



February 2010, Vol. XXVII, No.2

# The Daymarker

## 2009 PRYCA Cup Champions

### OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA

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

**Commodore**  
Patricia Croft  
703 451-9147

**Vice Commodore**  
Tom Lensis  
703-794-9589

**Rear Commodore**  
John Heinze  
703 765-2380

**IPC**  
Harry Croft  
703 451-9147

**PRYCA Delegate**  
Joe Livingston  
703 505-8313

**Secretary**  
Myndi Harbin  
703-339-8630

**Treasurer**  
Kathie McCormally  
703 690-9470

**Quartermaster**  
Patricia Maxwell  
703 680-0090

**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

**Patricia Croft**

One of the many benefits of OYC's membership in the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association is the sharing of information regarding legislation and issues impacting recreational boaters. Last month, PRYCA officers alerted member clubs to the pending Alexandria City Council Hearing, January 28, at which time the city council will make decisions regarding the number of transient slips at the city dock marina. If they do vote to limit the number of transient slips to 4-6, we will lose one of our favorite group cruise destinations.

Many of you have felt the frustration of the ever-changing reservation policies at Alexandria City Marina, and our cruise coordinators have not been able to make group reservations there for some time, due to a temporary limit placed by the city on the number of transient slips available. Their reasoning seems to be that season-long leases would be more profitable than transient rentals. We would argue that the high demand for transient boat slips and the tourism revenue generated by transient use may outweigh the long-term lease income.

PRYCA launched a campaign to rally support from its member clubs to inform the Alexandria Waterfront Issues Committee of the robust demand for transient boat slips at Alexandria. They sent letters to the committee. They supplied each of the member clubs with information and links to expedite our contact

with the committee. I sent a letter to Councilman Paul Smedberg, representing OYC's concerns, and Harry did the same for FYC. Harry and I plan to join others from PRYCA in attending the hearing in Alexandria, January 28. I will keep you informed of the outcome.

Meanwhile, rest assured that the social aspects of PRYCA are still high on the list of reasons to participate; ten of us from OYC had the pleasure of attending the PRYCA Change of Watch dinner dance on January 23. Not the least of our delight in the evening was our shameless touting of last summer's victory at the Float-In; we displayed our trophy with unabashed pride throughout the event, and even when the dancing began, the plan was to keep at least one couple at the table to guard The Cup at all times. Alas, toward the end of the evening, the music was so enticing that all ten of us made our way to the dance floor, leaving The Cup unattended. Fortunately, Past Commodore Joe Livingston, ever vigilant, spotted someone from a rival club, (which shall remain nameless, but we did sponsor their founding charter,) making off with our trophy. Joe alerted me, and we rallied our group; as the dance ended, all ten OYC dancers surrounded the table of the offenders and demanded the return of The Cup. They, of course, professed innocence and denied any knowledge of its whereabouts. This prompted our intrepid Vice Commodore, Tom Lensis, to take matters into his own hands – he simply threw up the tablecloth, crawled under the table and retrieved The Cup. OYC – victorious again! To The Cup!!!

Pat Croft, *Bay Dreamer*



## Vice Commodore

**Tom Lensis**

### The Big Chill in Charleston

In early November I managed to talk Kenny and Sharman Harris of *Darn Tootin'* to join us down the ICW to North Myrtle Beach with the promise of a warmer climate and thereby avoiding the cold harsh winter in the Washington area. This strategy would ensure our boating season would be extended with side trips planned down South. The average high temperature in North Myrtle Beach for this time of year is about 55 degrees and lows of about 38 degrees. We figured a good way to bring in the New Year and start off the 2010 boating season would be with a trip from Grande Dunes Marina in Myrtle Beach to Charleston SC beginning the first week in January.

Donna and I arrived a few days early to spend New Year's Eve with family and would meet up with the Harris' at the marina on Sunday, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> to provision our boats for the trip. Arriving at the dock on Saturday we found that an unusually rare arctic cold front was making its way south and was forecast all the way to Florida for the upcoming week. Saturday night the temperature fell to about 25 degrees and the Marina turned off their water supply to the docks to prevent freezing and damage to the water lines. We topped off our tank on *Copy Cat* before the water supply was turned off. The Harris' arrived Sunday afternoon and had little to no water on board for the trip. Sunday night, smooth talking Kenny Harris used his salesman skills to talk me into sharing the water we had on board *Copy Cat* with them. We hooked up a water line from boat to boat and completed the transfer. It was so cold that any water that made its way to the surface of the dock froze almost immediately. The next morning the marina staff came to the rescue, turned on the water to our dock, and we were able to fill up both boats for the trip.

Monday around 10 a.m. we started the 47 miles south down the ICW to Harborwalk Marina in Georgetown SC. The weather was in the high 30's and the wind was blowing from the north at about 15 knots. The ICW is well protected and we had little to no waves to deal with. This leg of the journey had only one bridge we needed to open (Socastee Bridge) and a lot of no wake zones which made the trip very time consuming. After the bridge we got out of the "ditch" and into the Waccamaw River. Although it was extremely cold, the scenery was spectacular as viewed from our heated bridge. Boat traffic on the ICW this time of year was little to none. Maybe it was the extreme cold keeping our fellow boaters off the water, but it seemed we had the entire ICW to ourselves. Winding our way down the

Waccamaw River showcased some of the most picturesque places on the ICW. The moss hanging down from the trees along the shore gave you the feeling that you were in the middle of nowhere and totally removed from civilization. After about a 3 ½ hour trip, we arrived in Georgetown at the Harborwalk Marina which is located downtown within easy walking distance to the shops and restaurants. The small marina had new floating docks, nice bath and laundry facilities, and a friendly helpful staff that appeared to be just one person. Once again we found the marina had turned off the water to the docks because of extreme freezing temperatures.



Ben Sawyer Memorial Swing Bridge

Georgetown is a quaint little town, with shops and restaurants all within walking distance from the marina. It was evident from several empty storefronts that the worsening economy had left its mark on this town. We had several wonderful meals while we were there. We had lunch and dinner in a waterfront pub called the Goat Island Grill. We also dined at a wonderful restaurant called the Rice Paddy. Sharman and Donna found lots of treasures and helped facilitate the shop owners' removal of their post holiday surplus.



Donna, Kenny and Sharman in Georgetown

We woke up Tuesday morning to another cold morning, about 27 degrees and the weather was predicted to reach a high in the low 40s with the winds from the north at about 15 knots. However, it was sunny without a cloud in the sky. This bitter cold is very unusual for this time of year this far south. As we started out of Georgetown into the Winyah Bay we chose the ICW route because the unprotected Atlantic Ocean was forecast for waves up to 6 feet. From the Bay we traveled about 5 miles down the ditch in the Estherville Minim Creek Canal. There is a series of man made canals connecting the rivers and sounds on the way down south. We were able to make good time in this section of the ICW because it is sparsely populated with few no wake zones until we reached McClellanville. There we had about five miles until we could open the throttles up again and burn some serious diesel. Every time we would leave a no wake zone and radioed *Darn Tootin'*, Captain Kenny's response would be "if you're waiting on me you're going backwards". This section of the ICW is almost wide open crossing many Bays and Sounds. It was high tide as we were going through so it appeared to be big water in places, but you had to pay close attention to the markers to stay in sufficient water. At low tide it is much more evident that these bays and sounds are little more than marsh land. After about a 25 mile run we reached civilization again, the Isle of Palms, where we once again had to pull the power back and idle through. The banks of the waterway are almost completely built out with waterfront homes and docks.



*Darn Tootin'* on ICW at Isle of Palms

After a short "S" turn through the waterway we found ourselves in Charleston Harbor. The harbor is pretty much open and you could instantly see the effect of the 15 knot wind producing a 2 1/2 foot chop. We crossed the harbor to the peninsula where the City of Charleston Marina is located. This is also known as the "The Mega Dock" with a floating dock over 1900 foot long. The Dock Master put us on the face of the pier at the 730 foot mark of the 1900 foot pier between a couple of 120 foot plus yachts. The friendly staff helped us tie up and secure the vessels for our 3 night stay. When we checked in at the office the staff gave us a goodie bag with all kinds of information on all the sites, shopping

and dining in Charleston. The marina has all the amenities you could imagine, free wireless internet, USA Today newspaper delivered to your vessel everyday, very nice shower, bath and laundry facilities along with a free hourly shuttle service to and from downtown Charleston. A short distance from the marina is a convenience store, a wine shop and an ABC store that obviously catered to the boaters. It just so happened that our friends, Dan and Donna Carr (many of you have probably met them on one or more occasions as guests on board *Copy Cat*) were on a road trip down to Florida to visit relatives and stopped in Charleston to spend a few days with us.

Charleston is a beautiful old city and has much charm and plenty to see and do. You do need a vehicle to get to town, but once you are there you can easily walk around and see quite a bit. We ate lunch one day in a pub and afterwards the girls shopped while the guys hung out in the pub. One day we got dropped off by the Old City Market and wandered around looking for souvenirs. We ate lunch in a house that was converted into a diner of sorts. The food was terrific and seemed to be a favorite local spot. Afterwards we walked several blocks to the Nathaniel Russell House, an old mansion that had been restored. We took a tour given by a very spry octogenarian, who was able to relate many facts, not only about the house, but of the people who lived there as well. That evening we had a great meal at Hank's, which is another wonderful dining establishment.



A Charleston mansion

When we were ready to go back to the marina we just called the marina office and they sent the shuttle to pick us up. We rarely waited very long, but I would think in the summer or when the weather is better that it might be a much longer wait. The best way to get acquainted with Charleston is to take a carriage ride, there are so many of them it seemed that they are on practically every corner. After the ride, the carriage companies will drop you off near the Old City Market in the North of Broad, in the Market area, where you can wander looking for souvenirs. From there you can hoof it to the Battery and White Point Gardens or take time for a

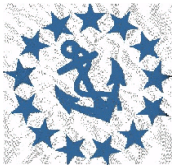
house tour or two. There is much to see and do while visiting Charleston.

We had the time to leisurely make our way to Charleston from Myrtle Beach. If you are in a rush to get here you can make the trip from Myrtle Beach to Charleston in one day; it's a little over 100 miles. Despite the unusually cold temperatures at times, boating in the winter was a great experience. We had the waterways to ourselves, the visibility was crisp and clear, and it was absolutely beautiful.

***To be continued.....***

***Look for the continuing saga of the Copy Cat/Darn Tootin' journey down South in future editions of the Daymarker —Next stop is Savannah, GA***

Tom Lensis, *Copy Cat*, out



**Rear Commodore**

**John Heinze**

## OYC 2010 – We're off to a Great Start

We had our first OYC Board meeting of the year Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, and while meetings are rarely "Stop the presses!" event, it was an impressive meeting for all the ongoing activities, plans and enthusiasm. 2010 it seems, is a going to be a great year for OYC.

Consider the following:

- Membership renewals – we already have 34 membership renewals, courtesy of the Holiday party. Since a big part of our operating funds comes from these, a BIG THANK YOU to all of you who have renewed. And if you have not renewed your OYC membership yet, there is a handy renewal form in your newsletter. If you receive one, please renew today.
- Speaking of the Holiday Party – wasn't that a blast? And despite the last minute run around from the state liquor license bureaucrats, we still did OK on expenses for the party. This means we are not starting of the year in the proverbial hole. Yeah!
- We have a full slate of enthusiastic participants on the Board, with Patricia and Carl Maxwell as the most recent additions. They will serve as quartermaster and already considering new and favorite offerings of clothing and other items with club logos.

- Vice Commodore Tom Lensis provided a preliminary 2010 OYC calendar that is packed with activities for the coming boating season. By the time you receive the *Daymarker*, this will have been further refined at a Pre-Planfest meeting of some of our most active boaters. The full calendar will then be presented at our **Planfest meeting Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 pm at Fairfax Yacht Club**. This will be the first opportunity for you and your friends to sign up for cruises.
- Speaking of Fairfax Yacht Club, everyone should notice quite a bit of progress on the dock rebuild by the time of the Planfest. As of the Board meeting January 13th, Immediate Past Commodore (and FYC Commodore) Harry Croft reported that the new A dock was being installed and the new B dock would be installed shortly thereafter. After this phase is completed, the focus of work will shift to C and D docks. Congratulations Harry – all the hard work is starting to show up in rebuilt docks! Wow!

More fun on the way.

John Heinze, *Great Escapee*



**Secretary**

**Myndi Harbin**

## A Family of Boaters

As I am new to OYC, I figured I would give you a little insight into me. I am a fourth generation Potomac River boater and Northern Virginian...I know, unique!



Off of Hanes Point, Washington DC (undated)  
My great-grandfather owned a grocery store in South East Washington DC. My grandfather was an avid boater and one of the first DC Fireboat captains. My parents were boating on the Potomac River from above

Georgetown to the 301 bridge beginning in 1950. In fact, I have seen the movies of them water-skiing with the FIRST Woodrow Wilson Bridge being constructed in the background. I was only three weeks old and on a boat, cruising the Potomac River.

From the time I was born (good thing about being a June baby) we spent our weekends and every summer at our property at Widewater Beach on Aquia Creek. Way back then we had ski boats and would run to Fairview Beach for bushels of crabs-to-go, water ski from dawn till dusk and generally hang out in the water and on the dock. I have slalom skied from Captain Billy's at Popes Creek back to Aquia Creek, because there wasn't enough room on the boat for me.



Belmont Bay/Sandy Point, 1955-ish

Around 1970, we started our boating journey on the Chesapeake Bay. We docked at what is now Herrington Harbour North. I don't think there was a marsh my brother and I didn't explore! My parents bought a 36' Pacemaker SportFish in 1976, and summers were then spent in West Ocean City. Boy, has that area changed. When we were there, it was a small family run marina past the commercial fishing boats. Marshes were once again explored, fish and sharks caught from the dock and many hours spent at the gas dock watching (and getting belly laughs from) the antics at the public boat ramps. On fishing days, we would head out the inlet at 6am so we could be dragging the baits for White Marlin by 9am.

By the 1980s, we were back hanging at Aquia Creek. And in the 1990s, our journeys began on the Upper Potomac with home base being Fairfax Yacht Club! I was now hanging at the same stomping grounds as my parents, and haven't left yet.

My two boys (ages 6 and 9) have each been boating since they were two months old and are now enjoying exploring Belmont Bay, Wade's Bay, and Cobb Island...They are constantly bugging "Can we stay on the boat tonight?"

Looks like the nuts don't fall far from the tree.

Myndi, *Wii Fish*

## From your PRYCA Delegate:

### A Reminder to renew your BoatU.S. Membership

The Occoquan Yacht Club is a participating member in the Boat U.S. Accord. Our membership has just been renewed/reinstated and as such offers our club members services and benefits throughout the year, **Our Accord #: GA80979Y**. It is also noted in the header of the *Daymarker*.

One of the membership benefits is 50% off the annual membership dues when you join BoatU.S. This year's dues are \$30 and, therefore, **our members cost should be \$15**. When joining or renewing, to get the discounted rate quote our accord number. Take advantage of this benefit and I also suggest you consider the "on the water towing" coverage, the unlimited towing can save many dollars if you should need a tow.

We are looking forward to the upcoming boating season for 2010 and the events Commodore Pat Croft and our members plan for the year. Please consider volunteering and enjoying our great Club.

Cheers, Joe, *Gail Lynn II*

## PlanFest

### Get ready for the 2010 Boating Season

Do you want to:  
Spend more time on the water this year?  
Cruise to quaint destinations on the Bay with friends?  
Use your boat close to home to save on fuel but not skimp on fun?  
Learn more about boating safety or just refresh your skills?

Come to the OYC Plan Fest to discover the possibilities! You'll get a preview of the 2010 OYC Calendar of Events, sign up for events that pique your interest, have a chance to volunteer as a coordinator, or offer your own ideas for OYC activities.

When: **Saturday, February 20, 2 – 5 p.m.**

Where: Fairfax Yacht Club  
117 Old Colchester Rd.

What to bring: Appetizer to share and your beverage of choice

## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque	2/1
Meimei Tidrow	2/2
Gayle Wix	2/2
Dianne Bricker	2/6
Maria Gibbons	2/9
Rick Sorrenti	2/9
Pamela McLeod	2/13
Laura Powell	2/13
Bob Wilson	2/22
Jack Striker	2/28

### Anniversaries

Steven & Susan Thompson	2/16
Thomas & Elizabeth Plewes	2/20



Commodore Pat Croft and Harry Croft look delighted to regain The Cup, following a thwarted kidnapping attempt at the January PRYCA dinner/dance. Details in the Commodore's Comments

### Occoquan Yacht Club On the Internet

[www.OccoquanYachtClub.org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org) \*

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association:

[www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org](http://www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org) \*

Occoquan River Maritime Association:

[www.ormaweb.org](http://www.ormaweb.org) \*

Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association:

[www.cbyca.org](http://www.cbyca.org)

\*Web space donated by Software Systems Group  
Ned Rhodes, President and CEO

### The Daymarker

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Carol Belcher, Editor  
Ilona Zsirai, Circulation

Deadline for submission of articles to **The Daymarker** is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please submit your copy by email to:

[ericncarol.belcher@cox.net](mailto:ericncarol.belcher@cox.net)

### Save The Date!

We are planning a **Casino Night** on **February 27, 2010**. Details are still being worked out but reserve that night to spend with your OYC friends at a yet-to-be-determined location.

### The December Snowstorm on the Docks

The following photographs, taken by Steve Thompson at OHM, show the magnitude of the storm that blasted through this region just before Christmas 2009.



If you really focus, you can see this is the Occoquan Harbor Marina office, camouflaged under icicles and snowdrifts.



Does anyone know the average total weight limit on bimini tops?



Steve and Sue's boat, *Forever Dreamin'*, identifiable mostly from its blue hull and not from its snow-covered outline.



Does anyone know what the total load limit is for a swim platform? More than the weight of two feet of snow, thankfully



Who knew the savage winds could sculpt such a lovely formation behind the canvas? Fingers crossed that not much got in under the bimini.



Intrepid OYC dogs, Samantha and Nick, sit on the dock admiring the boats and full of appreciation that their master, Steve, broke trail for them.



Samantha tells Steve that she's *waaay* too little to go much further in the deep snow.

If there is an OYC renewal request in your copy of the *Daymarker*, that means we haven't received your 2010 renewal yet. Please consider renewing your membership today for 2010.

OYC Plan Fest  
FYC  
20 Feb 2010  
OYC Board  
(see page 6)

Casino Night  
27 Feb 2010  
TBD  
OYC Board

15 March  
Ides of March  
Not a problem if you are *not*  
Julius Caesar

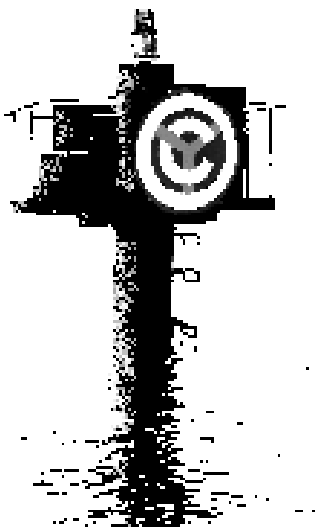
21 March  
Spring Equinox  
Boating is almost here!  
OYC Board

*Inside this edition...*

**Commodore Pat Croft updates  
members on the Alexandria City Dock  
issues—a favorite OYC cruise  
destination**

**Vice Commodore Tom Lensis provides  
another instalment in the adventures of  
*Copy Cat* and her companion boat  
*Darn Tootin'* as they headed south to  
Charleston**

**Our new Secretary, Myndi Harbin,  
shares her early boating experiences**



*The Daymarker*

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

**Change Service  
Requested**