



# 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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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Patricia Croft**

As promised in last month's column, Harry and I, along with Joe and Gail Livingston, attended a meeting at the Alexandria City Hall. We joined a dozen or more PRYCA representatives at what we thought would be a city council meeting to consider the issue of transient docking at the city marina. As it turned out, the meeting was a public hearing, titled 'Marina Night,' organized by planners involved in the process of developing a comprehensive, long-term waterfront plan that encompasses much more than the current marina we know as Alexandria City Docks. The meeting was a forum for city planners to disseminate information they have gathered so far, and, ostensibly, to obtain public input.

If we accomplished nothing else, at least we made an impression on the committee that recreational boaters from all up and down the Potomac are keenly interested in Alexandria's waterfront. Participants whose name badges identified them as yacht club and PRYCA members comprised more than one-third of the audience; seated together in the front-to- back rows of one large section, we were a formidable presence. The moderator of the hearing actually addressed that fact as he opened the meeting, and noted that there would be a separate meeting to address transient issues, in which he assumed the large group in front of him was interested, sometime in February. If he thought that would influence us to get up and exit the current meeting, he grossly underestimated the tenacity of boaters.

We stayed to hear the vision statement, view the maps and charts, listen to the various committee members, and even participate in the group sessions.

When we pointed out the flaws and omissions in the Moffat and Nichol study on which the committee is relying for recommendations, the facilitator voiced surprise that we had reviewed that study. It seemed to be a huge surprise to the committee that transient boaters were even interested in the waterfront plan.

In general, the only person on the committee who seemed to be in tune with transient boaters was the woman from the Alexandria Visitors and Business bureau, who quoted very positive statistics on how much money traveling boaters contribute to the Alexandria economy. The flip side of that was the chart showing that income from transient slips has decreased in the past two years. We tried to point out that those lowered figures reflect the fact that we have not been able to make group reservations during that time, and that their own policy of reducing the number of slips available to transients was the cause of the decrease, but they seemed to hold on to the view that increased fuel prices have reduced the number of recreational boaters willing to travel to Alexandria. The many voices of our entourage repeatedly told them otherwise.

In the short term, nothing has changed or is likely to change any time soon regarding slips available at Alexandria for overnight trips. Only four slips are officially designated as transient, though others may be available when lease holders temporarily vacate their slips.

*(con't on page 2)*

(..con't from page 1)

We will have to continue to make group-cruise plans to spend our money at National Harbor instead, where the management is extremely transient-friendly and we always have a good time.

As for the long-range waterfront plan for Alexandria, I'm not sure the planners will ever appreciate transient boaters. Perhaps it's the term 'transient' that puts them off. It's not a very glamorous word, after all, and apparently conjures up an image of riff-raff. Perhaps we should commission a study of our own to come up with a less seedy, more upscale term to describe ourselves – something that says “ we're here to spend money in your shops and restaurants and we don't care how much the fuel to get here costs” a little more eloquently than the term 'transient' implies.

If anyone comes up with an appealing alternative, let me know. I'll offer it up at the “special meeting to address the concerns of transient boaters” the moderator promised at the opening of the January meeting. February has come and gone, and I've had no replies to e-mail requests to be informed of the date for said meeting. Surely they wouldn't forget to invite the riff-raff!

Pat Croft, *Bay Dreamer*



**Vice Commodore**

**Tom Lensis**

## 2010 Plan fest and Schedule of Events

At the Plan fest on Saturday, February 20 we put together a cruise and events schedule for the 2010 boating season. There are exciting events planned for every month beginning in March. You will find that the schedule is full of cruises and events, both nearby as well as to distant ports in the Bay that will appeal to everyone.

The 2010 schedule is very robust and starts off the season with Happy Hour on St. Patrick's Day at Madigan's on the Water. On April 10-11 there is an opportunity to take your Boaters Safety Course at Fairfax Yacht Club, given by the Coast Guard. This course will be mandatory for every Captain by 2016. If you plan to cruise into Washington it is already a requirement to prove you have taken the course or you will be ticketed. In May we will return to an old club favorite, Colonial Beach. June is chock full of cruises, starting with the PRYCA Summer Kickoff at Cobb Island and followed by a North Chesapeake Bay Cruise with ports of call such as Chesapeake Beach, Rock Hall, Havre de Grace, St. Michaels, Oxford, Solomon's Island,

and White Point ending up in National Harbor for the fireworks. This two week cruise is set up so you can do the entire cruise, or if you have time constraints, it is split up into two one-week segments and you can do either week or any part of it. And don't forget about our PRYCA Float-in at Port Kinsale in July. This is the annual competition amongst all PRYCA yacht clubs, and as OYC is reigning champion from last year we want to keep past Commodore Harry Croft's coveted “PRYCA Cup” in the club for another year. Also in July you can join the South Bay Cruise leaving from Port Kinsale, or join in on the fun down the Bay. The PRYCA Dog Days of August cruise in Colonial Beach is always a popular cruise in our club. In September the club is offering two Labor Day destinations, Crisfield/Crab Derby and St. Mary's Yachting Center. Also planned for September is the Octoberfest at National Harbor. We will start October off with the Shrimpfest at Hoffmaster's, End of Summer Cruise to Aquia Harbor, and end the month with our Election Meeting/Chili Cook Off at FYC. The cruising doesn't stop here. In November we are also offering the Hardy Souls Cruise and Tree Lighting/Fireworks Cruise, both at National Harbor. And we finish out the year with the Santa Cruise from OHM to Occoquan. We really are in need of additional boats this year. In December you won't want to miss the OYC Holiday/Change of Watch Party, the Club's flagship event of the year. As you can see we have a fun filled itinerary for the upcoming year. All we need to make this a successful year is for you our OYC members to participate.

The most enjoyable trips begin with careful planning and that is the responsibility of our Cruise Coordinators. Dock space is limited at some marinas, so it's important to sign up as soon as possible in order to accommodate everyone who wants to go. We still need to find volunteers to be Cruise Coordinators for Tim's Rivershore I & II Fireworks Raft-ups in June and July, Colonial Beach Dog Days of August cruise, and the Lower Potomac River Soiree, also in August. So, if you have planned on attending any of these trips please consider being the Cruise Coordinator. You can indicate on your Sign Up Sheet the cruise that you may be interested in coordinating. I encourage you to review the attached “2010 Sign up Sheet” on the bottom of page 7 and check off all the cruises and events that you may want to attend. You may also offer suggestions on cruises and land events you would like to see added to the calendar. So please, fill out your sign up sheet and return it to me by email or snail mail as soon as possible to make sure you don't miss out on any of the fun on the water this 2010 boating season.

Tom Lensis, *Copy Cat*



## Rear Commodore

**John Heinze**

### THERE WAS A LOT TO LIKE ABOUT THE OYC PLANFEST

The OYC Planfest - held Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> - is one of my favorite OYC events simply because of the anticipation of all the fun activities for the year. And maybe it was the sunny and relatively warm day after so much snow and cold weather but it seemed like we had an especially large and enthusiastic turn out for this year's event.

And we had a great turn out despite everyone being warned about the less than ideal parking conditions at Fairfax Yacht Club due to the dock rebuilding (more on this below). Although I must say that by the time the Planfest was over, the constructed walkway to the parking lot was terrific.

The Planfest had all the characteristics for which OYC is known. There was lots of good food and drink to share. There was friendly -or in some cases spirited - give and take among presenters. And most importantly, we had the willingness of our members to step up and lead events. This is essential because as a volunteer organization, OYC can't survive without volunteers who are willing to take on the extra effort and responsibility of leadership roles.

And speaking of a member stepping up when asked, a round of applause to Arleen Rhodes for her willingness to serve as OYC treasurer for the remainder of the year. Thank you, Arleen.

Of course, the heart of the Planfest was the preview of upcoming activities. We have a good mix of events with service activities (River Clean-up Day, April 10; Santa Cruise, November 27), educational opportunities (Boat Safety Course at FYC, April 10 & 11) and numerous boating activities all year long. These include a mix of land events and cruises, with cruises ranging from weekend to two weeks in length.

Most importantly, the Planfest was a great opportunity to catch up on how we - and our boats - survived the great blizzard of 2010.

### The Enormous Brown Bag in the FYC Parking Lot Explained

OK, since a number of you have asked, I thought I would try to give an explanation of what is going on at FYC with that enormous (basketball court sized) brown bag that was occupying half of the entire OYC parking lot. Basically, this is key part of the dredging operation.

As you may know FYC is doing a major dock rebuild project that includes replacing docks A through D. As part of the rebuild, the marina is being dredged to remove the build up of silt over the years from the Occoquan River and ensure at least six feet of water depth. After each old dock is removed, the area under the dock is dredged by sucking up all the silt, mud and other solids ("spoils"), separating the river water from the solids slurry, which is pumped to the bag in the parking lot. The bag retains the solids but lets the river water run out through the porous walls of the bag. The water runs through drains and back to the river.

The bag collects the solids day after day until it is full. Then the bag is cut open (with a front loader) and the dried solids and bag pieces taken via truck to the county land fill for disposal per FYC's dredging permit. In this way, the bag serves the essential role of efficiently removing water from spoils for permitted disposal.

By the way, the dock rebuilding at FYC is on schedule for completion by April 1.

Looking forward to more fun

--John Heinze, *Great Escape*



## Secretary

**Myndi Harbin**

### Time to Shovel Out!

The DC Area has seen a record snow fall of 55 inches this winter season so far. The spring boating season can't come soon enough!! BUT, that is only if you still have a boat to use.



FYC shortly after the last snowfall in February 2010

What has AMAZED me, though, is the absence of owners checking on their boats or removing any of the accumulated snow. Did you know a cubic foot of snow can weigh from 7 lbs to almost 20 pounds! For example, our cockpit is 10X10, with 24 inches of snow, the aft of the boat had 200 cubic feet of snow in it, with a rough average of 12 lbs per cubic yard, which is an additional 2,400 pounds. That means the average 30 foot boat could have an additional 4,800 lbs on board or even more!!



Snow...snow...everywhere on the boats

We have gone down and shovelled snow off of the bow and out of the cockpit 3 times so far. Many of the local marinas have called and sent emails to the owners to come down and check on their boats. It is not their responsibility to clear your vessel for you! The Occoquan marinas have done a wonderful job of removing snow from the docks to allow owners to access their boats. Even if you are in dry-dock or shrink wrapped, you still need to go take a peek. The snow has been so heavy, that there have been shrink wrap failures.



Somebody help me! I'm listing to starboard!

If you are still tied at the dock, not only will canvas rip and poles bend, but your boat is much lower in the water

allowing seepage into the thru-hulls for bilge pumps, sink and shower drains, even the engines...Even if you are lucky enough to have a dry bilge as we were, the boat could be listing enough to cause damage to your neighboring vessels.

Our area has made headlines on national news channels for the number of boats that have sank and covered slips that have either had their roofs collapse or are so low in the water that with the changing tides, boats are being smushed against the ceiling!! I know it is cold out and the last thing you may want to do is shovel even more snow, but PLEASE take the time to check your vessel!

Myndi, *Wii Fish*

### Changes to the Board

You will notice a change in the Board and Staff listing on the front page this month.

First, the Bad News: Kathy McCormally has resigned as our treasurer due to family concerns. We are sorry to see her go, as she is a valued member of the club and has made a vital contribution as an officer on the Board. We wish her well.

Now the Good News: Arleen Rhodes has agreed to take Kathy's place as Treasurer. Arleen has been a supportive OYC member for more years than she can remember, and we are grateful that she is willing to take on yet another role to aid the cause.



*Everyone's a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day!*

*Watch your e-mail for a message from Joe O'Livingston, telling you how you can celebrate the wearin' o' the green with all your Irish OYC friends on **MARCH 17th** !*

## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Sharman Harris	3/1
Janice Morgan	3/1
Lucy Dubraque	3/4
Kris Butera	3/4
John Cunney	3/12
Martha Jane Dodd	3/13
Allen Jorsey	3/15
Al Stewart	3/17
Bill Francis	3/20
Theodore Zsirai	3/20
Duane Jeirles	3/24
Michael Dugan	3/26
Chuck Cantello	3/27
Lynanne Jorsey	3/30
Betsey Nalevanko	3/30

### Anniversaries

Brian & Kathie McCormally	3/13
Kevin & Pamela Bell	3/16
Eric & Carol Belcher	3/22
Jim & Judy Dooley	3/24
Paul & Virginia Linse	3/27

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### 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)

### Membership Renewal Request

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.

## Annual Photo Contest

It's time to search your photo files for those images worth a thousand words that tell the story of last year's boating season. Print up your photos and get them ready to enter in the OYC Photo Contest. The winning entries could be worth a little fame and fortune. Well, not exactly a fortune, but definitely a little fame. The winning photos will be published in the Day Marker, and all your friends and family will be impressed!

The **March Membership Meeting** will once again feature the **OYC Annual Photo Contest**. This year the contest will include five categories: **People, Places, Pets, Phantasy**, (the computer-enhanced variety,) and **Just Boats**.

The over-all theme must be nautical, in the first four categories as well as the obvious, Just Boats. The photographer must be an OYC member. The photo must have been taken during the past year. Pictures cannot have been entered in previous OYC Photo Contests. That basically means any nautical photos taken by an OYC member after the last March Membership Meeting until now are eligible for entry in this year's contest. The pictures can be any size, and should have a caption on the back denoting who, what, where, when, etc. All photos will be kept by the OYC Historian, Nabil Dubraque, to add to our archives, so be sure to have your own back-up copy.

Display boards for each category will be provided at the membership meeting, **March 20, at 2 p.m., at Fairfax Yacht Club**. Bring your pictures for the contest to the clubhouse that day to be registered and posted on the display boards. Members will vote for their favorite photo in each category. Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place photos in each category.

Just in case you need a little more explanation of the categories:

**People:** Includes pictures of people on boats, on docks, in the water, on an OYC cruise, on an OYC outing, on an OYC land event, etc., etc., etc.

**Places:** Includes pictures of landscapes, waterscapes, sunrises, sunsets, marinas, towns visited on a cruise, etc., etc., etc.

**Pets:** Includes pictures of dogs, cats, animals of any variety, your pet on a boat, your friend's pet on a boat, waterfowl, etc. etc., etc.

**Phantasy:** Includes pictures that you have electronically enhanced, modified, or created, using whatever digital means at your disposal – just be sure to keep in mind the nautical, (not naughty!) theme.

**Just Boats:** If you require an explanation for this one, your OYC membership card will be rescinded.

## Complete your Boater's Safety Class in just one weekend!

### ABOUT BOATING SAFETY

Presented by USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 25-09  
Co-sponsored by Fairfax Yacht Club and Occoquan Yacht Club

**Saturday, April 10 & Sunday, April 11  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Location: Fairfax Yacht Club  
Fee: \$35, includes materials and certification card

To register, call: Harry Croft, Commodore, FYC  
Or  
Pat Croft, Commodore, OYC, at 703-451-9147

Remember, the Commonwealth of Virginia will require certification of completion of a boating safety class for all operators of Personal Water Craft by July 1, 2012, and all powerboat operators by July 1, 2016, with the following phase-in schedule:

By July 1, 2010, PWC operators 35 years of age or younger -

By July 1, 2011, PWC operators 50 years of age or younger -

By **July 1, 2012, PWC operators** of any age -  
- MUST HAVE A BOATING SAFETY CLASS CARD

By July 1, 2011, powerboat operators 20 years of age or younger -

By July 1, 2012, powerboat operators 30 years of age or younger -

By July 1, 2013, powerboat operators 40 years of age or younger -

By July 1, 2014, powerboat operators 45 years of age or younger -

By July 1, 2015, powerboat operators 50 years of age or younger -

By **July 1, 2016, powerboat operators** of any age -  
- MUST HAVE A BOATING SAFETY CLASS CARD

However, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia can accelerate this schedule at any time, so don't delay -

**Sign up for a boating safety class today!**

## Two Week Itinerary for June Bay Cruise

This itinerary is planned to allow members to choose how much or how little time they want to spend with the cruise. It begins with the PRYCA event at Cobb Island, but some people might want to skip that and join the cruise in progress when it heads on down the river on Sunday, June 20. It then becomes an upper bay cruise, reaching Havre d'Grace, MD before turning south to St. Michaels. This is the overlap point, on Sat., June 26 and Sun., June 27, when the Week 2 group joins the Week 1 group at St Michaels. Some members of the Week 1 group might then head back home, while others might stay for Week 2, basically a mid bay cruise. The final destination is National Harbor for their fireworks on July 3.

### Date/Destination/Cruise Time

Friday, June 18 to Cobb Island (PRYCA Event)

Sunday, June 20 to Chesapeake Beach, cruise time 4-3/4 hrs.

Tuesday, June 20 to Rock Hall, cruise time 2 hrs

Thursday, June 24 to Havre d'Grace, cruise time 2 hrs.

(A second coordinator could lead a group that begins on Friday, June 25, and overnights at, say, Pt. Lookout, then joins the Week 1 cruise at St. Michaels on Saturday and continues with us for Week 2.)

Saturday, June 26 to **St. Michaels**,\* cruise time 3 hrs.

(At this point, folks who have been out since June 18 and need to leave the cruise could head back to the Potomac on Sunday; those who are able to stay would do so.)

Monday, June 28 to Oxford, cruise time 1 hr

Wednesday, June 30 to Solomons Island, cruise time 2 hrs.

Friday, July 2 to White Point (or Kinsale), cruise time 1 hr.

Saturday, July 3 to National Harbor, cruise time 4 hrs.  
Saturday, July 3 enjoy the Fireworks at National Harbor

Monday, July 5 return to Homeport  
(Some may return to homeport on Sunday, July 4.)

**\* Week 1 and Week 2 groups overlap**

## 2010 OYC Events Calendar and Sign up Sheet

Month	Days	Event /Location	Contact	Telephone
<b>March</b>	17 (Tue) 530 pm	St Patrick's Day Happy hour/Madigans	Joe Livingston	540-373-9203
	20 (Sat)	General Membership Mts/photo contest FYC	OYC Board, Pat Croft	703-451-9147
<b>April</b>	10-11 (Sat-Sun)	FYC & OYC Boat Safety Course/FYC	Pat Croft	703-451-9147
	10 (Sat)	River Clean-up Day	Fleet Captains	
	16-18	Early Bird Cruise National Harbor	Laslo & Linda Bozoky	703-590-8440
<b>May</b>	1(Sat)	OYC Flag Raising at OHM	OYC Board, Pat Croft	703-451-9147
	8(Sat)	ORMA Blessing of the Fleet	OYC Board, Joe Livingston	540-373-9203
	29-31(Sat-Mon)	Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach	Rick & Teresa Sorrenti	703-494-3302
<b>June</b>	5 (Noon-4 pm)	Regatta and Potluck at OHM	John Heinze	703-765-2380
	18-20 (Fri-Sun)	PRYCA Summer Kickoff-Cobb Island	Larry & Barbara Freedman	703-855-1826
	20-July 5	Bay Cruise end @ National Harbor	Harry Croft	703-451-9147
	26-27 (Sat-Sun)	Tim's Rivershore 1 Fireworks Raft Up	<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>July</b>	3-5 (Sat-Mon)	Fireworks at National Harbor	Harry Croft	703-451-9147
	4-5 (Sun-Mon)	DC Fireworks /Raft Up in Channel	Al & Lynanne Jorsey	703-850-2888
	10-11	Tim's Rivershore 2 Fireworks Raft up	<b>OPEN</b>	
	16-18(Fri-Sun)	PRYCA Float-in at Port Kinsale Marina	Tom & Liz Plewes	703-978-3546
	19-25 (Mon-Sun)	Bay Cruise	Joe & Gail Livingston	540-373-9203
<b>August</b>	6-8(Fri-Sun)	PRYCA Colonial Beach Dog Days of August	<b>OPEN</b>	
	14-15(Sat-Sun)	Lower Potomac River Soiree/Corinthian	<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>September</b>	3-6 (Fri-Mon)	Labor Day Cruise to Crisfield/Crab Derby	Larry & Barbara Freedman	703-855-1826
	3-6 (Fri-Mon)	Labor Day Cruise to St Mary's Yachting Ctr	John & Rebecca Heinze	703-765-2380
	24-26(Fri-Sun)	Oktoberfest at National Harbor	<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>October</b>	2 (Sat)	Shrimp Fest at Hoffmasters	OYC Board	
	8-11(Fri-Mon)	PRYCA End of Summer Aquia Harbor	Joe & Gail Livingston	540-373-9203
	23 (2-5 pm)	Election meeting/Oktoberfest at FYC	OYC Board	
<b>November</b>	5-7 (Fri-Sun)	Hardy Souls Cruise to National harbour	Ned & Arleen Rhodes	703-741-0861
	26-28(Fri-Sun)	Tree Lighting/Fireworks at National Harbor	Larry & Barbara Freedman	703-855-1826
	27 (Sat)10 am	Santa Cruise from OHM to Occoquan	Walt Cheatham	703-243-2430
<b>December</b>	3-5 (Fri-Sun)	Alexandria Parade of Lights	Lorraine Lloyd	<a href="mailto:Lloyd@funside.com">Lloyd@funside.com</a>
	11 (6-11 pm)	OYC Holiday/Change of Watch Party	OYC Board, Tom Lensis	703-794-9589

Name	Vessel Name	Overall Length	Beam	Power Req'd
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Email Address	Phone Number	Cruise coordinator/What cruise		
_____	_____	_____		
Suggested Cruise Destinations	Dates	Suggested Land Events	Dates	
_____	_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	_____	

Send completed form to Tom Lensis at [tom.lensis@gmail.com](mailto:tom.lensis@gmail.com) or Tom Lensis 11640 Sandal Wood Lane, Manassas, VA 20112

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

17 March  
St Patrick's Day  
Madigan's Restaurant  
Joe O'Livingston  
703 505-8313

20 March  
General Membership Mtg/Photo  
Contest  
Fairfax Yacht Club  
OYC Board

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

10 April  
River Clean Up  
Fleet Captains

16-18 April  
Early Bird Cruise  
Lazlo & Linda Bozoky  
703-590-8440

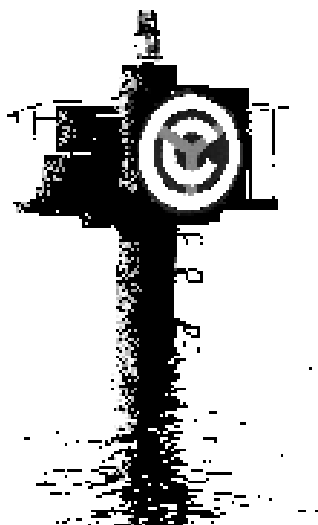
*Inside this edition...*

**Commodore Pat Croft provides the latest information on the Alexandria City Dock issues—will it remain a favorite OYC cruise destination?**

**The latest from Planfest and all the great upcoming cruises**

**Have faith that spring and boating season will be here soon, despite our current snow banks!**

**The importance of removing snow accumulations from your boat**



*The Daymarker*

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

**Change Service  
Requested**