



# The Daymarker

## OCOQUAN YACHT CLUB

P.O. Box 469, Occoquan, VA 22125

Member: PRYCA, CBYCA; Boat U.S. Accord #GA80979Y

Web site: [www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.Org)

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Patricia Croft**

October will be a busy month for OYC members, with two land events and one cruise on the calendar. The **Shrimp Fest is planned for the first Saturday in October at Hoffmaster's Marina**. Hopefully you have already called John Heinze to RSVP so that he knows how much shrimp to order, but if you have not yet done so, there's still time to let him know you're coming! *If you need more information about this event, see the flyer on page 4.*

The PRYCA End of Summer Cruise, scheduled for October 8-11 at Aquia Harbour, was cancelled due to construction of new docks at Aquia. In its place during the same dates, Joe Livingston is offering a **cruise to Ft. Washington Marina over Columbus Day Weekend**. *See the article on page 3 for further information.*

The third OYC event for October is the **General Membership Meeting and Chili Cook-Off at Fairfax Yacht Club, Saturday, October 23**. This is the annual election meeting at which we select officers for the next year's Board. Our Immediate Past Commodore, Harry Croft, has put together a fine slate of candidates to present to the membership for approval:

- Tom Lensis, Commodore-elect
- Tom Plewes, Vice Commodore-elect
- John Heinze, continuing as Rear Commodore
- Arleen Rhodes, continuing as Treasurer
- Jill Stanley, Secretary-elect.

I will move to Immediate Past Commodore. The staff members have all generously volunteered to continue to serve, including:

- Ilona Zsirai, Membership Chair
- Nabil Dubraque, Historian
- Patricia Maxwell, Quartermaster
- Ned Rhodes, Webmaster
- Joe Livingston, delegate to PRYCA/CBYCA
- Carolyn Wixson, *Daymarker* Editor

The October General Membership Meeting is always a well-attended event; it is a great opportunity to regroup and share cruising stories as the boating season wanes. It offers long-time members a chance to get better acquainted with new members, and for new members, it's a good time to become more familiar with the club. And while the main purpose of the meeting is to conduct the business of formally approving the new Board for 2011, the main event of the day is the **Chili Cook-off, renamed the Chefs' Challenge!** Whether you show off your culinary skills or simply enjoy the fruits of the labor of others, the Chefs' Challenge is a gastronomic delight! *For more information, see the story on page 7.*

On a more somber note, you will note that much of this issue is devoted to the remembrance of our dear friend, Kenny Harris, who passed away August 27. Kenny was an avid supporter of OYC. He and Sharman joined OYC in 2004; they were active participants in almost every OYC event since then. Kenny and Sharman were deservedly honored as the recipients of the 2009 Commodore's Cup, awarded each year to members who have made outstanding contributions to the success of the club.

*( cont. on p. 2)*

Kenny was a larger than life character who touched so many lives in so many ways; his passing leaves us grieving, but filled with warm memories of a friend who shared his love of life with us. Almost 60 OYC friends were among the mourners paying last respects to Kenny on September 2, and many others from out of town sent condolences. Sharman and her family were comforted by the loving support surrounding them, and she has asked me to share with all of you these sentiments, delivered by Kenny Jr. in his father's eulogy:

*"I know my father was a good man if just for one reason. I look around this room and I see it filled with good people. I can see your faces. I know your names. I know who you are. People like you do not spend their lives with just anybody. They seek out the best because they have much to offer. You chose my father. You made him your friend. You loved him and you will miss him. My father made me very proud. I am also proud of the people who surrounded him in life. I am comforted to be surrounded by those people now that he is gone.*

*We love you Dad. We will miss you. We thank God for our time with you."*

Pat Croft, *Bay Dreamer*



*Kenny Harris & Tom Lensis*



**Vice Commodore**

**Tom Lensis**

### **A Great Friend & Great Man – Darn Tootin’**

Kenny Harris was a great friend of mine. I met him only a few years ago, when Donna and I moved our boat across from his at Occoquan Harbour Marina. Kenny and I hit it off right away, each of us having spent our adult lives running small businesses. Along with being

avid boaters and sharing similar political views, we had a lot in common and quickly became close friends. Over the past few years, we had ample time while at the dock or out boating with the club to share common challenges and experiences we had running our businesses. I found out that Kenny was a very successful businessman who treated all of his customers fairly and with respect.

But first and foremost, Kenny was a family man and a great provider for his family. During our time together, Kenny spoke often of the love of his life, his wife Sharman, and of his three children, Kenny Jr., Stanley and his wife Jill, and Catherine, and of course, his grandsons, Brice and Avery. If you know any of the Harris family, you know what a wonderful job Kenny and Sharman did of raising their children. The entire family is thoughtful, helpful, courteous, and generous. They would help out anyone in a time of need.

Kenny was the model for that. He was a generous guy, and as he went through life, he always gave a little something extra to anyone he came in contact with, whether it was a waiter, a dockhand at a marina, or the guys cleaning his boat, to let them know he appreciated them. He was so thoughtful, he even kept a supply of dog biscuits on his boat for all the dogs on the docks. Kenny was the kind of guy who always took a little extra time to talk with anyone he encountered.

As anyone who owns a boat knows, there is always something in need of repair, so I spent a lot of time making repairs on my boat. If Kenny was on his boat, he would always come over and help me with whatever I was doing. He wasn't the kind of guy who would just sit back and watch you work. He was a hands-on kind of guy, and he would dive in and give a helping hand, even if that included crawling around in your engine room.

Kenny was a character, to say the least. He had a way about him that could make anyone laugh. With his sharp wit, he would answer my questions by saying, "Are you writing a book?" On our many boat trips together, I heard numerous funny stories from him, but on one trip that he and I took to Myrtle Beach, where we had taken our boats for the winter, he told me so many stories of his past that finally he said, "You know, I'm going to have to start repeating myself – I've told you everything I know!"

Over the summer, we spent several weeks cruising the Chesapeake Bay. After pulling out of a marina, idling before taking off to the next destination, I'd call Kenny on the radio to make sure he was ready to go. He would always reply, "If you're waiting on me, you're going backwards!"

The last few trips we made with Kenny and Sharman and their family, Kenny didn't feel too well. Despite that,

(cont. from p. 2) on our three-week trip on the Bay, we had a lot of fun times. He would drive the boat wherever we were going, and when we got there, he would rest for awhile. Then he would be ready for a bike ride or dinner or whatever else was going on. He really enjoyed that last long cruise.

After the club trip to Port Kinsale, I rode back up the river with Kenny and Kenny Jr. on *Darn Tootin'* because I had left my boat at Port Kinsale for a few weeks. As Kenny was driving his boat back home, enjoying the beautiful day on the water, he looked over at me, and I'll never forget the grin on his face as he told me that this was what he loved to do, cruising up the river on his boat.

Kenny was very active, and enjoyed many things in life: his family and friends, cooking, traveling, scuba diving, golfing, and most of all, boating. He loved life, and had written his motto on the back of his boat: "Life's Good – Darn Tootin'!" It surely was for him, and we will miss him very much.

As we go through life, we should consider ourselves lucky to have just one friend like Kenny Harris. As we feel the loss of this wonderful man, we can all learn from the values that he lived by every day. Because of what I've learned from Kenny, I'll strive to be a better man to my wife and family, and cherish every day I get to share with my family and friends.

Tom Lensis, *Copy Cat*

## **Sign Up for Columbus Day Weekend Cruise**

The *Gail Lynn II* crew will host a Columbus Day Weekend Cruise to **Fort Washington Marina**. Activities will start on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, and we will maintain a flexible schedule until sometime on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Weather may impact the activities, however in OYC fashion, "drinks, food, and drinks" are certain...during our last cruise to Corinthian YC I even viewed Vice Commodore Tom Lensis with a glass of wine.

Something new. Help with docking lines is available upon arrival as usual, however, the arriving crew should have a libation of choice available for the dock crew. The trick may be to arrive early...but more important, this is a cruise to a nearby destination, a simple navigation challenge (from the Occoquan, go north on the Potomac passing green 77 to port and make a gradual turn to enter Piscataway Creek keeping red PA 2 to starboard, and proceed in the channel to the marina on your port side) with good floating docks and facilities...so let's meet-n-greet some new and old members.

Look forward to hearing from you soonest. E-mail to [joseph.livingston@verizon.net](mailto:joseph.livingston@verizon.net) or call 703-505-8313/540-373-9203 for questions or requests for reservations. Let me know your planned arrival and departure dates, boat length-beam, power (2-30amp/1-50amp), and number of crew onboard. Slip fees are \$1.50 per foot with \$5/30amp & \$7/50amp. A covered lighted pavilion is available for potential cookouts and the Proud Mary Restaurant will be available. Bring fixings for a cookout and hors d'oeuvres to share.

### *My Friend*

*My friend Kenny died today.  
We only met a few years ago  
But it seems so much longer  
We went scuba diving  
We played golf  
We loved boating  
We were enjoying life  
Kenny died today, too soon.  
But his memory didn't, and won't,  
And for that I'm grateful  
I will miss him dearly  
May God grant him warm waters,  
Low golf scores, and calm seas.*

*His friend, Harry.*



*Kenneth Stanley Harris  
April 12, 1944 - August 27, 2010*



OCCOQUAN YACHT CLUB  
SHRIMP FEST  
at  
**Hoffmaster's Marina**  
**Saturday, October 2, 2010**  
**2-5 p.m.**

Featuring

Shrimp, Red Potatoes, Sweet Corn,  
Kielbasa Sausage with "OYC Secret Sauce"

- Beer (1/2 keg) provided by Hoffmaster's.
- Sodas, water, and table service provided by OYC.
- **Contribution for shrimp boil: \$5 per person.**
- Bring an appetizer or dessert to share,  
and your libation of choice.

**Come ready to have a good time!**  
**Hoffmaster's slipholders are welcome to join us!**  
**Please RSVP to John Heinze 703-888-3837**



**Rear Commodore**

**John Heinze**

## **Labor Day Weekend Cruise to Corinthian**

*(A special dispatch filed by First Mate Rebecca Heinze)*

What a fun cruise we had! This trip had the potential for disaster but turned out to be really lots of fun. How could it be otherwise with the people we were with? As we started out, Hurricane Earl was blowing up the coast. In good OYC fashion, we got together and talked it over. Kevin and Pam Bell (*Déjà vu*) and Randy and Susan Willets (*Takin' It Easy*) felt the weather was best on Friday and departed for Corinthian Yacht Club on the St. Mary's River about 3 p.m. Friday. This turned out to be great timing as they arrived in calm winds and enjoyed a cookout by the club's pool.

Back at FYC, Tom and Donna Lensis (*Copy Cat*) and their friends Dan and Donna Carr came over to FYC that same day and docked for the night there. We were soon joined by Carl and Patricia Maxwell (*Sunshine*) for the evening and the Croft's niece Amy even put in a guest appearance before the night was over. We spent the time playing a crazy game called 25 Words or Less, eating great hot wings and other munchies, drinking lots of wine, and just having fun. John and I pooped out around midnight, but I understand things didn't really end until much, much later.

Saturday dawned clear and bright and much too early for us, but everyone managed to get away at what seemed like a reasonable time for them. Unfortunately Harry and Pat Croft (*Bay Dreamer*) had to turn back due to mechanical problems before they had gone far at all. Fortunately they made it back to FYC safe and sound, but on just one engine. We missed them the rest of the weekend, but they should be ready to go again soon.

We were traveling slowly due to an overheating engine ourselves, and just as we got there, the steering mysteriously went out. It made a guest appearance just long enough to get us docked. That was an experience not to be forgotten! Let's just say someone handed me a drink before we were even tied up and leave it at that.

Steve and Jill Stanley (*Bout Time*) also had an engine problem, and CYC had a mechanic working on another boat who came by to take a look at their engine. The mechanic was able to diagnosis and fix the problem by unplugging and re-plugging a "little shinny thing" on the engine. In Steve's words, "It's the only shinny thing on my boat."

The rest of Saturday was spent checking out the pool and watching Kayley Mansour, daughter of Bill and

Lobanah Mansour (*Kayley E*) catch crabs off the dock. Kenny Harris Jr. came down for the weekend, and it was sure nice to have him with us. That evening we enjoyed Happy Hour, a great cookout, and a beautiful sunset, and counted the stars from the dock while enjoying the company of good friends. I think we were all glad we had "braved" the storm – such as it was - to enjoy the hospitality of CYC.

Sunday was a "hard" day of doing exactly as much or as little as we wanted, mostly by the pool or hanging around the boats. Also, on Sunday, my sister Suzanne drove down to join us so she could get in on the boating life while visiting from Oklahoma. More to come!

That night Corinthian hosted an all-you can eat Crab Boil that was fantastic. We all ate 'til we could "eats no 'mo." We had two bushels of fresh crabs, delicious side dishes provided by the members of CYC, and a bar serving great drinks. And I must say that if you ever need anyone to show you how to open and eat crabs, just ask Joe and Gail Livingston (*Gail Lynn II*) – they are experts!

Later that evening there was entertainment by one of the CYC club members. Several people met on the porch of one of the guest cottages and had a sing-a-long with Larry, their resident troubadour. This was a true highlight of any trip.

Sadly Monday morning arrived, and after our traditional departure day brunch extravaganza, it was time to leave so we all set out for home. For us it was for White Point Marina just across the river. The plan was that I would drive over in the car my sister had driven down, and she and John would take the boat over for repairs.

So off I went in the car and three hours later I see *Great Escape* floundering into White Point. You guessed it. No steering. It had gone out about 10 minutes after leaving port so John had to come across the river on engine power only. Again lots of wind, choppy water, and no steering. But now we know it can be done, sails can go faster, and my sister gets VERY sick under those conditions. She was off that boat almost before I got the lines. She is now back in landlocked Oklahoma and happy to be there. No word yet when we will get the boat back.

Rebecca Heinze, *Great Escape*

### ***The Daymarker***

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Carolyn Wixson, Editor  
Ilona Zsirai, Circulation

Deadline for submission of articles to ***The Daymarker*** is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please submit your copy by e-mail to:  
**oyceditor@gmail.com**



**Treasurer**

**Arleen Rhodes**

## **14 Slips and No Circus – The Hardy Souls Cruise to National Harbor, November 12-14**

As the weather turns colder, we know that November is around the corner and, with it, the Hardy Souls Cruise. In keeping with recent tradition, we will be heading to National Harbor, where I have reserved 14 slips for the weekend of November 12, 13, and 14. The weekend has changed from the date scheduled at the start of the year in order to leave the first weekend in November open to attend the Urbanna Oyster Festival. For more information, visit <http://www.urbannaoysterfestival.com>.

National Harbor has floating docks; spacious, plentiful slips with more than adequate power; and a friendly set of dockmasters that make this an ideal location. Arleen and I are working on a list of activities that could include drink contests, dog walks (over the Wilson Bridge), and the usual complement of eating and telling lies. I am looking into organizing a Saturday night group dinner, and there will be shopping and time for just relaxing.

Our plan is to go up on Friday, November 12, and return in the afternoon on Sunday, November 14. I have not made the final arrangements with the marina, but you should e-mail me at [ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com](mailto:ned@softwaresystemsgroup.com) and let me know you are coming, along with the number of people, number of dogs, number of nights, boat specifics, and power requirements. I will get back to you with instructions on how to make arrangements with the marina. The weather can be iffy, but the trip is always fun and we always have a good time. Hope to see you there.

Ned W. Rhodes, *Impulse*



## **Labor Day Weekend Cruise to Crisfield**

*Takin' To The Sea* left for Crisfield by way of Cobb Island on September 2<sup>nd</sup> On

Friday morning we got up early as planned. The skies were gray and overcast so we left Cobb Island at 9 a.m. (early for us!!). The seas were not “angry” until we hit Point Lookout, then look out indeed! The wind kicked up;

it was rainy, cloudy, and the swells were 4-5 feet and following. After being tossed around like a bath toy for a bit, the First Mate and the Mate decided it was time for ginger tablets. Note to First Mate: If you take the ginger pills BEFORE your stomach does somersaults, they may actually work. Mr. Wilson and the Captain never got seasick although I am sure the Captain had a headache from all the threats he was getting from the First Mate as we traveled across the Bay.

We arrived at Crisfield around 1:15 p.m, fueled up, then backed into our slip with no issues as the wind had died down. Diesel fuel was \$2.60/gallon, not counting the 10 cent/gallon discount for Boat U.S. members. Somers Cove placed us on B Dock, which is right near all the festivities and the pool. The slips there are very large and wide, and the marina is one mile long if you walk it from one end to the other. Dinner was at Old Crisfield Steak and Crab House, and they have a very nice Tiki Bar there that they continue to fix up and expand.

The next day we woke to sunny, blue skies, mid-80s for a temp, and you would never know there had been a storm. The First Mate made a feast for breakfast. then we walked into town to see the parade. Afterward we walked the docks at the marina to check out everyone’s boat and to chat and await the arrival of *Down Time*. We ran into the Hattons, aboard *Our Dream*, who arrived with a group from Solomons.

The marina’s free carnival opened up at noon with a crab derby, crab cook-off, and crab races. We walked into town to view the skiff races. *Down Time* arrived and tied up in the slip right next to us. We were invited to a fantastic barbecue hosted by Somers Cove Yacht Club. Later the marina hosted an Aerosmith tribute band from Boston, called “Draw the Line” that sounded exactly like Aerosmith, sans the lead singer falling off the stage like Steven Tyler does!

The main events were the boat docking contest and fireworks on Sunday. The Freedmans and the Francis’ had very good viewing seats and even got a little history from a local that sat next to us. The winning individual time was 29 seconds and the team time was 27 seconds. Now I bet you cannot even parallel-park your car that fast. We headed back to the marina to relax before happy hour on the docks, then dinner at Waterman’s Inn. We walked back to the marina just in time for the fireworks display.

Everyone had such a wonderful time that we made our reservations for next year and requested B Dock once again. *Down Time* departed around 10:30 a.m. on Monday for more cruising. Unfortunately *Takin’ To The Sea* had to head home as the Mate was starting school the next day (tee hee hee...).

Barbara & Larry Freedman  
*Takin’ To The Sea*



## Don't Miss the Chefs' Challenge

Make no mistake – there will be a **Chili Cook-off** this year, and it will take place as part of the **October General Membership and Election Meeting on October 23 at Fairfax Yacht Club, 2-5 p.m.** But the name of the contest has been changed in deference to its evolving format.

Last year, the Chili Cook-off was expanded to include contests for appetizers and desserts as well. It was entitled 'Triple Epicurean Challenge.' That wordy phrase sounds like a mouthful, so we're trying out a shorter version: Chefs' Challenge.

A Chili Cook-off by any other name still makes for a little friendly competition and a lot of good eating. The addition of contests for the most **Awesome Appetizer** and the most **Delectable Dessert** ensures that the participants will enjoy a full three-course meal. Appetizers, chili, desserts – served at a location with a riverfront view to large numbers of OYC boaters, marinated with liberal quantities of their favorite beverage – that's a surefire recipe for a great OYC Membership Meeting!

Competitors may enter one, two, or all three of the categories. Those who do not wish to compete but do want to comply with the 'bring a dish to share' request may bring whatever they like, but only the homemade entries will be judged for prizes.

Sodas, water, and table service will be provided. Bring a dish to share (to enter in the contest if it's homemade), and your beverage of choice.



### Connect with OYC Online

Now on Facebook! Search for "Occoquan Yacht Club" and click "Request to Join." Your request will be confirmed with the membership roster. The private group is open to all active members.

Web space for [occoquanyachtclub.org](http://occoquanyachtclub.org), [potomacriveryachtclubs.org](http://potomacriveryachtclubs.org), and [ormaweb.org](http://ormaweb.org) is donated by Software Systems Group, Ned Rhodes, President and CEO.

## SAVE THE DATE: December 11, 2010

### OYC Holiday Party Change of Watch Ceremony and Formal Dinner Dance



Mark your calendar now for OYC's only formal event of the year – the Holiday Dinner Dance and Change of Watch Ceremony at **Laurel Hill Golf Club** on December 11. Your formal invitation will arrive in the mail sometime in November, and more information will be coming in the next *Daymarker*. This is one party you don't want to miss!

The holidays kick off with a **tree lighting and fireworks at National Harbor** on November 26. Contact Larry and Barbara Freedman (703-855-1826) to sign up for the three-day cruise. Or join in the **Santa Cruise on the Occoquan** from Occoquan Harbour Marina on November 27; contact Walt Cheatham (703-243-2430) to participate. If that isn't enough winter boating, check out the **Alexandria Parade of Lights** on December 4.

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## The Datemarkers

### Birthdays

Nancy M. Henry	10/2
Jill Stanley	10/2
Bob Wilcox	10/2
Mark Schall	10/4
Carolyn Wixson	10/8
Carol Belcher	10/9
Terry Mattke	10/11
Caroline Lynn	10/19
Nancy Stegon	10/21
Peggy Johnson	10/24
Richard Patrick	10/28
Rebecca Heinze	10/31

### Anniversaries

Joseph & Sally Hoffmaster	10/1
Rick & Teresa Sorrenti	10/6
Kenny & Sharman Harris	10/18
Peter & Pamela McLeod	10/26

2 October  
Shrimp Fest @ Hoffmaster's  
John Heinze  
703-888-3837

8-11 October  
Columbus Day Weekend Cruise  
Ft. Washington Marina  
Joe Livingston  
703-505-8313

23 October  
OYC Membership Meeting &  
Chefs' Challenge @ FYC

12-14 November  
Hardy Souls Cruise to  
National Harbor  
Ned & Arleen Rhodes  
703-741-0861

26-28 November  
Tree Lighting & Fireworks  
@ National Harbor  
Larry & Barbara Freedman  
703-855-1826

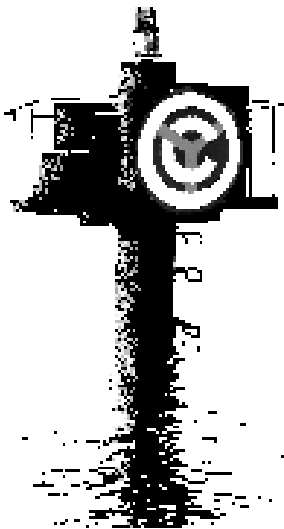
11 December  
Holiday Party & COW  
Laurel Hill Golf Club

*Inside this edition...*

**Summer may be over, but OYC has lots of fun to fill your fall weekends, including chili and more cruisin'!**

**Even an approaching hurricane can't stop hearty OYCers from hitting the high seas on Labor Day weekend.**

**The OYC mourns the loss of a devoted husband, father, friend, and boater.**



## *The Daymarker*

Occoquan Yacht Club  
P.O. Box 469  
Occoquan, VA 22125

Change Service  
Requested