



The Daymarker

OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Patricia Croft

Cruise Report: Falling for Florida

It's always good to expand one's horizons, and with that in mind, Harry and I tagged along with Tom and Donna Lensis last month on their long cruise down the ICW to take *Copy Cat* to her winter berth in Stuart, Florida. From there, the plan is to embark on an even bolder adventure to the Bahamas, only 65 miles off the Treasure Coast of Florida, in January, 2011. Tom and Donna's passion for boating is such that they just can't imagine winterizing *Copy Cat*; instead, they'll use her all winter long in warmer waters.

What a great cruise! The journey down the ICW was long indeed; we traveled almost 1,200 miles in 10 days. It was a delightful trip, with mostly fair weather and calm seas; the most difficult conditions we experienced were on Day One, in the familiar waters of Chesapeake Bay, heading for Bay Creek at Cape Charles. The 3'-5' trailing seas gave us just enough rock 'n' roll to make a few of us a little seasick. Thereafter, careful planning on the part of Capt. Tom and Navigator Harry kept us "inside" on the ICW on the potentially foul weather days, and took us "outside" to the Atlantic only on the good weather days. A crew that is not seasick is a happy crew!

Previous to this trip, I had traveled on the ICW only as far south as Grand Dunes, near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, so I was familiar with our first few destinations,

including the Alligator River, Beaufort, and Southport, all in North Carolina. But on this trip, we entered many ports of call that were new for me, including Charleston, SC; Savannah, GA; St. Simon's Island, GA; New Smyrna, FL; Vero Beach, FL; and finally, Stuart, FL. All were charming and interesting, yet each new port was quite different from the last.

Each day, we left one port at dawn and tied up in a new marina in the early afternoon, giving us just enough time at each destination to do a little shopping and a little exploring, and to find a great restaurant for dinner. The consensus was that, among our many fine dining experiences, Hank's Seafood in Charleston was our favorite. Also in contention, however, were the evenings when Donna cooked dinner on board.

In Savannah, we discovered a new Happy Hour drink called A Little Dinghy (*see recipe on p. 2.*) that became our daily, celebratory, "we made it another day without mishap" beverage. Several friends joined us at various points along the way. Sharman Harris was with us for the first five days of the trip, and left us at Grand Dunes with son Ken Harris, Jr., who had joined us in Southport for Days Four and Five. New OYC members Dan and Donna Carr met up with the *Copy Cat* crew for an overnight stay in New Smyrna, FL, on Day Nine. And Tom's mom and dad came to stay one night after we reached our final destination.

Everything south of Myrtle Beach was an exciting, new experience for me. While much of the ICW truly resembles its nickname, The Ditch, I was surprised to also see many beautiful, marshy sounds and wide open
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waterways, especially from Savannah to St. Simons Island. The views included gorgeous waterfront homes along the twisting network of rivers and sounds, an amazing variety of shorebirds, huge cargo ships headed in and out of Savannah, and all manner of vessels, both sail and power. The sailboats, of course, presented a constant obstacle to full-speed-ahead cruising when we weren't in a No Wake zone.

On the days we cruised outside, we had many whale sightings and dolphin encounters. One day, as we cruised inside, a pair of dolphins frolicked so close to our port side that we could almost reach out and touch them. When Capt. Tom throttled up to get back on plane after executing a slow pass of a sailboat, one dolphin appeared to be drag racing us off the mark; the other dolphin quickly caught up with the first and then overtook both him and *Copy Cat*. Having won the race, the dolphins peeled off in the opposite direction, in search of new boaters to entertain, leaving us exhilarated from our encounter with them.

The cruise ended at Loggerhead Marina in Stuart, and after spending several days cleaning and preparing the boat for its layover, we flew back home just in time for Thanksgiving. Having had our great adventure, it was time for us to peel off and return to business. Over the next two weeks, we will be scrambling to make the final preparations for the OYC Holiday Party and Change of Watch ceremony. I hope you have sent in your reply card marked "YES" that you will be joining us, because it promises to be a fabulous party!

This past year as Commodore has been a wonderful experience, and I have truly enjoyed working with the many fine people who give so much of their time and energy to make our club events successful and keep Occoquan Yacht Club a vibrant organization. It's time for me to pass the baton of OYC leadership to Tom Lensis, and I'm happy to be transferring it to such capable hands. I know Tom will keep OYC afloat and on course in grand style. See you at the Holiday Party!

Pat Croft, *Bay Dreamer*

Recipe for "A Little Dinghy"

Mix equal parts:

- dark rum
- coconut rum
- orange juice
- cranberry juice
- pineapple juice

We suggest using an eight-ounce glass to measure each ingredient; pour into a large container, stir, and serve in glasses filled with ice. Garnish with orange slices. Store remaining drink in cooler or refrigerator - your crew will need more than one Little Dinghy!



Vice Commodore

Tom Lensis

Bahamas Bound

We prefer to take our boat to a warmer climate and extend our boating season rather than winterize it and not be able to use it all winter. So, with the boating season coming to an end in the Washington area, we are putting our sites on taking *Copy Cat* south to spend the winter headquartered in Stuart, Florida. From that location we can take side trips to the Bahamas and the Keys. We met the previous owners of our boat; they told us of the many trips they had made to the Bahamas, and it has always been our goal to take our boat there.

Our boat has already been outfitted with many of the gadgets on board—water maker, single side band radio, satellite phone, EPIRB, redundant GPS navigational systems with satellite weather, weather fax, etc.—to make the journey more easily and safely. The problem is some of these items haven't been used in some time and have to be serviced, such as the water maker, satellite phone, and weather fax.

The planning process started with where to keep the boat for the winter in Florida that had easy access to the Bahamas and the Keys. Stuart is about five miles into the St. Lucy Inlet and another 62 miles to the West End of Freeport in the Bahamas. The Stuart area seems to be the perfect place to call home for the winter. Just as our luck would have it, a friend just purchased a home on the St. Lucy Canal in Stuart that has a boat dock big enough to accommodate two 50-foot boats and has offered to let us keep our boat there after he has the power installed on the dock. So for now we made arrangements for a slip at the Loggerhead Club and Marina in Stuart, FL.

Our guests for this journey are Harry and Pat Croft and Sharman Harris. We are leaving on 10 November and our goal is to be back in time for Thanksgiving. We've estimated this trip will take approximately 10 days, if we don't push it and travel 6-7 hours a day. If the weather is good, we'll go outside from Beaufort, NC, into Masonboro Inlet to Southport. And, if the weather holds, we'll go from Southport on the outside all the way to Charleston. In good weather we can go all the way to Charleston in two days. Bad weather just means we do it on the inside and it'll take twice as long to get to Charleston, but it's still great boating.

From Charleston we hope to go outside again down to Savannah, GA. After Savannah, there aren't that many good inlets so the last part of the trip may take a bit more time. From Charleston, this will be new territory for
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me and Donna. Harry has made this trip before and will be a valuable asset to us. We'll be planning the stops day by day after Savannah, depending on weather conditions. We plan to go back down to Stuart in January after the holidays and do one of several trips to the Bahamas. Specific destinations are still being tossed around and debated. Stay tuned to future *Daymarker* articles that will chronicle our journey.

Tom Lensis, *Copy Cat*



Donna Lensis and Pat Croft on board Copy Cat



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

A Few Thoughts to Consider if You Have Not Yet Sent in Your Reservations for the Change of Watch & Holiday Party

Reservations for OYC's most fun event, the Change of Watch & Holiday Party, are due December 1, but I suspect that there are a few members—there always are—who have not yet sent in their reservations.

If this is just because you haven't gotten around to writing the check, putting the stamp on the envelope (it's already stamped), and putting the envelope in the mail (it's already addressed), please do so now, and you don't have to read the rest of this article.

But if you would like a little more info about why this year's festivities are a big deal, just read on.

OYC's Change of Watch & Holiday Party is a Bargain

First of all, let's talk about the cost. The cost for this year's event (\$75 per person) is only slightly higher than last year. The new cost is comparable to, or less than the cost of similar events, including events sponsored by the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Associations.

But why did the costs go up at all? After all, we are back at Laurel Hill Golf Club, the same lovely facility that we have enjoyed for the past two years. Without getting into too much detail, let me just say that Laurel Hill brought in a new manager whose audit indicated that we received services for which the previous manager had not charged. Tom Lensis and Pat Croft did the negotiating for OYC. They, of course, agreed that OYC would pay for all food served, but objected to being charged for services, some of which we didn't need, others we hadn't been charged for before, etc.

The result – the cost for this year's party only went up a little because of the hard work of Tom and Pat. Be sure to thank them at the Change of Watch & Holiday Party.

The Change of Watch & Holiday Party Should be Even More Fun than Last Year

The second point may seem relatively minor but does add to the enjoyment of the party and is a positive reflection on OYC. And you may not have even paid much attention to it. It is that little note on the invitation saying "cash bar." What this means is that you simply buy your tickets for beer, wine, or mixed drinks, and turn them in at the bar for the beverages of your choice. How civilized!

This is in contrast to last year when we were not able to have a cash bar. Then at the very last minute, when we finally found out that all our appeals had failed and we would not be able to have a cash bar, we had to form a social club for the purpose of collecting money for drinks for the party, ask everyone attending the party to make a donation to the club, and hope that the donations would match the cost of the alcohol consumed. Fortunately this worked but was just one more last-minute thing that members and the planning committee didn't need.

This year OYC will be able to have a cash bar, and you can thank Tom Lensis for that at the Change of Watch & Holiday Party. So, if you haven't completed your reservation, don't delay. Send it in today. And while you are at it, renew your membership for 2011. That's what Rebecca and I did.

See you at the Change of Watch & Holiday Party, 6:30 - 10:30 p.m., Saturday, December 11, at Laurel Hill Golf Club.

John Heinze, *Great Escape*



Occoquan Yacht Club Holiday Party

Change of Watch Ceremony and Formal Dinner Dance Saturday, December 11, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Laurel Hill Golf Club

It's time to put away your deck shoes and get out your dancin' shoes! The OYC Change of Watch/Holiday Party is little more than a month away, so keep an eye out for your formal invitation in the mail, and confirm your reservations by replying promptly with the enclosed, pre-addressed and stamped envelope – it couldn't be easier!

***It's NOT too late to RSVP,
even if you missed the Dec. 1st
deadline on your invitation.
Contact Pat Croft to RSVP after
Dec. 1st at 703-451-9147.***

Tickets cost \$75 per person for a fabulous dinner in a formal setting with dancing to live music. Presentations include the installation of new officers for the 2011 Board and recognition of departing officers, as well as the awarding of the traditional honors: the *Golden Snorkel Award*, the *Bent Prop Award*, and the *First Commodore's Cup*.

Attire is Black Tie Optional, which covers a range from cocktail dresses for the ladies and slacks with sport jackets for the guys, to floor-length ball gowns for women and tuxedos for men. Come prepared to marvel at the contrast from our usual boating attire!

This event officially ends the boating year for OYC. The club leadership changes hands, we toast the happy memories of the past season, swap stories of the trials and tribulations of boat ownership, and mark another year of enjoying life on the Occoquan with kindred spirits. Don't miss it!





Secretary

Myndi Harbin

Writer's Block

I have to say, one of my least favorite duties as OYC Secretary has been coming up with monthly articles. I don't consider myself a writer. I am more of an oral communicator, so I write as I would chat. To find inspiration, I would peruse back issues of the *Daymarker* (Thanks Ned!) In doing my "research" for this article, I can across the following:

Articles Sought from OYC members

(borrowed from the December 1998 *Daymarker*)

Yes, you, too, can write for *The Daymarker*. We especially welcome your articles about your boating experiences. The only thing we ask is that you try to maintain the high literary standard which has been the hallmark of *The Daymarker* since its founding in 1884 (or was it 1984? Whatever). To that end, we are pleased to offer these tips on writing articles for *The Daymarker*.

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
5. Avoid clichés like the plague. (They're old hat)
6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
7. Be more or less specific.
8. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
10. No sentence fragments.
11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
12. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. One should NEVER generalize.
15. Comparisons are as bad as clichés.
16. Don't use no double negatives.
17. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
18. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
20. The passive voice is to be ignored.
21. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
22. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
23. Kill all exclamation points!!!
24. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
25. Understatement is always the absolute best way to put forth earth shaking ideas.

26. Use the apostrophe in it's proper place and omit it when its not needed.
27. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
28. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
29. Puns are for children, not groan readers.
30. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
31. Even IF a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
32. Who needs rhetorical questions?
33. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement. And finally...
34. Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.

Myndi Harbin, *Wii Fish*



Treasurer

Arleen Rhodes

OYC Can Cook!

That was certainly proven at last month's general membership meeting where members competed in three categories—appetizers, chilis, and desserts. Below are two winning recipes graciously provided by Liz Plewes and Sue Thompson, just in time for the holidays.

Liz's Chicken Curry Spread

- 2 packages (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups sour cream
- 3 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 cups finely chopped cooked chicken breast
- 1 large red bell pepper, chopped (1 cup)
- 2/3 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- Chopped fresh parsley
- Apple slices dipped in orange juice
- Crackers

Beat cream cheese, sour cream, curry powder, salt, and ginger in large bowl with spoon until smooth. Stir in chicken. Spread mixture on flat plate, about 10 to 12 inches in diameter.

Arrange bell pepper on cream cheese mixture in star shape. Place raisins and almonds in center. Sprinkle parsley around edge of star. Serve with apples and crackers. Makes 60 servings of 2 tablespoons each. (This spread can be made 24 hours ahead of time. Add the almonds just before serving to prevent them from becoming soggy.)

Sue's Gingersnap Cherry Cheesecake

3 cups ground gingersnap cookies
1 stick unsalted butter, melted
3 8-ounce bars cream cheese, room temperature
1-1/4 cups sugar
2 large eggs
2 cups sour cream
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 cup cherry preserves

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, combine ground gingersnaps and butter. Press the mixture into the bottom and 2 inches up the side of a 9-inch springform pan using a straight-sided dry measuring cup.

Using an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese and 1 cup of the sugar until smooth. Beat in the eggs, one at a time. Beat in 1/2 cup of the sour cream and 1 teaspoon of the vanilla. Pour the mixture into the crust and bake until just set, 40-45 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl combine the remaining 1-1/2 cups of sour cream, 1/4 cup of sugar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Spread over the hot cheesecake and bake until set, 3-5 minutes more. Let cool in the pan, then refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Run a knife around the edge of the cheesecake before unmolding.

Spread the preserves over the cheesecake before serving. Serves 12. (Note: The cheesecake can be baked up to 2 days in advance; refrigerate loosely covered; before serving, unmold, and top with preserves.)

Coming to the holiday party? Send in that RSVP—we hope to see you there!

Arleen Rhodes, *Impulse*



OYC Hardy Souls on the Wilson Bridge

Mutiny on the Hardy Souls Cruise

Similar to last year, it was easy to be hardy since we had sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-sixties during the day. But for the first time in history, there was wide-scale mutiny as to the time for the Saturday morning dog walk. The traditional time has always been 7:30 a.m. which has always been met with mega-whining about the hour and blah, blah, blah. The difference this time was a promise to actually attend the dog walk if the time were slipped to 8:30 a.m.

But let me start at the beginning. Seven boats (Bell, Rhodes, Freedman, Sorrenti, Thompson, Bennet, and Bishop) braved the sunny skies and calm (log-filled) waters of the Potomac for the cruise up to National Harbor where Dockmaster Eric Bradley got us safely into slips. After heavy hors d'oeuvres, some went in search of food while others napped until the 9 p.m. dessert bar. Arleen served an apple crisp and a new cranberry pie to the delight of all awake enough to attend. Vanilla rum and ice cream also made the rounds.

Fast forward to 8:30 on Saturday and the crowd of people that assembled for the "second annual walk across the Wilson Bridge marathon." Abby, Nick, Sammy and Corky were joined by Izzy and humans Rick, Sue, Heidi, Kevin, and Pam (*see picture at left*). We laughed, we cried, we talked trash, but we all made it across the bridge and into Virginia where we promptly turned around and walked all the way back. We figured we had done a total of six miles for the morning and that we could take the afternoon off and shop.

We sampled new dips at Stonewall Kitchen and free ice cream at the newly opened Potomac Gourmet Grocery. Rick could not get any takers for the Pirate Ship rope climb, and we decided that a few margaritas and guacamole at Rosa's would get us in the mood for the grand cocktail party at 5 p.m. An additional three boats arrived (Mansour, Jorsey, Livingston), and the Willets joined us for cocktails and dinner at McLoone's. Most found the dinner average, but we did have a great view of the river. Many thanks to Lindsay Johnson of Charm City Concierge who assisted with the reservations.

The Sunday dog walk was back at the usual time with most of the previous day's crowd opting to sleep in so they could start their breakfast items. The dog walkers enjoyed a sneak peek at the ICE display near the Gaylord, and then we all gathered for a Sunday buffet. As usual, we had too much food (and not enough bacon), but the Bloodies and Mimosas made us forget.

By my count, two people went aground on the way into National Harbor, two people hit logs on the way home, and Abby was the only one to fall in the water the whole weekend.

Ned W. Rhodes, *Impulse*

The Datemarkers

Welcome New Members

Mike and Karen Crouch of Woodbridge, VA, who keep their 42' Silverton *Makia III* at Belmont Bay Marina.

Miroslaw and Lidia Rays of Woodbridge, VA, who keep their 34' Rinker *Deep Fantasy* at Occoquan Harbour Marina.

December Birthdays

Dan Parsons	12/1
Eric Belcher	12/3
Michael Samphilipo	12/3
Don Bennett	12/4
Larry Freedman	12/9
Robyn Strobel	12/9
Michael Robins	12/13
Anne Bennett	12/15
Thomas Plewes	12/15
Milissa Samphilipo	12/17
Harry Croft	12/21
Becky Quentmeyer	12/22
Susan Thompson	12/26
Donald Miller	12/27

December Anniversaries

Miroslaw and Lidia Rays	12/6
Ned & Arleen Rhodes	12/21
Steven & Becky Quentmeyer	12/28



Congratulations to Captains Rick Sorrenti and Ned Rhodes on the renewal of their 100 Ton Master's Captain's licenses!

Web space for occoquanyachtclub.org, potomacriveryachtclubs.org, and ormaweb.org is donated by Software Systems Group, Ned Rhodes, President and CEO.

Santa Sightings on the River

On Saturday, November 27, Santa and his faithful reinboats braved a small craft advisory and arrived in the Town of Occoquan to a throng of cheering spectators. *Daymarker* editor Carolyn Wixson commandeered the houseboat *Sorcer-R*, captained by Leo Smith, to lead the boat parade, followed by Walt and Susan Cheatham on *Walt's on Water*, Pat & Harry Croft on *Bay Dreamer*, and a stray Sea Ray we picked up at the OHM fuel dock. (That stray was the *Morgan Jane*; her captain, Bill Akers, not only joined the parade, he plans to join OYC!) *MissRivershore*, our nautical sleigh, brought up the rear with Santa in the bow.



Search for "Occoquan Yacht Club" and click "Request to Join." Your request will be confirmed with the membership roster. The private group is open to all active members.

The Daymarker

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Carolyn Wixson, Editor
Ilona Zsirai, Circulation

Deadline for submission of articles to **The Daymarker** is the 20th of each month. Please submit your copy by e-mail to: oyceditor@gmail.com

4 December 2010
Washington Channel &
Old Town Alexandria
Parade of Lights

11 December 2010
Holiday Party & COW
Laurel Hill Golf Club
Pat Croft
703-451-9147

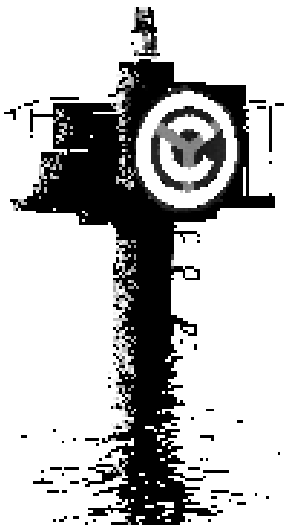
22 January 2011
PRYCA COW
Springfield Hilton
Joe Livingston
703-505-8313

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**When you're getting cabin fever this
winter, break out these award-winning
recipes from OYC members and
remind yourself of summer cheer.**



The Daymarker

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**Change Service
Requested**