



# The Daymarker

## OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

Web site: [www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org)

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Tom Lensis

### The Last of the 2010 OYC Season & Looking Forward to 2011

With the 2010 boating season coming to a close at the Change of Watch/Holiday Party at Laurel Hill Golf Club, all I can say is "WOW." With sixty OYC members represented the party was a huge success. We enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow OYCers while indulging in libations and great food, and dancing to the tunes performed by the band Small Town.

As Pat Croft's final official OYC action as Commodore, she swore me in as your new Commodore and I then proceeded to swear in our new board. This year's board is:

- Vice Commodore Tom Plewes (new)
- Rear Commodore John Heinze
- Secretary Jill Stanley (new)
- Treasurer Arleen Rhodes
- Immediate Past Commodore Pat Croft
- PRYCA/CBYCA Delegate Joe Livingston
- Quartermaster Patricia Maxwell
- Membership Chair Ilona Zsirai
- Historian Nabil Dubraque
- Webmaster Ned Rhodes
- *Daymarker* Editor Carolyn Wixson

I would like to thank the party committee for making this year's COW Party such a huge success: **Pat Croft, Susan Willetts, Rebecca Heinze, Sharman Harris, and Donna Lensis.** The other OYC members who helped make the ornaments and set up for the party are **Carl and Patricia Maxwell, Myndi Harbin, Dan and Donna Carr, Amy Fletcher, and Catherine Harris.** The decorations looked great and everyone had a wonderful time. **Catherine Harris** gave the invocation for the meal, and **Sharman Harris** generously contributed the beautiful cakes for dessert.



Left to right: Donna Carr, Donna Lensis, Patricia Maxwell, Susan Willetts

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This year the prestigious Golden Snorkel, Bent Prop and Commodore's Cup Awards were presented to the following:

**The Golden Snorkel Award**—normally given for making a splash, was presented by Joe Livingston to **Jim Larkin** of the vessel *Assisted Living*, moored at Hoffmaster's. As reported: "Jim just made an impressive approach into National Harbor. All dock hands were there to secure lines. Seems Jim's mind was focused on the landing and not the edge of the swim platform, and you guessed it...splash...a display worthy of all to view. As is always the case, cell phone and wallet contents were deep-sixed, pride bruised, and self defenses were uttered: 'There I was in the water and Marcie (a great First Mate) was pushing me under as I tried to climb out.'" Jim, unfortunately, could not attend the COW to defend, but Joe Hoffmaster accepted the award for display at the Marina. "Final story to be told."

**The Bent Prop Award**—presented by myself to **John Heinze** for his multiple attempts to dock *Great Escape* in high cross winds at the Corinthian Yacht Club and wedging his boat between two pilings only to find out the slip was too small to accommodate his vessel. Rumor has it that John was experiencing problems with his steering, or so he said.

**The Commodore's Cup**—presented by Commodore Pat Croft and given every year since 1985, initially to the member whose boat "typified the Yacht of the Year, which included underway operation, maneuvering and docking, anchoring, and year-round appearance and upkeep." In recent years it has been presented as recognition of the member, other than a board officer, who demonstrated the most support for the club and help to fellow boaters. So as Pat said while presenting the award, "I wanted to be sure to bestow this award on a member who meets both the original qualifications of seamanship and has offered unflinching support to the club. I don't know anyone who matches that description better than **Joe Livingston**." Congratulations, Joe, and thanks for your continued support of OYC.



I am honored to serve our members as Commodore for the upcoming 2011 boating season and continue the past legacy of the many fine leaders who have made this such a great club. With the current economic downturn, the club offers an inexpensive means to learn boating skills, enjoy the water, and share camaraderie of fellow boaters at an affordable price.

It is my goal to have a fun, safe and successful year of cruising with our OYC members. I encourage as many members as possible to attend the Planfest to provide input to the upcoming cruise and land event schedule and get involved. It is especially important for less active and new members to get on the cruising schedules at the Planfest or shortly thereafter. Some of the destination marinas have limited dock space, so we encourage early signup so we don't have to turn anyone away. I look forward to serving our membership for the 2011 season.

Tom Lensis, *Copy Cat*



**Vice Commodore**

**Tom Plewes**

### Lessons Learned

First Mate, Liz, and I are relatively new to boating; that is, relative to some of the seasoned boating enthusiasts we have had the privilege of meeting in our time as members of the Occoquan Yacht Club. Like most "newbies" we are much into lessons learned. In fact, boating is a learning experience every time we set foot on that wonderful contraption that amazingly floats on the water, which we have christened *Double Eagle*.

As much as we have tried to learn from the books and manuals, and the boating magazines that weigh down our postal carrier most every day, our greatest teachers have been our fellow members of the OYC, and most of that teaching and learning has taken place on an OYC cruise. It can be as simple as Tom Lensis stopping by to help figure out why the GPS seems to be stuck in place, and in a place that had no bearing on where the boat was situated on the face of the earth. It can be as complex as Harry Croft crawling down into the engine compartment to troubleshoot what turned out to be a blown transmission. It can be as pleasurable as finding out that margarita machines are actually portable and that they can make up a seemingly endless supply of the too tasty concoctions.

Lessons learned can also be as life savingly important as the advice we got, belatedly, when we had our recent

(cont. from p. 2)

accident, and which I am about to pass on in this, my first article as Vice Commodore.

It all started on a windy November day (don't a lot of boating articles seem to start out that way?). Because someone once told us to have a full tank of fuel when winterizing the boat—in contradiction to the school that told us to have a nearly empty tank—we set out from our Fairfax Yacht Club slip on that blustery day to go up to the Occoquan Harbour Marina to top off the tanks.

It was as pleasant a trip as we could have, being so short and in that infernal no-wake zone, and was made more pleasant on arrival at OHM by seeing Tom Lensis readying the *Copy Cat* for its cruise to Florida and Kenny Harris supervising a diver from Prince William who was maintaining the props on the *Darn Tootin'*. You see a lot of folks from OYC on the river, maybe because our members are truly fond of being on the water with other boaters.

The accident happened when First Mate and I tried to return the *Double Eagle* to the slip. As usual, First Mate was forward to ward off any other boats that might have made the mistake of getting too close to our boat when we were backing into the slip and preparing to tie off the bow lines when we were finally settled into place. It was a successful slip entry—"successful entry" is always defined as when there is nobody watching.

Our usual system is that the Captain runs to the stern to secure the dock lines and First Mate yanks the bow line off the post and begins to secure the bow. This was not destined to happen due to a gust of wind that made it impossible for Captain to do his sworn duty, and First Mate didn't get the word, with the result that the boat moved forward when she was securing the line to the forward cleat. Finger caught, lacerated, broken. Not a pretty sight.

First lesson, this is why the annual boat inspector insists on seeing the first aid kit and looking inside to make sure there is more than one soggy bandage. This annual exercise also helps you remember where you last put the darned thing when you really need it, which we did. This was the kit's inauguration, and it performed well.

The second lesson is that it is good for the First Mate to hold her hand over the side of the boat to prevent blood stains topside, and it helps when she cracks jokes instead of screaming in pain, mentioning that if we were in the Caribbean, we would definitely have a shark problem.

The third lesson, which many shared with me after hearing this tale, is to fix your slip entry procedures. Always secure the spring line first before trying to secure the stern and bow lines. Take extra care when the wind is gusting from the stern. Don't be in a hurry. Communicate.

The fourth lesson is the most important. You should always have your accident on the last cruise of the season so First Mate can be patched up and ready to go when the spring cruising season starts.

First Mate and I are looking forward to the beginning of the OYC cruising season. Your board is working on a fun and educational cruising schedule for 2011 with something for everybody. We hope to see everyone at the **annual Planfest, scheduled for Saturday, February 19, at the Fairfax Yacht Club.**

As for First Mate and me, we need to start working on the next round of lessons learned.

Tom Plewes, *Double Eagle*

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## The Datemarkers

### January Birthdays

Eric Henry	1/14
Amanda Johnson	1/14
Walt Cheatham	1/15
Ned Rhodes	1/22
Vicki Hamp	1/28
Jan Wilcox	1/31

### January Anniversaries

Laslo & Linda Bozoky	1/3
John & Rebecca Heinze	1/30

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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.

### **The Daymarker**

Published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club

Carolyn Wixson, 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 e-mail to: [oyceditor@gmail.com](mailto:oyceditor@gmail.com)



**Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association**



*Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association  
2011 Change of Watch  
Saturday January 22, 2011*

*Hilton Springfield  
6550 Loisdale Rd., Springfield, VA*

*Hospitality Suite: 1700  
Cocktails: 1800  
Dinner: 1900  
Ceremony: 2000  
Hospitality Suite: 2300*

*Dancing to follow Ceremony, Music provided by "25<sup>th</sup> Hour Band"  
Winter Uniform or Business Suit (Black Tie Optional)*

*\$75 per person (No refunds after January 14<sup>th</sup>)*

*Caesar Salad w/ asst. bread and rolls  
Roasted Beef Terous Major w/ Fennel Gruyere Potato Gratin  
Or  
Tuscan Chicken w/ Basil Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetarian Meal Available by Request*

Please indicate: Beef Entrée          Chicken Entrée          Vegetarian Entree  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Escort Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Yacht Club \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send to:  
PRYCA Treasurer F. Erwetowski  
11420 Mohawk Ct.  
Swan Pt., MD 20645*



## Rear Commodore

**John Heinze**

### OYC - Past, Present and Future

The first *Daymarker* of the year provides an excellent opportunity to highlight a few items from OYC's past, present, and future.

#### OYC's Past

Commodore Patricia Croft's November *Daymarker* article on the history of the Commodore's Cup, made possible by Webmaster Ned Rhodes' archiving past issues of the *Daymaker*, is a terrific illustration of how OYC's past can be used to deepen our appreciation of the present. The award originally was given for seamanship but more recently has been for service to the club. This year's recipient was an individual who abundantly illustrates both service to OYC as well as outstanding seamanship. Congratulations, Joe Livingston!

The December *Daymarker* also contained an article from the archives that I hope you noted as well. It was the article "Writer's Block" by Secretary Myndi Harbin. The original article came from the December 1998 *Daymarker* and was titled "Articles Sought from OYC members." The title illustrates the long-time challenge to editors of obtaining content—it isn't easy getting articles to fill the *Daymarker* every month. The article illustrates grammar errors that are so outrageous—and thus easy to avoid. It should make anyone feel more comfortable writing for the *Daymarker*. And it does it with a sense of humor regarding stuffy old rules of grammar—who knew that was even possible?

I hope we continue to mine the *Daymarker* archives for lessons of the past.

#### OYC's Present

The OYC Holiday Party nicely illustrates the present. We had a very enjoyable evening with delicious food and drink and lively music and dancing, all with great friends. We installed the new OYC officers at the Change of Watch and thanked the outgoing officers. And we awarded our special OYC awards, including the inglorious Bent Prop Award. As I stated in my rather embarrassed acceptance remarks, "Sometimes you know you have really messed up. This is one award I don't want to win again!"

Despite being stuck with the Bent Prop Award for the upcoming year, I still managed to have a great time, so you know the party must have been terrific.

### OYC Future

Tom Plewes, the new Vice Commodore for OYC, is already at work with new Commodore Tom Lensis on the schedule of activities for the year, including cruises and land activities. In short, planning is well under way for a full schedule of activities for the coming year.

More fun to come!

John Heinze, *Great Escape*



## Secretary

**Jill Stanley**

### It's About Time

As I am now the new secretary of OYC, I know many of you don't know me, so I thought I would introduce myself. My name is Jill Hammer Stanley. I originally am from Princeton, New Jersey. Yes, I am a Jersey girl and I did not go to Princeton. I moved to the DC area in 1974. I worked at the *Washington Post* (no, I was not a reporter)—I can't write worth beans as you will notice from the articles I will be writing for the *Daymarker*. Not only can I not write, my spelling and grammar are atrocious. Thank god for spell check. What I could have done with spell check when I went to school. Maybe then I could have gone to Princeton!

I met Steve, my significant other, at the *Post*. We moved to Virginia in 1978. The interest in boating began when we started to go to boat shows with friends around 1998. We finally took the plunge in 2005, and we appropriately name our boat, *'bout time*. The name explains it all!

Steve and I bought the boat with no place to dock it. Thankfully we knew Tom and Liz Plewes. Their boat is *Double Eagle*, and they have a boat slip at Fairfax Yacht Club. We fell in love with the club and lease a slip at FYC.

We joined OYC in 2006 with the encouragement of Carl and Patricia Maxwell. OYC has been a great resource for fun trips and meeting other boaters.

I look forward to the upcoming year and what it will bring. Happy holidays, and have a wonderful New Year!

Jill Stanley, *'bout time*



**Treasurer**

**Arleen Rhodes**

## Looking Back, Looking Forward

It was great to see so many of you at the OYC Holiday Party. Congratulations to Joe and Gail Livingston, well-deserving winners of the Commodore's Cup.

And also congratulations (of sorts) to John and Rebecca Heinze, the 2010 recipients of the OYC Bent Prop Award.

Once again, OYC showed they know how to party, and I think a good time was had by all—especially by Myndi (aka Wendy) Harbin, winner of the record setting 50/50! (Note to board: ALWAYS have Rick Sorrenti and Ned Rhodes sell raffle tickets.)

A lot of planning went into this event, and your board (and spouses) worked very hard to make the party the success it was—I just sold beverage tickets, which was the place to see everyone, of course!

At the risk of sounding like my mother, where has the time gone? It's hard to believe another year has passed. Ned and I didn't do all that much cruising in 2010, but we sure enjoyed our weekends at OHM, swimming Abby and spending time solving the world's problems (or not) with our dockmates there, and also enjoyed those frequent afternoon cocktail cruises (and those occasional stops at FYC on our way back where we were coerced to extend the cocktail hour into the evening). Good times.

The coming year will prove interesting for us. Our planned move of home and office to North Carolina late in 2011 already has my head spinning with all that needs to be done to, in Ned's words, "de-crapify" our house and get it market-ready. Should be an interesting year....

Ned and I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. We hope to see you soon, in warmer weather!

All the best,

Arleen Rhodes, *Impulse*



## You've Put the Boat Away for the Season: Now What?

### Suggestions on How Boaters Can Idle Away Their Winter Months

*News from BoatUS*

*D. Scott Croft, 703-461-2864, [SCroft@BoatUS.com](mailto:SCroft@BoatUS.com)*

ALEXANDRIA, Va., November 22, 2010 - Across much of America, boaters, sailors and anglers have put away the boat for the season. With spring a long way away, what will keep boaters' passion for water alive all winter long? Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has these suggestions:

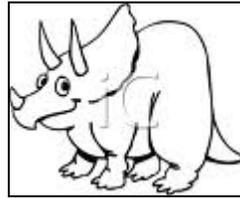
- 1. Make frequent visits to your boat club or marina:** Hey, they aren't expecting you, right? Gosh, who knows what goes on during the sleepy winter months, but you are about to find out. While you are at it, check up on your boat and make sure the family of raccoons living in the cuddy has everything they need.
- 2. Take care of your boating spouse:** Spend a good amount on a gift for your boating spouse and give it to him or her now. This way, the moment they start to complain that you are spending way too much money over the winter on "toys" for the boat, you can smartly respond that you did think of them first.
- 3. Drive your family crazy:** All that nautical knowledge you've accumulated over the years isn't going to be passed down to future generations without a little help. Start by referring to everything in the house by its nautical name, and announce the time by ringing a large brass bell. Carry on the great musical traditions of the sea by learning a few sea chanties (great for company, too!). This is also a great time to pick up that boatswain's pipe you've been meaning to play with—the kids will appreciate being summoned to breakfast with a cheerful "all hands" call. At least when spring does finally roll around, they'll all be excited to get you out of the house for some boating fun!

**4. Start an ice-out contest:** To engage your local community and do some good, start a charity fundraiser that centers around correctly guessing when the local waterway will be free of ice come springtime. Please note that the practice of using elected officials to stand on the ice to monitor and advise of the exact time ice-out occurs is no longer acceptable.

**5. Practice your safety-at-sea:** No one will object to donning their life jacket on the boat after they get used to wearing them all winter long from the moment they wake up to the moment they go to bed. Impromptu abandon ship drills are easy to do with the family sedan, and if you've got a cat and a bathtub, you've got all the makings of a realistic man overboard scenario. Remember: disaster strikes when you least expect it, like in the middle of the night, when everyone else is sleeping peacefully!

**6. Make a list of boating stuff you want for Christmas gifts:** And share it now with family members so they get the point that the items listed are the only ones you will be expecting under the Christmas tree. For heaven's sake, aren't you tired of getting pajamas—again?

**7. But seriously, folks:** BoatUS strongly urges boaters to use the off-season to improve their knowledge of boating safety. You can start by taking the free online boating safety course and learning about other boating safety programs at [www.BoatUS.com/Foundation](http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation).



Historian

Nabil Dubraque

## Hi Ho and Other Seasonal Grumbings

The other day, watching a repeat of “Disney on Ice” with my very bored grandkid, I found myself wondering whether there were dwarves who didn’t make the cut still wandering through the enchanted forest—Sleazy, Drooley, Stinky, and Gassy shuffling off to Buffalo to the tune of a Puff Daddy rendition of “Hi, Ho.”

And if that wasn’t bad enough, there was the embarrassing episode at the BJ’s parking lot. With the car’s heater churning out summer, friend Buffet on the stereo, and the goosed-seagull shriek of BJ’s rooftop-saver triggering flashbacks of warm weather, Lucy had to pretend to rub my back with SPF-050 before I finally snapped out of it and agreed to leave quietly.

I’m told I am getting better, now that the days have actually started to get longer. The boat is in our yard getting dribs of varnish, TLC, and the occasional tour by a curious neighbor. While I still shuffle Oliver Twist-like down the aisles of West Marine from time to time, empty cart pathetically proffered, whimpering, “more boat stuff, please, Sir,” my anguish is now beginning to give way to purpose as I contemplate the cleaning and waxing to be done, the zincs to be replaced, grease to be applied, and a sassy, sassy bottom to be painted. The mental detritus of winter is slowly, oh too slowly, being swept aside by the promise of a new season.

Soon there will be Planfest and Flag Raising, early bird cruises, late bird cruises, and just plain cruises, with the occasional Fajita Festivity thrown in, thank you, John Heinze. *High Cotton* will be back in her Colonial Beach slip sporting new AC, new interior lights, a refurbished teak and holly sole, shining brightwork, and a new bimini, all tarted up for the season and ready to flaunt her 1 GPH strut.

We can get through the next few months, yes we can, keep repeating it. It’s not as though we share the fates of Sleazy, Drooley, Stinky, and Gassy, doomed to forever wander some enchanted winter forest.

Hi Ho, and think spring.

Nabil Dubraque, *High Cotton*



*Happy Anniversary to Linda and Laslo Bozoky*

*Inside this edition...*

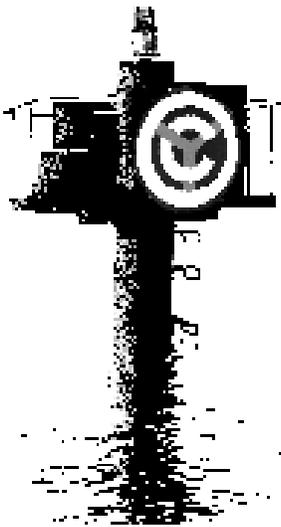
22 January 2011  
PRYCA COW  
Springfield Hilton  
Joe Livingston  
703-505-8313

19 February 2011  
OYC Planfest  
Fairfax Yacht Club

**It's Change of Watch time! Tom takes the helm, and the OYC welcomes a couple new faces as Vice Commodore and Secretary.**

**Find out who received the club's "prestigious" Golden Snorkel and Bent Prop Awards!**

**Nabil reminds us that Old Man Winter will be "dwarfed" by longer days and warmer temperatures—if we can just be patient!**



## *The Daymarker*

Occoquan Yacht Club  
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Occoquan, VA 22125

Change Service  
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