



# The Daymarker

## OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

[www.OccoquanYachtClub.org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org)

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Don Bennett**

[commodore@occoquanyachtclub.org](mailto:commodore@occoquanyachtclub.org)

### Stars at Sea 2013 Change of Watch Holiday Party

We closed the year's boating season in fine fashion at the 2013 Stars at Sea themed Change of Watch Holiday Party. First, I want to thank Anne for all of her support and the time and creativity she put into this event. I also want to thank her committee, especially Pat Croft, without whom we would have been "lost at sea", and Gail Livingston. I thank Tom Plewes, Harry Croft and Joe Livingston for their support and guidance; and most of all, I want to thank Jim Dooley for putting up with me over the past season. ☺

Once again the Laurel Hill Golf Club staff did an outstanding job catering our celebration. Guests arrived to enjoy a spirited cocktail hour and professional photos taken by our historian, Les Bergmann... after which Jim Dooley officially began the evening with the Ancient Seaman's Prayer as our blessing, followed by the dinner buffet, and topped off with Anne's desserts.

After dinner, Jim thanked the party committee for the centerpieces and decorations and for making this year's COW such a huge success. Jim also thanked the past commodores, supporting marinas, fleet captains, cruise coordinators and the 14 boats / 41 crew members supporting the PRYCA Float-In. Jim then moved on to the Annual Award Ceremony. The awards given this year were,

The Bent Prop: Given to the captain most skilled at grounding their boat and/or removing as many blades from their vessel's prop (or props) as possible in a single event. Pat Schondel and Christie Raukar won the Bent Prop for their "luck" during the Memorial Day Cruise to Shark Tooth Island.



The Golden Snorkel: Given to the lucky – or rather, the unlucky – member who took an unintended swim from a boat or dock (without serious injury to anything but their pride). Pat Schondel won the snorkel for his underwater journey while moving his dinghy when taking delivery of his latest, greatest, new (used) boat, *Rhumb Line*.



The Commodore's Cup: Given by the Commodore to the club member (not a Board member) who has supported the club above and beyond what is expected. Pat Schondel and Christie Raukar were awarded the Commodore's Cup for their extraordinary efforts in coordinating the End of Summer Event, "Send Summer Down Under".



(HMMMMM...? Seems to be a pattern there.) History was made this year. Christie and Pat made a clean sweep by taking all three awards, and even won one of the centerpieces!



They're not invited back next year! (Only kidding.) Seriously... what a winning combination! Thanks, Christie and Pat for all you contributed to make 2013 an outstanding season! You can find pictures of OYC members and guests other than Pat and Christie partying at the COW at the end of this newsletter; and of course, all the pictures are on our website.

Jim and "Elf Judy" gave thanks to the 2013 Board and then passed the helm (and microphone) to me so that I could install your 2014 Board,

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

On behalf of the 2013 Board, Anne and I gave thanks to Jim and Judy Dooley for their generosity, humor, support, guidance, and of course, Bailey.



By then, the natives were getting restless; so I relinquished the dance floor to our band, The Pedestrians, for a great evening of dancing and revelry.

Thanks to the membership and board for their confidence in electing me to this position and to Anne for providing much needed support. I look for the support of the board and past commodores as we chart a course for 2014, which will include safety, fun, growth, increased membership involvement, more low- or no-cost events, the use of social media, and last but not least, the pursuit of **THE CUP!**

Thank you. God Bless and Happy New Year!  
Don Bennett, *Heart of the Sun*

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**Vice Commodore**

**Bud Bishop**

[vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org](mailto:vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org)

I would like to thank the nominating committee for their confidence in nominating me for this post. My goal for the year is to plan out a cruising agenda that has something for everyone, from experienced to new boaters, so that we can get more boats out and enjoying our waterways (and have some pretty good parties as well). While I have some ideas for that, I welcome any and all ideas that you have for trips you'd like to make and things you'd like to do. You can send them to me at [bud9515@yahoo.com](mailto:bud9515@yahoo.com) or call me at 703-801-3075.



We will organize all the options and present them at the Planfest, our next OYC meeting sometime in February (tentatively set for 22 Feb, but stay tuned). This is an important meeting, so please plan to attend. With fuel prices steady and the hope that they stay that way through the summer, the crew of *Hi-Jinx<sub>2</sub>* is looking forward to a great cruising year in 2014.

Also, just because we lay out a cruising schedule for the year in February doesn't mean that schedule is carved in stone. Feel free to suggest new things we can do during the year, and we'll do everything we can to make it happen. As is the standard for this month's message, remember that we cannot have cruises without cruise coordinators. So, we will ask people to step up and volunteer for this job at the Planfest. This job is not that hard; we have a handbook that lays out all the steps, guidance is always available from experienced coordinators, and you will have the eternal gratitude of your cruise mates (well maybe not eternal, but they will probably share their Honey Jack with you – right, Don?). Here's to a safe and healthy new year and we look forward to seeing you on the water...because we are sailors and that is where sailors go.

Bud Bishop, *Hi-Jinx<sub>2</sub>*  
\* \* \*



**Rear Commodore**

**Pat Schondel**

[rearcommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org](mailto:rearcommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org)

## The Golden Snorkel

To snorkel or not to snorkel. If that were the question it might be someone asking how much fun could it really be, swimming with the fishies in the deep blue sea. Aren't there sharks, also swimming with the fishies in the deep blue sea? For OYC it's about pondering whether to share personal stories of entering the water accidentally. It's The Golden Snorkel, awarded to the best story, or the highest numbers of water entry. And this story begins with the excitement of a new (used) boat delivery!

The drive had been all day after many stops along the way. The preparation, countless weeks with round-trips of gas, down payments, and closing costs to pay. A great crew assembled with experience, expertise, and expectations of critical roles to play. All looking forward to the journey with its sights, fun, and fraternity. A necessity for crew safety, towed along on the road trip, 'Brutus', the big red dinghy.

Finally, arrival late in the day, plenty of light before sundown. The crew hurried here and there for supplies and provisions all over town. They agreed to delay dining and drinking until all was unloaded and brought down. The boat was clean and ready, the systems checked out. Brutus, the big red dinghy, the last item to load out. It was getting past sundown, time running on the clock. The dinghy had yet to be carried down the skinny little dock.

Early spring, temperatures dropping, water getting cold. Down the dock, the march of Brutus slowly to unfold. Brutus carried on the side, starboard rib down. Four crew behind the keel so Brutus won't flip upside down. One man walking on the other side alone. What he was thinking still totally unknown. One step, two steps, three steps and more. The crew veers right, away from obstructions, keeping a clearance zone. One man walking on the other side alone. Stepping, then stepping, no longer dry when there isn't dock anymore.

Swimming with the fishies in the deep blue sea. Wishing for a snorkel, but not to be. So kicking, kicking, kicking, up to see. The surface of the water and my friends pull up to rescue me. Now telling my Golden Snorkel story. While we had fun with Hamlet's soliloquy, it's really not a choice on the water you see. Stay in groups, pair up as teams, always have a buddy – it's about safety on the sea.

Pat Schondel, *Rhumb Line*  
\* \* \*



**Secretary**

**Kathy Bergmann**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Monica Fineberg who will be serving as Quartermaster for the 2014 boating season.



Monica and Paul started boating in 1999 with their first boat, which was a 29 Maxum. They were in Virginia Beach and boating on the Chesapeake Bay. After that they moved to Syracuse, New York, and continued boating on the lakes in the area. When they moved again to Rhode Island, they sold the Maxum and bought a Chaparral, which they kept for a while until they bought the SeaRay (which they like very much). Monica and Paul feel that boating in Rhode Island was a lot of fun and there was nothing like boating on the open ocean. You have to be prepared for whatever comes your way. They moved to Woodbridge in 2011 and have enjoyed boating more because of OYC.

### 1. How did you choose your boat name?

We chose the name *The Weekender* because at the time we were both working and the only time we could use the boat was on the weekends. It was our weekend retreat, hence the name.

### 2. What has been your favorite OYC activity?

I have to say that I have enjoyed all of the events that I have attended. I like getting out on the water and visiting the different marinas in the area and also meeting all my new friends. I've enjoyed this past year's activities and can't wait for the season to begin again.

### 3. Describe a challenging boating experience?

The most challenging experience was when Paul fell and broke his arm. I didn't know how I was going to get the boat back to the marina. I have to learn this year how to leave and dock the boat. I don't want to experience that kind of feeling again. We did have a lot of help getting us back to port, but I really need to know what to do.

**(Note: This is something all first mates need to learn. Hopefully the No-Drama Docking class won't get rained out this year.)**

### 4. What is your favorite cleaning product or maintenance tip?

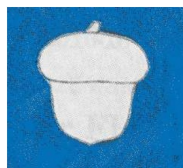
Our favorite cleaning product is Spray 9. (We seem to have a pattern going here.) It does a wonderful job on everything. If you have a tough mark it will get it out. Maintenance tip? I personally don't do the maintenance on the boat, but I have to say the most important one would be to check the boat before going out to make sure everything is working.

### 5. What do you like most about boating?

Getting out on the water, feeling the breeze on my face, visiting different marinas, and most of all meeting new people and having fun.

Kathy Bergmann, *Bergie*

\* \* \*



## Treasurer

**Joe Livingston**

[treasurer@occoquanyachtclub.org](mailto:treasurer@occoquanyachtclub.org)

Hello, OYC members. This message is concerning two fun opportunities to start the 2014 recreational boating season. Both events are in January and should offer a super time, cold weather notwithstanding.

Come join other OYC members giving congratulations to several OYC members assuming leadership roles on the Board of the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association (PRYCA). OYC has been known in the past for our hearty vocal presence at this great social event. Those assuming positions will certainly appreciate your cheers, as I did in 2007 when 34 cheered as I assumed the PRYCA Commodore position. Go, OYC!

**See the enclosed flyer for details.** The 2014 Change of Watch Ball is Saturday night, 18 January, and is a black-tie optional event... business suits are highly acceptable. Special this year, the event planners are expanding the event to include Friday and Saturday activities. Friday night will include a social at the Old Dominion Boat Club and some pub hopping in Old Town Alexandria; shopping and sightseeing both Friday and Saturday. Several OYC members have rooms for both nights and the Club will organize a breakfast on Saturday morning with interest. Come join us.

The second opportunity/event is a river cruise aboard the *Spirit of Washington* Cruise Ship. The event is the **Port of Washington Yacht Club (POWYC) 2014 Change of Watch**. Crew of the *Makia III* and the *Gail Lynn II* are attending and look for other OYCers to join us. The cruise is the week prior to the PRYCA COW on Saturday, the 11th of January. Tickets are \$75 per person, and boarding will start at 1930 (SW Waterfront dock/600 Water St SW, Washington). Like to attend? Call or email Joe Livingston for details. Where else can you get a river cruise and dinner/dance for \$150 a couple?

Also, I want to thank all members for making the OYC Holiday Party and COW at the Laurel Hill Golf Club a fun success, especially, the Bennetts (super special, Anne) and her planning committee.

Note that the PRYCA event is the initial event of 2014 in our quest for re-gaining the PRYCA Cup and the first opportunity for collecting a "bead" for the Cobb Island event.

Joe Livingston, *Gail Lynn II*

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## JANUARY DATEMARKERS



### BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Graybill 1/5  
 Pam Poulos 1/7  
 Dan Kent 1/10  
 Ned Rhodes 1/22  
 Jay Livingston 1/25  
 Terry Holzman 1/27

### ANNIVERSARIES

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

## NEWS FROM OYC SOUTH...

It doesn't matter who you are, the gremlins will still catch up with you.

That was the case one warm and sunny afternoon on a little stretch of water called the Intracoastal Waterway. The fun was over and it was time to head home and get back to work.

It's hard to say what caused it to happen. Perhaps there was a little too much partying the night before; you know the feeling – the fun is about to end and you just don't want to bid it farewell. I'm sure we have all succumbed to this malady. Or maybe the partying wasn't over yet. Then again, the day was warm and sunny so perhaps the mind was wandering a bit, not totally on what was at hand. The trip wasn't long either, so it couldn't have been fatigue. The boat was working great, so it must have been pilot error... right?

But what, you ask, happened? Let's just say that the old proverb "just because there is water under the boat" doesn't mean there is water under the boat" proved true yet again. And just where could this have happened? Well right there in the channel was the response; on the inside of the red can at a place called Shallotte Inlet (a name that will now and forever after be mentioned with a degree of loathing and disgust). It's amazing that someone can spend so much money on nav aids like a GPS, a depth gauge, electronic charts, etc. and still end up putting their boat in a place where it ain't supposed to go. So, true to form, when the water runs out the props turn from being a means of propulsion to a means of channel dredging. Thus began the long, slow conclusion of the trip back home. Many hours later, and with a sigh of acceptance that it finally happened, the boat is tied up in its slip and the list of all the things you need to do to re-enable boating pleasure is started.

So there you have it; and not too terribly long thereafter Captain Ned Rhodes found himself at a boating function in Wilmington, NC, called "The Holiday Party". But this one was a little different... especially when your name is called to stand up and, after twenty-some years of dodging the bullet, accept that prestigious honor as recipient of the "bent prop award".



It took those gremlins quite some time but they finally made themselves known. But Ned accepted the award with grace and just a little bit of laughter. So the next time the name Ned Rhodes comes up in conversation you can smile a little thinking of the hard time you can give him the next time he is in town. After all, what goes around – comes around.

Steve Thompson, *Forever Dreamin'*

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## CRUISE NEWS

### PORT OF WASHINGTON YACHT CLUB (POWYC) 2014 CHANGE OF WATCH – JAN 11

(See info in Joe's article. Page 4.)

Joe Livingston, Gail Lynn II

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### PRYCA CHANGE OF WATCH JAN 18

(See flyer at the end of this newsletter.)

Joe Livingston, Gail Lynn II

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### THE EAGERLY-ANTICIPATED 2014 SCHEDULE WILL BE OUT SOON!

**Contact Vice Commodore, Bud Bishop, with your ideas or to volunteer to be a cruise coordinator.**

[vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org](mailto:vicecommodore@occoquanyachtclub.org)

703-801-3075

## CLOSING OUT 2013 AT THE CHANGE OF WATCH HOLIDAY PARTY...



*Our greeter and super 50/50 saleslady, Liz, with Anne and Joe*



*2013 Board – Jim, Don, Bud, Kathy (who took over for Carol), Joe, Anne, (Immediate Past Commodore) Tom, (Past Commodore) Pat, Heidi, Johnny (and Les taking the picture)*



*Jim administers the commodore's oath to Don*



*2014 Board is installed by Don – Bud, Pat, Kathy, Joe, Johnny, Anne, Monica and Les*





O-O-O-O-O Y C A !!!!



Scott and Bud demonstrate another of our OYC rituals



Michelle helps Pat figure out how to walk in Karen's shoes



Jim proudly shows off his Boat US Trailing Club decal



Joe, Mikey and Jim (and Joey photo-bombing)



Heidi and Bud and Jill and Steve "cut a rug"  
(Not quite sure what Mikey's doing)



Meatballs... need I say more?



## Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association

[www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Cir., Fredericksburg, VA 22406

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Meal Selection: Sirloin Steak \_\_\_\_\_ Seared Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Tower \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Titles: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_