



The Daymarker

**2009 & 2011 PRYCA Cup Champions
OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB**

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Tom Plewes

With a Little Help from Our Friends

There are lots of reasons to join a yacht club, probably as many as there are members. In asking around the Occoquan Yacht Club, they seem to boil down to four main reasons.

One reason is certainly for the educational experience. There is lot of learning to be done in a yacht club. A novice boater is very likely to rub shoulders in a regular basis with a licensed captain, and an all-thumbs maintainer is certain to benefit from the advice and hands-on help from a fellow member who just happens to have solved a problem like yours a short time ago and has a sure means of getting you underway again. Best off, that advice is free and the elbow grease can usually be purchased for no more than a cold drink. That is what yacht club members do for each other.

Another frequent reason is for navigation skill assistance, better known as how to get where you want to go on the water. The need for navigation help isn't just for the beginner. With the new GPS and radar systems out there, those of us to whom a TV control is a challenge really benefit from the friendly help in navigation, knot tying, and all the other skills that are so important on the water. You don't know what you don't know until you are in a pickle, and that is when it is especially lucky to be on a cruise with knowledgeable fellow yacht club members.

Yacht club members are expert in getting around the shoals and to where you have to go.

An often-heard reason is for the fellowship and fun. When you get a bunch of heads together, all of a sudden the good ideas start to flow. Boaters are an independent bunch, but self-generated fun gets old. In a yacht club, someone has been there and done that and has a better idea for just about everything.

If the reasons for joining OYC discussed so far sound a little like a personal testimony, they are. These are some of the main reasons that First Mate, Liz, and I joined OYC. But as good as they are, they are not the main reason.

The main reason boaters like us have joined OYC is because *someone has asked them to join*. In our case, it was because marina neighbors Steve and Jill Stanley told us about the great times they had on OYC cruises and, particularly, about an upcoming Potomac River Yacht Club Association float-in at Port Kinsale. We joined, went and got hooked on the club, its activities and the people. To paraphrase the title of an old Beatles song, we joined "with a little help from our friends".

Speaking of inviting fellow boaters to join us, there is a special group of members who are great missionaries for OYC in their backyards. Our Fleet Captains have volunteered to spread the word of OYC at their marinas. The club gives a special "hats off" to Linda and Laslo Bozoky, OHM; Chris Rose, Hoffmasters; Carl and Patricia Maxwell, FYC; and Mike and Karen Crouch, Belmont Bay.

(cont. on p. 2)

The fourth and final reason to join OYC is obvious. You get a lot for your money. For just \$75 in annual dues for a family, you get access to all the above benefits. In addition, an OYC member can save on Boat US dues and other goodies. It is a good time to think about renewing and inviting friends to join.

As we are looking at a new year filled with exciting cruising opportunities and shore activities that are educational and fun, it is a good time to think about others who would enjoy sharing the experience. A word or two from you might get them to join us at the Planfest February 18 and catch the excitement.

Tom Plewes, *Double Eagle*



Vice Commodore

Jim Dooley

GET READY, SET.....STOP!

As I sit here staring at the light dusting of snow and ice we got last night, I find myself remembering the boating season of 2011 and daydreaming about the year ahead... Wasn't 2011 AWESOME!? Super memories made! But where will we go in 2012? What new adventures lie ahead? I sure hope I am not the "bent prop" recipient for 2012.

Think back about last year's boating season. Gosh... remember our trip to James Creek Marina to see the Nationals play ball and the rickshaw ride back? How about our annual Memorial Weekend Cruise to Colonial Beach where Rick's navigation skills showed great improvement over the previous year, as we trekked from the berry farm to the vineyard?



Let's not forget taking home the PRYCA Cup at Coles Point, a port that had been forgotten but proved itself to be a first rate... as was our club! And where did that Jägermeister come from? SO... What was your favorite cruise from last year? Where would you like to go this year? We are all so lucky to have the Potomac River and waterways beyond, at our back door.

GET READY... Before the 2012 boating season starts, we must make our plans. Getting Ready means coming together as a club and choosing our cruises. The 2012 preplanning team has again done an outstanding job in outlining your year with a large selection of exciting cruises and adventures. No other PRYCA club offers the number of cruises, nor as many different destinations. We again have our annual cruises and new cruises to be announced at the Planfest, but we want your suggestions for other cruises. Just before our Planfest meeting, I will be emailing out a preliminary list that allows you to review our 2012 Cruise Schedule. In addition, several returning Cruise Coordinators have stepped up to the plate, but the opportunity exist for you to add "Cruise Coordinator" to your name. As you look down the list of cruises, think about becoming that Cruise Coordinator.

REMEMBER our most important MEETING of the year is fast approaching...

SET ... Saturday, February 18, from 2pm-5pm for Planfest 2012 at Mount Vernon Yacht Club!

On Saturday, February 18 from 2pm to 5pm, the Club will outline our cruises itinerary for 2012. As in years past, you will have the opportunity to sign up for a particular cruise. By signing up, it will allow our cruise coordinators a count so they can start making arrangements. This year, more so than past, transient slips will be harder to come by in some marinas. So by signing up early, the cruise coordinator can get a jump on reserving your accommodations. Be sure to note your email address so that the cruise coordinator can provide you with updated cruise information, as it becomes available. It would also be a good idea to save the plan sheet with contacts. I know in years past, our family plans changed and we found ourselves with a free summer weekend. We were able to see what cruise was happening, and we were lucky to take a cancelation and make the cruise.

STOP! ... Did you mark your calendar? Planfest, February 18!

Ok... Now **GO** start making plans to get your boat seaworthy for all the adventures we are to have in 2012!

Jim Dooley, *Jus Chill-N*

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

Nabil Dubraque - 2/1
Maria Gibbons - 2/9
Rick Sorrenti - 2/9
Pamela McLeod - 2/13
Linda Del Monte - 2/11
Scott Del Monte - 2/18
Jack Striker - 2/28

Anniversaries

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

treat! We happily joined OYC just for the fun land-based events and got to know many OYC members.

It didn't take us long to decide that we wanted a boat of our own and again OYC members were very helpful. Members showed us around their boats and talked about the advantages and disadvantages for the cruising that they liked to do.

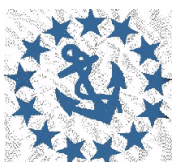
Once we purchased *Great Escape*, members were very helpful in teaching me how to operate the boat. Ok, let's be honest – they were essential as I was a complete novice. The only boat I had previously "commanded" was 14-foot sailboat with no engine, no electronics, no nothing - very different from a 34-foot twin engine powerboat with VHF radio, Loran navigation (anyone remember Loran navigation?!?), radar, etc.

Over the years, we've learned a lot about boats and boating. We've had a lot of fun on OYC cruises. We have continued to enjoy the OYC land-based events that we liked even before we got a boat. We have met a lot of great people and made a lot of great friends.

One of my favorite land-based events is coming up on February 18th - the OYC Planfest (see details elsewhere in *The Daymarker*). This is an opportunity to hear about – and more importantly – to provide input for – all of the upcoming events of the year, including cruises and land based events.

I hope to see you at the Planfest! And, if you still haven't had a chance to pay your 2012 OYC dues, a membership renewal form is also included in *The Daymarker*. The real pleasure of 2012 OYC awaits your participation.

John Heinze, *Great Escape*



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Guilty Pleasures versus the Real Pleasure of OYC

Well, it's happened again. While trying to come up with an idea for my *Daymarker* article I wasted another morning on my favorite guilty pleasure, *Yachting* magazine. You know the one – it's got glossy photo reviews of all the latest mega yachts beyond anything seen – or even capable of cruising - on the Potomac River, charter luxury cruises, some of which cost more than I make in a year, and - my favorite – real life nautical adventure tales, some of which sound terrific and others are the kind you are glad to be reading about from the comfort of your sofa.

Now this guilty pleasure did get me to thinking about the real reasons that Rebecca and I enjoy cruising. Before we even owned a boat, (this was 1999-2000) OYC members introduced us to boating and to OYC, and even took us on a few cruises on their boats. What a



Secretary

Jill Stanley

Getting to Know Your New Board Members

Continuing with my introduction of the new OYC Board members, I would like to introduce myself, **Jill Stanley**, the **Secretary**. I was also the Secretary last year, and enjoyed it so much I continued with the job for another year. Steve and I have been boating since 2005. Our boat, a 32' Monterey, is our first experience in boating. We are still learning and enjoying the whole boating experience with each new adventure. We dock our boat at Fairfax Yacht Club and have been members of OYC

since 2006. Steve and I have especially enjoyed boating since his retirement from the government four years ago. Joining OYC was a good choice for us. It encouraged us to have adventures on our boat that we may never have attempted. OYC has been a great resource for fun cruises and meeting good friends.

John Heinze, our Rear Commodore, has been in this position for four years. (John's a real trooper!) John and Rebecca live between Old Town Alexandria and Mt Vernon. John works downtown for John Adams Assoc., a public affairs/management consulting firm. He is the senior science advisor on health and environmental issues related to the chemicals and plastic industry. Rebecca is a retired pre-school/special education teacher. Rebecca now spends her time as an active quilter.

John and Rebecca have a 34' Silverton fly-bridge, which they dock at FYC. They named the boat *Great Escape* in hopes this name would express their desire to get away from it all. As John says, perhaps in retrospect it would have been more appropriate to name their boat *Escape by the Skin of our Teeth*, (for all their adventures in docking.) Even with their docking mishaps they both enjoy cruising and their boating adventures. Their favorite weekend destinations are The Corinthian Yacht Club and White Point Marina, for their scenic location, the wonderful people and the relaxation both destinations offer.

Jim Dooley, our new Vice Commodore, met his wife, Judy, in February 2005 on Match.com. It was love at first sight for Jim. They were married 2 years later in 2007, at Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Jim and Judy purchase their current boat, *Jus Chill-N* in 2006. Judy didn't know much about boats, but she did know she wanted something with a head... Jim's 18' bowrider was history. Jim thinks Judy's idea of purchasing the boat together was Judy's way of seeing how compatible they would be. Two month after the purchase, Jim proposed to Judy on the deck at Occoquan Harbor Marina. Since then, boating has become their most enjoyable hobby. Last year they added Bailey, a Cavachon puppy, to their cruising. Bailey has become part of their cruises, and when they say the word BOAT... he grabs his life vest and runs for the boat, ready to go!

Judy works as a Patient Care Director for INOVA Alexandria Hospital. She has two kids, Christina 21 and Alex 18; both are enrolled at NOVA Community College. Judy moved to the US with her family in 1972 from Jeju Island, South Korea. She grew up in Maryland, graduated from the University of Maryland and received her Master in Nursing from George Mason University.

Jim is a Scheduling Executive for Gilbane Building Company and has worked for them for 22 years. He has traveled all over the US working on major construction projects, including the 1984 World Fair in New Orleans and the US Capitol Visitors Center in DC. He just completed the new Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital. His daughter, Chanelle, and son-in-law, Marco, live in California; and he is now grandfather to their son, Ernie. Jim has been boating his whole life, growing up on Lake Norman, North Carolina, and working during the summer for his father's dredging operation. Jim has his Bare Boat Charters license for sailing and Captain's license for boating. His two most memorable cruises to date were sailing his Catalina 22 in Hurricane Danny in New Orleans in 1986, and boating solo to Catalina Island from Los Angeles in his 18' bowrider in 2002.



Jim & Judy

Jim and Judy joined OYC in 2006, thanks to then Commodore Sue Thompson. Jim was the Quartermaster for OYC in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Each year Jim and Judy look forward to the OYC annual cruises, especially the PRYCA weekend. In 2009, they placed in the life jacket swapping contest that helped OYC capture the cup. Judy's favorite part of each cruise is traveling down the river. She snuggles up with a good book and soon is fast asleep. Jim notes that Judy has come along way with her boating skills, and is proud to call her his first mate! They look forward to making new friends and memories as they cruise the Potomac River with the OYC.

Don and Anne Bennett are a husband and wife team who are both on the OYC Board. Don is OYC **Webmaster**, and Anne is **Editor of the Daymarker**. They are both originally from eastern suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. Don graduated from the Naval Academy and went into the Marine Corps, which is ultimately what brought the family to Virginia in 1989. Don founded his own computer consulting firm in 1994, and also is currently the CTO at Cleared Solutions, Inc.

They have two sons, who are both musicians. David, a composer and teacher, lives in Texas. Brandon is a high school music teacher, band director. He and his wife, Jill, live on Long Island and have a daughter who just turned one in November. Granddaughter, Sydney, is of course the apple of Don and Anne's eye(s).

Don and Anne are new to recreational boating (...not to be confused with the type of boating experiences Don had at the Naval Academy and in the Corps). Their first boat was an 18-foot jet boat, which they put into the waters of Aquia Creek for a brief time in 2008. After eight hours of mostly fighting with hydrilla lodged in the jet intake, they traded it in for a Sea Ray 290 "decked-out" deck boat, which was infinitely better. However, there was a third "child" to be considered... Shadow, a 90-pound Alaskan Malamute, not your basic boat dog. So a year or so later, in order to accommodate Shadow, the Bennetts were "forced" to upgrade again to something with guaranteed shade, indoor space and air conditioning, a 44 Sundance, which can be found docked at Occoquan Harbor Marina. It was there they discovered and joined OYC. Now everyone's happy!



Don, Anne, Heidi & Bud

Bud and Heidi Bishop are also a husband and wife team that joined the OYC Board this year. Bud is the new **Membership** officer and Heidi the new **Quartermaster**. Bud and Heidi are the owners of *High-Jinx* (named after Heidi whose maiden name is Heidi Jinx Webster). They have been members of OYC for the past two years and have three children. Whitney is an assistant animal trainer working for the aquarium/marine park in St. Thomas. Christopher is an investment counselor, and Thomas is in school at Old Dominion. Their three dogs cruise with them often... Katie, Winston and the notorious, Izzie.

Heidi is a Montessori school teacher and Bud provides contract support for the Pentagon/military in operations analysis and energy efficiencies. Originally from Denver, Colorado, Bud and Heidi started boating during their assignment with the Navy to Whidbey Island, Washington, in the 1980's. Their 23' sailboat grew to a 27'. Over the years their landlocked assignments to Germany and Japan from 1993-2009 brought about a boating hiatus that finally ended in 2010 with their acquisition of '*Hi-Jinx*', a Sea Ray.

As Bud states, it's safe to say that their first two years of power-boating have been somewhat comedic; but they are looking forward to the experience of more cruises and developing the friendships established to date to accompany the reduction of "interesting learning experiences" aboard their VERY tolerant vessel.

Jill Stanley, *'bout Time*

P.S. If you need a new OYC burgee, contact Bud at hbishop31@verizon.net



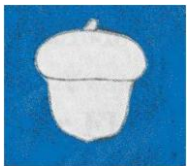
Planfest 2012!

**Saturday, February 18, 2 - 5pm
Mount Vernon Yacht Club**

Thanks to the generosity of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club, the 2012 Occoquan Yacht Club Planfest will be held on Saturday, February 18, from 2 to 5 pm at the Mount Vernon Yacht Club. The address is:

4817 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria, VA.

Mark your calendars. More complete information will be broadcast closer to the date. Please plan to bring a dish to share.



Treasurer

Joe Livingston

Let's go Cruising

The Occoquan Yacht Club is by and large a cruising club. We also have a number of social and educational events on land, and we have a reputation for being the most active club on the river. Many cruises are planned by the Club, but what do you enjoy on the water?

The crew of the *Gail Lynn II* has had many hours on the water; and no matter whether it's a planned cruise or not, that in itself can be very enjoyable. In the mid-nineties we had a great experience. We were on the hook on Saturday morning in Belmont Bay after a nice dinner the evening before. The water was calm, the sky was blue and the forecast was more of the same for the rest of the weekend. It doesn't matter who, but the question was asked... "What are we going to do today?" The response... "Let's go south on the river!" We pulled out our 5th Edition ADC Chart and pointed to a spot on the Maryland shoreline. Off we went, out of Belmont at

"red 6", turned to port to "red 4" and then to starboard toward the middle poles of the power lines. We then found and followed those red and green things until we came to a very large bridge and then on south until we made a turn to port and ended up at Cobb Island. We had a great lunch at Captain John's Crabhouse and Marina, and then we noticed the flags in front of the marina were flying straight out... We had better head home! We made our way back into the Potomac, headed north and decided rather quickly that the 2-3 foot waves were not much fun. We pointed to the chart again and turned to port, ending up in Colonial Beach at the Colonial Beach Yacht Center (Had a great 200' covered slip that was at the marina before it burned in the late nineties). Sunday morning found us headed north again in calm seas. That experience demonstrated **what a great life is offered on the water and was the start of the Gail Lynn I and II's crew's love for cruising.** And after several years, we still have not found that point where the water surface "just drops off". Until then, we'll keep on cruising.

Now I have a little challenge for you. Listen carefully as I tell you about another day/overnight cruise we have probably taken at least fifty times. We depart Hoffmaster's Marina and head down river, under the "95" bridge, past Occoquan Harbour Marina, under the "Rt. 1/railway bridge", past Captain John Beach Marina and Fairfax Yacht Club to port, and then past Belmont Marina to starboard. Upon reaching "red 4", we turn to a magnetic course of 190 degrees for approximately 4 nautical miles and pass "green 1" to port and "red 2" to starboard, continue to "green 3 and 5" and turn hard to starboard to "red 6". We have spent weekends here, cooked gourmet meals, enjoyed select wines, have water skied and watched more than one pair of eagles in the trees. Bass fishermen often have tournaments in the area. Where are we? (See back cover.)

Come join us this coming boating season!!

Joe Livingston, *Gail Lynn II*



**Yet One More Reason
to go to Planfest on
February 18!**

Last year's inventory of OYC logo items will be available at reduced prices at Planfest. Everyone loves a sale! So bring your checkbook and wish list. As our Quartermaster restocks for the coming season, she wants to know what you're interested in buying this year.



Occoquan Yacht Club 2012 New Membership Application and Membership Renewal

Date _____

Captain _____

Home phone _____

First Mate _____

Cell phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

City, State, Zip _____

Child(ren)'s Name _____

BOAT DATA

Name _____ Length & Beam _____

Captain's Birthday (mo/day) _____

Builder _____ Power Sail

First Mate's Birthday (mo/day) _____

Where Berthed? _____ Slip# _____

Wedding Anniversary (mo/day) _____

New Membership:

___ Family--\$75 (includes Burgee)

___ Individual--\$55 (includes Burgee)

___ Associate--\$30 (add \$20 for Burgee)



Membership Renewal:

___ Family--\$75

___ Individual--\$55

___ Associate--\$30

___ For OYC Burgee add \$20

(2012 fees cover both initiation and remaining calendar year dues and will not be pro-rated)

Total Enclosed: _____

I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities (check all that apply):

___ Contribute articles to the OYC newsletter, *The Daymarker*

___ Contribute pictures from club events for *The Daymarker*

___ Contribute pictures and short articles to the OYC Web Site

___ Assist with Web Site programming

___ Coordinate an event

___ Assist event coordinators

___ Serve as a PRYCA/CBYCA delegate

___ Serve as a fleet captain

___ Serve as a safety officer or board officer

___ Other: _____

Please make check payable to **Occoquan Yacht Club**. Mail your check and the form above to: **Occoquan Yacht Club, P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125** Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing your application and return of membership packet.

Occoquan Yacht Club Officers for 2012

Commodore Tom Plewes
703-978-3546

Membership Bud Bishop
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Vice Commodore Jim Dooley
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Daymarker Editor Anne Bennett
540-752-4250

Immediate Past Commodore
Tom Lensis 703-794-9589

Webmaster Don Bennett
540-752-9244

OYC is a member club of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association and the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association. We maintain a membership accord, #GA 80979Y, with the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS), entitling our members to BoatUS membership at half price. OYC supports the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

Mark these dates...

OYC Planfest
February 18, 2012
2 – 5 pm
Mount Vernon Yacht Club
4817 Tarpon Lane
Alexandria, VA

**OYC General
Membership Meeting**
March 17, 2012

Inside this issue...

Have you heard about Planfest?

Meet the 2012 OYC Board

Don't miss out on the fun this year. If you haven't already renewed your OYC membership for 2012, do so right away! A membership renewal form is provided in this *Daymarker*, or you can download it from the OYC website,

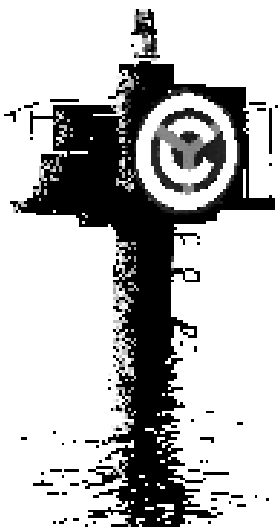
<http://www.occoquanyachtclub.org/2011/OYApplicationbrochure.pdf>

Web space for occoquanyachtclub.org, potomacriveryachtclubs.org, and ormaweb.org is donated by Software Systems Group, Ned Rhodes, President and CEO.

* * *

The Daymarker is published monthly by the Occoquan Yacht Club. Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month. Please submit your copy by email to oyceditor@gmail.com

Answer to Joe's challenge:
Mattawomen Creek, vicinity Sweden Point



The Daymarker

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

**Change Service
Requested**