



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
Carol Belcher
771-285-1828

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 DeDitiis
703-462-9756

Historian
Webmaster
Don Bennett
540-752-9244

THE DAYMARKER Editor
Anne Bennett
540-752-4250



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Jim Dooley

commodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

BOATING SEASON 2013 IS OFFICIALLY OPEN!

Continuing the long-standing OYC maritime tradition, on Saturday, May 4, the OYC Flag Raising kicked off our 2013 Boating Season.



Our 2013 Board (above) brought in the bright sunshine, which shined a light on the golden voice of Amanda Johnson who sang the Star Spangled Banner.



Our Occoquan District Supervisor, Michael May, followed with words of appreciation; and we received a blessing for a safe boating season by Assistant Commander Special Operations Fairfax County Police, Dave Goldberg.

Our flag-raisers were at the ready, and Don Bennett was right on time with a cannon blast heard for miles, which sparked our roughly 30 OYC members and guest to descend on

tables of picnic treats. Our club enjoyed burgers and hotdogs grill-fired by Bud Bishop, John Cornicelli, Don Bennett and Chris Rose; and our members followed up strong with salads and desserts.



Heidi Bishop set up the Quartermaster wares with custom items that detailed us out in boating style. Don and Anne Bennett handed out the 2013 OYC Directory that made even your commodore and his dog look good! If you missed it, there will be more available at the Fajita Fest. A special thanks goes to Dick & Caroline Lynn who graciously opened up Occoquan Harbor Marina to host our OYC flag for the 2013 boating season.

As we have officially opened our boating season and are looking forward to all the events planned, it is time to start planning our first annual – **OYC END OF SUMMER WEEKEND at BELMONT BAY from Friday, October 11 - Monday, October 14.**

As many of you remember, OYC voted to host the cruise weekend with Belmont Bay and other area PRYCA members. Currently under the direction of Pat Schondel, a committee is to be formed to finalize the venue and cost for the weekend. An application will be sent out for those wanting to register. Tentatively scheduled events might include Friday night dinner and karaoke, Saturday golfing at Osprey Golf Course, riverboat taxi to Occoquan, and dinner. Sunday would host “End of Summer” games, riverboat taxi to Occoquan, and dinner. Monday would be a continental breakfast and departure. Some of us who moor our boats on the Occoquan, may want to attend the functions without our boats. This will be an option. As an OYC member, I am sure we have all experienced the hospitality offered by other PRYCA clubs; and this will be our time for us to **“Get Your Shine On!”** If you would like to take part in this weekend, please send me an email. commodore@occoquanyachtclub.org We will need folks to help dock, registration, run the games, guide the attendees to Occoquan and back, serve continental breakfasts, and orchestrate other events. But of course you can come and just spread a SMILE ☺ ! If you have an idea for the weekend, we would also like to hear from you.

Jim Dooley, *Jus Chill~N*



Vice Commodore

Don Bennett

vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

WE ARE TRULY BLESSED

I hope all had the chance to partake of the Flag Raising and the Blessing of the Fleet. Thanks go out to Bud Bishop and Joe Livingston for their efforts in coordinating the events.

Quick note in response to questions about the cannon. Here is a reprint of the write-up by John Heinz: *It's not just any cannon but a British deck gun from the early 1800s salvaged by former OYC members Dennis and Joyce Moeller, who had the brass cannon cleaned and mounted in its present gun carriage. The cannon has been used in OYC Flag Raisings since 1988. In May, 1989, when the Moeller's left the Washington, DC, area, they generously donated the cannon to OYC. For some years in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the cannon was*

proudly displayed on OYC Commodore Marilyn and John Piper's 60-foot motor yacht, Dunmoen. From what I can gather, given the bore size, it was most likely a swivel gun or signal cannon.



As our season is well underway, I'd like to take a moment to welcome our new members as well as all of the other repeat offenders / returning members. ☺ As an aid to the new members and as incentive to new volunteers, I'd like to take this opportunity to briefly explain the positions of your Board / Bridge (with an attempt at a comparison to corporate positions). The full explanation of the positions will be available on the website.

The Board is comprised of the Executive Board and the Appointed Committee Chairs. The General Membership elects the Executive Board, and the Commodore appoints the Chairs.

The Executive Board:

The Commodore (Chief Executive Officer) is the principal leader of OYC and should place due emphasis on leadership, overall administration of the club and winning The Cup!

The Vice Commodore (Chief Operations Officer) is the principal assistant to the Commodore, is second-in-command and maintains overall coordinating responsibility of OYC's cruising and land-based events. The Vice Commodore is also responsible for the management and coordination of the Fleet Captains and will serve as the next Commodore.

The Rear Commodore (Chief Procurement Officer) is primarily responsible for logistical support for club activities, principally land events, while maintaining custody, cleanliness, security and overall responsibility of the club's storage shed. The Rear Commodore provides for the purchase, availability, delivery, recovery and storage of supplies, foodstuffs, utensils, disposable materials and equipment required for support of club events on land and will serve as the next Vice Commodore.

The Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) is responsible for accounting for all income and expenses of the club, maintains the club's bank account and club funds, and maintains accountability with and from Event Coordinators regarding the collection and disbursement of funds. The Treasurer requires Event Coordinators to prepare income and expense statements for each event following completion.

The Secretary (General Council) is responsible for records of the club, and any written correspondence by the Board. The Secretary prepares and preserves the minutes of board and general membership meetings and distributes the minutes prior to each board or general membership meeting for approval and retention.

The Immediate Past Commodore (IPC) (Board of Directors) serves as a member of the nominating committee, which prepares a slate for the annual election of officers. The IPC serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Board and maintains a clearly understood historical record of the Board to guide successor Commodores in carrying out their duties.

The Appointed Committee Chairs:

The Membership Chair (Director Human Resources) maintains all membership records and responds to all requests for membership.

The Daymarker Editor (Director Advertising / Marketing) is responsible for all processes, which culminate in the production and delivery of *The Daymarker*.

The Quartermaster (Director Sales) is responsible for the purchase and resale of OYC burgees, clothing, jewelry and other membership articles as directed by the Executive Board.

The Historian (Director Graphic Arts) maintains all OYC photographic archives. The Historian shall periodically display recent pictorial history to members assembled for local OYC events. The Historian is responsible for taking and collecting pictures of the OYC events and providing pictures to the Daymarker Editor and Webmaster.

The Fleet Captains (Business Development) are responsible for encouraging boaters operating out of their respective marinas to become OYC members. Fleet Captains shall perform liaison duties between their respective marinas and the Executive Board.

The PRYCA/CBYCA Delegate (Director Customer Relations) maintains inter-club relationships and interfaces with the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club Associations. The Delegate shall attend the PRYCA Commodore's Call and all major PRYCA events if possible.

The Webmaster (Head Geek) is responsible for all processes, which culminate in the production and maintenance of the OYC website. The Webmaster shall ensure the display of information as directed by the Executive Board.

I hope this brief description of the roles and responsibilities will help you in the coming season and spark interest in becoming a part of the Board.

Speaking of the website, changes will be coming to the site this month as we work to protect personal information with the unveiling of the Members Only section. Members will be provided their login information in the coming weeks. The new section will include the following: Board Meeting Minutes, Current *Daymarker*, *Daymarker* Archives, Event Photos, Cruise List with contact information, OYC Directory, Board Roles and Responsibilities, and other information...

Happy and Safe Boating!
Don Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

* * *



Rear Commodore

Bud Bishop

rearcommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

From the Captain's Chair of *Hi-Jinx*₂

Typically, all of us on the board tend to outline the same upcoming events in our articles—so to make it more reader friendly, we are taking pains to do the opposite. From the Rear Commodore's perspective, the land-based events are the focus and the events that are on our calendar include many of these. Most important are the competitive events at the Float-In—prior preparation will prevent xxxx-poor performance, as they say. SO, areas of interest in the competition are: **getting your safety inspection** (see p. 8), knot-tying, navigation rules, scavenger hunt (know what is on your boat and where it is—the more junk the better), throwing a life-preserver (you should probably break yours out and throw it once a year for practice—it is an art, and it will save a life), and donning a life vest in the water (you should practice that once a year as well). Other important, life-saving, land-based events (or at least events while still tied to land):

- Check the water in your batteries (monthly)
- Shoot one of your out-of-date flares into the water, away from people and things. (yearly)
- Try lighting one of your out-of-date flares—remember how to do it? Night, bad weather is not the time to try to remember. (yearly)

- Re-check your oil level. (today!)
- Once free of land: teach your first mate how to do the Williamson turn. Yes, let the first mate drive...after checking around you that there are no boats headed your way.

The **Williamson turn** is a maneuver used to bring a ship or boat under power back to a point it previously passed through, often for the purpose of recovering a man overboard. It was named for [John Williamson](#), USNR, who used it in 1943. However, according to *Uncommon Carriers* by [John McPhee](#), the maneuver was originally called the "Butakov pipe" and was used in the [Russo-Japanese War](#) as a way of keeping guns at the same distance from an enemy.

The Williamson turn is most appropriate at night or in reduced visibility, or if the point can be allowed to go (or already has gone) out of sight, but is still relatively near. For other situations, an Anderson turn (quickest method) or a Scharnow turn might be more appropriate. The choice will in large part depend on prevailing wind and weather conditions. It was also used by U.S. Navy [nuclear submarines](#) to clear their sonar dead zones.

1. Put the rudder over full.
2. If in response to a man overboard, put the rudder toward the person (e.g., if the person fell over the starboard side, put the rudder over starboard full).
3. After deviating from the original course by about 60 degrees, shift the rudder full to the opposite side.
4. When heading about 20 degrees short of the reciprocal, put the rudder amidships so that vessel will turn onto the reciprocal course.
5. Bring the vessel upwind of the person, stop the vessel in the water with the person alongside, well forward of the propellers

If dealing with a man overboard, always bring the vessel upwind of the person. Stop the vessel in the water with the person well forward of the propellers.

FAJITA FEST... Bring an appetite to the Fajita Fest! Food is served at 1400 at OHM and Harry's 'Gritas' will flow in good measure. Anyone wishing to lend a hand setting up can show early (1315) for a spot of labor and a pint of cold beer to assuage the pain. Cost is \$15 per person (cash or check only), which will cover all refreshments and a full meal...you don't have to bring anything! See you there!

Bud Bishop, *Hi-Jinx*₂

* * *



Fajita Fest

Saturday, June 8, 2:00 pm

Occoquan Harbor Marina
13180 Marina Way, Woodbridge, VA

\$15/ per person at the entry
(Please bring cash or check. No credit cards.)

OYC will provide authentic Mexican cuisine and (adult) beverages, water and sodas.
You provide the camaraderie.

Questions: contact Bud Bishop
rearcommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org



Secretary

Carol Belcher

secretary@occoquanyachtclub.org

SHIPBOARD FIRE

The recent and ongoing news of troubled cruise liners got me thinking about a 1965 fire aboard a Panamanian registered cruise ship, the *SS Yarmouth Castle*. Before you wonder if I am older than dirt to have recalled that terrible incident, I confess to learning of it as a child through the haunting song *The Ballad of the Yarmouth Castle* sung by Gordon Lightfoot, a much-beloved Canadian folk singer.

SS Yarmouth Castle was on route from Miami to Nassau, Bahamas in November 1965 when fire broke out in the 'forward staircase area' and quickly spread fore and aft. Lightfoot's words evoke heartbreaking images of that terrible night on the seas for passengers and crew. The survivors were rescued through the heroic actions of the crews of *Finnpulp* and *SS Bahama Star*, the *Castle's* sister ship which had been on a track 12 miles behind the *Castle*. The Finnish freighter,

Finnpulp, came alongside the port side of the furiously burning *Castle* and pulled survivors off, staying in place until the paint on the deck began to smoke and bubble. (...*"Jump down! Jump down," the captain cries, "We'll save you if we can." And the paint on his gunnels is a-fryin'*) The *Bahama Star* launched its lifeboats and pulled them up on the starboard side of the burning ship. The final death toll was 90 people, 87 of whom went down with the ship. Only two of the dead were crew members.

The tragedy was investigated by the US Coast Guard through a Marine Board of Investigation, even though the ship was in international waters when it burned and despite its Panamanian registry. The ship was old and was exempted from many of the existing safety regulations of that time. In November 1968 Public Law 80-777 (R.S. 4400 (c); 46 U.S.C 362 (c), Fire Safety Standards for Foreign and Domestic Passenger Vessels, came into effect. This law required the Coast Guard to verify that foreign cruise vessels entering US waters and ports complied with the 1966 fire safety amendments.

The Coast Guard documents are fascinating to read but the lyrics and music of Gordon Lightfoot's song convey the story more viscerally. The story of this fire is a 'safety first' reminder to us pleasure boaters—although we don't carry large numbers of guests, unlike the cruise liners. Still, it's a good idea for all of us to check our fire emergency plan, to share it with the guests aboard our boat and to check our fire extinguishers. Do you have a robust fire extinguisher in your sleeping area? In the cockpit? In the guest quarters? Is the needle in the green or is it hovering at or in the red zone? Do you have an escape hatch in your sleeping area big enough to let you out if there is fire between you and the main hatch? How about the guest state room? How will the guests get out? Do they have a fire extinguisher that they can use, if they have to get out via the main hatch? How about wool fire blankets—where are they?

Now that the boating season is truly underway, think of fire safety and take proactive steps to minimize the danger and likelihood of an on-board fire. Here's to having only happy boating memories this year.

Carol Belcher, *Time2Play*

* * *



Treasurer

Joe Livingston

treasurer@occoquanyachtclub.org

WHERE DOES TIME GO...

The month of May has come and almost gone, but your Club's finances are in good shape for the shape they are in. The Board has approved small stipends to support

the transportation needs for the Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach and also to support the Bay Cruise being planned by Harry and Pat Croft. We are always hopeful that all members will "show the OYC burgee" and encourage folks interested in recreational boating, safety on the water, and boating skills to join the OYC.

The Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) held the Blessing of the Fleet on the Occoquan Saturday, 18 May. From 1000 to 1400, members Mike and Karen Crouch and Pat Croft, manned the *Makia III*...the designated Blessing Vessel...along with Pastor Jim Thomas from the Sydenstricker United Methodist Church in Springfield, VA.



Makia III

They stood ready, in somewhat dreary, rainy weather to offer "fair winds, following seas and safe return of vessel and crew from their cruises" as participating vessels passed by. A prayer to bless all OYC vessels and crews was also offered for those not able to attend.



Pastor Jim Thomas and Pat Croft

Commodore Jim and Judy Dooley represented the OYC aboard the VIP vessel, hosted by Captain Carlton Phillips and his wife, Debbie, of Prince William Marina. Also aboard the VIP vessel were four folks representing the Town of Occoquan and the Commodores of Fairfax and Prince William Yacht Clubs. Joe and Gail tagged along representing the PRYCA and ORMA.



The VIP Vessel

Overall, the event was a success although the number of participating vessels was low when compared to past years. This may be, in part, caused by the fact that the event was not held last year and cancelled because of weather in the prior year. The ORMA organizing committee believes in the tradition of past seafarers and the promotion of recreational boating activities. The ORMA is supported by the Yacht Clubs on the Occoquan, Belmont Bay Harbor, Hoffmaster's and the Prince William Marina's, The Town of Occoquan, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and first responders from Fairfax County, Prince William County and Potomac Towing. Thanks to all; and last, but not least, thanks to Les Bergmann whose boat is at Belmont Bay Marina for his wonderful photography. We hope Les and his wife will soon be OYC members.

Cheers, Joe Livingston! Gail Lynn II

QUARTERMASTER

We have settled into a good flow with our supplier/embroiderer; as a result, we have access to a wide variety of clothing and your boat's name can be sewn into almost any article of clothing, towels, blankets, etc. (our embroiderer has thousands of fonts, sizes, colors).

We are currently averaging about \$200 per month in sales and are on track for a \$1000 year for the club. We try to buy items on sale and limit any mark-up (sometimes lower than any prices you will see in stores). We attempt to make enough to fund free team t-shirts for the Float-In, as well as giveaways for prizes for the photo contest and thank-you gifts for the singers for the flag-raising, etc. By purchasing materials from the QM, you are supporting our activities in a manner that allows us to keep our club dues low—so make an effort to buy a couple of items per year to help out!

We will have a table set up at the Fajita Fest and will be ready for you to come by and place your orders.

Turnaround is a week to two weeks and is dictated more by when we see you than by how long the process takes to get the materials looking the way you want them. For your wearing pleasure, we offer some great prices on:

- T-Shirts (all colors, sizes)
- Polo Shirts (all colors, sizes)
- Hats, Visors
- Denim Shirts, Tank Tops, Coats, etc.
- Embroidery is averaging around \$5 per item



Come visit the QM table at the Fajita Fest, or email me at quartermaster@occoquanyachtclub.org to order.

Heidi Bishop, Hi-Jinx₂



June DATEMARKERS

BIRTHDAYS

Karen Crouch 6/2
 Bill French 6/5
 Michael C. Higgins 6/8
 Judy Dooley 6/10
 Goodwyn Morgan 6/11
 Stephanie Mauldin 6/15
 Mary Jo Worchester 6/15
 Steven Thompson 6/16
 Paul Fineberg 6/22

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Donna Lensis 6/1
 Christian & Alison Rose 6/4
 Joey & Pam Sowell 6/5
 Bill & Beth Francis 6/6
 Kevin & Kelly Jackson 6/10
 Nabil & Lucy Dubraque 6/19
 Joe & Gail Livingston 6/20
 Jim & Sharon Gower 6/21
 Steve & Mary Jo Worchester 6/21
 Bill & Peggy Johnson 6/22
 Mason Ralph & Kris Butera 6/25
 Dave & Karen Hart 6/25
 Scott & Linda Del Monte 6/28

Thank you!

A quick, but heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with our beads for *Cobbstock, the Summer of Love*. First, our sticker-stickers Mike Crouch, Susan Willetts, Rebecca Heintz, Judy Dooley, Monica Fineberg, and Catherine Dudley who stuck around (no pun intended...well, maybe a little one) after the Flag Raising and got all the peace, heart and OYC stickers on. Thanks to Tom Plewes for providing the OYC stickers. And last, but not least, thanks to Carol Belcher and Ginny Preda for their Mod Podge (sealer) expertise. At the event, I'll have some OYC beads; but the majority will be at the "Welcome to Cobb Island Sign".

Peace, Love & OYC! Be there or bead square!

Anne Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*



* * *

The Little Cannon that Could

No little cannon would suffice to announce the season's start, so Don Bennett, our Vice Commodore and Wearer of Many Hats took the little feller in and fed it cannon kibble for months on end until it grew to a respectable size. "Size matters," Don was heard to say. Neither Rick Sorrenti, the cannon's previous custodian nor Wayne LaPierre, a potentially interested party, could not be reached for comment. The cannon now eagerly follows Don around, begging for tidbits. "Airport check-ins are a hoot!" said Don.

And once again Commodore Jim Dooley outdid himself (no small feat, as we have come to learn) as he made a splashy entrance to the festivities in *Jus Chill~N II*.



The entrance added that certain *je ne sais quoi* to the affair (sorry, we came back from France just a short while ago, and I do so like to brag). *Merci beaucoup*, Commodore Jim! At Judy's insistence and while grumbling under his breath he did, however, embellish and enhance his wardrobe a bit.

That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Nabil Dubraque, *High Cotton*

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARGARITA/ FAJITA FEST at OHM, June 8, 2:00 pm

This is a catered event... \$15 per person (cash or check) Great, authentic, Mexican food and drink will be provided. Just come and enjoy!

rearcommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

Bud Bishop, *Hi-Jinx*

PRYCA KICKOFF at COBB ISLAND, June 14-16

The 2013 theme is ***Cobbstock: The Summer of Love!*** This year's necklace will be loaded with beads, but the best one will be our own OYC "Peace, Love & OYC... Be there or Bead Square!" bead, which will be found at the *Welcome to Cobb Island* sign. There will be lots of activities, great food, fun and if you wish, a special t-shirt. Attendees can learn about local waterfowl, boating safety, and Cobb Island. Information has been emailed and the list and slips are filling up! So if you're interested and haven't signed up yet, please contact Don Bennett ASAP!

vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

Don & Anne Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

SOUTH BAY CRUISE, June 16 – July 6

Once again I am pleased to offer an adventurous cruise for 21 days, starting on June 16th, leaving from Cobb Island. Our itinerary is designed so that cruisers can join us on the weekend, leave on the next weekend and make it back to Occoquan before the start of the workweek. We also plan on staying at most places at least two nights, keeping the travel times to less than three hours between destinations. The itinerary is as follows: Cobb Island, Coles Pt., Deltaville and Urbanna on the Rappahanock, Onancock on the Eastern Shore, York River, Bay Creek near Cape Charles, Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club near Virginia Beach, Kings Mill on the James River, past the "Ghost Fleet", then up the Pagan River to Smithfield, and finishing at Norfolk for the 4th of July. We plan on returning to the Occoquan on the Saturday July 6th, ending the trip on Sunday.

If you are interested, send me an email and I will send you a detailed trip plan. The only commitment I need from you at this time is for the 4th of July. **IF** you plan to be there for the 4th, let me know **NOW** so that I can make reservations. It may already be too late.

hpcroft@verizon.net

Capt. Harry Croft, *Bay Dreamer*

TIM'S I FIREWORKS RAFT-UP, June 29

Bud & Heidi Bishop, *Hi-Jinx*

FIREWORKS in DC - 4th of July

We have three cruises scheduled for this holiday. Watch your email and July's *Daymarker* for details and contacts as we learn more about the Washington Channel construction.

PRYCA FLOAT-IN at COLES POINT, July 19-21

Although this event is in July, we must register NOW!

You have recently received emails regarding this event. If you need more info, please contact Don Bennett ASAP at

vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

The Cup!!!

Don & Anne Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

Have you had your 2013 Boat Safety Inspection?



Mid-Potomac Power Squadron
Boat Safe -- Boat Smart!

Clinton T. Anderson
Vessel Safety Examiner



Email for a Courtesy Boat Safety Inspection

clintontanderson@aol.com
540-429-3760

www.midpotomacps.org



The Daymarker

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

