

# Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association



Volume 12

Issue 1

April 2000

## Officers 2000

### Commodore

Monica Lovell, o2bboatn@aol.com  
(Occoquan)

### Vice Commodore

Phil Bolin, pwbolin@earthlink.net  
(Aquia Harbour)

### Rear Commodore

Curt Johnson, tailhookboater@cs.com  
(Aquia Harbour)

### Secretary

Chris Reed, piperreed@starpower.net  
(Capital)

### Treasurer

Steve Wexler,  
steve@marcherconsultants.com  
(Occoquan)

### Fleet Captain

Randy Semper, rsemper@erols.com  
(Aquia Harbour)

### Immediate Past Commodore

Mark Viehoever, tkfive@aol.com  
(Tantallon)

### Members-At-Large

Walt Cheatham,  
CheathaW@pentagon.af.mil  
(Occoquan)

Joe Hadley, hadmck@aol.com  
(Fort Washington)

Toby Jarman, jotoby@erols.com  
(Prince William)

Wayne Kuster, wjkuster@aol.com  
(Swan Point)

Andrea Storey, awstorey28@aol.com  
(District)

www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org

## From the Commodore

Monica Lovell

Wow! What a great Change of Watch Dinner-Dance held at the Crystal City Sheraton! Two hundred and twenty-six members and guests attended representing eighteen PRYCA member-clubs as well as two clubs from the Bay! As Past Commodore Bud Clark stated, "Well, if you can't go boating, a get-together like this is the next best thing!" I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the wonderful turnout and for the performance by the PRYCA Bridge and member-clubs. All of you made a major effort to publicize the Change of Watch and successfully encouraged attendance. The PRYCA Bridge is outstanding and the effort they put forth and the results they achieved were once again splendid! Thanks to everyone for making the evening so successful. I would also like to thank PRYCA's very own Billy Crystal (Steve Wexler) for contributing to the evening as MC with his usual wit and charm (Steve even pulled off a credible "Puffy Combs" imitation...maybe his brother can get him a recording contract)!

In addition to a farewell to the 1999 Bridge and introduction of the 2000 Bridge, distinguished visitors were recognized and awards presented to several of our members.

Congratulation to all award recipients!

**PRYCA Distinguished Commodore: John Hancock**

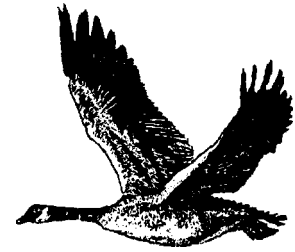
**PRYCA Distinguished Commodore: Penny Orth**

**PRYCA Honorary Captain: John Robey**

PRYCA begins the new year on several positive notes. The first being a new web address (<http://www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org>). Many thanks go out to our web guru Ned Rhodes for his hard work and dedication. Ned's continuous website updates benefit us all. If you haven't already done so, please log-on to PRYCA's website. It contains so much useful information...the current Board's names and e-mail addresses; past newsletters; the 2000 Schedule of Events; sign-up sheets for upcoming events; member-club links; other links of interest; and some great pictures.

Your current Board can also boast the accomplishment of the newly updated and website posted Handbook and By-Laws. We have also been busy contacting potential member-clubs. For example, our proud announcement is the addition, this evening, of Fairfax Yacht Club to the PYRCA family. We congratulate and welcome Fairfax Yacht Club. In addition, we are currently speaking with other clubs on the River that have expressed an interest in joining our dynamic Association.

Your Board has a lot in store for you this year. While we've retained some of your favorite events from the past (Change of Watch Dinner-Dance; the always successful and fun Float-In at Ft. Washington Marina; End of Summer Party at Tantallon Yacht Club, just to name a few), we have also added new events about which your Board is most excited. Please refer to the 2000 Schedule of Events found later in this newsletter for information, and mark your boating calendars and plan to join us. All events promise fun, camaraderie, and great memories for us all.



## A Short PRYCA History

PRYCA held its first formal meeting on September 18, 1971, at the Aqua-Land Yacht Club. The charter members of PRYCA in attendance were Aqua-Land, Landmark, National Potomac, Prince George's and Wicomico Yacht Clubs. At present, there are twenty-one member-clubs, including two of the charter clubs, still very much active in PRYCA, namely, Landmark and National Potomac Yacht Clubs. The Association continues to grow, and the current member-clubs are listed at the end of this history.

PRYCA has as its purpose to support recreational boating activities. Specifically, to "encourage and promote yachting and boating safety; encourage the advancement of yachting clubs in the Potomac River Basin; represent member-clubs; and promote social interactions among member-clubs and their individual members." Over the years, PRYCA has strived to fulfill two objectives: to address common issues affecting member-clubs and recreational boaters in general; and to support social and boating safety activities of mutual interest among the yacht clubs along the Potomac River. In furtherance of these goals, PRYCA joined the National Boating Federation (NBF) in 1979 as a charter member, and has established a close working relationship with the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association (CBYCA). We have also established liaison with the local boating and environmental organizations, such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, Potomac River Fisheries, D.C. Harbor Branches of the Metropolitan Police and Fire Departments, and the Metropolitan Council of Governments.

To keep our member-clubs informed, PRYCA published its first

newsletter in April 1990. This newsletter is currently issued four times a year and distributed to all member-clubs.

Member-club involvement in PRYCA is fostered by quarterly delegates' meetings. These meetings are held at various member-clubs.

PRYCA has assisted member-clubs to procure insurance; has lobbied for hydrilla harvesting on the Virginia side of the River; has provided public comment regarding the dredging at both the National Potomac and Alexandria sites. To monitor legislative activities impacting on recreational boaters, PRYCA continues to work closely with CBYCA. In this connection, PRYCA has provided comment to public forums on boating issues such as the Wilson Bridge opening schedule, proposed clean air legislation, and funding for the Washington Metropolitan Police Harbor Patrol. In addition, PRYCA was co-sponsor of the National Boating Federation's fall meetings in both 1993 and 1999.

In July 1996, the first "Float-In" was held at Aquia Harbour Yacht Club. The purpose of the Float-In is to promote interaction of the member-clubs in a relaxed setting. In 1993, PRYCA took over sponsorship of the Float-In which was moved to Fort Washington Marina to accommodate the large numbers of participants. The Float-In is now held under a large tent with over 100 vessels and more than 250 individuals attending the weekend's festivities. The high point of each Float-In has always been the nautical competition, which now includes a cardboard boat building competition followed by a "race" of these "vessels".

The member-clubs of PRYCA (listed alphabetically) are: Aquia Harbor Yacht Club, Capital Yacht Club, Cobb Island Yacht Club, Colonial Yacht Club, Dahlgren Yacht Club, District Yacht Club, Eastern Power Boat Club,

Fairfax Yacht Club, Fort Belvoir Yacht Club, Fort Washington Boating Association, Landmark Yacht Club, Marinette Yacht Club, Mount Vernon Yacht Club, National Potomac Yacht Club, Occoquan Yacht Club, Prince William Yacht Club, Quantico Yacht Club, Seafarers Yacht Club, The Yacht Club at Swan Point, Tantallon Yacht Club, and Washington Yacht Club.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact your Member-At-Large ("MAL") (names and e-mail addresses listed below).

### Walt Cheatham

([walt.cheatham@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:walt.cheatham@pentagon.af.mil)):

- Occoquan Yacht Club
- Ft. Belvoir Yacht Club
- Mt. Vernon Yacht Club
- Quantico Yacht Club
- Fairfax Yacht Club

### Toby Jarman ([jotoby@erols.com](mailto:jotoby@erols.com)):

- Aquia Harbor Yacht Club
- Landmark Yacht Club
- National Potomac Yacht Club
- Prince William Yacht Club

### Joe Hadley ([hadmck@aol.com](mailto:hadmck@aol.com)):

- Ft. Washington Boating Association
- Marinette Yacht Club
- Tantallon Yacht Club
- Washington Yacht Club

### Andrea Storey ([awstorey28@aol.com](mailto:awstorey28@aol.com)):

- District Yacht Club
- Eastern Yacht Club
- Seafarers Yacht Club
- Capital Yacht Club

### Wayne Kuster ([wjkuster@aol.com](mailto:wjkuster@aol.com)):

- Cobb Island Yacht Club
- Colonial Yacht Club
- Dahlgren Yacht Club
- The Yacht Club at Swan Point



Remember, the PRYCA Bridge is open to any and all ideas/suggestions on how we may serve you more effectively. Remember that we are here for you. If you have any questions and/or comments throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Bridge via e-mail or telephone. I look forward to serving as your PRYCA Commodore for the year 2000, and seeing you on the water and at all the wonderful events we have planned for you this year!

May you always navigate smooth waters!

### From the Vice Commodore

Phil W. Bolin

As we start the 2000 boating season we will bring one new club into PRYCA, the Fairfax Yacht Club (FYC). As the head of the Qualifications Committee, one of my jobs is to contact clubs on the Potomac and tell them about PRYCA. Would an association with PRYCA be good for them?

With the addition of FYC, PRYCA will have 21 clubs in its organization. However, there are more than twice that many clubs on the Potomac. Help me this year please by passing on to me information of any club you encounter that may be interested in PRYCA. My phone number is 804-224-5678 and my email is [pwbolin@earthlink.net](mailto:pwbolin@earthlink.net).

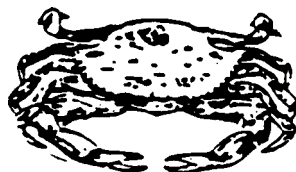
I know that the various activities of the PRYCA will be talked about in other articles, but I would like to highlight two. The first is Cobb Island Days. Last year over 60 boats participated and we all had a great time. It is a down river event that is sponsored by Cobb Island and the Cobb Island Yacht Club. PRYCA is simply a co-sponsor. The second is a new event. Colonial Yacht Club is working hard to start an annual August event called "Dog Days of August."

Although we will have a delegates meeting and a PRYCA Bridge meeting with the event, that is not its purpose. Its purpose is to introduce us all to a new activity that includes dancing, story telling, great food and friendship. Come on down. Registration information for both events will be available at the April Delegates and Commodores night and on the PRYCA web site.

### From the Rear Commodore

Curt Johnson

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual PRYCA Float-In is scheduled for 14-16 July at Fort Washington Marina in Maryland. This year's committee is working hard to make this event the highlight of the summer. Last year over 110 boats and 270 people gathered for games, food and dancing. Friday, 14 July will feature festive, friendly competition and games just for fun, followed by a potluck dinner. On Saturday, 15 July, the PRYCA Cup Competition kicks off at 10 am. Throughout the day, clubs will be competing for the PRYCA Cup award by earning points at bosun skills, navigation, safety, dinghy racing, and the ever popular scavenger hunt. During dinner on Saturday night, the club with the most points will be awarded the PRYCA Cup. Saturday night will feature a catered dinner followed by dancing to music by DJ Peggy Castle until midnight. A big prize raffle will be held Saturday night as well as a drawing for door prizes. A flyer to explain the schedule of events and registration packet including cost for the weekend will be mailed to each club in April 2000.



### Food for Thought

The four Stages of Life

1. First you believe in Santa Claus
2. Then you don't believe in Santa Claus
3. Then you are Santa Claus
4. Then you look like Santa Claus

### From the Fleet Captain

Randy Semper

The message from the Fleet Captain should begin with the most important item first, so here goes. **We have a supply officer!** Our Supply Officer is Bonnie Campbell, the Delegate from the Aquia Harbour Yacht Club. Bonnie will have all kinds of PRYCA stuff for sale at meetings throughout the year. Thanks for volunteering, Bonnie.

We just completed our first cruise of the year. Our club, Aquia Harbour Yacht Club, had three boats cruise to Old Town Alexandria for St Patrick's day, where they met a number of boats from National Potomac Yacht Club. To my knowledge, these were the first organized cruises of PRYCA clubs this year. It's always fun to cruise somewhere and see a PRYCA burgee on another boat. We appreciated Commodore John Corley's invitation to join NPYC in their toast to the new boating season.

What a way to start to the year as Fleet Captain! We left Aquia Harbour on St. Patrick's day bound for Old Town. We pulled away from the dock two hours after low tide, but with winds from the northwest, Aquia Creek was still well below normal low tide. However, with all due care we made it through Aquia Creek and out to the Potomac - propellers still safe. Once on the Potomac we turned into the 20-25 knot wind and promptly saw our fenders work their way out of the fender holders on the bow.



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After an interesting trip to the bow to secure the fenders, I returned to the helm station and worked our way to the power lines at about 5 knots. Once at the power lines, the water seemed to calm down a bit and we made it to Old Town without too many more bumps. After a great weekend, the *C'est Tu* returned to Aquia Creek. The water level was so high above normal high tide that it was difficult to determine just where the channel ran—so much for the first set of propellers this year.

The Washington Waterfront Association (WWA) is sponsoring two events this spring. The first is the second annual Lighted Boat Parade as part of the Cherry Blossom Festival. The parade is April 8 and lights are available from Capital Yacht Club. Contact MAL Andrea Storey if you want to participate. There is a reception planned prior to the 8 PM parade and a gathering of some sort after the parade at CYC. I'm told the boat decorations are really worth seeing.

The WWA is also sponsoring the Blessing of the Fleet on May 21 along the Washington waterfront. There will be a number of complimentary slips. Return your registration slips to me to make your slip reservations. We hope to make it a weekend of fun.

PRYCA is sponsoring a Boating Safety Seminar on Saturday afternoon May 20 from 2 to 3 PM. In addition the USCG Auxiliary will be there from 11 to 4 to provide Vessel Safety Checks (the old CME's).

After the serious safety related activities, we hope the PRYCA clubs that are participating will host Birds of a Feather sessions late Saturday afternoon. What are Birds of a Feather sessions? They are opportunities for people with similar interests to gather and discuss how they approach common problems. We thought it might be fun for the clubs to discuss their yacht club plans for the year. If

your club is interested, fly some type of club banner near one boat to let others know where you are. Some clubs might even offer light snacks or other refreshment.

Saturday night the National Potomac Yacht Club will host the Pre Blessing dinner. I don't have many details yet, but I can tell you it will be held at the Gangplank Marina patio and a local caterer will cater the food. There will be more details at the April meeting. Following the dinner, we have it on good authority that a number of renown musically inclined members from PRYCA Clubs will provide music for your listening and dancing pleasure. Hope to see you there.



## From the Treasurer

Steve Wexler

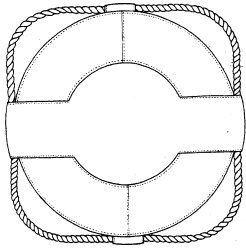
Enclosed with this article is a Statement of Financial Condition which shows this year's income and expenses to-date. Of note is the fact that five (5) clubs have still not paid their dues for this year. Please check your club's checkbook and if there's no check to PRYCA I'm going to guess you haven't paid your dues—now would be a good time!

For those of you who were in attendance at this year's Change of Watch or for those who have visited the website to view the photographs from the evening, you will understand when Puff Papa Steve tells you a little about this year's PRYCA schedule. From the Washington Waterfront Blessing, down river to Cobb Island Days and Dog Daze at Colonial and back across to Tantallon's End of Summer, it's going to a great journey up and down the

## Statement of Financial Condition

1/1/00-3/31/00

Opening Balance (1/1/00)		\$7,861.99
Deposits:		
Interest	\$22.88	
Change of Watch	\$8,780.00	
Dues/Initiation	\$985.00	
Miscellaneous (incl. Inventory Sales)	\$62.00	
Total Deposits:		\$9,849.88
Expenses:		
Newsletter/Website	\$145.00	
NBF Dues	\$200.00	
Change of Watch	\$11,021.14	
Miscellaneous	\$65.53	
Total Expenses:		<u>\$11,431.67</u>
Closing Balance		\$6,280.20



Potomac. And naturally we can't ever forget to mention the Big One—our own Float-In in July at Fort Washington Marina.

A special welcome to the newest member of the PRYCA gang—Fairfax Yacht Club on the Occoquan River. Remember to say a special hello to Commodore Jesse Bowman when you see him.

See you on the River!

### From a MAL

Walt Cheatham

Yacht clubs, marinas, and businesses interested in the tidal Occoquan River as it flows to the Potomac have created the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) to further maritime endeavors and enjoyment in the area. While this grass roots effort may seem too local to warrant PYRCA-wide publicity, I feel it deserves attention as a useful enterprise other regions might want to, pursue. Further, the PYRCA board has voted to endorse ORMA and its goals.

ORMA's purpose is to coordinate, integrate and harmonize efforts related to commercial, recreational, safety, and environmental maritime issues in the lower Occoquan River region.

ORMA's goals are to:

- Preserve and enhance the use of the Occoquan River for both commercial and recreational purposes.
- Enhance the safety of all users of the Occoquan through educational and informational programs.
- Preserve the beauty and environmental vitality of the Occoquan through voluntary activities.
- Coordinate events to enhance the responsible recreational use of the Occoquan in cooperation with the resident Yacht Clubs of the Occoquan, other recreational boating organizations and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Some of the initial ORMA objectives include:

- Resolution of shoaling in the outer channel of the Occoquan.
- Coordinate no-wake zone alterations in light of new river facilities and traffic.
- Coordinate an annual Blessing of the Fleet event.
- Coordinate annual clean up activities.
- Coordinate programs oriented toward safety—especially safe boating—in conjunction with the USCGA, Potomac River Rescue Association, and law enforcement agencies.
- Support to the town of Occoquan in establishing a river access "Port of Occoquan".

ORMA member organizations and business include any and all with interests in the chartered purposes. The association represents the wider Occoquan River community—the region, not only on the river itself. This includes homeowners with boats at private docks and recreational boaters at marinas on Occoquan Bay, Neabsco Creek, Dogue Creek, and those who use public launching facilities at Occoquan Regional Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Leesylvania State Park, and others.

Check out the ORMA web site [www.geocities.com/jamesball.geo/ORMA.html](http://www.geocities.com/jamesball.geo/ORMA.html) which also contains links to related initiatives and information. There you will also note that the driving force behind this effort has been, Jim Ball who has given countless free hours. He is looking for volunteers to aid him in furthering our maritime interests along this important Potomac tributary. He will also relate experiences encountered in pursuing these activities, and welcome any hints from those who have attempted similar pursuits.

### From the Editor

Ned W. Rhodes

I looked over the text of my last article for the November issue and it is amazing what has changed since then. Instead of getting ready to winterize the boat, we are now getting ready to de-winterize it. In fact we put it back in on Sunday and those engines sound really good.

And the PRYCA web site is now up and running on my hardware and the URL is:

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

Stop by and take a look. Because it is running on my hardware, I have almost unlimited disk space and have tried to get as many pictures up there as I can. If you have pictures of PRYCA events on your web site, email me their locations and I will link them into our site.

The PRYCA calendar is also available on the web site and there are links from the calendar information about the events such as sign up sheets and event schedules. This is a good place to go to get all the information.

As I find the time, I will be posting an archive containing all the PRYCA newsletters that I have and I have them back to 1990 (ten years, get out!), when I took the job of editor. It is interesting to read the old issues and see how much has changed and how many things have remained the same. The newsletters are posted in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) for downloading and a free reader can be downloaded from [adobe.com](http://adobe.com).

Please tell your membership where the web site is and you can email me at [rhodesn@softsysgrp.com](mailto:rhodesn@softsysgrp.com) with questions and suggestions.

## PRYCA Documents Available On Line

Steve Donock, Past Commodore

In an effort to keep PRYCA Clubs informed, both the Constitution and By Laws and the PRYCA Handbook are now available on our web site: [www.potomacriveryachtclubs.org](http://www.potomacriveryachtclubs.org). These can be of great use for reference or when you have a question on the organization. The documents will be kept current as they are updated. Please feel free to send any comments or suggestions to me at [sdonock@erols.com](mailto:sdonock@erols.com) Happy reading!

(Editor's note: They are not quite up there yet, but should be by April 15<sup>th</sup> so that you can read them after you file your taxes.)

## Second Annual Cherry Blossom

Parade of Lights, April 8  
Jay Wilmeth, OYC PRYCA Delegate

Hosted by the Washington Waterfront Association (WWA) with assistance from the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association, the 2nd Annual Cherry Blossom Parade of Lights will take place on April 8th, on the Washington Waterfront during the 2000 Cherry Blossom Festival.

Viewing the cherry trees in blossom is often reward enough, we would also like to invite you to a Sunset party at the Capital Yacht Club at 5:30, prior to setting off the parade. The Parade of Lights will begin at the Municipal Pier at 8:00pm. The boats will parade in the channel, along the Water street waterfront. Following the parade, a reception will be held at Capital Yacht Club for all participants.

Both Gangplank Marina and Capital Yacht Club are offering complimentary slips for participants who do not berth their vessels on the

waterfront. (Please note that slips at Gangplank Marina have one 50 amp outlet at each slip and Capital Yacht Club has one 50amp and one 30 amp outlet at each slip. If you require two 30amp outlets, bring your own adapters).

Unlike the Annual Holiday Parade of Lights, WWA is not offering prizes for the best-decorated boat. Instead, we will donate white lights to all participating vessels. In order to have these lights available to those who want them in time, we urge you to sign up early.

To register, email (preferred) or call PRYCA Member-at-Large Andrea Storey at [awstorey28@aol.com](mailto:awstorey28@aol.com). Phone 301-572-7457. Please include vessel name, captains name, home club or marina, & contact information: email address & phone number

## Occoquan River Blessing of the Fleet

April OYC Daymarker

OYC will join other recreational boaters from the Occoquan River to take part in the area's second annual Blessing of the Fleet in the middle of Occoquan Bay, 11:00am to 2:00pm., Sunday, May 7, the day after OYC's annual Flag Raising at Occoquan Harbour Marina. Before and after the Blessing, boaters are urged to parade to and from the Town of Occoquan waterfront, to remind natives and tourists of our enduring bond with the town—and wouldn't it be nice if there were places we could tie up to visit, dine and shop?

The newly formed Occoquan River Maritime Association will sponsor and host the event, coordinating the efforts of the Prince William, Fairfax and Occoquan Yacht Clubs, with support from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Fairfax and Prince William County

public safety agencies. Captain Russell O. Gunter, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, will invoke a blessing on each boat as it passes near the chaplain's flagship vessel, this year provided by Prince William Yacht Club.

Similar events were held several years ago but were discontinued until last year, when Occoquan Yacht Club renewed the observance and all three of the river's yacht clubs participated. Since then the Occoquan River Maritime Association agreed to organize future ceremonies.

As OYC'ers know, the Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) was established last year. High on the list of the association's priorities are the dredging of the Occoquan channel and working with the Town of Occoquan to reestablish its port for recreational boating.

## Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Courses

To find a course date, time and place to suit your convenience, visit the OYC web site,

[www.OccoquanYachtClub.org](http://www.OccoquanYachtClub.org), and in the navigation frame on the left side of your screen, click on Coast Guard Boating Courses.





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**Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association**  
**Delegates Meeting**  
February 7, 2000  
Held at Capital Yacht Club

Bridge Officers Present

V.C. P. Bolin  
R.C. C. Johnson  
F.C. R. Semper  
Sec. C. Reed  
MAL J. Hadley  
MAL T. Jarman  
MAL A. Storey

Bridge Officers Absent

Comm. M. Lovell  
IPC M. Viehoever  
MAL W. Kuster  
MAL W. Cheatham

V.C. called the meeting to order at 1935. P.C. Jim Forest of Capital Y.C. was thanked for the use of the facilities at CYC. An introduction of Bridge Members, Delegates, and P.C.s present at the meeting followed.

V.C. requested that if any Delegates had comments concerning the Change of Watch Ceremony that they should send them to their respective MALs as soon as possible.

Motion to accept the minutes of the November 1999 Delegates meeting was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

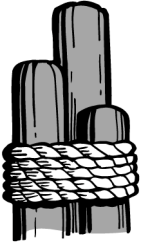
V.C.:  
No update on the Cobb Island Days; however, information will be forthcoming. Mr. Frank Markham of Colonial Y.C. provided Delegates a handout with information on the "Dog Days Of August" for August 11 and 12, 2000.

R.C.:  
Provided the Delegates a handout with information for the PRYCA Float In for July 14,15,and 16, 2000. This information will be put on the Web site.

F.C.:  
Reported that the WWA Blessing of the Fleet will be May 20 and 21, 2000. Jim Forest provided the Delegates a handout with information concerning this event. The theme will be "300 Years of the D.C. Waterfront".

Secretary:  
Provided Delegates with copies of the current Schedule of Events and the Officer Roster for the year 2000.

Treasurer:  
V.C. reported for the Treasurer concerning overages for the Change of Watch. Current Budget is available for review from the Treasurer.



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### MAL Reports

J. Ball reported for W. Cheatham. ORMA information and activities can be provided to the Delegates if requested. [JBALL@erols.com](mailto:JBALL@erols.com) is Mr. Ball's e-mail address for ORMA information.

T. Jarman reported that as Chair of the Audit Committee he is working with the Treasurer to identify a mutually convenient time for the Committee to conduct the Audit. The Audit should be finished within a month. He also commented that no one called as promised with contacts for the Harbor Police and Fire Depts. IPC M. Viehoever agreed to provide the contacts.

J. Hadley reported that he has made contact with USPS and should have a report by the next meeting. Completion of the review of the Constitution and By-laws and Handbook and comments has been circulated for consideration by S. Donock. S. Donock circulated draft copies via e-mail requesting any additional comments. Comments should be sent to S. Donock in time for consideration at the April Delegates/Commodore's Meeting.

A. Storey reported that an Olympic Meter Course would be laid out on the Anacostia River as a future racecourse.

### Roll Call of PRYCA Delegates

The following 17 Clubs were in attendance as recorded on the Sign In Sheet and Delegates spoke to their respective Club's activities this year.

Aquia Harbor Y.C.	Bonnie Campbell
Capital Y.C.	Ineke Lavoie
Cobb Island Y.C.	Chuck Johnson
Colonial Y.C.	Commodore Frank Markham
Dalgren Y.C.	Commodore Ron Cox
District Y.C.	Harriett Douglas
Fort Washington Y.C.	Maria Powell
Landmark Y.C.	John Kenyon
Mt. Vernon Y.C.	Bonnie Breneman
Occoquan Y.C.	Jay Wilmeth
Nat. Potomac Y.C.	Marv Storey
Prince William Y.C.	Joe Chambers
Quantico Y.C.	Martin Betts
Seafarers Y.C.	Lou Paris
Swan Point Y.C.	Fran Jarrett
Tantallon Y.C.	Bud Clark
Washington Y.C.	Ivan Bogachoff

Mr. Andre Geingles, Esq. was introduced and he provided the Delegates a detailed presentation of the planned "Opryland on the Potomac" development. This would be constructed in Prince Georges Co. Md. on Smoots Cove.

The meeting adjourned at 2105.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher R. Reed  
Secretary

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**Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association  
Bridge Meeting**

4 March 2000

Held at Swan Point Yacht Club

Bridge Members Present

Comm.	M. Lovell	MAL	W. Cheatham
V.C.	P. Bolin	MAL	J. Hadley
R.C.	C. Johnson	MAL	W. Kuster
F.C.	R. Semper	MAL	A. Storey
Sec.	C. Reed	MAL	T. Jarman
Treas.	S. Wexler	IPC	M. Vierhoever

The Commodore called the meeting to order at 1105.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Commodore Reports:

Presented the final cost figures for the Change of Watch. The Treasurer moved " Firm payment deadlines will be established by the Bridge for each event. In the event a Club's or Club Members' funds have not been received by the payment deadline, then, WITH NO EXCEPTIONS, the Club and/or the Club members will not be permitted to participate. The PRYCA Board event coordinator will be responsible for proposing and obtaining Board approval of the payment deadline date."

The motion was seconded. Considerable discussion followed concerning past experience with this issue. After a Call for the Question the motion passed unanimously.

The Commodore presented P/C John Hancock's "thanks" for the honors presented to him at the Change of Watch. Commodore presented the Committee and Liaison assignments for the Year 2000 and the CBYCA "Chesapeake 2000 Agreement." The Commodore requested comments on the agreement be sent to her by 31 March.

MAL Kuster advised of the Clean Marina Program underway in Maryland and of Grant Monies available through DNR.

V.C. Report:

V.C. advised that Occoquan Y.C. will sponsor Fairfax Y.C. for membership in PRYCA. The Qualifications Committee has received the application and recommends the application be presented to the Delegates at the April Meeting. The Bridge concurred and the Secretary was directed to notify the Delegates of such.

V.C. reported on the status of the Dog Days of August event and requested Bridge guidance on contract issues. Considerable discussion followed concerning sponsorship, funding, and criteria for PRYCA sponsored events. Past history along these lines was presented by the Treasurer with additional comments and discussion following. A motion was made as follows:

PRYCA will ensure the coverage of the expenses for the band and bus for this event should the event not break even based upon the estimated contract values for the band and bus expenses presented with maximum exposure to PRYCA of \$900.00. In addition the PRYCA will provide \$ 200.00 seed money for this event.

The motion was seconded and discussed. The motion was modified to allow for signing of contracts and the stipulation that this would be a test case for evaluation of future events. After a call for the question the motion passed with 1 opposed.



R.C. Report:

The first organizational meeting for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Float In was held. Events will start on Friday. Events will include Boatswains Skills, Dingy Race, and Safety and Navigation Questions. Scavenger Hunt and Cardboard Boat race will be included. The budget is under development. The next coordination meeting is scheduled for 1 April at 1300 at AHYC.

F.C. Report:

Ms. Bonnie Campbell has volunteered to be Quartermaster. F.C. provided documents for the Q.M. report. F.C. motioned to spend up to \$ 300.00 for 24 PRYCA hats with a burgee depicted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. A motion was made to lower the price of Lapel Pins to \$ 2.00 per pin. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. F.C. reported on the WWA Blessing of the Fleet committee meeting. Considerable explanation of WWA's perception of THEIR event and it's interaction with PRYCA followed with additional comments and discussion of issues by Bridge Members. The consensus of the Bridge is to provide WWA a mailing list of only Member Clubs. V.C. will discuss other items with Jim Forest. Additional activities provided by PRYCA and NPYC may include pre-blessing dinner and safety seminars.

MAL Reports

W. Cheatham: No Report

J. Hadley: U.S.P.S. was contacted and further information will be coming. By-Laws and Handbooks were e-mailed and comments should be provided to Steve Donock or Joe Hadley.

T.Jarman: The audit will be completed within the next two weeks. Still waiting for contacts at D.C. Harbor Police and Fire.

W. Kuster: Cobb Island Days are a go. He has discussed the event with CIYC's V.C. The event will be at Cobb Island Marina. A package will be available in April for the Delegates meeting. Has met with the Executive Secretary for the Potomac River Fisheries and they have expressed interest in exploring areas of mutual benefit. An information package was provided to the Board.

A.Storey: Washington Waterfront Cleanup is scheduled for 25 March from 0900 to1200. The staging area will be at Capital Y.C. Flyers for the Cherry Blossom festival and Parade of Lights will be sent soon.

Secretary Report: No report on COG's. Club Rosters will go to print in mid March but several clubs have not sent in updates. The calendar for 2000 has been updated and posted on the WEB.

IPC Report:

IPC provided the names for the nominating committee as follows:

Chair. IPC Vierhoever, NPYC John Corley, TYC Tom Andrews, LYC Andy Myruski

Old Business:

Newsletter deadlines for June 20 and October 20 for the July and November Newsletters were established.

New Business:

Motion to pay the fee for NBF was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously (Treasurer and V.C. were absent)

Meeting adjourned at 1330.

NOTE During the course of the meeting the Treasurer provided Statement of Financial Condition, updates of the General Ledger and Status of Club Dues.

## Gas is pretty cheap these days

Stolen from the Silverton  
Owners Club newsletter

People have been complaining about the rising price of gas. But gas is really a good dollar value, especially if you take the per gallon taxes off at the pump. What if you were to buy a gallon of:

Diet Snapple, 16oz for \$1.29 or \$10.32 per gallon

STP Brake Fluid, 12oz for \$3.15 or \$33.60 per gallon

Pepto Bismol, 4 oz for \$3.85 or \$123.20 per gallon

Scope, 1.5 oz for 99 cents or \$84.84 per gallon

Vicks Nyquil, 6 oz for \$8.35 or \$178.13 per gallon

Evian (water), 9 oz for \$1.49 or \$21.19 per gallon

Whiteout, 7oz for \$1.39 or \$254.17 per gallon

So next time you are filling up your boat, just be glad your boat doesn't run on Whiteout.

## Fairfax Yacht Club

10721 Old Colchester Road

Mason Neck, VA 22079

(703) 339-8736

FairfaxYachtClub@erols.com

Fairfax Yacht Club, established in 1984, is a condominium marina located on the Occoquan River in southern Fairfax County, Virginia. Consisting of docks, clubhouse, grounds, and 170 individually owned slips, FYC is operated as a not-for-profit corporation by a board of directors, elected by the Owners Association, in accordance with its by-laws.

The clubhouse is essentially a large meeting/social room, with kitchen, large screen TV, and fireplace. It also contains head and shower facilities on the lower deck to accommodate boaters. There are picnic facilities, a children's playground, and a large area for activities such as volleyball, Frisbee, erecting tents for large outdoor affairs, and exercising the family 4-legged boater.

The marina portion of the club consists of five docks, one of them covered, with slips ranging from 30 to 40 feet. There are no slips available for transients because they are all privately owned, but space is available for visitors to tie up at the end of the docks. There is also a new state-of-the-art pump-out system for use by the boats at the marina, and in-water dingy storage space.

The facilities are generally not available to anyone other than owners, for private and club sponsored events; however, FYC allows free use of the clubhouse for public Boating Safety courses given by the Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary. Occoquan Yacht Club has also made use of the clubhouse for certain functions because some OYC members are also slip-owners at FYC. Requests for use of the facilities by other boating oriented groups will be considered, but are subject to approval by the board.

FYC is a member of, and supports the objectives of, the Occoquan River Maritime Association.





## Docking for First Mates, Don't Yell At Me!

Jim Ball, April OYC Daymarker

This article is for First Mates only: those boaters who have been subjected to enough verbal abuse on the foredeck to own the tee shirt or make the pronouncement "I don't DO lines." For the captains who are the abusers, go watch a football game or something. The rest of us need to talk.

There are a few pointers that we all need to know, despite what the "captain" says. The first one is to pre-rig the dock lines before you get anywhere near the slip. (Remember not to call them "ropes;" there are no ropes on a boat.) Maybe you want to take the helm while the captain does it, but it needs to be done so that when you start docking, all is ready. About lines—there is the "loop end" and the other end with no loop, called the "bitter" end.

The following assumes you are going to be backing into a conventional slip with pilings. The stern lines should be hooked up with the loop end on the stern cleats and carefully secured so that they don't get into the props, but can be reached by someone on the dock when you back in. These are the last and least important lines to worry about. The bow lines are next; rig them with the bitter end on the bow cleats and run the loop end under the front rails and up over in preparation for docking. Finally, and most importantly, rig a spring line; this is the most important line to work with as it is the one which keeps the boat from crashing into the dock when the captain screws up. Fasten the bitter end of the spring line temporarily to the breast cleat (that's the cleat forward and on the side) and run the line under the rail.

Next important point—let the piling come to you. (Huh?) In most

dockings that I see, the mate waits on the foredeck until the boat has gone all the way into the slip and is challenged by having to reach far over the bow rail and struggle to get lines on pilings, dropping lines, boathooks and sometimes themselves into the water. Try this: walk back with the spring line in hand to amidships where the boat is widest as the boat begins to back into the slip. Take the loop end of the bow line with you, too. As the boat backs into the slip, reach through the loop end to make a bigger loop and easily reach over and drop the loop for that spring line and that side's bow line over the piling as the boat goes by it.

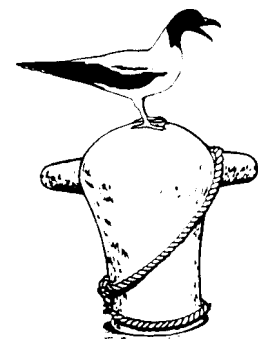
Next, tend to the spring line where you are standing by loosening it, but leaving one wrap on the cleat so that you can control the boat when it gets near the back of the slip. When it does, be careful not to catch your fingers, and cleat it off to stop the boat and then go forward to tend the bow lines. Leave the bow line that you just put on the piling slack for now, but you can use it to pull your bow over to that piling so that you can push off the bow to the other side and then easily reach that piling with the other bow line and secure it. Finally, take in the slack on the first bow line and you are done forward. Meanwhile, hopefully, the captain or other kind souls on the dock have already taken care of your stern lines. So there, you are done and the Captain can take care of all that power, water, etc. and adjust the lines if he/she wishes while you get the drinks.

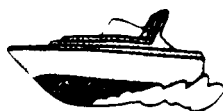
If you are coming into an alongside dock slip (T-pier), pre-rig all the lines on that side. Here, the most important line again is the spring line. Remember, if you get a spring line on the dock, the captain can control the boat much easier. If there is a piling, use the drop over technique. This will work even if the alongside dock space is crowded, because you can go bow-in to the dock,

do the spring line, then back off of it into the short slip space. Worst dilemma is when the dock has no piling, but only a cleat way, way down low that you can't reach and nobody is around to help. So use the "Flying Spring" technique. Put the loop end on the breast cleat, under the rail and let the line down in a long "U" shape so that you can "lasso" the cleat on the dock in the bottom of the "U." Snag the line around the cleat and tie off the bitter end on the boat. (If any of you captains are still reading this, you can use this yourself when single handling). This technique will also work for floating docks that you come into with no pilings. It serves temporarily until you can get down and redo the lines properly.

Incidentally, the "Flying Spring" technique can be used to get away from the dock when the wind is blowing you on to it. The captain backs off of it to get the stern into the wind, then the free end is released and comes off of the piling or cleat as the boat backs away clear from the dock.

So there, no more need to yell, stretch over the bow to get the piling, drop lines and boat hooks in the water, or go for an unplanned swim. Remember the basics: pre-rig the lines, let the piling come to you, use a flying spring when needed, and remember the spring line is the most important one on the boat.





## Tar and Feathers

The story is reportedly true and written by Paul Browne, Boatless but Building in Tampa, <http://members.aol.com/PBrowne900/boat.html>.

I know many of you are involved in your club's newsletters. Quoted below is a story that made me laugh out loud. If any of you feel the same and want to use the story in club newsletters it is OK. I asked the author and he said, "Sure go ahead but include my name and web address as the author. I may travel up that way sometime."

It's been a tough weekend Shipmates. This boat building is rough business. Let me explain.

I know epoxy resin and glass cloth are modern miracle materials Shipmates. The finished result is truly wonderful, makes wood perfectly waterproof, makes it last forever. But the devil makes the damned work with resin and glass cloth just to torture them. You guessed it, I've been "glassing the decks", the modern equivalent of tarring and feathering. First you grind the fiberglass hull down a bit above the plywood decks. That makes billions of microscopic glass spears, most of which slip around your mask to be sucked into your delicate lungs, or they sneak under sleeves, collars and pant legs to stick into your skin. Lord knows whether any of them ever come out again. Then you mix up resin, hardener, and filler and put a rounded file into the joint. Then you cut the cloth into fiddley strips, all stringy and fuzzy along the edges. Lots of the strings come loose and blow around the deck, looking for something sticky to mate with. Then you slather on the epoxy stuff and coax the strips into place to reinforce the joint. You know the drill. Easy work.

It was looking pretty good, and I was feeling pretty proud of myself, but there was just one little string loose. I thought I'd just pull it off and fix it up. And that started it all. That one little string desperately held onto its neighbors, and they puckered up the strip. When I reached over to fix that, I planted my other hand into another part; then a foot got stuck in the stuff, then my derriere. Hmm, this was getting awkward. Then my other foot caught the work bench and knocked the bucket of epoxy and extra glass strips over the edge onto me and the deck. I panicked! Drop and roll!!! Isn't that what they say to do?? Wait - no, that's for fires! But it was too late Shipmates. When I regained my senses, I was lying in the scuppers, festooned in glass strips and epoxy, and lightly seasoned with sawdust and wood scraps.

I was so disgusted with myself, I took a few minutes to look over the mess, trying to figure out the best way to extract myself without making it worse. I remembered the advice I got on the Trawler World List about recovering an anchor, "Always think before you act with boats." But in this case that was my biggest mistake. The epoxy I was using was a new "lightning set" compound. It was hot there in the sun, and it kicked off while I was considering the situation. So when I finally figured out the best course of action, I found I could barely move! Struggle as I might, the epoxy stuff only hardened more and more, until at last I was firmly bound into the scuppers for good.

Exhausted, I took stock of the situation. I yelled for help, but nobody heard me. My respirator was still on my face. I could be there for days. But hold on, my buddy Vernon was working on his boat too. Given that the sun was hot, and I had beer, he'd surely be over soon. There was nothing to do

but wait. When he got close to the beer, maybe I could signal him somehow. It seemed forever, but finally I heard his jaw-clenching, teeth-grinding, tone-deaf whistling coming over the bulwarks. Normally I throw something at him to stop his whistling, but this time I had to lay there and take it. "Come on Vernon. That's it. You're getting thirstily, very thirsty....", I muttered. Then I heard his voice, "Hey Browne, y'all got any bee-er?" I knew he would come. Just like flies to the honey. "Vernon, old buddy, get me out of here!", I hollered into my respirator. But Vernon is a bit deaf, and he didn't hear me. "The bee-er in this here cooler, Paul?" "Vernon, you knucklehead, turn on your flaming hearing aid!" I bellowed at the top of my lungs, trying to bang on the hull. I heard the cooler lid creak. "Day-am, alls there is is this here funny German bee-er. Now where the hay-el's the church key?" "Vernon! It's over here!!!" I screamed. "What? Over where?" "Over here, in the boat, you idiot!" My vocal cords wouldn't hold out much longer, and I banged my head desperately against the deck. Thump, Ow. Thump, Ow. And finally, finally there he was, peering over the bulwarks, beer in hand, my pal Vernon.

Well, when he got done laughing at me, and after he had showed everybody else in the Marina what I had done to myself, and after he figured I was calmed down enough not to slug him, Vernon got his jig saw and climbed into the boat. An hour or so later I was mobile again and feeling well enough to sit up and take nourishment. There's a moral to the story dear readers, and it goes like this: "Think before you act with boats Shipmates, but don't think too long."



## PRYCA Schedule of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Coordinator	Phone
<b>April</b>					
4/3-Mon	6:00 PM	PRYCA Board Meeting	Tantallon YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
	6:30 PM	Dinner	Tantallon YC		
	7:00 PM	PRYCA Del/Comm Meeting	Tantallon YC		
4/8-Sat	TBD	<a href="#">WWA Cherry Blossom Festival Parade of Lights</a>		Mark Viehoever	301-292-4010
<b>May</b>					
5/1-Mon	6:30 PM	PRYCA Board Meeting	District YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
5/20-Sat	AM & PM	Pre-Blessing Fleet Activities	Washington Channel & waterfront	Randy Semper	540-659-1229
5/21-Sun	1:00 PM	Blessing of the Fleet	Washington Channel	Randy Semper	540-659-1229
<b>June</b>					
6/5-Mon	7:00PM	PRYCA Board meeting	Pr. William YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
6/10-11 wknd		Cobb Island Days	Cobb Island YC	Comm. Don Thayer	301-259-2166
6/20-Tue		Newsletter deadline		Ned Rhodes	703-741-0861
<b>July</b>					
7/1 - 14		Nominating Cmte seeks candidates for 2001 Bridge			
7/10-Mon	6:30PM	PRYCA Board meeting	Ft Washington BA	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
7/14-16 wknd		PRYCA Float-In	Ft Washington Marina	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
<b>August</b>					
8/12-Sat	10:30 AM	PRYCA Board	Colonial Beach YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
	11:30 AM	Delegates Mtgs	Colonial Beach YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
	AM & PM	<a href="#">Dogs Days of Aug Survival Party</a>	Colonial Beach YC	Phil Bolin	301-863-0100
<b>September</b>					
9/22 -24 wknd		PRYCA End of Summer Party	Tantallon YC	Tom Andrews and Steve Wexler	703-417-8065
<b>October</b>					
10/7-Sat	10:00 AM	PRYCA Board meeting	Dahlgren YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
10/20-Fri		Newsletter deadline		Ned Rhodes	703-741-0861
<b>November</b>					
11/6-Mon	6:00PM	PRYCA Board meeting	Capital YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
	7:30PM	Delegates meeting and Elections	Capital YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811
<b>December</b>					
12/2-Sat	6:00PM	WWA Parade of Boats & Lights	Washington Channel	Monica Lovell	703-799-1322
12/4-Mon	6:30PM	PRYCA Board meeting	Seafarers YC	Curt Johnson	540-659-4811

# The WWA's 2000 Blessing of the Fleet *and* PRYCA's Pre-Blessing Activities

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## Saturday May 20

Daytime

Club Open Boats  
Safety Displays

Evening

A Party

## Sunday May 21

Blessing of the  
Fleet at 1300

Plan to attend the 2000 WWA Blessing of the Fleet and PRYCA Pre-Blessing Activities.

Slips at Gangplank and near by marinas.

Birds of a Feather sessions hosted by the clubs Saturday afternoon.

USCG Aux. CME's available Saturday.

PRYCA will handle registration for the Blessing of the Fleet

Registration, and if needed slip reservation, packages will be distributed at the April Delegates meeting.


WWA hopes to arrange for free slips for those participants that do not berth their vessels on the waterfront. We have no confirmation yet, but we assume they will be successful. Slip Reservation details will be available at the April Delegates meeting. If WWA asks us to handle slip reservations and there is a limited number of free slips, they will be assigned in the order the registration forms are received from the clubs.

We are planning a party Saturday evening prior to the Blessing.

More details will be available at the April Delegates meeting.

If you have any questions contact Fleet Capt. Randy Semper at (540) 659-1229 or [rsemper@erols.com](mailto:rsemper@erols.com)

<u>Upcoming Events</u>	
May 5	PRYCA Board Meeting - District Yacht Club
May 21	WVA Blessing of the Fleet
Jun 5	PRYCA Board Meeting - Prince William Yacht Club



**Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association**

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2749 North Wakefield Street  
Arlington, VA 22207

Address Correction Requested