



March 2013, Vol. XXX, No. 3

The Daymarker

OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Jim Dooley

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Blessed with a River



Our Occoquan Yacht Club takes its name from a river with history. Native Americans lived along the banks of the Occoquan for thousands of years with John Smith being the first European to visit the area. Here he encountered the Dogue Indians, from whose language the river and town get their names. The city of Occoquan boasted one of the first automatic gristmills in the nation.

During the Civil War, the Occoquan region housed both Union and Confederate troops. In 1972, the river that has provided so many commercial and recreational benefits revealed a more dangerous side as flooding from Hurricane Agnes caused severe damage to our banks. The residents rebuilt and we are still enjoying the river's enchantment today.

Our club is one of the most unique clubs in the PRYCA. From our virtual clubhouse window, we choose to make the river our

meeting place. Our club's primary focus is to share and experience the ever-changing beauty by leaving our land-locked neighborhoods and venturing out. From the pristine skies to the soaring ospreys, our summers are spent meandering the banks of our historic river. Our board has done its part in presenting us a host of favorites and a variety of new destinations. From weekend cruises, week-long journeys, to impromptu raft-ups, we have it all. As the 2013 boating season begins, we are off to another year of maritime experiences. To really appreciate this year's boating season, we must do our part in participating in the cruises, recruiting new members, and taking an active role as seasoned boaters to our newbie river rats.

As your 2013 Commodore, my wish is for another year of wonderful family memories, large participation in cruises, a year of new adventures, and above all a year of safe boating. The memories we take this year from the Occoquan River will become another part in the legacy of this river's long history.

Jim Dooley, *Jus Chill~N*

MEMBERSHIP

membership@occoquanyachtclub.org

Thank you to all who have renewed your OYC membership for 2013. Hopefully you made it to Planfest. If you have not renewed, please do so now so that you won't miss out on a minute of the fun. Recruit your friends too! Remember, you don't have to own a boat to be a member. Contact Membership Chair, Alison Rose.



Vice Commodore

Don Bennett

vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

Gentlemen, start your engines! Wait, that's not right...

Thanks to the efforts of our 2013 Board and past Cruise Coordinators, the 2013 Cruise Calendar is set and the year is planned! The group met for Pre-Planfest and carved out a 2013 cruise itinerary. Once again, almost every weekend for the entire 2013 boating season has something for us.

On February 24th, thanks to the generosity of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club for the use of their beautiful clubhouse, the 2013 OYC Cruise Calendar was rolled out to our club. Given MVYC's harbor location and warm weather, we all walked away primed for an exciting year. If you missed it, please fill out the Sign-Up Sheet I emailed to you and send it back to me ASAP.

After the general meeting on March 16 and a trip to Madigan's on the 17th, we begin our cruise calendar in April with the Early Bird Cruise to see the Cherry Blossoms. The cruise to Gangplank Marina is set for April 5th to the 7th. It's a great opportunity to check out Washington's Cherry Blossoms with great friends and without the traffic. The Predas will provide all the info.

May begins the official opening of the 2013 boating season with our OYC Flag Raising on Saturday, May 4, at OHM (Occoquan Harbor Marina). A week later is the ORMA Blessing of the Fleet on Saturday, May 11. May continues with three Memorial Day Cruises to choose from. All three cruises are from May 24 to the 27th. The 1st is OYC's traditional Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach. (As noted in my Feb 6 email, be sure to call Colonial Beach at 804-224-7230, ask for Robin and say you are with OYC to sign up early, as the slips may be limited at the Colonial Beach Yacht Center. There may be other slips available at nearby marinas.) The venue will include our annual pilgrimage to the Berry Farm and Ingleside Winery, along with dock happy hours. The 2nd is the Memorial Day Cruise to Solomon's Island. Please see Scott Del Monte's article. The 3rd is the Memorial Day Raft-Up in Nomini Bay led by Mike and Karen Crouch. Tough choices.

June is a less stressful month (choice-wise) as it kicks off with a Margarita/Fajita Fest at OHM on Saturday, June 8. On June 14-16, we have the PRYCA Cobb Island Summer Kick-Off cruise. Remember to participate in the scavenger hunt for the beads! If you don't have your stowaway bikes, hitch hiking may be your mode of travel. From Cobb Island, Pat and Harry Croft will begin a three-part, three-week Lower-Bay Cruise from June 16th to July 7th. Harry will provide additional details. This is a great opportunity for newbie's to explore the Chesapeake Bay with a seasoned Captain.

July is another multiple-choice month. The July 4 holiday offers our club many choices. In addition to the Norfolk portion of Harry's cruise, Al Jorsey will lead the OYC staple, the raft-up off of Capitol Yacht Club as the 2nd option. John DeDitiis will lead a raft-up near the 14 Street Bridge as the 3rd option. The final option is the float-in at Washington Marina, but it is tentative due to the shuffling of boats from Gangplank due to the construction. The difficulty will be in deciding where you want to celebrate our country's 237 birthday! July 12-14 is the PRYCA Float-in at either Coles Point or Port Kinsale. Stay tuned for the latest news. Last year, besides capturing The CUP (THE CUP!), Coles Point proved to be an ideal location with accommodating facilities, good food, sandy beaches and illuminating moon rises. This year, regardless of venue, the same is on our scope. The weekend is the perfect time to get to know our other PRYCA clubs that share our waters, and show them which club is the BEST. Following the PRYCA Float-In, the next two weekends in July (20-21 & 27-28) are open, though Aquapalooza may be held on the 20-21st. The weekends are available for anyone to suggest a raft-up, or particular cruise that has not been scheduled.

August begins with an Old Town Alexandria excursion (Aug 2-4), a cruise designed with something for everyone. Old Town has some of the best pubs around for the men to hang while the women shop (till the men drop). Restaurants there are great, and the Saturday morning Farmers Market is one not to miss. Note this market does not allow pets, but they have a good range of produce (flowers, veggies, fruit), fresh baked bread, roasted nuts and pretzels, goat cheese, handmade soaps, handmade jewelry and specialty sauces, dips and pastas. August (16-18) is the PRYCA Dog Days Cruise to Aquia Harbor. For those who have never meandered up to Aquia Harbor, this is a real treat! The trick is to plan your cruise at high tide. But for those who get there when you can, be careful around the lily pads (hydrilla) and cautiously follow the day markers. You will be ok. The one phrase that I always hear going up Aquia Creek is "Are we there yet?" The weekend will prove to be a memorable one with the main course being Hospitality! For those of you who just can not get enough of the Bay this year, Tom Plewes is offering to lead the charge for a Solomons/St. Michaels/Cambridge/Pt. Lookout cruise August 23-30. What a wonderful opportunity to visit some of the prime Bay locations with great friends.

Now, back to the multiple options... there are again three choices for the Labor Day weekend of Aug 30 - Sep 2. Labor Day cruises include the popular cruise to Corinthian and the hot Tall Timbers cruise for the Boat Burning! Even though they are separate destinations, those of you who stay at the luxurious Corinthian but want to see the Boat Burning at the more rustic Tall Timbers, a short hop over for the festivities is planned! There will be a Tangier to Crisfield trip with information provided by Larry Freedman, leaving for Tangier on the 28th of August, eventually arriving in Crisfield just in time for the world's only crab races and crab boat docking contest on Labor Day weekend. If you can imagine a 600-horsepower crab boat, slamming the engine in reverse to back up between two



2013 SEASON

pilings, then this is the adventure for you! Tangier Island, in itself, is a trip back to times lost, a must-see-to-believe location.

September starts off with our Shrimp Fest at Hoffmaster's on the 14th. Go Nats! September 20-22 is our annual trip up to the game. The cruise will go to James Creek or Gangplank Marina. Stay tuned for an update from Mike Crouch. Plan on Saturday the 21th, an evening game against the Marlins. Either marina offers an ideal location to walk over to the stadium and enjoy the game, food and beverages. Other modes of transportation will be available to and from the marina to the stadium. September 27-29 is the cruise to National Harbor Oktoberfest! This cruise has always been a favorite for those Jägermeister-loving pirates! As where most of our cruises are ones to remember, this one is hard to remember! (Remember, brain cells grow back...) Tickets must be purchased separately for the Oktoberfest via on line. Tickets sell out fast; so once announced, I encourage those interested to buy your tickets early. If you dock your boat at OHM, September closes with the slip-holders' appreciation party.

October (11-14) begins the wind-down of 2013 cruises with the PRYCA End of Summer Cruise. As of this writing the location of the cruise has not been finalized; so again, stay tuned for an update. October 19 is our Election Meeting/Chili Cook-Off. Toward the end of October, around the 20th, our own Snow Goose, Tom Lensis, is planning a ten-day trip to Florida. Tom noted that any boat wishing to follow him down the ICW, contact him. Tom and Donna we will be leaving from Wilmington NC and end up in Stuart FL. They try to go outside, in the ocean if the weather is good and travel inside the ICW when the wind is up. The trip usually takes about a week from Wilmington depending upon the weather. Sometimes they might stay for an extra day when they reach a nice destination like Charleston SC. They have a nice marina picked out in Stuart that rents slips by the day, week, month or year... Loggerhead Marina. They usually use Stuart as a base, so they can take trips to Bimini, Bahamas, East Coast of Florida and through Lake Okeechobee to Ft. Myers and the Gulf of Mexico.

Okay you Hardy Souls, mark November 8-11 down! As in recent years, the Hardy Souls cruise to National Harbor has been anything but "hardy." But 2013 just may be the year to pull out that windbreaker and long johns! Saturday, November 30th is the Santa Cruise.

Finally, December 7 will be our OYC Holiday/Change of Watch Party. Well... there you have it. An awesome Cruise Packed 2013 OYC year.

If I may leave you with one last thought... Make SAFETY your #1 priority this year and have fun!

Don Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

* * *

February

24 Planfest

March

16 General Membership Meeting/Photo Contest
17 St. Patrick's Day at Madigan's

April

5-7 Cherry Blossom Cruise / Early-Bird Cruise
(National Cherry Blossom Festival - March 20 - April 14)
? River Clean-Up Day

May

4 OYC Flag Raising at OHM
11 ORMA Blessing of the Fleet in Occoquan River
24-27 Memorial Day Cruise to Colonial Beach
24-27 Memorial Day Cruise to Solomon's Island
24-27 Memorial Day Raft-Up / Nomini Bay

June

8 Margarita/Fajita Fest at OHM
14-16 PRYCA Summer Kick-off / Cobb Island Days
14-Jul 7 Lower Bay Cruise
29 Tim's I Fireworks / Raft-Up

July

3-5 Fireworks in DC / Wash. Channel & Marina
3-5 14th Street Bridge Fireworks Raft-Up
13 Tim's II Fireworks Raft-up?
12-14 PRYCA Float-in (location TBD)

August

2-4 Old Town Alexandria
16-18 PRYCA Aquia Harbor Dog Days of August
23-30 Solomon's/ St Michaels/ Cambridge/ Pt Lookout
28-Sep2 Tangier to Crisfield
30-Sep2 Labor Day Cruise (Corinthian)
30-Sep2 Tall Timbers - Boat Burning

September

14 Shrimp Fest at Hoffmaster's
20-22 Nats vs. Marlins / James Creek or Gangplank
27-29 Oktoberfest National Harbor
28 OHM Annual Slip-Holders' (private) Dock Party

October

11-14 PRYCA End of Summer Cruise (location TBD)
19 Election Meeting / Oktoberfest Chili Cook-Off
20-30 ICW to Florida (10 days)

November

8-11 Hardy Souls Cruise to National Harbor
30 Santa Cruise from OHM to Occoquan

December

7 OYC Holiday / COW Party



General Meeting!

Saturday, March 16, 2 – 4 pm

Fairfax Yacht Club

10721 Old Colchester Rd, Lorton, VA

FOOD, FUN & PRIZES!!!

Start sorting through last year's boating pictures to enter the photo contest.

Please plan to bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice.

Continue the party! Whether your Irish or not, celebrate St. Patrick's Day with OYC friends, Sunday, March 17, at Madigan's in Occoquan from 2:00 - ? pm.

Details in the Rear Commodore's article...

event where we showcase photographs and provide prizes for the winners. Bring your pictures for the contest to the clubhouse to be registered and posted on the display boards. Pictures can be any size and should have a caption on the back denoting who, what, where, when, etc. Members will vote for their favorite photo in each category. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place photos in each category, and the winning photos will be published in *The Daymarker*. The overall theme should be nautical, and the photographer must be an OYC member. The photo must have been taken during the past year and never entered in previous OYC Photo Contests. Photos may be kept by the OYC Historian to add to our archives.

- **People:** On boats, on docks, in the water, on an OYC cruise, on an OYC outing, on an OYC land event, etc., etc., etc.
- **Places:** Landscapes, waterscapes, sunrises, sunsets, marinas, towns visited on a cruise, etc., etc., etc.
- **Pets:** Dogs, cats, animals of any variety, your pet on a boat, your friend's pet on a boat, waterfowl, etc. etc., etc.
- **Phantasy:** Pictures that you have electronically enhanced, modified, or created, using whatever digital means at your disposal – just be sure to keep in mind the nautical (not naughty!) theme!
- **Just Boats:** This category gives you a chance to show off that great boat of yours, or a boat that strikes your fancy.

Remember, it should be a photo that was taken in 2012, and it should be boating related. (Yes Harry, water-fowl count.) As is our custom, please BYOB and a dish to share.

Finally, and perhaps most important to those of Irish and non-Irish descent among us (I guess that should cover our entire membership), we will be gathering for a VERY important social function at Madigan's in Historic Occoquan on 17 MAR from 2:00pm - ??? (5:00pm?) to celebrate from the deck and balcony. (Joe, your chair is reserved.)

And then you'd REALLY better start your de-winterizing action list because the first cruise is on 5 APR (Early-Bird/Cherry Blossom Cruise).

Remember, Captains! — if you see a poor soul who is thinking about selling his/her boat because it is so boring, then get him/her in touch with Alison Rose and let's get them rafted up with drink in hand.

Yours in boating,
Bud Bishop, *Hi-Jinx*



Rear Commodore

Bud Bishop

rearcommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org

From the Rear Commodore's desk

...note the word 'desk' and not 'Captain's Chair'. BUT that 'Captain's Chair' time is rapidly approaching and de-winterizing is just around the corner. The Pre-Planfest is complete, the schedule of activities is varied, and the excitement of feeling twin diesels humming underfoot is building (fill in your own source of propulsion of course...twin v8's, twin straight-six's...TWINS?!? Ouch! ...Heidi's elbow.). I noticed that Jim Dooley snuck out back during the Pre-Planfest to turn his boat's steering wheel and make vrooming sounds. Must be nice having it so close to the back door.

The next activity taking place soon after I pen this article is the Planfest, where we will all sign up for the cruises we want to do this year so the coordinators have a list to start sending to host marinas.

Then in March we'll have the first big general membership meeting (ok, second meeting if you count the Planfest) on March 16th. It's scheduled to be at the Fairfax Yacht Club starting at 2:00 pm and will be an



Secretary

Carol Belcher

secretary@occoquanyachtclub.org

Let there be a 63 mph wind!

The final instalment of articles on wind, waves and weather focuses on the construct of “wind setdown,” a process that is defined as a significant drop in water level caused by winds acting on the water’s surface over a long period of time. “Wind setdown” is the latest proposed scientific explanation for the Old Testament’s parting of the Red Sea and was unveiled in 2010 at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the University of Colorado as part of a master’s thesis by Carl Drews with assistance from the National Science Foundation.ⁱ Using computer models, scientists were able to propose a scientific explanation for the 3000-year-old mystery and re-ignite debate as to whether natural forces could have caused the parting of the Red Sea. Earlier theories included tsunamis and volcanic eruptions as possible natural events that caused the parting of the Red Sea, but the violence of these events would not have caused the slow recession of the waters as described in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, Moses and the fleeing Israelites were trapped between a body of water and the Pharaoh’s advancing army. With divine intervention, a powerful east wind blew all night and gradually parted the waters, leaving a passage of dry land. The Israelites made it safely across the exposed path but Pharaoh’s army was drowned when they attempted to follow.

Scientists and researchers, lead by Carl Drews, studied ancient maps and archeological records of the Nile Delta and used modern satellite measurements that traced the ancient riverbeds. They pinpointed where the Israelites may have crossed—a point south of the Mediterranean Sea where an ancient branch of the Nile flowed into a coastal lagoon. Using a computer-generated model of the ocean and surrounding waters, the researchers simulated the effect a strong, sustained wind would have on the waters, estimated to be approximately six-feet deep in that area. The animation that best fits the descriptions in Exodus shows how a sustained east wind of 63 mph blowing for 12 hours would have driven the waters back into the lake and river, exposing a land bridge of the mud flats that was approximately two miles long and three miles wide for a period of four hours. This opening could have provided an overland escape route for the Israelites. As soon as the winds dropped, the waters would have rushed back, trapping and drowning anyone caught on the land bridge.

According to Drews, “The parting of the waters can be understood through fluid dynamics. The wind moves the water in a way that’s in accordance with physical laws, creating a safe passage with water on two sides and then abruptly allowing the water to rush back in. “People have always been fascinated by this Exodus story, wondering if it comes from historical facts. What this study shows is that the description of the waters parting indeed has a basis in physical laws.”ⁱⁱⁱ

A more recent similar event in the area occurred in 1882, in the account of a British Army general who reported that a strong easterly wind pushed the water away on Lake Merzaleh, on the west side of the Suez Canal.ⁱⁱⁱ

As amazing as the scientific model is, it does not provide an explanation for everything—the miracle and mystery of this Exodus story are that the wind blew exactly at the right time, with the right velocity and direction and that the Israelites were in the right place at the right time to take advantage of it.

ⁱ Carl Drew’s research was published in the online journal, *PLoS One*

ⁱⁱ www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/8015908/Biblical-parting-of-the-Red-Sea downloaded on 19 January 2013

ⁱⁱⁱ www.usatoday30.usatoday.com/weather/research/2010-09-20-red-sea-parting downloaded on 19 January 2013

Carol Belcher, *Time2Play*

* * *



A leprechaun
(Irish: *léipreachán*)
is a mythical
being in Irish
folklore, usually
taking the form of
an old man, clad
in a red or green
coat, who enjoys
partaking in
mischievous.

* * *



Treasurer

Joe Livingston

treasurer@occoquanyachtclub.org

Report on the PRYCA COW-Dinner Party

Did you attend? If not, you sure missed a great time, and I would highly recommend your attendance at next year's fun-filled event. Several of us reserved rooms and made it an even more relaxing time.

First arrivals checked out the decorations and planned seating in the main ballroom. Really nice with all the member Club's burgees on display, the association's burgee displayed, and striking centerpieces on each table. The next stop was in the Hilton's bar where some 20 or so old acquaintances gathered for lunch. Great to visit with members from other clubs. Then it was off to the Hospitality Room.

OYC and QYC (Quantico) hosted the room for the event (...it was probably our turn to do so after several years of attending), but it was also a special time as OYC's Mike Crouch assumed the position of PRYCA Commodore. To rise to that position not only demonstrates leadership, but also extended service to the recreational boating community.

Hospitality took a serious turn as Anne and Don Bennett of OYC and Ginny and Steve Preda of QYC/OYC welcomed all with food, drink and camaraderie. A job well done! ...for an attitude adjustment hour, a post-event gathering until 3 AM, and a morning brunch. All well attended, and it's rumored that Ginny already has her PJ's for next years post party.



We had 36 at the OYC tables, by far more than any other club's representation; and true to what seems to be an established tradition, we cheered hardily... "Here's to The Cup"! Commodore Dooley and Judy made sure The Cup was proudly displayed.

We also made our voices heard as OYCers Crouch, Sowell, Croft and Preda and their mates were introduced as PRYCA Board members.

The rest of the couples, Manninos, Lensis, Bishops, Joyners, Del Montes, DeDitius, Hill/Lee, Millers and Schondel/Raukar made sure the dance floor got a work out. Six diamonds were lost and then found, and that all made for a great evening and "boaters' talk" at the next gathering.

Cheers, Joe Livingston! *Gail Lynn II*



March DATEMARKERS

BIRTHDAYS

Steve Preda 3/1
 Catherine Harris 3/1
 Janice Morgan 3/1
 Jeff Choi Dubraque 3/4
 Ralph Mason 3/4
 John Cunney 3/12
 John Corley 3/13
 Allen Jorsey 3/15
 Sherry Mannino 3/16
 Bill Francis 3/20
 Theodore Zsirai 3/20
 Greg Lee 3/26
 Suzy Cornicelli 3/30
 Lynanne Jorsey 3/30
 Betsey Nalevanko 3/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin & Pamela Bell 3/16
 Eric & Carol Belcher 3/22
 Mike & Karen Crouch 3/23
 Jim & Judy Dooley 3/24

Early Bird / Cherry Blossom Cruise

This year is the 101st anniversary of Japan's gift of over 3,000 Cherry Trees to the US and the second annual "Cherry Blossom" Early Bird Cruise. We're hoping that we will have a few Cherry Blossoms to look at since on the inaugural Cherry Blossom cruise most all the blossoms had succumbed to an unusually warm February and March and long lost their petals. This year's cruise is planned for the weekend following Easter – April 5-7. Our host will once again be Gangplank Marina in the Washington Channel. Already 10 OYC boats have penciled in their intent to participate. If you are interested please contact your cruise coordinators soon @ sdpreda@comcast.net
Steve & Ginny Preda, Anamchara

* * *

Memorial Day Option

WooHoo! The 2013 OYC boating season is upon us and now is the time to start thinking about our upcoming cruises... Well, here the answer to your Memorial Day weekend brought to you by your cruise hosts and hostesses, Scott & Linda Del Monte and Johnny & Michelle DeDitius.

Our trip down the lazy Potomac River will start on Friday, May 24th to Solomons Island MD, and will conclude on Monday, May 27th. Departure times are at your discretion.

Our destination will be Spring Cove Marina. It is considered one of the finest marinas on the Bay, with a friendly and professional staff and a convenient location in Historic Solomons Island. <http://www.springcovemarina.com>
Their amenities include;

- ✓ Swimming Pool
- ✓ Laundry / Ship store
- ✓ Private bath house / Individual restrooms
- ✓ Complimentary Shuttle to town
- ✓ Loaner bicycles
- ✓ Tree shaded picnic areas
- ✓ Fuel and pump out
- ✓ Pet friendly

We have been in contact with the marina management and have tentatively secured 10 slips. As of Feb 12, four of those slips have already been reserved. This is a first come, first served registration. You are responsible for making your reservation and financially securing it, so please do not wait.

Please let them know you are with the Occoquan Yacht Club / Del Monte party, they are going to do their best to keep the group close together.

For your host/hostesses planning, please e-mail Scott Del Monte @ sdm1@comcast.net and let him know you will be attending and how many will be in your party. Feel free to attend all or some of the weekend, whatever works for you.

The DeDitius' and Del Montes have sojourned this trip for several years and always have memorable stories to share. So please join us in raising a glass for our Military personnel, past and present, for a fun filled weekend with

our OYC family & friends and create new boating memories.

Remember, you **DO NOT** have to be an OYC member to make this cruise; we encourage you to invite other boating friends to join in the festivities.

"The Double "D's"

Del Montes & DeDitius, ScottLin Yard & Liquid Leisure

* * *

Serious Boaters Need Apply!!! **South Bay Cruise**

Once again I am pleased to offer an adventurous cruise for 21 days, starting on June 16th, leaving from Cobb Island. We will start with the Cobb Island Summer Kick-Off, leaving Fairfax Yacht Club on June 14th, and then proceed on down the river from there on the 16th. 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 work week. We also plan on staying at most places at least two nights, keeping the travel times to less than three hours between destinations. Golf is high on the list of things to do, so make sure you bring your sticks! 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, perhaps stopping at White Pt. to shorten the journey, ending the trip on Sunday.

If you are interested, send me an email to hpcroft@verizon.net; 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. Spaces will be limited, so the earlier the better.

If you can provide me with any level of interest for all or any parts of the cruise, I would appreciate it since it makes planning so much easier. I will make all reservations and arrangements as necessary. As usual, if weather is bad and seas are rough, we do not travel. Safety is number one! I have never lost anyone, and no boat is too small for this trip. This is good chance to sharpen your navigation and boating skills on Chesapeake Bay. I hope you can join the "Bay Dreamer" for all or part of this multi-week cruise.



*Bay Dreamer
off Wolf Trap
Lighthouse*

*Anchors aweigh!
Capt. Harry Croft
Bay Dreamer*

NOTE: If you have chosen to read your *Daymarker* electronically, you will be treated to a bonus article (below) since doing so negates the need for the mailing address portion of this page. Enjoy!

LOOK YOUR BEST THIS SEASON!

**Contact Quartermaster
Heidi Bishop
at**

quartermaster@occoquanyachtclub.org

**for OYC logo apparel
or if you need a new burgee.**

The Daymarker

Just a reminder... Hopefully you have already renewed your OYC membership and have signed up for some cruises. If you have not renewed, you will receive this and April's *Daymarker* by email only. After that, you will need to renew and indicate your delivery preference before receiving any more issues.

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

editor@occoquanyachtclub.org

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

* * *

Bayeux Tapestry, Donald's Troosers, and Other Cold-Weather Thoughts

History is a great teacher. Two examples follow.

Chunky Matilda jumps up and down on the dock, calling, "Bye, Billy, give 'em 'ell," as William the Bastard¹, well dressed in warm clothing provided by Matilda, sails off to conquer England. That, with his expected success, she would now be introduced to the social set as "Mrs. Conqueror" rather than "Mrs. Bastard" no doubt lends added enthusiasm to her bounce. The warm clothing protects William from the cold easterly wind and the channel spray flying over his drakkar's bow.

And, at a later time, disgusted British Redcoats watch as pink-bootied Scotts moon them from across the river. This they had just forded by hiking their kilts over their heads, emerging on the far bank pink-cheeked but dry-clothed and little the worse for wear. The accouterments of British military sartorial splendor preclude speedy pursuit, even were their legendary reserve to permit it. A consequence was the banning of kilts from 1745 to 1782, and the replacement of "Scotland the Brave" with "Donald, Where's Your Troosers."

The cold-shrivelled point to all this is avoiding hypothermia, a quickly debilitating condition made much quicker in wet conditions. Heat will transfer about twenty five times faster in water than in air of equivalent temperature. Exactly how much faster depends on body mass (fat people *do* have more insulation), upon clothing which can act as insulation keeping a warm layer of water next to the body and reducing heat loss, and upon general physical condition. Falling overboard, or intentionally entering the water to service something, isn't the only way to invite trouble: a bit of rain, a touch of spray, even clothing that may hold sweat while rowing or paddling can do it. While we will likely see remarkably warm spring days, water temperature will remain consistently cool. At 60 degrees, survival time is only one to six hours, with exhaustion and loss of consciousness occurring long before then.

A missing piece of the Bayeux Tapestry reportedly recorded William's emergency cold weather procedures. Aside from warm clothing, avoiding getting wet, and ensuring a ready means of re-boarding if in the water, it describes the fetal curl and the limbs-to-body stances as means of reducing heat loss. For more than one person in the water, it also describes the Group or Norman Huddle to conserve body heat (and to get to know one another better). It was later adopted by the NFL as a means of staying warm on the field and, with time, lore developed that through it play strategy was imparted to the players. Sadly, at least in the case of the NFL, results show this to be pure myth. A major problem for the Normans was that they had yet to invent PFDs, a real bummer when you consider how much armor they wore.

So if you intend to venture out for an early cruise, please be safe.

¹ Guillaume le Bâtard as he was known, was the illegitimate son of Robert I and Herleva, the daughter of a tanner. He became Guillaume "le Conquérant" after he took up boating, crossed the English Channel, and conquered England. Cruise coordinators, you have a lot to live up to.

Nabil Dubraque, *High Cotton*