



The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

www.OccoquanYachtClub.org

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

Commodore
Jim Dooley
703-493-8481

Vice Commodore
Don Bennett
540-752-9244

Rear Commodore
Bud Bishop
703-455-9776

Secretary
Kathy Bergmann
703-494-6255

Treasurer
Joe Livingston
703-505-8313

IPC
Tom Plewes
703-978-3546

PRYCA/CBYCA Delegate
Joe Livingston
703-505-8313

Quartermaster
Heidi Bishop
703-455-9776

Membership
John DeDittus
703-462-9756

Historian
Les Bergmann
703-494-6255

Webmaster
Don Bennett
540-752-9244

THE DAYMARKER Editor
Anne Bennett
540-752-4250



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Jim Dooley

commodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Here we are, December, 2013. Seems like yesterday that the OYC Board was making plans for the 2013 boating season. Gosh, how quick the river flows... from the Pre-Planning, the Planning and all the events we attended on the Potomac and beyond, the year has now come to winterization. What an awesome journey we experienced as The Cruising Club! The Potomac River opened her waters and shared her natural beauty with us all. She was kind and she was rough, with only the best memories as keepsakes. We saw fellow boaters cruise on, and still OYC continued to GROW.



Day Cruise to Solomon's Island that became

just that. But it showed how determined we were to cruise in 2013!

Our annual trek to Colonial Beach filled our sweet tooth with berries, while the grapes of Ingleside touted our spirits.



we would have if not for the OYC elixirs found in the Petit Verdot and mimosas!



We came together as the club to beat at the PRYCA Float-In. Our mighty ship set sail to bring home The Cup, only to go the way of the Minnow (we took second); but the weekend we shared will last longer than any three-hour cruise. I know we are on course in 2014 to bring home The Cup!



Cobb Island took us back to the summer of love, with beads and younger hearts. How many more memories

No sooner did the Fireworks of the 4th of July settle down, than the summer flotilla season popped up, and our cruises went south to Aquia Harbor, to Solomon's, St. Michaels, Cambridge, back through Point Lookout and landed Labor Day at Corinthian. No matter where our cruise coordinators take us, our summers are as memorable as that of '42.



Little did we know that the weather endured at the National's game was only a precursor to what was to come to "down under" in October. After food, fun and an outstanding turnout for the Shrimp Fest, OYC made history! With the energy of Pat Schondel and Christy Raukar at the helm, our OYC showed off our Occoquan River from Down Under. Never has OYC taken on so much and given back even more! From karaoke to docktails with BBQ dinners, to golf outings and wine-enriched painting and Down Under Olympics, the weather was no deterrent. We showed the PRYCA clubs just what OYC is made of... **Cruising Hospitality!**



In November we closed our 2013 cruising season with a cruise of just what we are, Hardy Souls, full of mechanical bull.

THAT WAS HOW WE GOT HERE... For me, it has been an honor to serve as your commodore for 2013. I want to thank my board for the energy and enthusiasm they put into the year that make it such a HUGE SUCCESS! From our cruise coordinators to each and

every member, Judy and I thank you for sharing what we all enjoy.

Last up for us this year, our 2013 Holiday Party. Not only is it a time to celebrate the season, but a time to share the memories we all made with each other in 2013. We hope to see EVERYONE there ☺!

Jim Dooley, *Jus Chill~N*



Vice Commodore

Don Bennett

vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

Looking Forward

The annual election was held, and the 2014 Bridge and Staff have been elected. Many thanks go out to Tom Plewes for putting together the slate of candidates. I want to thank Jim Dooley for his outstanding leadership this year and welcome the new board as we prepare for 2014.

- *Don Bennett, Commodore*
- *Bud Bishop, Vice Commodore*
- *Pat Schondel, Rear Commodore*
- *Kathy Bergmann, Secretary*
- *Joe Livingston, Treasurer*
- *Jim Dooley, Immediate Past Commodore*
- *Joe Livingston, PRYCA/CBYCA Delegate*
- *Anne Bennett, Daymarker Editor*
- *Johnny DeDitius, Membership Chair*
- *Les Bergmann, Historian*
- *Monica Fineberg, Quartermaster*
- *Don Bennett, Webmaster*

But wait! This season is not over yet! Next up on the hit parade is the COW. As you know, the 2013 Change of Watch Holiday Party will be held 7 December at Laurel Hill Country Club. Official notices and invites have been sent; so please check your mail, sign up and join in for a fun-filled celebration of boating, volunteer service and friendship. If you have any questions, please contact me at vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org (and again, I'll check with Anne. ☺)



It looks as if the Santa Parade will not be supported by OYC this year due to the late date and schedule conflicts with the COW and the Alexandria Parade of Lights. Please watch for information from Pat Croft should something change.

As the season draws to a close, it is also the time to renew our club membership, which is a nice segue to my changing hats to that of the Webmaster.

As some of you may have noticed, I have enhanced the registration page and provided access to your club profile/ information. Throughout the season, the board members use this information; so a centralized, easily accessible and mobile location was created. Examples of how we use the information include creating and publishing the *Daymarker*, coordinating cruises, creating the membership directory and contacting the membership. The use of electronic forms also reduces the use of paper; and since the fields are pre-populated, it is quicker and more efficient for you to provide information and registrations for the various events. Changes over the winter will include support for ad-hoc cruises, activity sign-ups and inter-club communications.

So in the process of renewing your membership, I ask that you visit the page and verify your information, which in some cases will include providing any missing information (i.e., first mate data, boat data, contact information, birth dates, etc.).

If you have any questions, please contact me at webmaster@occoquanyachtclub.org.

Thanks and Happy Holidays!
Don Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

* * *



Rear Commodore

Bud Bishop

rearcommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

From the helm of Hi-Jinx,
Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah (*et. al.*)!

The captain and crew of Hi-Jinx wish you all our best for this holiday season! What a year we have had! From the Plan-Fest to the Holiday/COW party, this year has been wonderful from the Rear Commodore's perspective. Although it started out a bit shaky with a poor plan for the Fajita-Fest in the spring of this past year (counted on prior attendance figures—not a good plan for the future either)...if you weren't there to experience it, we had way more members show up than had shown in our last three prior years. Good from a club perspective, bad from a plan perspective...and thankfully we compensated for a bigger crowd for the remainder of the year (and you didn't disappoint!). If this is an indicator of 2014, we are going to have an even BETTER year ahead!

While we will all likely be challenged in 2014 by the continuing government dysfunction, the one constant

that we can count on are our friendships on the water! To fully support our afloat activities, your board continues to innovate and improve our communication and managerial processes. Our website is becoming more and more useful and informative, and cruise coordinators will be able to rapidly gather and send information concerning their events. And our experimentation with social networking via internet will continue as we seek new and faster ways to get information out to you for more routine weekend raftups. Our goal is to ensure all of you are afforded the benefit of the most up-to-date information so you can make more informed decisions regarding the use of your *home on the water*.

ACTION: For all of you, our 2014 Plan-Fest is rapidly approaching. I would like to invite all of you to consider a destination that appeals to you and to lead the one event that you enjoy the most. Being the cruise coordinator entails conversing with the host-marina (avoids having the poor manager answer phone calls from all of the boats attending—easier to work it with one POC) and publishing the agenda for the weekend (or week, or four weeks if you are Harry-the-master-traveler). Being coordinator is a bit of added work; but without you, our yacht club event list will be short and, well, ...uneventful. And then you'll just have to put up with repeated 'raft-ups on the Occoquan' to fill your weekends. So please consider sponsoring one event and relay to me the event you'd like to lead at the Vice Commodore email address listed on the OYC website. If you intend to lead an event, you will be asked to attend the Pre-Planfest. We will then email a list of all of the proposed cruises to our members so they can plan their yachting year!

Yes, it is winter, but that just means we have three more months before we start another year on the water!

See you at the COW!
Bud Bishop, *Hi-Jinx*₂

* * *



Secretary

Kathy Bergmann

We were fortunate to meet Don and Anne Bennett after they moved their boat to Belmont Bay last spring. Both were great mentors for novice boaters such as ourselves, always willing to help us dock *Bergie* (or maybe just protecting the docks and surrounding boats) and passionate about OYC and why we should join. We have found the boating community to be so very welcoming, friendly, and helpful. It did not take Don long to start talking to Les about serving as historian. Over the years Les has developed a love for photography and was feeling the need to find other opportunities to take

pictures. He started his journey at our children's sporting events, and his passion and love for photography continued to grow. If I do say so myself, he is very good. After my husband attended his first board meeting he came home and "roped me in" to serve as OYC Secretary. We have always benefited in the past from getting involved on various boards and view this as another opportunity. Our advice to everyone is to get involved on some level and to attend as many OYC events as you can. We have enjoyed everything that we have done with OYC and look forward to expanding our horizons next year. Hopefully we can meet many more members at the COW as we celebrate the past boating season.

During our marriage we considered buying a boat a number of times but for some reason it just didn't seem to be the right time. Both of our children were swimmers and the summer was always spent at the pool. Now that they have moved on to other milestones the itch for a boat came on very strong. A friend took us out on his boat and we finally decided that the time was right. We started our search and finally found the boat we wanted to buy. When we visited Belmont Bay and sat on a bench the slip, in front of us was empty. We loved the view and decided that was the place for us. Our first year of boat ownership has been absolutely delightful and challenging at times. We have learned a great deal and realize that there is so much more to learn.

Since we have a number of new members, Anne has asked me to introduce board members in my *Daymarker* articles. We will start with the new members of the board and then proceed to the veterans. I plan to ask each a few basic questions on their history with boating, favorite recipes, and other bits of information they would like to share.



You may find out something new about someone you already know. It was also suggested that I introduce us first, so here we go...

Question 1: How did you choose your boat name?

We wanted all our family to be involved in naming our boat and found it difficult to agree until I mentioned that all of us had been given the nickname *Bergie* or some form of the name throughout our lives. Once that name was suggested, it was an easy decision.

Question 2: What has been your favorite OYC activity?

Our first activity was the Tim's I raft up and we had a blast. It was great meeting so many OYC members and enjoying the fireworks. We also enjoyed the EOS cruise

at Belmont Bay and were so impressed with the event and the fact that the rain could not dampen our spirits.

Question 3: Describe a challenging boating experience?

Once when docking at Belmont for fuel the wind pushed us away from the dock after the bow had been secured. The dockhands were unable to loosen the bow line because it had been pulled so tight. Les pulled forward to give it some slack but misjudged the distance and our bow pulpit ended up striking the ice machine with enough force to move it about six inches. The dockhands wisely scattered and still had not been able to get the bow line loose. We repeated the process with the same results and finally after the third try got free. Needless to say we were embarrassed, the dockhands now look at us with fear in their eyes, and our Harbor Master was not at all pleased.

Question 4: What is your favorite cleaning product or maintenance tip?

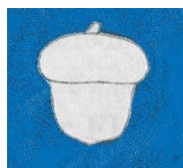
We have found *Spray 9* to be an invaluable aid to tackle numerous cleaning challenges.

Question 5: What do you like most about boating?

We have really enjoyed sharing our boat with family and friends. We just anchor at Mattawoman and throw out the floating island. The kids and adults enjoy taking the jet ski out and exploring the area. Everyone brings food and drinks to share and we just relax on the water. We have also enjoyed anchoring overnight and enjoying the dead calm of the water late in the evening and watching the stars. It is a slice of heaven.

Kathy Bergmann, *Bergie*

Kathy and Les are among those who joined OYC in 2013, and we'd like to take this opportunity to recognize them and all who were new members this year... John & Michele Adams, Bill & Laura Burcin, Andrew & Jody Chritton, Tom & Peggy Deputy, Dave & Karen Hart, Terry Holzman, Dan & Debbie Kent, John Lenahan, Jim & Pam Poulos, Eric Reuter & Lisa Graybill, Gordon & Brenda Rhodes, and Vic & Angie Scuderi. Thank you for making our awesome club even better!



Treasurer

Joe Livingston

treasurer@occoquanyachtclub.org

TIME TO MAKE RESERVATIONS!

The Annual Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association's 2014 Change of Watch-Dinner Dance is scheduled for Saturday, 18 January 2014 at the Crown Plaza in Old Town Alexandria.

This is a new venue this year, and planning indicates the Crown Plaza will make it a great evening. The Association is also seeking to expand the Saturday evening event into three days of activities. Open for shopping in Old Town and a social on Friday, visit Old Town shops and restaurants on Saturday, attend the COW-Dinner Dance, and then have brunch on Sunday morning. Pick and choose, but get your reservations in soonest.

Make room reservations for Friday and/or Saturday at the \$99 per night rate or drive in for the Saturday evening event. Several OYCers have made reservations for both nights. A Hospitality Room will be available Saturday, 1500-1700, then following the main event, and then on Sunday morning. Past years, OYC has had a great attendance record to support the PRYCA; and this year, the OYC will have six of our members serving on the Association's Board.

At the end of this newsletter, please see the flyer which contains an RSVP section at the bottom; and send your reservation request and check payable to "PRYCA" to me soonest. I will then coordinate seating so our club members will be together. Cancellation requests will be honored for good reason if your plans need to change.

Joe Livingston, *Gail Lynn II*

THE DAYMARKER

Good News/ Bad News...

I hope everyone has enjoyed receiving their electronic copy of the *Daymarker*. In addition to saving a tree or two, circulating the newsletter in this format affords us opportunities not available with the paper copy... most notably, unrestricted length and format so that we can include new features, interactive forms, additional pictures, etc. Feedback has been super, and I greatly appreciate your support!

You probably noticed on the 2014 renewal area of your COW reply card or on the website that the membership dues rate this year is not based on your wish to receive a paper or electronic version of the *Daymarker*. The bad news is that there will no longer be a paper copy. This issue is the last hard copy; but (looking on the bright side again) as such, it is now a collector's edition! ☺ Please continue to look for your emailed version near the end of each month.

Thank you and many blessings and much joy over the holidays and in the year to come.

Anne Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

HISTORIAN

I will be taking pictures of all the activities and shenanigans at this year's COW. I will also be doing formal and group shots. If you're interested, please inquire at check-in.

This will be our last opportunity to capture moments from 2013; so be sure to wear your finest, and I'll see you there!

Les Bergmann, *Bergie*

CRUISE NEWS



OYC CHANGE OF WATCH HOLIDAY PARTY – Dec 7

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RSVP!

EMAIL DON or ANNE and send your RSVP/check to JOE!

Don vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

Anne editor@occoquanyachtclub.org

Don & Anne Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

PRYCA CHANGE OF WATCH JAN 18

(See Joe's article plus info at the end of e-newsletter.)

Joe Livingston, *Gail Lynn II*

CREWS' NEWS



2013 Hardy Souls Cruise

Wow! If you're reading about this and didn't join us... too bad. It was truly a blast! This by far was the best-attended, most fun OYC cruise of the year, (excluding joint club events). We had 14 boats and over 30 attendees. Members walked, rode bikes, drove cars, took water taxis and of course came by boat in order to partake in the camaraderie of the "Hardy Souls Cruise"

Friday, November 8, 2013;

Captain Scott & First Mate Linda Del Monte were the first to arrive to lay claim to the National Harbor Marina, to be closely followed by the Marines... The Bennetts and Mauldins. Don being the take-charge Marine that he is, made sure that the rest of the vessels were safely navigated into the marina via radio and then tied securely into their slips. Thanks Don!



First Mates Linda Del Monte & Anne Bennett had prepared the belly warming cider with a side kick of the hardest captain of all... Captain Morgan. As the crowd drew thicker in and around ScottLin Yard, the table became cluttered with the appetizers

brought from their bounties. Good friends, music, laughter, food and spirits were the call for the night... well at least for that portion of it.

Saturday, November 9, 2013

The morning light was bright, the winds were calm, and the air temp was beautiful. We now had new arrivals for this fun-fest, some just in time for our breakfast. We had three tables set up for the morning feast. It was a true smorgasbord of breakfast items, pancakes, eggs, breakfast roll ups, a variety of meats, Christie Raukar's famous (secret) hash browns, fruit, and for the truly hardest of souls, there were adult beverages.

After our bellies were stuffed, (ok, not everybody ate like I did) some of our first mates decided to do the bridge walk over to the Virginia side; and for the protection of our fair maidens, Captain Jim Poulos accompanied them to ward off demons and evil spirits. I heard there was a lot of pub crawling on both the Virginia and Maryland side of the Potomac.



As the evening approached, the happy hour seemed to naturally ascend on Bay Dreamer, I guess with such gracious folks like Pat and Harry Croft, people wanted to bask in their light. Even though Pat and Harry separately came to my boat only to say..."Hey! Mr. Cruise Coordinator, aren't you supposed to be having the Happy Hour?" Damn, obviously I messed this one up!

Dinnertime at the Cadillac Ranch – the event coordinator reserved the area next to the bar and the bull riding arena for our crew – couldn't have worked better. The food was great and it appeared as if there was ample fire in the water they were serving, because some of us just had to show our bravado.

There it stood, just feet away from us, snorting, grunting, grinding its hooves in the dirt, glowing red eyes, steam coming from its nose, staring at us as if to say... "You want a piece of me?"

I felt it my responsibility to be first to try to tame this beast... big mistake! I approached with caution and mounted the great bovine, as he reared up and twisted like an F-5 tornado, I was tossed to the ground in a matter of micro seconds. My shame was heavy, for I let my fellow OYC'er down.

Again, we are the Hardy Souls; and in this group you'll find many brave hearts. For next, stepped up the brave Captain Pat Schondel. He too mounted this behemoth creature, grabbed it by the mane and dared it to throw him from its body as it did me. Pat withstood the shaking, the twisting, the violent jumping of this great beast, but soon fell to its enormous strength and too was tossed like a rag doll from its back.

Fear not, for we have another brave captain among us, Captain Marty Joyner, who with great encouragement from his wife, First Mate Karen, advanced toward the beast and mounted it with a boldness not found in most men. He too gripped the mane of this monster and held on for dear life. Again the twisting, the shaking, the undulations this beast is capable of, proved to be much more than even the mighty Captain Marty could bring to submission.

Back to our tables we went again, to draw strength and courage from the fire water provided by our barkeep. Another glass or two and then to face the beast for the last time. 1, 2, 3 down we went... failed, but not broken. The beast... lives strong and awaits its next victim, for only those who dare!



After dinner, about half of our group headed over to Bobby McKey's, the dueling piano bar, where we were treated to an extraordinary night of entertainment. This place is a lot of fun for all ages. The entertainers were quite amusing and very accomplished musicians. One of them did an awesome rendition of Charlie Daniels, "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" on the fiddle. I was quite impressed. Quite the night!

Sunday, November 10, 2013

Our planned brunch was set for 10:00am although with

the late night and late and slow rise of our ageless members, I called the Public House and pushed our brunch reservations to 10:30 AM... good move. Sixteen of us showed for a delightful meal and a last hurrah for a few of us.

Back to our vessels, where a few of us departed, Linda and I included, leaving the remaining Hardy Souls to plunder what is left of National Harbor.

This entire weekend could not have happened without the dockmasters, Greg and Andrew, they re-arranged the slip assignments to accommodate us and to keep us in close proximity of one another. We sincerely thank them for their patience, flexibility and special pricing for this OYC event.

Also, this cruise is nothing without this great group of members; we are all blessed to be commonly involved in such a great recreation.

We thank you all and God Bless our Veterans,
Scott & Linda DelMonte, *ScottLin Yard*
Your 2013 Hardy Souls Cruise Coordinators

Now you may winterize!

* * *



DECEMBER DATEMARKERS

BIRTHDAYS

Dan Parsons 12/1
Eric Belcher 12/3
Don Bennett 12/4
Paul Mannino 12/4
Larry Freedman 12/9
Anne Bennett 12/15
Tom Plewes 12/15
Kelly Jackson 12/19
Harry Croft 12/21
Debbie Kent 12/22
Les Bergmann 12/25
Susan Thompson 12/26
Kari Langerman 12/29
Karen Joyner 12/29
John Cornicelli 12/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Ned & Arlene Rhodes 12/21

Of Amsterdam Maids & Other Seafaring Songs

The sound of water against fiberglass, the splash and splatter of droplets and spray, raise in many of us the urge to burst into song, often sea shanties. Well, at least some of us. Or perhaps just a talented few? As you reach for the soap or wash cloth, for the shower is becoming the only place you are likely to hear such sublime water music this time of year, remember that the shanties you are about to serenade creation with were originally work songs. And, when your significant other bangs on the door to tell you the family dog is seeking political asylum with the neighbors, you can impress her/him with the following *bon mots*.

There are three chief types of sea shanties, aside from the non-work ditties with which time was whiled away in the fo'c'sle. One was used to trudge around the capstan with twenty or so voices, three to each capstan bar. The shantyman usually sat on the capstan head singing out the main lines while the crew sang the chorus as they slowly trudged around the capstan hauling up the anchor, and the song was slow, without the tempo associated with more modern renditions of such examples as *Rio Grande* and *Amsterdam Maid*.

The second type of shanty was the pulling (halyard) shanty. Used for hauling yards, the tempo varied from the reasonably lively to dead slow as the weight of the sail started to tell on the crew. Examples of this are *Blow Boys Blow*; *Blow the Man Down*; and *Reuben Ranzo*. *What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor*, although more often classified as a walking shanty (used when walking away with the slack of line on deck), has also been used as a halyard shanty.

The third type is a short haul shanty, used when a stout, hard pull was needed, usually for a short duration. *Paddy Doyle* is probably the best example of this type.

Well armed and soapy, you can now explain that by your singing you are preserving the heritage of a bygone day, and that you should be rewarded with bravos and rum (groupies are too much to ask for), rather than snickers and insults. With luck, your significant other will concur and walk away enriched and your family dog will come back. ...Maybe.

Nabil Dubraque, *High Cotton*.

* * *



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From your 2013 OYC Board



OYC on the dock at National Harbor



Jim, Gail, Joe, Pat, Harry & Judy, dinner Sat.



Christie & Karen, *The Madhatters*

HARDY SOULS 2013



Michelle, Heidi, Izzy, Christie, Pam, Karen, Jim & Susan
The Bridgewalkers



Pam, Kevin, Susan, Randy, Marty & Karen, dinner Sat.



Bud, Heidi, Pam, Jim.....Johnny & Michelle, breakfast Sun.



Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association

www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org

*Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association
2014 Change of Watch - Dinner Dance
Saturday, 18 January 2014*

at

*Crowne Plaza
Old Town Alexandria
901 N Fairfax Street
703-683-6000*

Hospitality Suite Open: 1700 – 1745 (and again after the dance)

Photographer: 1700 - 1845

Cocktails: 1800

Dinner: 1900

Change of Watch Ceremony: 2000

Dancing to follow with 25th Hour Band

Formal/Winter Uniform/Black Tie Optional or Business Suit

\$75.00 per person

Menu

Salad, Rolls & Butter

Top Sirloin Steak complimented w/Potatoes or Rice & Vegetables

Seared Salmon complimented w/Potatoes or Rice & Vegetables

*Vegetarian Portobello Mushroom Tower complimented w/ layers of Portobello Mushroom, Grilled
Eggplant and Squash on a Bed of Roasted Red Pepper Coulis*

Dessert

Freshly Brewed Coffee and Tea

Cash Bar

Rooms

For Reservations call Crowne Plaza direct at 703-683-6000. Rooms are available for Friday & Saturday nights at \$99.00 (plus taxes) with complimentary parking.

Clip & Mail w/check payable "PRYCA" to Joe Livingston, 259 Bridgewater Circle, Fredericksburg, VA 22406

+++++

Meal Selection: Sirloin Steak _____ Seared Salmon _____ Vegetarian Tower _____

Name: _____ Guest Name(s) _____ Titles: _____

Email Address: _____ Amount Enclosed _____