



The Daymarker



Occoquan Yacht Club
P.O. Box 469
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www.OccoquanYachtClub.com

Member: PRYCA; CBYCA;
BoatUS, Accord #GA80979Y

From the Commodore:



Friends,

As we navigate these uncharted waters in these uncertain times, I thank you for your understanding and flexibility this boating season. Particularly our early boating season while we attempt to “flatten the curve” of the COVID-19 virus.

John has graciously put together a separate special edition of the Daymarker which details our 2020 cruise schedule. Please take a look at all the fun offerings our coordinators have planned for us this year again, with the understanding this may change. You will hear from coordinators once their plans are in play. Please do not make reservations, payments, or cancellations without their notifications.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks. Stay well and take care!

Cheers!

Susan Millonig
Commodore
Millie Gael

The Daymarker
Occoquan Yacht Club

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Special points of
interest:

© APR 26, Flag Raising, Belmont
Bay



Inside this issue:

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In light of Virginia Governor Northam’s [“Stay at Home” Executive Order No. 55](#), which “shall remain in full force and in effect until June 10, 2020, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order,” the likelihood that our water and land events scheduled to occur prior to June 10th will be canceled or postponed is high. The Commodore will alert all the members via email blast with the latest changes.

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From the Vice Commodore:



I hope everyone is well and doing their best to support efforts intended to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Although some of our scheduled events have fallen victim to this situation we continue to plan for a season of boating.

A special edition of the Daymarker was distributed highlighting planned events and the draft schedule was e-mailed to all members as well. Please review the schedule and send me any updates or recommendations. Also log on to our website and use the Cruise & Event Signup link to identify which events you will or may participate in. This provides the event coordinator much needed information for planning purposes and allows them to communicate directly with interested members. In last month's message I recommended members schedule spring maintenance as soon as possible since maintenance slots fill up rapidly. Taking my own advice I had my boat pulled 5 March. Unfortunately it has been sitting ever since with the yard pointing fingers at weather, previously scheduled work, etc. Bottom line, make sure you get some commitment on when work will be accomplished. Looking forward to seeing everyone out on the river as soon as feasible.

Cheers,

Steve Preda
Vice Commodore
Anamchara

This could happen to me ...

A boat at Fairfax Yacht Club sank on March 18th and was raised the day after by Potomac Marine. Upon inspection after raising the vessel, they could find no leaks. They surmise that rain water drained into the bilge and eventually lowered the boat enough that water entered through the drains. The boat used solar panels to keep the battery charged, but with the cloudy weather, the panels may not have been up to the task.

As you walk on the piers, please stay alert for any vessels that seem low in the water, and if you see something, say something.

The OYC 2020 Board

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From the Rear Commodore:



I've been a member of OYC for quite a few years and until 2 years ago I didn't really know what the duties of the Rear Commodore were. The Rear Commodore is mainly responsible for the five land events listed below. These events occur around the same time every year and the theme can remain what it was in previous years, or the Rear Commodore can present and toss around new ideas to the board. That's what I've attempted to do this year so here are (were)

my plans for this year's land events.

Spring General Membership, Mar 21, Say Goodbye to Winter/Sock Burning, sadly, cancelled.

Flag Raising, Apr 26, Belmont Bay. OYC will provide food and drink/BYOB.

Summer Land Event, Jun 6, Picnic in the Park, Occoquan Regional Park, Shelter 2. OYC will provide food and drink/BYOB.

Fall Land Event, Sep 26, Belmont Bay. Theme TBD. OYC will provide food and drink/BYOB.

Fall General Membership, Oct 18, Location TBD. Chili cook-off, Photo Contest. Membership provides chili, OYC will provide chili toppings, crackers/drinks/BYOB

Happy Hours. These fall under the Rear Commodore as "other duties as assigned". I will do my best to host a monthly happy hour but I need some help from the membership. There will be some months where I won't be available the first Friday of the month so watch for email blasts from me asking for volunteer hosts. Hosting a happy hour is the easiest thing to do. You can have it wherever you want; your dock, home, or a restaurant. We're a virtual club and our members are scattered at various marinas so think about pairing up with other members and host a happy hour on your dock. I think it would be fun for us all to visit each other's marinas this year. I'll help you set it up by sending an email blast to the club. You would only have to tell me when and where.

Cheers,

*Karen Hart
Rear Commodore
Hart-2-Hart*



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



**Back in my day the
only time we started
panic buying was when
the bartender yelled
"last call" 🤪**



Comedy Corner

A pirate and a sailor were exchanging stories. The sailor pointed to the pirate's peg leg and asked, "How did you get that?" The pirate said, "Aye, I wrestled a shark and lost me leg." The sailor pointed to the pirate's hook and asked, "How did you get that?" The pirate said: "Aye, I fought Black Beard's crew and lost me hand." The sailor pointed to the pirate's eye patch and asked, "How did you get that?" The pirate said, "Aye, a bird came by and left droppings in me eye." The sailor said, "That's not as impressive as the other two. ..." "Aye," the pirate answered. "It was me first day with the hook."

From the Treasurer:



Deposits since January 8, 2020:
\$1,165.00

Expenditures: \$2,221.58

Ledger Balance as of March 11,
2020: \$9,209.47

Dues paid for 2020 membership
are 79% of anticipated dues.

*Dave Hart
Treasurer
Hart-2-Hart*



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@boatus.com 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
- Boat graphics and lettering
- BoatUS Magazine
- Boater representation with lawmakers
- Boat finance
- Free MMSI number

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



Happy Hour at Fatty's Tap House,
Garrisonville



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Bud Bishop - April 17
Dave Hart - April 4
Sally Hoffmaster - April 10
Michelle Johnson - April 10
Arleen Rhodes - April 29

**Happy
Anniversary**

Joseph & Stacy Conti - April 20
Tom & Peggy Deputy - April 15
Jim & Pam Poulos - April 25

Proper use of Digital Selective Calling May Save Your Life

Practically all non-portable marine VHF radios manufactured today have at least minimum Digital Selective Calling (DSC) capabilities. Did you know that, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, about 90% of VHF DSC distress alerts received by the Coast Guard do not contain position information, and approximately 60% do not contain a registered identity? The Coast Guard cannot effectively respond to a DSC distress alert sent from such a radio. So, how do we check our VHF installations on our boats to ensure that position and identification information can be transmitted in case of an emergency?

First, what is DSC and why should we care? DSC allows mariners to instantly send an automatically formatted distress alert to the Coast Guard, other rescue authorities, and any other DSC equipped radios within range. No parties have to be near a radio loudspeaker to receive the message. The alert is sent as a quick digital burst over channel 70.

Position Information

Your VHF radio should have the capability of connecting to a GPS location signal from your chart plotter, MFD or separate GPS antenna. This capability allows the radio to automatically send your precise location when you send a DSC emergency alert. When my radio is on and the other electronics are fired up, position information is shown on the radio's display. In fact an alarm will go off if the radio loses GPS position information. Check your radio and other manuals for your particular installation.

Identity Information

How many of you have a MMSI number? Or even know what that is? MMSI, which stands for Maritime Mobile Service Identities, are nine digit numbers used by maritime DSC, automatic identification systems (AIS) and certain other equipment to uniquely identify a ship or a coast radio station. Recreational boaters that will remain in US waters can obtain an MMSI number for their boat from BoatUS. It is free for members and \$25 for non-

members (another reason to become a member). During registration you provide along with your contact information that for your emergency contacts. Also, required are details of your boat - type, length, color, registration. Once you have your MMSI you will have to program it into your VHF radio(s). It is important to do this correctly (consult your manual) because it is user irreversible. (At least in my radio.). Upon registration your information is entered into the MMSI database allowing rescue authorities instant access to your information upon receipt of a DSC distress call.

There are a few things to keep in mind concerning your MMSI number:

Your specific MMSI is associated with your vessel. Therefore all VHF radios permanently associated with your boat should use the same MMSI.

Your specific MMSI registration MUST be cancelled upon sale or trade of your boat thereby making it available to the new owner. How many of us have remembered to do this?

If you obtained your MMSI number from BoatUS be sure to periodically log in to www.boatus.com/mmsi to verify and update your MMSI information as necessary. Did you remember to do this if you have changed marinas since you registered?

Placing a Distress DSC Call

Now is the time to understand how to place a distress call with your particular radio and NOT when you are in an emergency situation. Consult your radio's manual for specifics. Also remember to follow up a DSC distress call with a voice call on channel 16.

On the next page is a template for a placard or card that you can complete and place near the radio to refer to in case of an emergency.

John Draper
Daymarker Editor
Mi Amor

GUIDANCE ON DISTRESS ALERTS



LIFT COVER

PRESS
RED
BUTTON

until
acoustic and
light-indication
becomes steady
(more than 3 seconds)



Use the HANDSET for voice calling

MAYDAY-MAYDAY-MAYDAY

THIS IS

NAME – NAME – NAME

CALLSIGN
or other IDENTIFICATION

MMSI
(if the initial alert is sent by DSC)

OWN ID

SHIP'S NAME:

CALL SIGN:

MMSI:

MAYDAY

NAME of the **VESSEL** in distress

CALLSIGN or other **IDENTIFICATION**

MMSI
(if the initial alert is sent by DSC)

POSITION
given as **latitude** and **longitude**
or
If latitude and longitude are not known
or if time is insufficient,
In relation to a known geographical location

NATURE of distress
Kind of **ASSISTANCE** required
Any other useful **INFORMATION**

DISTRESS and COMMUNICATION FREQUENCIES

	DSC	Radiotelephony	NBDP
VHF	Channel 70	Channel 16	-----
MF	2187.5 kHz	2182 kHz	2174.5 kHz
HF4	4207.5 kHz	4125 kHz	4177.5 kHz
HF6	6312.0 kHz	6215 kHz	6268.0 kHz
HF8	8414.5 kHz	8291 kHz	8376.5 kHz
HF12	12577.0 kHz	12290 kHz	12520.0 kHz
HF16	16804.5 kHz	16420 kHz	16605.0 kHz

Remember to use the correct HF-procedures
Don't forget your EPIRB is the secondary means of alerting

From International Maritime Organization
COMSAR.1/Circ.45 4 February 2009