



# The Daymarker

## OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Patricia Croft**

Sometimes inquiring minds just want to know, and so it was that I went in search of the history of the OYC Commodore's Cup. The cup is being restored this year, and I wanted to check the accuracy of some details before having the plates re-engraved. I looked to one of our long-standing members, Arleen Rhodes, for the answer to a question regarding the first presentation of the award. Arleen told me that was before her time, but she knew where to look for clues.

Ned Rhodes, our Webmaster, has diligently scanned and archived all past issues of the *Daymarker*, even some that were before his time, and the list is remarkably complete. They can be found on our website, [www.occoquan yachtclub.org](http://www.occoquan yachtclub.org), and they offer some interesting insights into our club's history. I was all too easily distracted from my original inquiry.

The earliest issue, Vol. 1, Issue 1, was published in May 1984. The look and format of the *Daymarker* itself has changed dramatically over the years, but of greater interest to me were the changes in some of the club's traditions since the inception of the club.

It appears that the Hardy Souls' cruise has been a mainstay of the cruising schedule since the very beginning, although for a number of years it was referred to as the Hearty Souls; it was some time before anyone realized that intrepid, cold-weather sailors would be hardy, not hearty, although they might require some hearty libations

after enduring the harsh conditions of boating in November.

However, 1984-1987 *Daymarkers* report a cruise that takes top prize for hardiness: the Thanksgiving Day Raft-Up. For several years, a group of 8-10 OYC boaters actually took their boats out to Mattawoman Creek, rafted up, and enjoyed their Thanksgiving feast on the water! Now that's a hardy souls' event! I found mention of the Thanksgiving Day Raft-Up through 1987, but that must have been the last time it was officially on the OYC calendar. Anyone willing to volunteer as cruise coordinator to revive the Thanksgiving Day Raft-Up? No?

The Santa Cruise is another tradition that goes way back. It's mentioned in every November *Daymarker* from 1985 on, but it used to take place the first Saturday in December. Sometime around 1995, the Occoquan Merchants Association began asking us to deliver Santa a week earlier on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Also about 1995, Walt Cheatham became the coordinator for that fun little holiday jaunt, and he has faithfully fulfilled that commitment every year since.

When the club began in 1984, the Change of Watch, with a slightly different title, was a single purpose event, not combined with the Holiday Party as it is now. It was held at the end of October as a dinner and swearing-in ceremony for the new officers before their term began November 1st. By 1986 the Past Commodore's article lamented the need to cancel the Change of Command Ceremony, which had been planned as a formal event at Ft. Belvoir, due to lack of participation; 39 members had made reservations, but an additional 36 would have been required to

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meet the guaranteed number. It was at this point that the Change of Command was incorporated with what was then billed as the Christmas Banquet, and that has evolved into the Change of Watch/Holiday Party that we are so busy preparing for right now.

The shift forward of the installation of officers to December created a bit of a dilemma; our By-Laws state that the officers will serve from November 1st, but they are not sworn in until the second Saturday in December. Thus, it is now our custom that the November Board meeting serves as the transition, with both outgoing and incoming officers present.

In keeping with our by-laws and with tradition, we elected a new Executive Board at the October General Membership meeting, and we are preparing a gala ceremony at which they will be installed in conjunction with the Holiday Party on December 11th.

But I digress...back to the original search regarding the Commodore's Cup. Arleen informed me that the Commodore's Cup was not given to an individual in 1985, because that was the year that Commodore and Mrs. William Shaw presented the cup to the club; it was another year before the club presented it to a member. That set me to wondering about the specific requirements of the award, so I consulted the archives myself and was surprised to discover that the Shaw's original intent was to honor the "member whose yacht best typifies the title 'Yacht of the Year,' considering underway operation, maneuvering and docking, anchoring, and yearround appearance and upkeep." Hmm. Somewhere along the way, the Commodore's Cup has come to be awarded for traits quite different from those the First Commodore stipulated.

Upon closer review of the archived issues, I found that it should be referred to as the First Commodore's Cup, having been initiated by OYC's first Commodore, Bill Shaw. The First Commodore's Cup was awarded in accordance with the first Commodore's instructions up until about 1993, when the *Daymarker* reported that the recipient had shown "all around excellence in boating, seamanship, support for OYC activities, and helpfulness to others." That was the first documentation I could find that the qualifications were beginning to morph from performance as Yacht of the Year to performance as most supportive of OYC.

Just as the reasons for choosing the honoree have changed, the trophy itself has been updated. The silver cup is the same, but it is now mounted atop a rosewood base, which is surrounded by four silver plates with the names of recipients more clearly detailed in black. It is the most meaningful award presented at the Change of Watch; the two other awards are rather dubious honors, based on some degree of misfortune. The First Commodore's Cup is based on extraordinary service to the club.

The 2010 and the 2011 Boards will determine this year's winner when they meet in November. Now that I am aware of the requirement that the recipient should not only have contributed greatly to the success of the club but that his or her yacht should typify the Yacht of the Year, the nominations and deliberations will be doubly difficult! Join us at the Change of Watch/Holiday Party to find out who among us is worthy of the First Commodore's Cup.

Pat Croft, *Bay Dreamer*



**Vice Commodore**

**Tom Lensis**

## Change of Watch & Holiday Party

I'm putting out the call for all well-seasoned OYC members and our newest members to come out and enjoy Occoquan Yacht Club's Flagship event, the Change of Watch/Holiday Party. This is the annual event where we present our new Board of Directors for the next year, thank and recognize the present Board for a job well done, and well, just have a great party with fellow yacht club members. I hope you will plan to attend; it's the one event you don't want to miss. So mark your calendars for December 11th from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club.

In keeping with OYC tradition, the highlights of the evening will be the presentation of the following prestigious awards:

1. **The Golden Snorkel Award** - This award will be given to the lucky, or rather the unlucky member who took an unintended swim from a boat or dock.
2. **The Bent Prop Award** - This award is given to the Captain most skilled in removing as many blades from his vessel's prop (or props) as possible in a single event.
3. **First Commodore's Cup** - This award is given to the member that sucks up to the Commodore as much as possible during the year. Seriously, this award is given to the member(s) whose exceptional support contributes significantly to the success of our club.

Nominations for these prestigious awards are now open, and the Board needs your help in identifying the nominees, especially for the first two awards listed. Candidates for these awards are usually much too  
(cont. on p. 3)

modest to publicize their actions. As the skill level necessary to put a Captain in the running for one of these prestigious awards is so specific, we call out to all of you to help us nominate any fellow members who may have demonstrated the skills necessary to qualify for one of these awards but may be too humble to come forward on their own. *Do you know of an OYC pal who took an unplanned dip in the water? Is there an OYC captain you know of who isn't sharing all the details of this season's boat repairs?* Please send your nominations, along with justification to support how the Captain or Crew may be qualified to receive one or more of these awards, to Commodore Pat Croft at [hpcroft@verizon.net](mailto:hpcroft@verizon.net).

The Change of Watch/Holiday Party committee members, including myself, Pat Croft, Donna Lensis, Susan Willetts, and Sharman Harris, have been busy with preparations to make this year's party one of the best ever. The theme, invitations, and menu selection have been decided and ordered, and the decorations are in the process of being made. There will be door prizes, 50-50 drawings, and dancing to the music of Small Town, the band that entertained us at the last two parties. Dinner, including a prime rib carving station, a chicken entrée and a pasta entrée, as well as side dishes, will be prepared by Laurel Hill's resident chef. The dress code for the evening is black tie optional; this is one of the few opportunities for everyone to dress up from their usual boating attire. Ticket cost for this event is \$75 per person. A formal invitation and RSVP card will be sent to you in the mail with a postage-paid return envelope for your convenience. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there. It really is the OYC event you don't want to miss!

Tom Lensis, *Copy Cat*

### **Late Breaking News**

The 2011 OYC Board was unanimously approved at the October Membership meeting. The new officers include:

- Tom Lensis, Commodore
- Tom Plewes, Vice Commodore
- John Heinze, Rear Commodore
- Arleen Rhodes, Treasurer
- Jill Stanley, Secretary

#### ***The Daymarker***

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Carolyn Wixson, Editor  
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Please submit your copy by e-mail to:  
[oyceditor@gmail.com](mailto:oyceditor@gmail.com)



**Rear Commodore**

**John Heinze**

### **The Shrimp Fest – The Good Times Rolled**

The good times rolled at the Shrimp Fest October 2 at Hoffmaster's Marina. The weather was ideal. The shrimp boil and shrimp cocktail were delicious. In addition, there were all the great appetizers, salads, and yummy desserts provided by participants. But of course what makes any kind of event like this so enjoyable is your participation. All I can say is "thank you for coming" and "there is more fun ahead."

We indeed had a great turnout, over 50 people by my count, which would make it the most successful Shrimp Fest that we have ever had.

One of the things that I especially appreciated about the Shrimp Fest was the opportunity to meet a number of people at Hoffmaster's Marina. As a boating club, it is always important to meet and interact with fellow boaters and to share with them the kinds of fun activities that we enjoy. The Shrimp Fest gave us another opportunity for that.

There are a large number of people to thank for their help on the Shrimp Fest. First, I want to acknowledge Joe Hoffmaster for not only providing the space for the event, including the tables and chairs, but also for generously providing a keg of beer for our enjoyment. I also want to thank Ned Rhodes, master chef, for a terrific job of cooking the shrimp boil; Patricia Maxwell for finding the best prices in town on shrimp and kielbasa sausage; Pat Croft for purchasing the shrimp, potatoes, sausage and shrimp cocktail; Gail Livingston for preparing the sweet corn; Myndi Harbin for providing a pot, the spices, and the burners; Harry Croft for providing a propane tank and for help with set up; Arlene Rhodes for collecting the contributions to cover the costs; and Carl Maxwell for keeping me out of Ned's way while he cooked to perfection.

I'm sure there are many others who should be thanked as well. But that is also what makes the Rear Commodore position something that Rebecca (my indispensable First Mate) and I enjoy doing – we have a large group of great people who are willing to step in and help with the party.

More fun to come.

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 pm

### 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!

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**

### **Bloody Marys a la Myndi**

As it is now mid-October, it's time to cancel the Sirius weather and put the bathing suit back in the cedar drawer. Although I really enjoy Fall, I feel like I didn't get a lot of boating time in this summer so I am in somewhat of a melancholy mood. With that in mind (and being bugged), I have decided to share my Sunday Morning Brunch recipe for Bloody Mary mix.

#### **Bloody Mary Mix**

- 32oz bottle of V-8 juice
- 32oz bottle of Clamato juice
- 2T Horseradish
- 2T Worcestershire sauce
- ½ t Celery salt
- ½ t Everglades seasoning (I got mine in Florida, but it can be found at Bloom in the NoVA Area)
- 3T Old Bay
- ½ t onion powder
- 2t black pepper
- 3t lemon juice
- 2 t jerk seasoning ( I use the "wet" variety)

Place all ingredients in a large jug and shake. I find it better to make a day or two prior. Serve in a large glass with ice and as much or as little vodka as you like. Garnish can include celery, asparagus, or shrimp! Enjoy!

Myndi Harbin, *Wii Fish*

### **The Last Overnights of 2010 – Two Trips to National Harbor!**

**November 12-14:** The Hardy Souls will return with Ned and Arleen Rhodes (*Impulse*) for dog walks over Wilson Bridge, a group dinner, shopping and relaxing, and the usual complement of eating and telling lies. Send the number of people, number of dogs, boat specifics, and number of nights to [ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com](mailto:ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com).

**November 26-28:** Make this a nautical Thanksgiving weekend with Larry and Barbara Freedman (*Takin' to the Sea*), complete with a tree lighting and fireworks. Call National Harbor Marina at 301-749-1582 to reserve a slip, then contact Larry at 703-855-1826 so he can keep track of the how many boats plan to attend. Visit [www.christmasonthepotomac.com](http://www.christmasonthepotomac.com) in advance for tickets to the ice sculpture show

For more information, visit [www.nationalharbor.com](http://www.nationalharbor.com).

### **Kick Off Christmas with OYC & the Occoquan Merchants Association**



The Saturday after Thanksgiving will again inaugurate OYC's holiday season as we gather on the OHM docks for food and drink followed by our traditional ferrying of ole St Nick himself to downtown Occoquan. So, decorate your boat, crank up some holiday music, bring some libation and munchies to share, and be in place on the OHM gas dock around 10:45 a.m. so we can enjoy an hour of merrymaking before blasting off at 11:40 in order to have Santa arrive promptly at the old Prince William Marina bulkhead at noon for the Occoquan Merchants Association's Christmas kickoff.

We've had very mild weather the past three years, so no one has an excuse for missing this fun event. I've called the usual boat providers, and we have at least three planning to attend this year. COME ON, we can do better than that!! If we don't get more participation, Prince William might try and steal our event from us. See you there, November 27th at 10:45 a.m.

Walt Cheatham, *Walt's on Water*

### **Results of the Chefs' Challenge**



More than 35 OYC members attended the October 24th Membership Meeting, and 20 accepted the challenge to prepare their best dish. Goodwyn Morgan even entered every category! Winners were determined by popular vote, combined with the judges' tally. The winning chefs were asked to share their recipes, but apparently, all are highly guarded secrets!

#### **Awesome Appetizers**

- 1st Place Sandra Myers, for Hot Sausage Dip
  - 2nd Place Liz Plewes, for Chicken Curry Spread
  - 3rd Place Dave Moore, for Chili Dip Yum
- Judges: Steve Stanley, Rick Sorrenti, and Harry Croft*

#### **Champion Chili**

- 1st Place Jill Stanley, for Many Bean Chili
  - 2nd Place Teresa Sorrenti, for Italiano Venture
  - 3rd Place Donna Lensis, for Kick Ass Chili
- Judges: Ned Rhodes, Liz Plewes, Sue Thompson*

#### **Delectable Desserts**

- 1st Place Arleen Rhodes, Apple-Cranberry Tart
- 2nd Place Patricia Maxwell, Crème Brulee
- Mini-Cheesecakes
- 3rd Place Sue Thompson, Cherry Gingersnap
- Cheesecake

*Judges: Dave Moore, Gail Livingston, Teresa Sorrenti*

## Cruise Report: Columbus Day Weekend Cruise to Ft. Washington

What a beautiful weekend!! The sunset and view from Piscataway Creek looking out to the Potomac was fantastic as was the warm weather and gentle breeze with that hint of fall. "Mr. Pumpkin" also added to the fall motif with deliveries to each vessel, but no carving was done as all were so busy relaxing.

The *Gail Lynn II* crew arrived early Friday afternoon followed by *Plane to Sea* (Lynanne & Allen Jorsey). The Ft. Washington Marina has great concrete floating docks but arriving at near low tide created a little concern as to when that "big touch" might come...all was well after wiggling into our slips. *Golden Opportunities* (Janice & Goodwyn Morgan) followed in on the rising tide and docked in style with water. *Time Away* (Peggy & Bill Johnson plus Sir Rusty, Cassie, and Ellie) arrived Saturday, completing the weekend compliment and more than doubling our legs on deck.



Saturday was again relaxing, but there was a dominos game wherein Janice (so she said) used beginner's luck for the win. Allen was fixing things on *Plane to Sea* and solved *Time Away's* electrical gremlins (what was that about a bottle of merlot?).

Saturday's social brought out such a spread of fantastic hors d'oeuvres, dinner was almost ruled out, but not missed even though mostly appetizers were consumed. A Sunday brunch on the dock with champagne, specialty pumpkin bread, home-baked spicy bacon strip, pancakes, and eggs and bacon with trimmings completed the weekend's culinary experience.



The wrap up. Mix eight OYCers cruising on the Potomac; speaking family; boat and technology gadgets; and then check oils and fluids for departure to home docks...you have had a great weekend cruising with friends. See you at the next event.

Gail & Joe Livingston, *Gail Lynn II*

In good old-fashioned OYC style on Friday, the three crews scouted out the marina, gathered for "happy hour" on the aft deck of the *Gail Lynn II*, and then made our way to Proud Mary for dinner...really pleasant environment and good food.



## Cruise Report: National Harbor Oktoberfest, September 24-26



What a blast!! Eins...Zwei...Drei...Suffa!, which is German for, one, two, three, drink up! Some of us took that seriously. Harry Croft with his VIP status at the Oktoberfest was seen doing the "dock

crawl" back to his boat. Cruise coordinators Bill and Peggy Johnson (*Time Away*), in photo above, and Chris and Allison Rose (*La-Dee-Da*) danced to the southern rock band at the Oktoberfest. Then they schemed together to prevent the overly friendly Bill Johnson (*Time Away*) from bringing the entire fest crowd back to his boat.

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Most cruisers arrived on Friday without much issue even with the heavy winds blowing. Harry and Patricia Croft (*Bay Dreamer*) came into the marina on one engine, but that's why there are two engines anyway. Right? Bill needed and got some great docking assist from Randy and Susan Willets (*Takin' It Easy*), but Bill Myers (*Sandra Louise*) glided easily into his berth like the wind wasn't even blowing. How'd he do that?

National Harbor was a rocking place. In addition to the famously good restaurants and Oktoberfest, the Harbor offered Cirque Du Soleil, and the finale of a race in which Randy and Susan found some relatives or friends participating. Small world, isn't it?



OYC cruisers did everything you would expect at an OYC event that the weather would allow and much more. Happy Hour on Saturday night had slow start with Carl and Patricia Maxwell (*Sunshine*) arriving at the designated time wondering if everyone was sleeping off the day or still at the Oktoberfest.



Around 6 p.m. the Happy Hour really got started with the arrival of Sharman Harris and Ken Jr. (*Darn Tootin*) bringing a scrumptious snow crab

appetizer. Things got really rocking when Donna Lensis (*Copy Cat*), sans Tom, and Bill Johnson demonstrated the German chicken dance. Sorry, no video. Jim and Judy Dooley (*Just Chill-in*) joined us on Saturday about time for Happy Hour.

Bill and Peggy went to the Cirque Du Soleil, leaving the Happy Hour in the capable hands of Chris and Allison. Rumor has it that someone boarded (Freddy), the

snazzy Lazzara moored at the Harbor across from *Time Away* and *Sandra Louise*. I wonder if that's why (Freddy) was lit up, like a Christmas tree when returning from the Cirque around 11:30 p.m.

And on Sunday, it rained. After two days of record breaking 95-plus degree weather, this felt like winter. Thinking the ride home would be blustery cold and wet, we were pleasantly surprised because a beautiful OYC sun came out again.

Peggy (& Bill) Johnson, *Time Away*

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## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Kathy Corley	11/2
John Heinze	11/3
Heidi Bishop	11/6
Trish Mattke	11/6
Dick Lynn	11/7
Kevin Bell	11/11
Clara French	11/16
Kee Jun	11/16
Christian Rose	11/18
Henry Lovell	11/19
Randy Willetts	11/20
Donna Lensis	11/23
Ilona Zsirai	11/27
Kenneth Harris, Jr.	11/30
Joe Livingston	11/30

### Anniversaries

Theodore & Ilona Zsirai	11/7
Mark & Mary Ann Schall	11/13

### New Members

Daniel & Donna Carr Associate Members

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### Connect with OYC Online

Now on Facebook! 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.

Web space for [occoquanyachtclub.org](http://occoquanyachtclub.org), [potomacriveryachtclubs.org](http://potomacriveryachtclubs.org), and [ormaweb.org](http://ormaweb.org) is donated by Software Systems Group, Ned Rhodes, President and CEO.

*Inside this edition...*

12-14 November  
Hardy Souls Cruise to  
National Harbor  
Ned & Arleen Rhodes  
703-741-0861

26-28 November  
Tree Lighting & Fireworks  
@ National Harbor  
Larry & Barbara Freedman  
703-855-1826

27 November  
Santa Cruise  
OHM to Occoquan  
Walt Cheatham

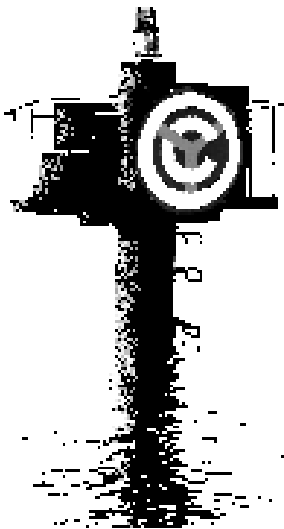
4 December  
Washington Channel &  
Old Town Alexandria  
Parade of Lights

11 December  
Holiday Party & COW  
Laurel Hill Golf Club

**Time to shop for a new ball gown and take the tux to the cleaners for the Change of Watch and Holiday Party.**

**Chicken dances on the dock, dominos on deck – Cirque Du Soleil's got nothing on the circus OYC can create!**

**Check the cruising calendar at left to get in your final 2010 cruises before winterizing...or heading south.**



*The Daymarker*

Occoquan Yacht Club  
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Occoquan, VA 22125

Change Service  
Requested