



The Daymarker

Occoquan Yacht Club
P.O. Box 469
Occoquan, VA 22125
www.OccoquanYachtClub.com



Member: PRYCA; CBYCA;
BoatUS, Accord #GA80979Y

From the Commodore:



Stay the course... a very different meaning in these times. We have been in social distance/quarantine mode for weeks and we're almost there - can you believe it's May? As businesses begin to open - boaters stay the course by remaining safe and getting ready for our season when the waters open up. It's a good time to get all of those nagging projects done, take a safety class, or plan your summer cruises. We will get out there in some manner - perhaps just not in the way we're accustomed to. But continue to be careful - now is not the time to get sick after coming this far. We've done a great job flattening this curve - our care for one another and hard work is going to pay off in the end.

April traditionally signals the official opening of our boating season. As with everything right now, we had to make some significant changes to our Flag Raising ceremony on April 26. A new tradition was born this year in that the club flag will fly at the marina of the current commodore and burgees will be displayed at members' marinas on the Occoquan and the Potomac Rivers. We conducted our first ever virtual event thanks to our past commodore, Jim Dooley. Jim set up and ran a Zoom meeting which captured the essence of what we're about - camaraderie, tradition, and safety. While wearing some form or another of face masks and practicing generally safe distancing... a small contingent of board members gathered to raise the OYC flag at Belmont Bay Harbor Marina. John Cornicelli helped with setting up the canon, Bruno took pictures and video, and Bud lit the fuse. After the pledge of allegiance and the National Anthem, our own active duty U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Brian Field, Captain of the Angla McShan raised our "Covid-19 flag" (the new flag is stuck somewhere in transit). I presented our first OYC challenge coin to Jim Dooley. Jim stepped forward with Zoom meetings to test and broadcast our event to the membership. He also kept the meeting open for our first virtual happy hour. We may not be physically together, but together virtually and in spirit. Thank you, Jim. Karen - I look forward to putting you to work picking back up the momentum and planning some excellent OYC gatherings!

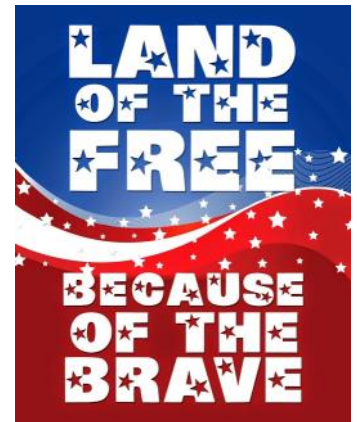
Speaking of the coin - this is another new tradition for our club. The coin was proposed, voted on, and designed by the board to recognize members who volunteer in our club. The front of the coin (heads) displays the OYC

(Continued on page 2) Special Announcements 8

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Inside this issue:

Commodore	1
Vice Commodore	2
Rear Commodore	3
Webmaster	4
Membership	5
PRYCA Rep.	5
Editor	6
Treasurer	6
Birthdays and Anniversaries	6
Boating on the Occoquan	7
Special Announcements	8

(Continued from page 1)



name and logo as well as the establishment date. The back side (tails) is a relief map of the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac and Occoquan Rivers, with the letters OYC in signal flags and our club flag planted on our approximate location on the Occoquan. Volunteer opportuni-

ties include but are not limited to sitting on the board, coordinating a cruise, and planning/participating in/helping with special events. This initiative, led by IPC Wayne Beal, is a small token of appreciation for the commodore to present to our members and the work they do to support the club. Thank you, Wayne - the coin is beautiful! I look forward to handing these out this year!

Until we are together again - stay safe and be well.

Cheers!

Susan Millonig
Commodore
Millie Gael

From the Vice Commodore:



I pray everyone is staying safe and sane. A special thanks to Commodore Susan Millonig and Rear Commodore Karen Hart for persevering on our Flag Raising. It was a wonderful event with sparse, socially distanced participants and streaming coverage courtesy of Past Commodore Jim Dooley. Also thanks to all the others who worked behind the scenes to make it happen. Hopefully next year we can do it again but with a real versus virtual happy hour to follow. As I'm sure you're aware our cruise schedule remains in flux due to the Coronavirus quarantine, and ad hoc events are problematic while the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay remain off limits due to Maryland recreational boating restrictions. Hopefully May will see an easing of these limitations. On an optimistic note, I recently made reservations at Capital Yacht Club (CYC) for the weekend of 4 July. Guess I've signed up as cruise coordinator! CYC's website has a reservation link and their general manager will usually reply to your request within the same day. It's not the only marina on the Washington Channel but one of the better all-around deals (price, location, club access, etc.)

Stay safe and see you out on the river one way or another.

Cheers,

Steve Preda
Vice Commodore
Anamchara

The OYC 2020 Board

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From the Rear Commodore:



I'm struggling with my article this month as this is when I would normally be announcing our next couple happy hours and I would start talking about the summer land event on June 6. The event was to be a picnic in the park but sadly, Occoquan Parks and Recreation has

cancelled that. It remains to be seen whether or not I can salvage the event at all. I know at this point I can't re-plan it at another location as I don't know if we'll be able to be in large groups by then or not. This year has definitely put a damper on all my plans but I still hope to salvage what I can. I've heard lots of people are hosting virtual happy hours. If any of you would like to host a virtual happy hour please let me know. I can't wait for us all to be together again! Until then, stay healthy.

See you all soon,

Cheers,

*Karen Hart
Rear Commodore
Hart-2-Hart*



OYC 2020 Flag Raising - Belmont Bay Marina

From the Webmaster:



The OYC web site has been updated to reflect the 2020 boating season, including cancellations due to COVID-19. Now is the time to log-in to your account at <http://occoquanyachtclub.com/> and click on the “Cruises and Event Sign Up” link and sign up for cruises and events for the 2020 season. Also I would like to remind and encourage everyone to make sure your information is updated in the on-line club directory for the new year. Many members do not have profile pictures. Having a current profile picture of the captain and first mate helps us all recognize each other. Updating your profile is easy, just sign-on to <http://occoquanyachtclub.com/> click on “Your Profile” then click the “Edit Membership” link and update your profile information and picture. Also remember to print your OYC membership card for the 2020 season while updating your profile. Just click on the “Display Your ID Card” button and print your ID card. You can even print the membership directory for a quick on hand reference to keep on your boat. Click on the “Club Directory” link on the home page then click the “Print Directory” button.

If you are having any issues with website access or want to join the OYC Members Only Facebook just email me at webmaster@occoquanyachtclub.com.

Safe boating is happy boating!!

William Dornetto
Webmaster
Nauti-Buoys



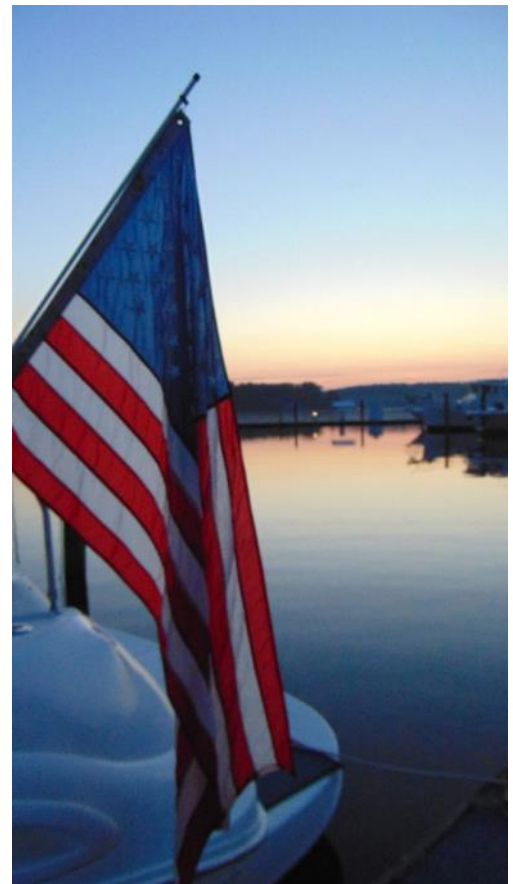
OYC 2020 Flag Raising - Belmont Bay Marina

From Membership:



Hello Members! Please welcome Mike Clark to the club! We look forward to meeting you, and seeing you out on the water soon. We are currently 51 memberships strong! This includes 37 family, 5 individual, 4 associate and 5 honorary memberships. If you would like to know who our members are, please look at our club directory. Many members have posted pictures of themselves and/or their boat which is very helpful. If you haven't already uploaded a photo please do so, it really helps members place a boat and face with a name. You can upload your photo very easily by logging into the website at www.occoquanyachtclub.com, go to Your Profile, scroll down towards the bottom, browse and upload a photo. It will now appear in the directory. If you know of anyone interested in joining OYC, please let me know and I will reach out to them directly. I hope to see you all on the water very soon!

*Debbie Tucceri
OYC Membership Chair
Did It Our Way*



From the PRYCA Rep:



Over the years that I've been your delegate to the PRYCA and the CBYCA, I've long advocated for you to write your elected officials on such matters as marine health (Menhaden), the environment (coal ash ponds), and most recently the proposed tax in PWC. I've always tried to be very mindful about the difference between engaging the political system and being political...and as a result those articles and posts were worded with the utmost care.

Early last month, I made a post through our Admin account on the members only site. It was about a FB page that our Club supported, which had allowed its participants to stray across that line more than once...and I removed our Club's participation in it.

Despite my good intentions, my inelegant attempt caused confusion and perhaps even concerns among the members. I'm sorry if I concerned any of you, but please rest assured, my goal was to do the complete opposite...it was to put your minds at ease that your Board will go out of its way to stay on the right side of the line. I'd also like to give a shout out to Bill Dornetto for cleaning up the post and fielding questions from a number of you. Thanks Bill!

Club members are of course welcome to believe and vote as they wish, but please remember that many of us follow each other, as well as many of the same pages. What someone thinks is simply a healthy political discourse on-line, may be perceived quite differently by others. So as we enter week #somethingorother in lockdown, please know that I will continue to do my best to keep our Club as apolitical as possible, and here's hoping I see you on the water soon.

*Bruno Millonig
PRYCA Rep.
Millie Gael*

From the Daymarker Editor:



I copy pictures from the Facebook albums, so please add as many as you can!

This is your newsletter. Let me know if you would like to see additional items each month.

John Draper
Editor
Mi Amor



Who are those masked men and women?

From Treasurer:



Income: \$85.00

Expenses: \$2.77

Ledger Balance as of April 8, 2020: \$9,291.70

The total paid membership for 2020 is 80% of the budgeted membership dues.



Garnetta Beal - May 8
Robert Brown - May 30
John DeDitius - May 30
Jim Dooley - May 6
Gill Stokes - May 25
Jerry Tarasek - May 27
Steve Worcester - May 15

Happy Anniversary!

Steve & Ginny Preda - May 1
Al & Jun Stewart - May 23



Boating on the Occoquan:

On behalf of our club, I had the opportunity to attend the Occoquan River Safety Forum held at the Prince William Marina on March 12. In addition to representatives from several local yacht clubs, there were representatives from US Coast Guard Station Washington DC, Fairfax County Police Marine Unit, Occoquan Regional Park and OWL Volunteer Fire Department. The main “take-aways” from the meeting were:

Anticipated increase congestion on the Occoquan, particularly upstream of the I-95 bridge. Once the shelter in place restrictions are lifted and the Occoquan Regional Park opens back up, it is expected that the river will fill up with paddle boarders, kayakers and other smaller “vessels.” Each of these has equal rights to be on the river and are also required to follow the Rules of the Road. However, it would be safe to assume that most if not all of these users are not aware of this fact and have never heard of the Rules of the Road. To prevent collisions, it is incumbent on us to maintain a proper look-out (Rule 5) and to sound one prolonged blast (4 to 6 seconds duration) when leaving the dock or berth (Rule 34 (g)).

“No Wake” Zone on the Occoquan. The Fairfax County Police Marine Unit representative clarified as to what “No Wake” actually means. Rules of thumb such as speed below 6 mph, 6 knots, or no white water etc. are incorrect. In Virginia waters, “No Wake” means operating at

the slowest possible speed required to maintain steerage and headway. So, according to him, he could probably legally cite 95% of us for violating this regulation. They have no intention of strictly enforcing this but will use a common sense approach based on the effect of your wake on docked boats and the shoreline. If you are bouncing docked boats around and causing waves to wash ashore you are likely to be boarded and cited if the police are operating nearby.

Operating on the Occoquan in an unsafe manner. After what seems an eternity in the “No Wake” zone, many captains go to full speed ahead blasting down the channel past Conrad Island throwing off a huge wake without regard to the effect on other boats. If the Fairfax Marine Police witness this reckless operation, they will cite the captain for operating a vessel in a negligent manner.

Governmental Authorities Normally Don't Tow Disabled Boats. The marine police, fire department, Coast Guard and other authorities will respond to situations in which life, limb and/or property damage are at risk. In most cases they won't tow your boat but will help arrange a commercial tow through companies such as TowBoatUS.

*John Draper
Daymarker Editor
Mi Amor*





COVID-19 Message to Member Clubs

All member clubs across five states and DC are suffering from some aspect of limitations placed upon them by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly all clubs have either cancelled their social events or placed them in a PENDING status. It will pass eventually, but until then there are still things that can be accomplished.

Legal:

Obey all the state and local laws regarding what can and cannot be done during the pandemic. All states and municipalities have a COVID-19 page on their websites that spell it out succinctly. You do not want to add fines and/or jail time to your issues.

Financials:

- If not already done, focus on setting aside enough funding to cover your constant expenditures like mortgage(s), utilities and taxes.
- Other than the above, practice a plan of financial austerity only paying for those things that you must, while planning future expenditures once we get back to what will be the New Normal.
- Keep in mind that just because the state allows you to open, does not mean that your members will immediately show up. The fears of the individual members may be greater than your desire to have them at the club. Do not plan on revenue in the immediacy based on your reopening. It will probably chart more as a ramp up over the weeks and months.

Social:

- Limit your initial events to Members Only, opening to a broader attendance a little later.
- Members not feeling well should not visit their club or should be turned away if they visit but have a temperature or other known symptoms.
- When bars are permitted to open, the drinks should be served by masked and gloved bartenders. No help yourself bars.
- No bar stools or hanging at the bar nor congregating in large groups.
- Drink lanes for serving drinks (to be disinfected with wipes frequently) with markings on the floor for 6ft spacing.
- Use disposable cups and glasses.
- Establish hand sanitizer stations.
- Disinfect all common surfaces (tables, bars, handles, knobs).
- No buffet-style food service (all plated dinners and snacks) with masked and gloved wait staff.
- All must wear masks and/or gloves if required by your state regulators.
- It is likely you will be able to open your outdoor areas before clubhouses.
- When permitted to gather inside for dinners or events, you can use "buffer tables" to separate guests.

Nick Noderer
CBYCA Director, Safety and Education



BoatUS offers discounted membership dues for members of OYC. You can join or renew your BoatUS membership for \$15 per year (instead of \$24) plus 10% off Unlimited Towing packages. To join, visit www.BoatUS.com/Join and enter our BoatUS Cooperating Group Number: GA80979Y in the Promo Code field. Existing members can add our Group Number to their membership by emailing coopgroups@boat.us or by entering it in the BoatUS Coop Group# field when renewing on www.BoatUS.com/Renew. You can also call BoatUS at 800-395-2628 to join or renew your membership.

Membership benefits include:

- Water & trailer towing service
- Marine insurance
- Discounts on fuel, slips, repairs & more at over 1,200 boating businesses
- Shopping rewards at West Marine

