



The Daymarker

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

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Tom Plewes

Crouch on *Makia III*; and Tom and Donna Lensis on *Copy Cat*. Club members Joey and Pam Sowell on *Emma Caroline II* represented the Quantico YC where they are also members.

Tradition and Frivolity Mark Annual Change of Watch/Holiday Party

In what has become a long-standing tradition, members of Occoquan Yacht Club brought an end to an active 2011 boating season, gave their thanks to those who guided the club over the year, and welcomed the new leadership team at the annual Change of Watch/Holiday Party at the Laurel Hill Golf Club on Saturday, December 10, 2011. Over 68 club members and guest were present for the fun, fellowship, and festivities.

The tradition continued with an invocation by Catherine Harris. The members and guests enjoyed an overflowing dinner buffet highlighted by cut-to-order prime rib and topped off by a cake made by Sharman and Catherine Harris.

Once again, a highlight of the evening was the celebration of the return of the PRYCA Float-in Cup to OYC. Commodore Lensis recognized the 10 boats that participated in the successful event: Tom & Liz Plewes on *Double Eagle*; Rick and Teresa Sorrenti on *Sea Duck Too*; Ralph Mason and Kris Butera on *Party Time*; Jim and Judy Dooley on *Jus Chill-N*; Pat Schondel and Christi Rauker on *It's Noon Somewhere*; Steve and Sue Thompson on *Forever Dreamin*; Joe and Gail Livingston and their son Jay on *Gail Lynn II*; Harry and Pat Croft and Amy Fletcher on *Bay Dreamer*; Mike and Karen



Participants in the PRYCA Float-In celebrating their victory with the "Cup"

The presentation of the much-anticipated (dreaded?) annual awards was next on the agenda. The winners this year were:

Golden Snorkel Award. The award is for "unceremoniously falling into the water", i.e. for OYC members who fall off docks, boats, etc. without incurring serious injury to body. Harry Croft presented it to Commodore Tom Lensis for falling off the *Bay Dreamer* at Colonial Beach Marina.



(cont. on p. 2)

Bent Prop Award. The Bent prop award is really more like a kind of punishment because the winner gets a trophy to remind the cause of the award. It is given to the member who has successfully gone off course and managed to remove a blade or blades from their props. Most people like to keep this information to themselves because it could be a little embarrassing, especially if you receive the Bent Prop Award. In presenting the award, Commodore Lensis let it out that last year someone was able to keep their mishaps a secret from the nominating committee and was not considered for the award. Little did they know they were sitting at Commodore Lensis' table during last year's COW/Holiday Party. They are not able to receive the award this year because it didn't happen during the 2011 boating season. Not that I would mention their name. This year there was a qualified recipient for the award. While I was at OHM on my boat late in the season, this individual told me of how he was motoring at cruise speed through the Occoquan Channel by Belmont Bay and happened to notice that his Dinghy had come loose and was dragging in the wake behind his boat and was about to come completely off his boat lift. Concerned that he would lose his dinghy, he immediately pulled the throttles back, put the boat in neutral, and came down off the bridge to correct the problem and get the dinghy tied back properly on the lift. Little did he know, during all of the excitement he drifted out of the channel and onto the rocks thereby destroying both of his props. Unfortunately the recipient of the award couldn't be with us tonight. This year the coveted Bent Prop Award goes to Jim Hawley on board *Lori Ann*.

Commodore's Cup. In the past the Commodore's Cup was initially given to the member whose boat "typified the Yacht of the Year, consisting of underway operation, maneuvering and docking, anchoring, and year-round appearance and upkeep." And in later years it has been given as recognition of the member, other than a board officer, who demonstrated the most support for the club and help to fellow boaters. This year the award went to Harry and Pat Croft.



They not only meet the original qualification of seamanship, but they also have demonstrated the most support for the club and members by:

- Coordinating the Boat Safety Course in April
- Serving as the Cruise Coordinators for the Cobb Island, Lower Bay/Dismal Swamp and Santa Cruises
- Volunteering to be the PRYCA member at large, West
- Helping out with the Margarita/Fajita Fest, and Shrimp Boil
- Both having been Commodores of OYC and providing yearlong guidance to Tom Lensis as Commodore
- Participating in various OYC committees
- Preparing the invitations for the COW parties for several years, in addition to helping on the party committee
- To top it off, Harry obtained his Captains License and is knowledgeable in seamanship and navigation.



Thanks to the 2011 Board and Staff!

At the conclusion of the presentations, Commodore Tom Lensis' last official duty was to swear in the new Commodore and Board. Those sworn in were: Tom Plewes, Commodore; Jim Dooley, Vice Commodore; John Heinze, Rear Commodore; Jill Stanley, Secretary; Joe Livingston, Treasurer & PRYCA/CBYCA Delegate; Tom Lensis, Immediate Past Commodore; Heidi Bishop, Quartermaster; and Bud Bishop, Membership. He also recognized Jim Hawley, Historian, Don Bennett, Webmaster; and Anne Bennett, *Daymarker* Editor who were not able to attend the Change of Watch Ceremony.



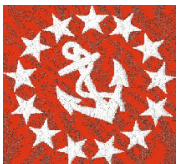
Your new 2012 Board and Staff

Our outgoing Commodore gave a special word of thanks to the enthusiastic party committee for a job well done.

The members of the committee were **Liz Plewes, Donna Lensis, Donna Carr, Pat Croft, Susan Willetts, Jill Stanley, Catherine and Sharman Harris, and Rebecca Heinze.** Catherine and Sharman Harris made the much-sought-after centerpieces, which were given as a gift to a lucky winner at each table. He also recognized the outgoing and incoming board members who helped set up the event: Tom & Liz Plewes, John & Rebecca Heinze, Jill Stanley, Pat Croft, Sharman & Catherine Harris, Bud and Heidi Bishop, Susan Willetts, Jim Dooley and Tom & Donna Lensis.

Following the short award ceremony, the members and guests turned to serious partying, assisted by the band, Small Town.

Tom Plewes, *Double Eagle*



Vice Commodore

Jim Dooley

ALL ABOARD 2012!

Come aboard, We're expecting you. The OYC 2012 promises something for everyone. We'll set a course for adventure, your mind on a new romance. I will be your Cruise Director. While I may not be as cute as Julie, I promise to make our year exciting and create new memories. It is with the help of our 2012 Bridge and Cruise Coordinators, we begin our 2012 journey!

First of all, Judy and I would like to thank all of our past Bridges for the years of boating adventures. We joined the Occoquan Yacht Club in 2006 with the purchase of our Bayliner 2455 Ciera, *Jus Chill~N*, in hopes of learning the Potomac River and Chesapeake waters. Judy and I have been so awed with all that we have discovered, our new friendships, and know it would not have been possible without the Occoquan Yacht Club. Thanks to the OYC, our trips and experiences have exceeded our expectations, and each year we look forward to the next.

In 2012 we have a new, but seasoned Commodore in Tom Plewes, who did an outstanding job last year in scheduling the "old faithful" cruises and adding some new ones. I know that with the help of each of you, we can make 2012 another exciting year.

Now is the time to get busy planning where our 2012 boating season will take us.

On Sunday, February 5, the club will hold a Pre-Planfest. This is a meeting of Board Members and seasoned Cruise Coordinators that outline our 2012 year and bring to the table ideas for new trips. If YOU have an idea, please forward it to me, or request attendance to this meeting and present your idea. Also during this meeting, we accept volunteers to be our Cruise Coordinators. Our Cruise Coordinators make our cruises. As a pilot, I know the importance of a flight plan. Our Cruise Coordinators create our flight plan. They keep track of who is attending, make sure we have a slip available, that our slip has adequate depth, proper power requirements, and most importantly, add an extra layer of SAFETY to our cruise! They outline our weekend so that we can all sit back, take a dog walk and enjoy all that our waters have to offer.

I know that, for me, I was always reluctant to become a Cruises Coordinator. I did not know what to do or who to call, or if I would do a good job. But let me say this... to really enjoy our hobby, taking charge of a cruise is one of the most rewarding experiences. Not only did it help to improve my (and Judy) boating skills, it added a new dimension in appreciating our waters. I STRONGLY encourage you to volunteer to be a Cruise Coordinator for that special cruise.

Following the Pre-Planfest, we hold our Club Planfest. This is the time to finalize our schedule for 2012 and allows YOU to select what cruises you want to attend. It also gives our Cruise Coordinator a tentative list of who will be traveling, and allows them time to start planning.

So be sure and mark **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2012** on your calendar and attend Planfest!

Below is a DRAFT... a TENATIVE LIST carried forward from last year's events, with guesstimated dates for 2012. **Please use this only as a DRAFT to start planning.** (Thanks to Tom for putting this together.)

JAN	21	PRYCA Change of Watch
FEB	5 18	Pre-Planfest Planfest
MAR	17	General Membership Meeting/ Photo Contest
APR	? ? 13-15	FYC & OYC Boat Safety Course at FYC River Clean-up Day Early Bird Cruise (National Harbor?)
MAY	5 12 25-28	OYC Flag Raising at OHM ORMA Blessing of the Fleet in Occoquan River Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach
JUN	9 15-17 23	Margarita/Fajita Fest at OHM PRYCA Summer Kickoff/Cobb Island Tim's Rivershore Fireworks/Raft-up
JUL	1-4 4 17-19	Fireworks at National Harbor Fireworks in DC/Wash Channel PRYCA Float-in (Location TBA)
AUG	3-5 17-19	PRYCA Aquia Harbor Dog Days of Aug Old Town Alexandria Excursion
SEP	1-3 ? 21-23	Labor Day Cruise (Corinthian) Washington Nats Game/James River Marina Oktoberfest at National Harbor
OCT	6 12-14 20	Shrimp Fest PRYCA End of Summer Cruise to Colonial Beach Election Meeting/ Oktoberfest at FYC/Chilli Cook-off
NOV	9-11 24	Hardy Souls Cruise (National Harbor?) Santa Cruise from OHM to Occoquan
DEC	8	OYC Holiday/Change of Watch Party



Jim and Judy (where's Bailey?)

So... Whew! If you are like me... Let's hope La Nina says good-bye, and we set sail in 2012!

Jim Dooley, *Jus Chill~N*

The Datemarkers

Birthdays

1/14	Eric Henry	1/25	Jay Livingston
1/15	Frances Fellenz, Jr.	1/28	Vicki Hamp
1/19	Stephanie Karpinski	1/31	Jan Wilcox
1/22	Ned Rhodes		

Anniversaries

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

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Rear Commodore

John Heinze

Thinking Back on All the Good times We've Had in 2011 – And Looking Forward to a Great 2012

Now that the boating season is over for 2011 and we have had our terrific Holliday Party and Change of Watch, it seems like an excellent time to reflect back on the highlights of the past year – and to start looking forward to great boating fun in 2012.

Some of the things we did in 2011

- Feb. 19 – The Planfest - We planned a full year's worth of activities. It probably seems like a "gazillion" activities compared to what other clubs do.
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour at Madigans – A good time was had by all!
- March 19 – General Membership Meeting and Photo Contest. Great photo contest and a chance to share food, and to make plans on cruises – and a really short meeting.
- April 1 – Maydarker issue of Daymarker provides special "April 1" perspective on OYC
- April 9-10 – Boating Safety Course. A good refresher for all.
- April 15-17 – Early Bird Cruise to National Harbor – The first OYC cruise of the season.
- May 7 – Flag Raising at Occoquan Harbor Marina. The official start to the boating season with cannon fire, dignitaries and a great cookout.
- May 14 – ORMA Blessing of the Fleet. Your chance to have your boat blessed on that first "shake down" cruise.
- May 27-30 – Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach. Featured side trip to Ingleside winery and strawberry farm. What fun!
- June 11 – The Fajita Fest – a great summer kick-off lunch party. Ole!
- June 17-19 – PRYCA Summer Kickoff at Cobb Island. Lots of fun activities on a scenic Maryland island organized by the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association.

- June 19-June 2 – Lower Bay & Dismay Swamp Cruise – One of the most scenic cruises in recent years.
- June 25 – Tim's I Fireworks Raft-up – A chance to watch to great fireworks up close.

...And that is just the activities through the first six months of last year!

So that leads me to two points:

1) If you haven't already renewed your OYC membership for 2012, you should do so right away.

A membership renewal form was provided in the November *Daymarker*, or you can download a membership application from the OYC website, <http://www.occoquanyachtclub.org/2011/OYCApplcationbrochure.pdf>

2) Start thinking about fun activities for 2012, and let us - your new OYC Board – know your ideas. Just because we haven't done an activity in the past, doesn't mean that we can't try it, and just because we have done something, doesn't mean that we can't try to do it better. And it seems, lots of things change on and off the water from year to year even if you are just trying to do what you did last year. The bottom line is that this is a volunteer club that was so successful in 2011 because of the long list of folks who provided their input. I know with your ideas and suggestions, we'll have another great year in 2012.

Hope you enjoyed the Holidays. I'm looking forward to 2012. Happy New Year to all!

John Heinze, *Great Escape*



Secretary

Jill Stanley

Introducing our New Commodore and First Mate

This past year I used this column to introduce several of the newer members of OYC. I think you will agree with me that we have some wonderful newer members. This year I would like to introduce the incoming officers and board in another series of articles that begins with this one that introduces our new Commodore, Tom Plewes and his first mate, Liz.

This is probably one of the easiest columns I will write this year. Tom and Liz have been nearby neighbors for many years here in Annandale, just beyond the beltway close to the Northern Virginia Community College. Liz

and I are members of a monthly bunko group. Bunko is a game that involves throwing dice, laughing, screaming, and consumption of a lot of food and drinks.

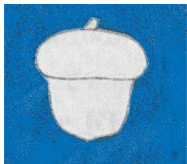
Tom and Liz are parents of Jeff who lives in downtown Washington. Their daughter, Melissa, their son-in-law Carlos and their 2 year-old grandson, Matthew live in Burke. Jeff and Melissa are seen frequently at their slip (C-34) at the Fairfax Yacht Club where they have kept their boats for 8 years now.

Both Tom and Liz are fairly new to boating. They started in 2004 with a Maxim 25-foot cruiser but soon moved to their Sea Ray 320 after a trip down to the Bay when they got pretty banged up.

Some think that they named their boat the *Double Eagle* after a memorable golf outing. Tom only wishes that was true. However, it is named after the two-headed eagle patch that is worn by soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, which Tom commanded when he was on active duty with the Army. He retired as a Lieutenant General in 2002. Tom now works for the National Academy of Science, and Liz volunteers for her church homeless program.

Tom and Liz were the organizers for the OYC Change of Watch Holiday Party. I think you will all agree they did a heck of a job. With Tom in command this should be a wonderful year for OYC.

Jill Stanley, *'bout Time*



Treasurer

Joe Livingston

2012: Here we go again!!

The crew of the Gail Lynn II wish all a very prosperous, healthy and happy New Year. The 2012 recreational boating season will be upon us in no time. Now is the time to start planning and in some instances completing the projects and repairs on our vessels that we just did not seem to get to in 2011. Funny how the list just keeps growing as we enjoy being on the water, cruising with the Club, or attending special land cruises.

Speaking of "special", I want to acknowledge the wonderful effort our past Vice Commodore, Tom Plewes, his first mate, Liz, and their committee put forth in showcasing our Holiday Party and Change of Watch. The venue was decorated to the max, the food, drinks and dancing were great, and our hand-painted favors are special. Rites of passage and congratulations to

Commodore Plewes. Also, mark your 2012 planning calendar on Saturday, 8 December, for next year's party.

A short commentary. The OYC relies on volunteers (our members) to be involved in order to plan and execute our many on-the-water cruises, club meetings and land cruises. From a personal viewpoint, participating and enjoying the Club's activities, and along the way meeting and getting to know many great folks defines the reason for boating. You will find that by joining in on events, your overall enjoyment and confidence (seamanship, safety and navigation skills) will be much higher. Get involved. Starting in the January/February timeframe, meetings are held to plan the 2012 OYC "schedule of events". We as a club can be better...be proactive and contact a Board member and let it be known that you would like to participate.

Here is our first event of the year, **the PRYCA 2012 Change of Watch-Dinner Dance**. This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, and details are on the flyer (p. 7). In past years, the OYC has been well represented, and we have an extra incentive this year...we won the "PRYCA Cup" at the July Float-In, and we must boast a little. Here's to the Cup!! Our Vice Commodore Jim Dooley and his wife, Judy, will lead our contingent as we have a second opportunity to dress up a little and represent the Club. Winter Uniform/Black Tie Optional, but the key point is to come and have a great evening. **Will you attend?** As our PRYCA Delegate, I will coordinate for OYC. **Review the invitation and complete the Coupon. Write your check payable to "PRYCA" and mail to: Joe Livingston, 259 Bridgewater Circle, Fredericksburg, VA 22406.**



"Come join us... Gail really does dress up pretty good!"

If you have already responded to Treasurer Joey Sowell, send me an email to let me know you are attending so I can coordinate table assignments. Thanks.

Joe Livingston, *Gail Lynn II*



Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association



Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association

2012 Change of Watch-Dinner Dance

Saturday, January 21, 2012

at

Hilton Springfield

6550 Loisdale Road

Springfield, Virginia 22150

703-971-8900

Hospitality Suite Open: 1700-1745 Cocktails in Ballroom:

1800 Dinner: 1900 Change of Watch Ceremony: 2000

Dancing to follow w/music provided by "25th Hour Band"

Winter Uniform/Black Tie Optional or Business Suit

\$70 per person before December 31/\$75 per person after December 31

(No refunds after January 14th)

Menu

Bistro Salad -Arugula, macerated golden raisins, chopped bacon, and hazelnut vinaigrette

Bistro Steak complimented Truffled Mashed Potatoes & Roasted Baby Vegetable Medley
"or"

Chicken Marsala complimented Truffled Mashed Potatoes & Roasted Baby Vegetable
Medley (Vegetarian Meal available upon request)

Hotel Block of Rooms reserved at per room rate of **\$99.00** (plus state and local taxes) until December 31, 2010.

Reservations can also be made online. At www.springfieldva.hilton.com enter the group code **PRYCA** in the Group/Convention Code field or make reservations directly with Hilton Springfield at Telephone 703-971-8900.

Hospitality Suite open's at 5:00-5:45PM and again at 11:00-12:00PM Continental Breakfast will be offered on
Sunday Morning from 9:00-11:00

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Meal Selection: ____ Bistro Steak ____ Chicken Marsala ____ Vegetarian

Name _____ Guest Name _____ Titles _____

Email address _____

Yacht Club _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Please Send Coupon & Check to PRYCA Treasurer Joey Sowell, 10 Old English Way, Stafford, VA 22554
or to our Club's PRYCA Delegate, Joe Livingston

Member National Boating Federation

Inside this issue...

Mark these dates...

PRYCA COW-Dinner Dance
Springfield Hilton
January 21, 2012

OYC Planfest/
Chili Cookoff
February 18, 2012

OYC General
Membership Meeting
March 17, 2012

**Who won the awards at the OYC
Change of Watch on December 10?**

**Reserve your place at the PRYCA COW
at the Springfield Hilton on January 21!**

**Don't miss out! 2012 is going to be a
fun year. Learn from John Heinze how
to renew your OYC membership now!**

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



The Daymarker

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