, your Board put aside their serious, illuminating and educating articles, let their imaginations run wild and came up with more almost-plausible story lines. We hope you laughed and enjoyed their efforts. When you see your Board members, please thank them for their volunteerism, not only for this edition but for all they do throughout the year!

ATTENTION! FINAL NOTICE for Membership Renewal

For those of you who haven't sent in your annual OYC dues yet, please consider renewing your membership

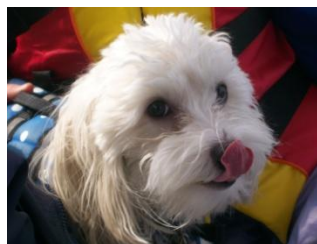
today for 2010. Otherwise, next month you will be missing out on all the OYC fun, including the monthly *Daymarker*, updates on cruises and all your boating buddies at OYC! Come on and have some summer boating fun—join up today!

Sully's Sapper Journal Corner

I give you only the 'hawtest' news, all the time!

By Sully-Sally the (promoted) Mate (and I suspect, part time swabby, still...)

Usually I am here bringing you the "hawtest" news of the marine life, but in this edition, I am sad to announce the most horrible news the *Daymarker* and the OYC has ever faced. As most of you know, the *Daymarker* editor, Carol Belcher and her husband, Eric, have been transferred to Kansas (gad ZUKES, Batman!) starting this May, but wipe those tears away because they will be back in two (2) short years! We will miss them and seeing Time2Play out on the water. We can't wait to see you guys (and your boat off the cinderblocks) soon. Now, kick your chair back and enjoy Kansas!!



Note to Carol Belcher: Mr Wilson will miss you and your nails for massages!

Sally the (now) Mate, *Takin' to the Sea*

(Editor's note: I did **not** pay Sally to write so eloquently about our impending departure but I'm sure you'll be reading more of her cruise commentaries during the 2010 boating season. Enjoy! Bye, bye Mr Wilson!)

The Daymarker

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Marina Building 101

If anyone ever asks you to oversee a dock rebuild project, tell them to plant a kiss on a place where the sun doesn't shine! More than three years ago, I started the odyssey that is now nearly over: the replacement of 138 slips, 4 docks, more than one thousand feet of walkways, 80 finger piers, and 4,500 cubic yards of dredged-up muck, and more than \$1 million in costs.

Ever since Hurricane Isabel in 2004, Fairfax Yacht Club wanted to rebuild the docks. Politics, concerns over costs, and just plain fear prevented the project until 2008 when the Board of FYC finally gave the go ahead to start the project. So where is the dock catalogue when you need one? There was a steep learning curve and thanks to a lot of volunteer help we were able to put together a budget and plan of attack. The budget was almost a show stopper since no funds of any kind had been set aside to replace the docks. (Note: this is a good way to hold down annual dues, but a lousy way to plan for the future.) Prudence prevailed and a three year special assessment was approved and once again we were moving forward.

If you think used car salesmen can be bothersome, you should listen to dock manufacturers. There is nothing comparable between brands or builders. We were able to decide on deck surfacing early on and predictably we are very happy about that. We chose IPE, a Brazilian hardwood that sinks in water, but has no knots or splinters. It's very dense, easy to clean and lasts 40-50 years. As for the other features of a dock, we ultimately tossed the dice and trusted the builders (with a little help from an engineering consultant). Once a dock manufacturer had been selected, (we bought the docks ourselves to save middleman expenses) a contract for a general contractor was awarded. FYC took a chance on a very young man who seemed to know a great deal. FYC hasn't been disappointed. At times we all wondered why things were taking so long, but the project finished on time and under budget. Under budget!!



The First New Dock in Position

Then there was the electrical contractor who can only work in dry weather. Silly goose, what's a little water mixed in with electricity! Would you estimate that on

one dock alone, we had 19,500 feet of wire!! That's nearly four miles! Plumbing was next up and luckily they can work in all weather. Water doesn't seem to bother them.

Change orders are a contractor's best friend! So you want to add or change something?? Honey, order tickets to Tahiti!! No one, absolutely no one, can think of everything that is needed for a project of this magnitude. Just think of how many trips to Home Depot you have to make for a simple home project. Hose hangers, line hangers, little slip signs so people can find their own slip, and of course since everything is torn up, let's add a pump-out station!! Cleats, how many, how big, and where do you want them?

Oh, I almost forgot the wonderful process of getting permits. What started off as a simple building permit turned into a new Special Use Permit, a Minor Site Plan, a Non-Residential Use Permit, and of course the amended building permit because the first permit wasn't compliant with the old special use permit. The county people really understand your need for fast and simple process, more changes, more permit fees, and hearings. Lastly there is the BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals) hearing for the new Special Use Permit which was necessary since the very first permit didn't reflect what was actually built in the first place. Gin and tonic please!

So at some point around November 1st, all the planning is done, the contractors are ready, and now we have one of the worst winters in near history. The April 1, 2010 finish date doesn't look so good. That's the date when everyone wants to start de-winterizing their boat. All 170 owners, including me, are wondering when in July will this project be done. After the last snow storm, I began to secretly make plans to leave the area. Angry E-mails are pouring in....abandon ship!!!

As if all this fun isn't enough, the OYC Commodore is all over my case (I chose another word, but the editor nixed it) to get rid of the dredge bag that blocks the parking lot and makes getting to the clubhouse a chore.

As I write this, the dredge bag is still in the parking lot, but there are plans to rip it open and start hauling the muck away to the landfill. The new docks are all in place, the piling is complete, electrical and plumbing is nearly complete, and only the finishing touches remain incomplete. By April 10th, all the fuss and worry should be a fading memory, and I can get back to retirement, softball, golf, and boating. The irony in this dock rebuild project is that MY "E" dock, where I keep the *Bay Dreamer* was not part of the rebuild project.

(Additional construction photos on next page)



Dredge Bag Nearly 7 Feet High (Helper Dog & Contractor)



The Next to Last Dock Installed at FYC!

Your OYC Board—hard at work



OOPS...Please Rick, no misfires this year!



High Cotton Saves the day!



Thanks Nabil for these clever images!

**Last Call . . . there's still time to register for
*About Boating Safety Class***

To be held at Fairfax Yacht Club

Saturday, **April 10**, and Sunday, **April 11**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day

Earn your certification in just one weekend!

Presented by USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 25-09

Co-sponsored by FYC and OYC

Fee: \$35, includes materials & certification card

To register, call Pat Croft – 703-451-9147

10-11 April
Boater Safety Course
FYC
Pat Croft
703 451-9147

16-18 April
Early Bird Cruise
National Harbor
Laslo & Linda Bozoky

1 May
OYC Flag Raising at OHM
OYC Board

8 May
ORMA Blessing of the Fleet
Occoquan River
OYC Board

29-31 May
Memorial Day Cruise
Colonial Beach
Rick & Teresa Sorrenti
703-494-3302

Inside this edition...

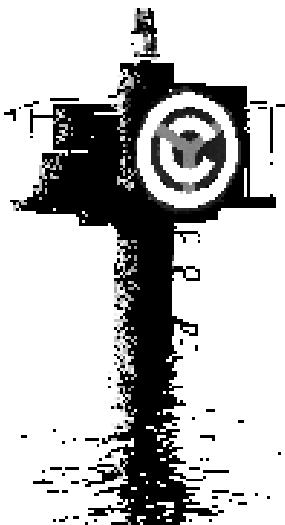
Tragedy strikes OYC—The CUP is stolen...police are investigating

Dog the Repo Man explains the dangers lurking on the Occoquan River

OYC Continuing Education programs offered this spring

The Early Bird Cruise is on again—meet your friends at National Harbor

Who won what in the annual OYC photo contest.



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