



The Daymarker

2009 & 2011 PRYCA Cup Champions OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Tom Lensis

Bay Cruise Cut Short by Hurricane

This year Donna and I wanted to do a north Chesapeake Bay cruise that would include Solomon's Island, Annapolis, Baltimore, and St. Michaels, finishing at the Corinthian Yacht Club for Labor Day. We began our trip by joining in on the Old Town Alexandria cruise on August 19th along with Double Eagle, SeaNisle, Sea Duck Too, and Gail Lynn II.



We had a surprise visit via land from one of our stars from the PRYCA Cup Challenge Navigation Test, Sue Thompson

(photo above), along with Steve, who joined us for cocktails at the Dominion Boat Club and dinner afterwards at Chadwicks. There is a rumor that we may have another contestant for the Golden Snorkel Award from this group. I guess you'll have to attend the Change of Watch Holiday Party on December 10th to find out who is the latest runner-up. See the details of the great time had by all from our Vice Commodore Tom Plewes in his article.

For the first part of our journey to the Bay we had to leave Alexandria early Sunday morning for our first stop at White Point

because of predicted afternoon thunderstorms. As it turned out it was a smart move, and we were tied up at White Point for about an hour before the storm hit. Monday we met up with Ralph Mason and Kris Butera on board *Party Time* in the lower Potomac on our way to Spring Cove Marina in Solomon's Island. There we were joined

by the Mansours on *Kayley E* and Mark and Mary Ann Shall on *Jet Global*, who remained with us for the rest of the cruise. The Spring Cove Marina is home port for the *Kayley E* and *Jet Global*.

Party Time and Copy Cat got in early since it was only a one-and-a-half-hour trip from White Point. Mark Schall arrived in the afternoon, and the others came in on Tuesday. Monday night we went to Stoney's for their fabulous crab cakes. The appetizers were so huge that we didn't need a full meal. They have some of the best crab cakes on the Bay.

We spent Tuesday wandering around Solomon's, and we were in a historic home that had been



converted into a boutique when the walls started shaking. I was sitting on the porch and walked away from the house to watch it sway back and forth from the tremors of the earthquake. It seemed to last about 20 to 30 seconds, and at the time we weren't sure it was an earthquake until we heard the radio from a nearby biker riding a Harley talking about the quake. Many of the other houses on the street are also businesses, and everyone came out of the buildings to find out what was going on. *(cont. on p. 2)*

Back at the marina, I checked the TV to see what happened with the earthquake and saw that we were on the projected path for Hurricane Irene scheduled to hit the Chesapeake Bay on Saturday. With our trip schedule just starting, I wanted to make sure that we would have a safe harbor for our boats on Saturday. Our next port of call in Annapolis wouldn't guarantee that we could stay during the storm so I had to find another marina that would let us ride out the storm.

The City of Annapolis has slips in Ego Alley and agreed to let us stay if the storm hit so we changed our reservations. Tuesday night we all met in the picnic area for a happy hour and cookout. It was a fabulous meal with everyone bringing something to grill and a dish to share. I think the real surprise at the cookout was Bill Mansour's homemade turkey burgers — wow, who would have thought turkey burgers would steal the show.



Bill, Kayley, and Labanna Mansour aboard Copy Cat

Wednesday morning we took off for Annapolis, without Ralph and Chris Mason on *Party Time* who decided to go home for a work-related reason. The two-and-a-half-hour trip from Solomon's Island put us into downtown Annapolis early afternoon, and we took our positions on the wall of Ego Alley, all three boats lined up in a row. Ego Alley is a small canal about one third of a mile long going from the harbor into the heart of the downtown waterfront, with moorings along both sides and a few slips at the entrance. All day long, boats come in and parade down into the canal only to turn around at the end and parade back out.

Mark Schall seemed to know all the great spots to eat in Annapolis and took us to lunch at Chick & Ruth's Delly in the downtown shopping area. That evening we were joined by friends that live in Annapolis, Bill Blanding and his fiancé Ellie, for happy hour on the boat, and the Mansours joined us for dinner at Hell Point Seafood on the waterfront. The Annapolis waterfront has so many great restaurants to choose from, and we were not disappointed with our great meal.

We were keeping an eye on the progress of Hurricane Irene, and it was becoming obvious that the storm was going to hit on Saturday. I couldn't help but notice that, at high tide, we only had about two feet left on the piling. In case of a storm surge over two feet above normal, we would be off the pilings - not a good feeling with the storm getting closer. On Wednesday when we arrived there were a lot of boats tied up, but on Thursday all had left except for us and one other. We checked the weather Thursday morning, and the forecast was for thunderstorms and heavy rain all day on the Bay. As the girls went out on the town shopping, the guys moved our boats into the now vacant slips for a better position for the storm. The girls got caught in the rain while the guys just sat in a pub and had a few beers and lunch.

Early Friday morning I checked the weather and found that light winds were forecast all day Friday and that the weather would start deteriorating Friday night into Saturday. This was the calm before the storm and our only chance to get back to OHM. The Captains all met on the dock at about 6:30 am and decided to head home. We were off the docks at 6:45 to top off our fuel so we could go six and a half hours nonstop. We followed Kayley E and Jet Global down the Bay to Solomon's in beautiful calm seas, where they went into the Patuxent River onto Solomon's and we continued south. We ran into heavy downpours all the way to the mouth of the Potomac and up to Coles Point. Visibility was only about one half mile but the wind didn't pick up so it was a comfortable ride. We arrived at OHM at about 1:30 and secured our boat. Although the hurricane cut our cruise short, we were happy to be safely back at OHM and not stuck in Annapolis.

Tom Lensis, Copy Cat







OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB SHRIMP FEST

Hoffmaster's Marina Saturday, October 1, 2:00 – 5:00

Featuring

Shrimp, Red Potatoes, Sweet Corn, Kielbasa Sausage Boiled with "OYC Secret Spices"

- Beer (1/2 keg) provided by Hoffmasters.
- · Sodas, water, and table service provided by OYC.
- Appetizers, salads, and dessert provided no need to bring a dish!
- · Cost: \$10 per person

Come ready to have a good time! Hoffmaster's Slip Holders are welcome to join us!

Please RSVP to John Heinze at 703-888-3837

Vice Commodore

Tom Plewes

Old Town Alexandria: A New, Old Destination

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! You could almost hear the Alexandria town crier sounding off the news that six vessels from the towne of Occoquan had just arrived after a journey up the Potomak River, past George Washington's plantation to the port town of Alexandria. Except that there was no town crier (the last one retired and the city has been auditioning for a new one) and the greeting duties were handled by swarms of tourists on the Alexandria waterfront on the weekend of August 19-21 when six OYC vessels and their cargo of cruising enthusiasts arrived for a weekend of fun and eating in Old Town Alexandria.

This was a trip that almost did not happen. The city of Alexandria seems to have a love-hate relationship with boaters and doesn't make it too easy to reserve slips in advance. As luck had it, some slips were found to be available through the good offices of Wade Weeks, who serves as dockmaster and chief cheerleader for the City of Alexandria Marina. He and his staff couldn't have been more helpful and accommodating. Those who have had difficulty in making transient reservations in the past will find a new welcome mat in Alexandria.

The eating quest began with lunch on Saturday at the fairly new Pizzeria Paradisio on King Street, an offshoot of the wildly popular and crowded restaurants with the same name in Georgetown and DuPont Circle. Brick oven pizza and 14 draft beers, most from Belgium, were the highlights of this culinary stop.



From left to right around the table: Rick and Teresa Sorrenti, Gail & Joe Livingston, Liz & Tom Plewes, & Jillian Sorrenti



Gail Livingston, who is a member of the Old Dominion Boat Club, and husband Joe were hosts for evening cocktails at this historic location. The Old Dominion sits at the end of King Street with a facility and a view to die for...well, more than die for. The City of Alexandria dearly covets the property that is owned by this civic-minded club and has been trying, unsuccessfully so far, to seize it by eminent domain.

The hospitality shown by the staff and members at the club couldn't be warmer. We found out that several other members of OYC also have memberships at Old Dominion, and that the club welcomes reciprocal club members to enjoy their facilities (information about reciprocal privileges are found on the club's web site: http://www.olddominionboatclub.com/Marina%20Information/Reciprocity.aspx). Thanks to Gail and Joe for arranging the reception and the tour of this venue which represents so much of boating history on the Potomac. We stand with the members of the Old Dominion Boat Club in their campaign to preserve this wonderful facility on the Alexandria waterfront.

After cocktails, the OYC cruisers retired to Chadwicks Restaurant on The Strand for a sumptuous dinner at this equally historic location. Chadwicks is another offshoot of a well-known Georgetown watering hole, but it's managed to build a reputation for great food at decent prices. Chadwicks features an American menu with lots of comfort and traditional Virginia recipes.

On Sunday morning, the OYC cruisers ventured to the Overwood Restaurant for brunch. This restaurant is known for its wood-fired kitchen and preserving the traditional ambience of Alexandria. A bountiful brunch menu was aided by Bloody Marys and lots of good conversation. Following the brunch, the cruisers returned to their boats and the 21st century, with fond memories of a weekend in Old Town Alexandria.

Tom Plewes, Double Eagle

3 October 2011



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Labor Day Cruise to Corinthian Yacht Club: A Great Time, but Wish More of You Could Have Been There

Well, sometimes the Fates are against you. We had 15 boats that expressed an interest in what is usually one of our most popular cruises of the year, but then we had the D.C. earthquake - our most serious ground-shaking event in over a hundred years - followed by Hurricane Irene just the weekend before we were scheduled to go on the cruise. While Irene was not nearly as destructive as Isabel, a number of OYCers still had significant clean-up issues or prolonged power outages or insurance adjustors to interfere with their plans. Adding those who were recovering from surgery or had boat repairs, we were down to only two boats for the cruise -Great Escape and Copy Cat! I like to think that while we lacked in numbers, we certainly didn't let that stop us from making the most of what turned out to be a really terrific weekend.

Rebecca and I arrived first on Friday afternoon in *Great Escape*, and since there were no witnesses, I can safely say that we made a picture-perfect docking. This is in contrast to last year at CYC when I attempted to dock in a 20-knot crosswind into a slip too small for the boat and earned the Bent Prop award for my efforts.



From left to right: John & Rebecca Heinze, Donna Carr, Donna Lensis, & Dan Carr

Tom and Donna Lensis and Dan and Donna Carr in Copy Cat arrived later that afternoon. We enjoyed Happy Hour under fair skies in Copy Cat's spacious cockpit, and then cooked Bubba Burgers on one of the club's gills in their well-maintained picnic area. Then we returned to Copy Cat to enjoy after-dinner drinks and

chat with club members, including Jim Tapp (CYC Commodore), Paula Hoyas (Vice Commodore and our CYC contact for the cruise) and Delores (Secretary) and Darrell Derrington (both past Commodores).

Saturday was another beautiful day, which we enjoyed with a walk in the morning, pool time in the afternoon (including the highly addictive game of computer Scrabble), happy hour and a cookout that evening, and more after-dinner drinks and visiting with CYC members. Sunday - yet another beautiful day - began with a deckside brunch in the morning featuring bellinis (Prosecco sparkling wine, and peach purée). After pool time, grilled hot dogs for lunch, and more pool time, we had our crabfest that evening with CYC. We provided a bushel of steamed Chesapeake Bay crabs, courtesy of a local waterman, and CYC members provided potluck dishes so that we had quite the feast. After-dinner music was provided by One-Man Band Dave Morris, who capped a really lovely weekend for us. Monday morning we headed back to Fairfax Yacht Club, arriving just in time to beat the afternoon rainstorms and enjoy an impromptu happy hour on E-dock.

All in all, the Labor Day Cruise did not disappoint. The weather was perfect. CYC members could not have been better hosts. The facilities and setting are really ideal for a relaxing three-day weekend. We had a great time. Wish more of you could have been there to share the fun.

John Heinze, Great Escape



Secretary

Jill Stanley

Getting to Know New Members: Steve & Ginny Preda

The Preda family has lived in Stafford for 15 years. Steve was in the Marine Corps and now works as a software engineer. Ginny is a retired teacher. They have one daughter and three beagles.

Steve and Ginny's boat is a 46-foot Maxum named *Anamchara*, which in Gaelic means Soul Mate. An appropriate name for a boat you love. They purchased *Anamchara* in Baltimore two years ago.

The Predas started boating in a 21-foot cutty cabin. When Steve was transferred to California and then stationed in Europe, they sold the boat. On their return, they purchased their next boat, a 36-foot Rinker that they docked at Hope Springs Marina. They now dock their Maxum at Quantico Marina.

One of Steve and Ginny's favorite destinations is the Gang Plank Marina in D.C. They like the fact that the Gang Plank is so centrally located. Their last trip to the Gang Plank this past 4th of July was one of their favorites.

The Predas learned about OYC through a PRYCA event where Joey and Pam Sowell introduced them to a few of our OYC members. They're looking forward to having new cruising adventures with OYC.

Jill Stanley, 'bout Time



Treasurer Joe Livingston

Saving Money as a Boat Owner: An Oxymoron?

My first monthly article this time around as a board member and I report that the club has money and the checkbook is balanced.

My first mate Gail suggested an article on how to save money and I naturally assumed that she was talking about cutting up "her" credit card and limiting shopping trips to the five & dime...do they still exist? To demonstrate my lack of knowledge, the following is her list with some extra comments thrown in.

First, run at 12 knots and save on fuel. I said, "Gee, that's four knots slower than we cruise now...we will never have that much to talk about." Experience shows however that if I run at approximately 16 knots, I burn 34 gallons per hour and about 20 GPH at 12 knots. I expect similar percentages with other speeds and vessels. Try it and enjoy the Potomac views.

Second, take advantage of the club's partnership with Boat U.S. Our Cooperating Group number is GA80979Y and reference this number to save 50% on your annual Boat U.S. dues. Go to BoatUS.com or call 800-395-2628 to join or learn of all the benefits of membership, and do not forget the available on-water towing coverage.

Next, with your smart phone, put the Boat U.S. application on your phone. This gives you easy access to their site and can give Boat U.S. your location (coordinates) on the water in case of an emergency. Could save your life as well as your boat.

Fourth, remember the VA tax refund on fuel. Use form TS 217 to apply for the refund earned on fuels purchased in VA for recreational and pleasure boats. Provide original receipts not more than one year old.

Fifth and last...have OYC as your travel agent. We plan our annual schedule in February and seek your input for

the events and cruise locations. You can also save on food costs by attending our land-based functions. Where else can you enjoy a casual shrimp broil with all the fixings for \$10 or a formal holiday evening with dinner and dancing for less than a \$100? See you at Hoffmaster's for shrimp on Saturday, October 1...and at the OYC Holiday Party and COW in December.

Joe Livingston, Gail Lynn II

Wanted: Lighthouse Photos



Please collect any photos you have of you, your boat, or your dog with a lighthouse background. We need these for the December Holiday/Change of Watch party. Please identify the

lighthouse, and e-mail the photos to Liz Plewes at ehplewes@aol.com or send them to her at 4510 Banff Street, Annandale, VA 22003.

RSVP: Hardy Souls Cruise to National Harbor, November 11-13, 2011

Anyone who has taken a cruise or a drive to National Harbor knows what a fun place it is. If you haven't been there for a while, you'll be surprised by all the new shops, restaurants, and venues. Plus we found out last year, you don't have to be so "hardy" to go. We had beautiful, sunny days and crisp evenings...perfect for visiting and exploring during the day and snuggling under a cozy blanket on your afterdeck in the evening. Of course, we can't guarantee the weather; but we will guarantee you'll have a good time. Scheduled events will include the traditional welcome happy hour on Friday, a group dinner for those who want to attend on Saturday, and brunch on Sunday.

Since Ned and Arleen plan to move Impulse to North Carolina before then, Don and Anne Bennett have taken over as coordinators for the cruise. As of this writing, National Harbor Marina guarantees us only six slips. We hope for more; plus there are other options, such as mooring balls. Two of the slips have already been spoken for, and reservations will be taken on a first-come-firstserved basis. Those who signed up at the beginning of the season will be emailed further information. If you don't remember or did not sign up, but are interested, please contact Don and Anne at 540-752-4250 or bennettdon@comcast.net.

Nautical Bulletin Board



home? Send a brief description to oyceditor@gmail.com by the 20th of each month for the next issue. Items from OYC members only. Published items and length of description at editor's discretion.

5 October 2011

TRIP REPORT: The Last Leg of the South Bay-Dismal Swamp Cruise



19 days, almost 600 miles, 845 gallons of fuel, and a priceless boating experience! Five boats formed the core cruising group that left Cobb Island on June 19: 'Bout Time (Steve and Jill Stanley); Takin' It Easy (Randy and Susan Willetts); and Bay Dreamer (Harry and Pat Croft, along with their guests Dave and Linda Nelson); Déjà vu (Kevin and Pam Bell); and Sea Duck, Too (Rick and Teresa Sorrenti).

In the September *Daymarker*, we followed our OYC voyagers to White Point, Cape Charles, Smithfield, Portsmouth, through the Dismal Swamp Canal, into the Pasquotank River to Elizabeth City, and across Albemarle Sound to Roanoake Island and Manteo. Manteo was their southernmost destination, and after two days there, they turned north and - to complete their loop - headed back to Norfolk via the North River and Coinjock.

Norfolk

After five bridge openings and one more lock, we arrived at the Waterside Marina. Bill, Lobanh, and Kayley Mansour on *Island Passage*, and Mark and Maryann Schall on *Jet Global*, were already there, waiting to greet us. Waterside Marina at Norfolk provides front row views of all the maritime activity in the nearby shipyards and in the harbor, with a variety of vessels – naval, commercial, and recreational – coming and going constantly. A number of restaurants are within walking distance. The closest one, Hooters, was the setting for another Happy Hour. Everyone enjoyed the chicken wings, the service, and the sights!



Boats and a Babe: Dave, Harry, Steve, and Randy pose for a photo-op with the Hooters waitress.

We were delighted to spend an evening with Trish and Terry Mattke, OYC members who moved to Virginia Beach a few years ago. Norfolk was one of our favorite stops on the cruise. The museums are fantastic, especially the General MacArthur and Nauticus. The Battleship *Wisconsin* is also a must-see. A note to those who might cruise to Waterside in the future: the marina's website advertises the availability of groceries at the Market at the Heights, which used to be in walking distance, but has now closed. As a service to their transient customers, the marina will arrange and pay for one cab ride each day to the nearest Harris Teeter grocery store. We happily took advantage of that service.



Bay Dreamer, Takin' It Easy, 'Bout Time, and Déjà vu at Waterside in Norfolk, with a backdrop of the sailing vessel, American Spirit. Island Passage, Jet Global, and Sea Duck Too are just around the corner, out of view.

Back to Bay Creek

We left Norfolk and continued our northerly course, stopping at Bay Creek once again to break up the long trip back home. We had lost one day at Bay Creek the first time through, but this time we stayed the full two days, enjoying more golf, good restaurants, and the few nice shops at Cape Charles. This time around, Randy, Rick, and Dave provided the golf beating to Harry, Steve, Kevin, and Pam.

The highlight of this second visit was dinner aboard the Bay Creek Railway, a vintage dining car, to celebrate Pat and Harry's anniversary and Pat's birthday. The train traveled north for one hour through the countryside before reversing for the one-hour return trip to Cape Charles. The food was excellent, and the experience of the dinner train was incomparable. Whenever the train crossed a small country road that didn't have a crossing arm, the train had to stop and let the waitress off to wave a big orange flag to stop traffic; then the train would cross the road, stop again, and let the waitress hop back on. Rick Sorrenti said, "Let me do it next time!" so he got to serve as Flagman at the next crossing. Unfortunately there was no traffic to stop, but Rick did a great job waving that flag! (cont. on p. 7)



Carter Creek

The last destination of our long cruise was the Tides Inn on Carter Creek, inside the Rappahannock River. *Island Passage* met up with us again. Dinner at the Trick Dog Café, another golf game, a small-town July 4th parade in Irvington, and exclusive use of the gazebo and pool for our barbecue all made for a memorable weekend.

We knew that The Tides Inn would not be putting on a fireworks display, but looked forward to the private display put on by a resident across the creek. Just as his show got started, so did an intense thunderstorm, so the fireworks stopped and everyone retreated to their boats to wait out the storm. Dave, who usually provides a full program of patriotic songs to accompany the fireworks each year, settled instead for a medley of military anthems, which were well appreciated by all. Soon after most of us had gone on to bed, the rain stopped and the fireworks display began again. Those who got up to watch were treated to a fantastic show.

July 5th brought our final early morning departure for the last leg of our return home – from the Tides to the Occoquan. The cruising conditions were eerily perfect, giving us a beautiful day on the Bay and a smooth trip up the Potomac. Although we had been away from home for almost three weeks, had cruised almost 600 miles, and visited nine different destinations, it seemed as if the cruise was ending too soon. If we'd had more time, we would have been happy to just keep on cruising together. We're already making plans for next summer!

TRIP REPORT: Labor Day
Cruise to Tall Timbers

A handful of OYC members, led by Jim Hawley and Meimei Tidrow, opted for a hot destination this past Labor Day weekend. Jim, Meimei, niece Michelle, with husband Sam on *Lori Ann*; Jim Crabill and Lee Moyer on *Encore*; Bud and Heidi Bishop on *Hi-Jinx*; Don and Anne Bennett on *Heart of the Sun*, and everyone's respective dogs (including Izzy of Not-on-the-4th-of-July Float-in fame, who still wants nothing to do with boats or fireworks!) headed to Tall Timbers for the holiday's celebrations. It may be a bit rustic there, but the beauty of the area and the hospitality are unsurpassed.

Encore arrived on Friday and enjoyed a quiet evening. Lori Ann, Hi-Jinx, and Heart of the Sun traveled down Saturday to be greeted by the folks at Tall Timbers and friends from PRYCA. Although there was great dance music at the restaurant, our listened from a distance while catching up with each other on the docks.



Sunday everyone wished Bud and Heidi a happy anniversary. The crew of *Lori Ann* went crabbing and fishing with pretty good luck. Others explored the area by dinghy, stopping at little beaches and gathering shells and stones. All in all it was a fun, relaxing day, perfect to rest up for the night's festivities.

The evening started with happy hour on the dock, featuring Michelle's yummy homemade potstickers. After dinner, things started to heat up...literally. Tall Timbers hosted an awesome party on the beach complete with a wooden fishing boat transformed into a bar, fireworks over the Potomac, and the highlight of the weekend...the burning of an old, non-salvageable boat. It was spectacular, and a great time was had by all!

Anne Bennett. Heart of the Sun



Search for "Occoquan Yacht Club" on Facebook and click "Request to Join" (OYC

members only). Web space for <u>occoquanyachtclub.org</u>, <u>potomacriveryachtclubs.org</u>, and <u>ormaweb.org</u> is donated by Software Systems Group, Ned Rhodes, President and CEO.

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

10/2	Nancy M Henry	10/11	Terry Mattke
10/2	Jill Stanley	10/19	Caroline Lynn
10/2	Bob Wilcox	10/21	Nancy Stegon
10/4	Mark Schall	10/24	Peggy Johnson
10/8	Carolyn Wixson	10/31	Rebecca Heinze
10/9	Carol Belcher		

Anniversaries

10/1	Joseph & Sally Hoffmaster	
10/6	Rick & Teresa Sorrenti	
10/20	Christie Raukar & Pat Schondel	
10/26	Peter & Pamela McLeod	

7 October 2011

Shrimp Fest @ Hoffmasters October 1 OYC Board & John Heinze 703-888-3837

PRYCA End of Summer Cruise to Colonial Beach October 7-9 Ralph & Kris Mason 703-790-1920

Election Meeting, Chili Cookoff, & Octoberfest @ FYC October 22 OYC Board & Tom Lensis 703-794-9589

> ICW South to Florida November 6-20 Tom & Donna Lensis 703-794-9589

Hardy Souls Cruise to National Harbor November 11-13 Don & Anne Bennett 540-752-4250

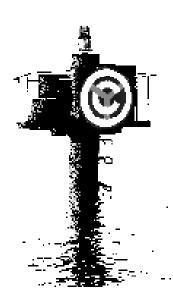
Occoquan Santa Cruise to Town of Occoquan November 26 Pat Croft 703-451-9147 Save the date!

Kick up your heels at the OYC Holiday Party and COW, December 10 at Laurel Hills Country Club. Watch for more info in the next issue and in your mailbox.

Inside this issue...

At long last, the finale of Pat Croft's Dismal Swamp cruise. Don't miss Railman Rick and the Hooters girl!

Welcome to our new Treasurer Joe Livingston and Webmaster Don Bennett!





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

Change Service Requested