



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Tom Plewes

GET OUT AND VOTE!!!

You have heard it over and over and over -- an important election is on the horizon; one which will be of great consequence for our futures. By all means, get out and vote. Which election? Not the one November 6 that every TV station seems to be talking about. No, the election of real consequence is the upcoming election of the Board of OYC for the 2013 membership year.

The election will take place at the General Membership Meeting of the Club from 2:00pm to 4:00pm on Saturday, October 20 at the Fairfax Yacht Club clubhouse, 10721 Old Colchester Road, Lorton, Virginia. According to our bylaws, the purpose of this meeting is "to elect the Officers of the Executive Board for the upcoming membership year and to conduct such other general business as may be desired by the membership or the Executive Board." Those bylaws call on the nominating committee to submit a slate at least two weeks before the meeting.

A very qualified slate of nominees is submitted this year for the Executive Board. The nominating committee nominates:

Jim Dooley for Commodore
Don Bennett for Vice Commodore
Bud Bishop for Rear Commodore
Joe Livingston for Treasurer

As of this writing, there is not yet a nominee for Secretary. We are still looking for a volunteer. Also, if anyone has any business to bring before the General Membership Meeting, please let us know in advance.

That's the official part of this announcement article. We are, however, the Occoquan Yacht Club; so in addition to the official General Membership Meeting there has to be a fun event. This year again the Board is inviting the membership to join in a **Chili Cook-off**. This annual event was foregone last year because we had to consume a large amount of shrimp and other goodies left over from a weather-cancelled Shrimp Fest. This year we should have the decks clear to test the chili cooking skills of the inspired First Mates and Captains who have learned to do a lot with a little over the years. The chili dishes will be judged and the winner(s) will be awarded fabulous prizes from the Quartermaster's bounty.

A formal announcement will follow in early October; but, for now, please pull down that old, family, secret chili recipe and start thinking about the crowd -- hot or mild, ground beef, turkey or sliced beef, red or white beans -- the choices are endless.

This promises to be another fun OYC event, with food and fellowship for all. And, yes, an opportunity to cast a vote and immediately see the results without having to wait until some TV newscaster declares the winner. What could be better? Please make plans to attend.

Tom Plewes, *Double Eagle*



Vice Commodore

Jim Dooley

BEGINNING OF FALL – AQUIA CREEK CRUISE! October 5-8

If you have never been up Aquia Creek, you are missing a boating adventure. From the scenic meandering through Lilly Pad Alley, to the generous hospitality offered by the Aquia Harbor Yacht Club. As you travel up the creek, you might think you have ventured back into a world of solitude.



The weekend events offered include:

Friday - Appetizers, Cash Bar & Socializing

Saturday - Brunch Buffet, Games, Prizes & Awards, Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner, Cash Bar, Live Music

Sunday - Continental Breakfast & Blood Mary Bar, Guided Walking Tour of Governor's Island, Chili with Cornbread for the NFL Game, Transportation to the Taste of Stafford 2-4 pm

Monday - Fresh Baked Muffins & USA Today delivered to your boat

COST: \$65 per person, Taste of Stafford \$15, 18 Holes of Golf w/Car \$10, Slip Fee: **\$1.00 per foot** plus \$5 Power

There are three parts to Aquia Creek and all three demand your attention!

- (1) The entrance to Aquia Creek is well defined in the sense that if you miss the red number "2" buoy at the entrance, you could go aground.
- (2) Then there is the large open bay feature that has a nearly flat bottom. Unfortunately, if there is west wind, your depth gauge will read less than three feet in spots, but don't despair as the

bottom is soft and mud will pass through your water pump!

- (3) The 3rd part is the best and the most scenic. Just when you think you've come to the end, you spot an opening in the lily pads. The depth actually increases a bit, but the channel narrows and you must follow the landform to maintain depth.

Travel time down to Aquia Creek is one hour from the Occoquan; then it takes another hour from the time you entered Aquia Creek until you arrive at the Aquia Harbor Marina. There are submerged trees in the narrowest part of the creek and little room to maneuver larger boats, especially on the creek bends, but many of our OYC larger boats have made the trip and none were Bent Prop recipients!

Plan your trip to take advantage of the tides.

Tides for Aquia Creek, VA, starting Oct 5, 2012.

Day		High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet
Fri	5	Low	4:22 AM	0.4
	5	High	10:41 AM	1.3
	5	Low	3:55 PM	0.3
	5	High	10:42 PM	1.5
Sat	6	Low	5:00 AM	0.4
	6	High	11:23 AM	1.3
	6	Low	4:37 PM	0.3
	6	High	11:25 PM	1.4
Sun	7	Low	5:44 AM	0.5
	7	High	12:11 PM	1.3
	7	Low	5:27 PM	0.4
Mon	8	High	12:15 AM	1.4
	8	Low	6:35 AM	0.5
	8	High	1:07 PM	1.2
	8	Low	6:25 PM	0.4

Aquia Creek can be a challenging trip, but if you watch the winds and tides, it is a trip that is worth the beauty of lily pads and marshes, and of course, the great hospitality of AHYC.

Reservations can be made by emailing ahycevents@gmail.com and letting them know you are coming. Then mail your paper copy form (sent in a previous email) & check to: AHYC Events, PO Box 905, Stafford, Va 22555. Please "CC" me as the Cruise Coordinator (Jdooley@Gilbaneco.com) that you are coming. <http://www.aquiaharbour.org/>
See you there!

Jim Dooley, *Jus Chill~N*



Rear Commodore

John Heinze

LABOR DAY CRUISE to CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB "...a group that really knows how to party."

Well, once again our Labor Day cruise to Corinthian Yacht Club has to be counted as a great success. We had excellent weather, great facilities in a picture-book setting, a great group of OYC'ers on the cruise and CYC members who want nothing more than to enjoy the weekend with each other. Where else can you go, where you are the first boat to arrive at the transit dock and have four club members come down to help you dock as Rebecca and I did? Let me just say that the smooth water on the Potomac and the CYC help docking made a great start to the cruise that Friday.

Soon joining us at CYC were Scott and Linda Del Monte (*Scott Lin Yard*) and John and Michelle DeDitiis (*Liquid Leisure*). Happy Hour and picnic on the docks followed. Visualize sunset over the water, Corona's in hand, and that was just the first night!

Saturday, Bud and Heidi Bishop arrived in their new boat (well, newer than their previous one, eventually to be named *Hi-Jinx II*); and while Bud was claiming that he still didn't know how to operate all the systems, we were all impressed by his docking skills in the new boat. Jim and Judy Dooley arrived soon after in their boat *Jus Chili'N* to complete the OYC group. Saturday afternoon most of the group went exploring the neighborhood on bikes while others (who shall go unnamed) actually cleaned their boats!

Saturday evening, the festivities swung into high gear with a combined OYC-CYC happy hour and crabfest-pot luck dinner with steamed fresh-caught Chesapeake Bay crabs plus some really fine home made food (CYC has its own full size kitchen) and more Coronas (notice a trend here?). All I can say about the crabs is that they were jumbos (lots of meat), and we band of hungry warriors (16) went through a bushel (a full bushel!) of crabs in an hour and half. We're certainly good at eating crabs!



John, Rebecca, Judy, Jim, Heidi and Bud bein' crabby

That was followed by an impromptu sing-along lead by CYC member Darrell Derrington on guitar. Swapping of tall tales continued late into the night. What a great evening!

Sunday featured a trip to the recently opened Slack Winery and Woodlawn Estates. The winery was a real find by the group of intrepid OYC bicyclists who had set out Saturday to explore the neighborhood. As excellent OYC navigators, they had noted the location of the winery. Phone inquiries confirmed that the winery would provide a free ride to and from the wine tasting (They must have heard of our reputation for tasting/buying wine from Ingleside Winery, Colonial Beach.).



Rebecca, John, Bud, Heidi, Scott, Linda, Michelle and John enjoying the winery

It turns out there was more to the wine tasting that we expected. There was relaxing live music and a chance to taste the wine while sitting on the shaded grounds of a historic manor house that overlooks the Potomac River. Before the wine tasting, we had an opportunity to tour the house, which now functions as a bed & breakfast. The manor house was built in 1798 on the site of the land grant (by Lord Baltimore) to the first Governor of the Colony of Maryland, Leonard Calvert (1634). The first Lord Calvert had only a modest one-room log cabin for his home, while the manor house built 164 years later (and recently beautifully restored) is a classically elegant two-story manor house.

...And the wine tasting was pretty good, too!

Sunday evening, we asked our CYC slip mates Barbara and Fred Spain, whom we had visited with throughout the weekend and who had offered us the use of their car, if they would be willing to join the OYC group for dinner. They immediately agreed, suggested a restaurant and made reservations for the group - How nice to have slip mates like that! As it turned out, they were able to take everyone in one trip to Spinnakers Restaurant, where we were joined by CYC Vice-commodore Paula Hajos, our chief contact for the cruise. Spinnakers managed to pull off the difficult task

of providing reasonable service for a group our size, and the food was excellent, too.



Brunch on the dock

The next morning it was time for our farewell brunch on the dock, featuring mimosas and great breakfast food, and another gorgeous day to end a lovely cruise.

John Heinze, *Great Escape*



Secretary

Jill Stanley

NEW MEMBERS PAUL & SHERRY MANNINO

This past September Steve and I took the James Creek cruise up the Potomac with a few OYC members. Included in the group were new members Sherry and Paul Mannino. The trip gave me the great opportunity to get to know them and ask a few questions over a cup of coffee.

Paul and Sherry live in Brambleton, Virginia, in the Ashburn area. They have lived in Virginia for twenty years, and have two daughters who are twenty and twenty-four years old.

Paul is originally from Long Island and Sherry is from Danvers, Massachusetts. Paul served in the Air Force and was stationed in Massachusetts. He met Sherry on a blind date. This was just not any regular blind date. Paul who owned his own plane flew Sherry to New York for dinner in Chinatown. Now, I call that a winning first date!

Paul and Sherry have lived in many places, being that Paul served in the Air Force. They lived in Europe for four years; Texas one year; Rome, New York, for four years; and then they moved on to Virginia.

Their move to Rome, New York, is where their boating career began. Paul explained that in Rome, New York,

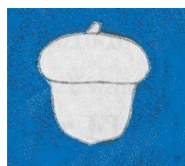
there are only four weeks of summer (a bit of an exaggeration I think, but I am sure it is a shorter summer season than in Virginia). Sherry had wanted a pool for the backyard; but Paul pointed out there was a nice lake nearby and thought they should take advantage of that water instead. They then bought their first boat a 14' Glaston that turned out to be the first of many. From there they proceeded to buy a 17', 19', 24', and 32' and finally they ended with the boat they have now, a 4260 Regal, a beautiful boat they named "Pure Enjoyment". They slip their boat at Belmont Bay marina.

Paul retired from the Air Force reserves and is now a software engineer. He also flies as a corporate pilot for a private company.

Sherry just completed a dual degree in elementary special education. She finished her degree in just two years. WOW!!! This degree normally takes three years to complete. Sherry explained that Paul's support and encouragement helped to push her to accomplish this feat.

Sherry and Paul spent many weekends on their boat where Sherry would work diligently on her homework. Mike Crouch, one of our OYC members, was of no help to Sherry as she was trying to do her work. Mike would come over and knock on the boat to see if Sherry could come out and play. Now that Sherry is done she is excited to be able to finally go out and play with the Crouch's. As she stated to Mike, who she affectionately calls Mikie, "Hey Mikie, I can now come out and play".

Jill Stanley, *'bout Time*



Treasurer

Joe Livingston

WINTERIZATION?!? ...But Jim just said it was the begging of Fall!

Really cannot understand all this talk about winterization, for I just got my engines repaired and the *Gail Lynn II* is ready to cruise... even if it's just a test run to ensure proper operations. My First Mate, Gail, just looked over my shoulder, as we vacation in Albuquerque, NM, and said, "That makes me very happy". However, *Daymarker* Editor, Anne, requested I do an article about safety, so here are a few tips about winterization:

Your vessel frequently is closed up for three or four months here on the Occoquan, certainly less in NC; but one aggravation is moisture in the cabins and engine compartments leading to that "boat smell" and mold and rust on engine and metal components. Action: Pick a couple dry windy days this fall and open all hatches,

portholes, compartment doors and let Mother Nature dry and freshen the inside...close before evening sets in.

During the down time you should continue to consider odor and moisture. There are multiple products on the market these days like electronic ionizers and those cans of "All Dry", but sometimes the simple but proven can serve well. Action: Clean! Use that sweeper/wet-dry vac to pick up dust, grit (don't forget the top surface of engines and other machinery), as well as all bilge water. Remove those used oil absorbent pads under your engines, wipe the hull down with cleaner, and put clean pads back in place. Consider a form of corrosion protection such as Boeshield T-9 or WD-40 to protect deck hardware, electrical connections and engine surfaces. All this done, put a fan forward and a sixty-watt light bulb into service, leaving an engine hatch open, if possible.

There is considerable discussion on the impact or effect ethanol (E5, E10 and it is coming- E15) has on our marine engines and fuel tanks. First order should be to protect your equipment. Get advice from your marina or dealer as to the "fuel level" to be maintained during layup. Action: Add a fuel stabilizer such as Starbrite's Star-tron or a similar product and run engines to circulate through the fuel system.

While you are in your bilge areas, become aware as to the location of all seacocks and thru-hull fittings (Do you know where they are and what they do on your vessel?) Note these items have some form of hose and two (below-water-level) hose clamps attached. Action: Check hose for cracks and squeeze to ensure they are not collapsed, check to ensure clamps are tight, open/close seacocks to ensure they operate freely. Repair or replace, as needed.

Stay in that bilge area (maybe after a drink of water from your mate) and look for green wires (normally) connected to all metal components such as thru-hulls, seacocks, intake strainers and especially thru-hull bolts to external equipment and machinery. This is your vessel's bonding system (vessel grounding) and protects items from stray electrical current erosion. Action: Check for corrosion, weak or broken connections and then clean, repair or replace, as needed.

You might ask what all of this has to do with Safety. I think a good and safety minded skipper will know about these discussed items and know how to take corrective action. Not taking action can cause early failure of equipment and risk sinking of your vessel. Winterization time is a great time to take action even if you have your marina winterize the equipment which is subject to freezing damage.

Cheers, Joe Livingston! *Gail Lynn II*

From the desk of the Quartermaster:

We will have numerous items for sale at the upcoming events; all items can be ordered with your boat's name on them. See Heidi Bishop and she can provide order forms or existing products like Polo Shirts, Hats, and other items currently adorned with Occoquan Yacht Club burgee or circular logo. Prices vary with your order, so don't hesitate to ask for an order form when you see her.

CRUISE NEWS...

LABOR DAY and FIREWORKS at TALL TIMBERS

Spearheaded by Jim Hawley and Don Bennett, a group of OYC members joined neighboring yacht clubs for the Labor Day festivities at Tall Timbers Marina, where the motto is "Celebrating 52 years of the same mismanagement: You can't build old. You have to earn it." Rick and Carole may not take themselves too seriously, but they sure are serious about great hospitality. The people are friendly, the food is tasty and the marina is...well, interesting (in a good way). There are antique boats (some in various stages of salvage), a Southern Maryland maritime museum, wonderful works of art from local artists and souvenirs in the Ship Store... and best of all, the Reluctant Navigator Restaurant where the Sunday Buffet Breakfast and Bloody Marys are second to none. Plus McKay Cove, where Tall Timbers' docks are located, is lovely and peaceful.



OYC at Tall Timbers

Thanks to Jim Hawley's working with the "mismanagement", Rick and Carole of Tall Timbers made sure we had their prime slips on the newly updated gas dock. In fact, Tall Timbers' boat repair handyman, Sandy, was kind enough to give up his (personal) number one slip for us so that we could get Shadow (our 90-pound clumsy Alaskan Malamute) on and off our boat more easily. It also afforded us the perfect spot under a tree, with a great view and a breeze for our gatherings on the dock.

Jim had arrived first on *Lori Ann* and was comfortably settled in his usual slip when we (the Bennetts on *Heart of the Sun*) showed up on Friday. Shortly thereafter, Pam and Joey Sowell cruised in on *Emma Caroline II*; and the party began. Since Pam and Kevin Bell and Pam's sister Elaine Hays, who was visiting from Ohio, on *Déjà Vu* were not due until Saturday, Jim saved his special "Martha Stewart welcome drink" for our Saturday happy hour on the dock...and it was well worth the wait! Happy hour started early and ended late that day.



Joey, Pam, Kevin, Pam, Elaine, Jim, Don and Anne enjoying happy hour on the dock.

Throughout the weekend we all took advantage of the restaurant and enjoyed the terrific music on the side porch. Some of us took walks in the peaceful neighborhood adjacent to the marina and/or ventured to the marina's sandy beach on the Potomac (later to be the scene of the boat burning party).

Definitely the hottest ticket that weekend was the Sunday night beach party, complete with an old wooden fishing boat turned into a bar, music, fireworks over the Potomac, and of course the boat burning! And being OYCers, we had primed ourselves for the beach party with another great happy hour on the dock.



Déjà Vu's captain and crew at the boat burning party

Monday morning, after checking the weather, we decided not to push our luck. Storms had bypassed us all weekend, but traveling up the Potomac could be dicey if we didn't get going. Therefore, we opted to forego one last gathering on the dock and headed for the safety of home, having had a wonderful weekend of friendship and partying.

Anne Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*



NATIONALS 7; MARLINS ? OYC was the big winner!

A small, but lively, contingent of OYCers headed up to James Creek Marina to attend a National's baseball game Saturday afternoon the 8th of September. In all there were five boats to include the; Preda's, Wilcox's, Stanley's, Mannino's and Crouch's.



Susan, Steve and Jill in the bullpen, warming up for the game

The weather was absolutely spectacular but for one exception (more in a minute). We headed over to the ballpark from the marina, a short walk of less than a mile, just before noon. The Nationals were playing the Marlins and it turned out to be Ryan Zimmerman bobble-head day. We had fantastic seats about twenty rows up from first base. And the game was competitive, the spirits festive, and a warm sunny day – until! The sky turned black and the wind and rain swept in almost immediately – yes the storm that affected most of us that Saturday. The game was suspended just before the National's bottom-half of the ninth, and I believe they were down one run. So we waited, and waited. After an hour we headed back to the marina to watch the game on TV, which turned out to be an "ok" decision other than the Nationals came back to win 7 to 6 in the 10th ...and we would have had the pick of seats had we stayed. Oh well.



Partying on the dock at James Creek Marina

Most of us did our own thing for dinner other than a group that headed over toward Gangplank. In the morning, after a slow start, we all gathered for a dock brunch complete with bloodies and momos.

Mike Crouch, *Makia III*

THE SEASON IS WINDING DOWN Don't miss out on upcoming events!

September 29, 2-5 pm
Shrimp Fest at Hoffmaster's
(See John Heinze's Sept article)

October 5-7
PRYCA End of Summer Cruise to Aquia Harbor
(See Jim Dooley's article, p. 2)

October 20, 2-5 pm
General Membership Meeting – Elections and Chili Cookoff
(See Tom Plewes article, p. 1)

Note: The ICW Cruise to Florida scheduled for October 21-31 has been postponed until after the New Year.

November 9-11

Hardy Souls Cruise

At this time Don Bennett is still working with the new harbormaster at National Harbor to secure slips for the sizeable group who signed up. If National Harbor can not accommodate us, we will look elsewhere. When there is more information, Don will contact those on the list. If you're interested or have questions, please contact him at bennettdon@comcast.net.

November 24

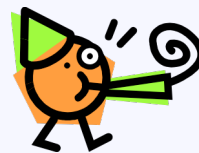
Santa Cruise from OHM to Occoquan

More information will be provided as the date draws closer.

December 8

OYC Change of Watch / Holiday Party

Watch for your invitation and more information.



October DATEMARKERS

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Wilcox 10/2
Jill Stanley 10/2
Mark Schall 10/4
Carole Belcher 10/9
Caroline Lynn 10/19
Nancy Stegon 10/21
Peggy Johnson 10/24
Rebecca Heinze 10/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph & Sally Hoffmaster 10/1
Rick & Teresa Sorrenti 10/6
David & Jona Payne 10/11
Mike & Kari Langerman 10/11
Christie Raukar & Pat Schondel 10/20
Joe & Kathy Derenda 10/22
James (Jay) & Ellen Nix 10/30

Mark these 2012 dates...

**SHRIMP FEST
Hoffmaster's
Sept 29, 2-5pm**

**PRYCA, End of Summer
Aquia Harbour Marina
Oct 5-7**

**OYC Election Meeting
Chili Cookoff
FYC
Oct 20, 2-4pm**

**Hardy Souls Cruise
Nov 9-11**

**Santa Cruise
Nov 24**

**Change of Watch
Holiday Party
Dec 8**

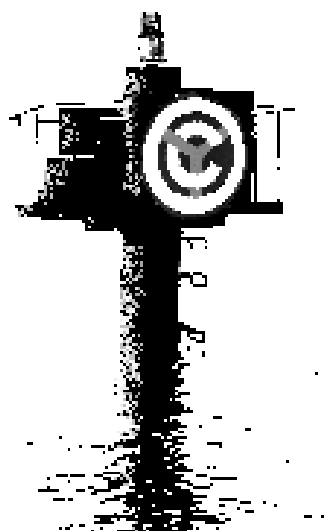
More info inside...

Don't miss out on the last events of the season!

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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

*1992, 1993, 1997, 2009, 2011 & 2012 PRYCA Cup Champions



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