

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association



www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org

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Officers 2002

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(Cobb Island)

From the Commodore

Curt Johnson

We had a great Change of Watch/dinner dance on January 26th for the 226 in attendance at the Crystal City Sheraton. Puff Poppa Steve Wexler kept us all entertained while we socialized and enjoyed our cocktails and dinner. The evening was a success because the MAL's, Delegates and member clubs made the effort to encourage attendance. Thanks to all who attended and for the great turnout. It may not be common knowledge, but most of the funding for the COW comes from funds generated from the Float-In during the previous summer. The COW then becomes a sort of pay-back to the members for supporting PRYCA with their attendance at the Float-In.

In this Newsletter you will read about the upcoming events for 2002, but I would like to hit some of the highlights. The first event will be the Spring Parade of Lighted Boats on Saturday, April 6th, on the Washington Channel. The parade will be led by the

Presidential Yacht *Sequoia* and somewhere in the regatta will be the Capital Yacht Club Dragon. This is the fourth year for this event and it promises to be a good one. Other events you might want to mark on your calendars are the Blessing of the Fleet in May, Cobb Island Days in June, the Float-In July 12-14, Dog Days of August and the End of Summer party in September.

Registration packages for the Float-in will be distributed on April 1st at the Delegates/Commodores night at Tantallon Yacht Club. Detailed information will be presented at that meeting and updated, as the event gets closer. For questions about the Float-In, contact your club Delegate, RC Marv Storey or FC Lou Seelig. If planning to attend the Float-In, it is imperative that registrations get in early, since transient slips at Fort Washington Marina are limited.

I certainly don't want to put a damper on the upcoming boating season, especially after waiting all winter to de-winterize. However, the



Newest Float-In Event—Table Top Boat Races



good times on the water are not exactly what they used to be since 9/11. The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy have come out with some specific guidelines when you are boating in the vicinity of their vessels. First of all, you should not approach these ships within 100 yards and you should operate at minimum speed when within 500 yards. If you find yourself within 100 yards you will be contacted on channel 16 and ordered to stop. If ordered to stop, by all means do so, because if you don't stop you may get a round across your bow. If you continue to move and refuse to stop, the next round may be through your bow. If you are lucky enough to survive this ordeal, you will now be subject to being charged with a felony punishable by up to 6 years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000.00. If you are in a situation where you need to approach within 100 yards to ensure safe passage, contact that Navy or Coast Guard vessel on Channel 16 for permission. Recreational boaters should also keep their distance from commercial shipping and avoid port operations that involve military, cruise line or petroleum facilities. It's also not advisable to anchor under bridges or in channels. Some areas to avoid in our boating area are the Nice power plant south of the 301 bridge, the Possum Point power plant north of Quantico and Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant near the cliffs on the west side of Chesapeake Bay and north of Cove Point. I'm sure there may be many others. I mention this because I would hate to have one of our members run into a problem just because he/she didn't know what to do in this situation. Please pass the word along at your club meetings. I'm hopeful that these security measures won't hamper our boating activities. I think that if we all use some common sense and stay aware of the current security situation, we should be fine. In the long run,

these security measures will benefit us all.

I would like to say a few words about the passing of Martha Fine who was a friend to many of us and to PRYCA. If you have been affiliated with PRYCA for any length of time then you probably remember Martha, and those who never met her missed meeting an interesting lady. Martha's friendship and loyalty to the yachting community was well known. She was an avid boater and loved the joy of boating with her husband Bill on the waters of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. She and Bill were founding members of Aquia Harbour Yacht Club when it formed in 1975 and Bill served as Commodore of PRYCA and CBYCA. She will be remembered as one who inspired and promoted camaraderie and fellowship in our boating community and she will be missed.

I love this time of year. Spring is in the air and we can finally blow anti-freeze and get our boats ready for summer cruising. There's nothing better than spending time on your boat after winter has passed and just hanging out with folks who feel the same as you do about boating. It's fun discussing the trips we're planning and talking about the latest new gadget we got for Christmas. Now it's time to see if that gadget really works.

Everyone have a great spring and stay safe.



PRYCA's Safe BOATR Program

Vice Commodore Randy Semper

The March 2002 issue of the Boat/US Magazine arrived at our house earlier this month. I read the article about the Boat/US Foundation Grassroots Grants with great pride. The article explains that 28 grants were awarded (from 170 applications) for a total of \$45,000. Among the 2002 grant recipients listed in the article was the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association for our Safe BOATR program. A lot of satisfaction came from realizing that only 3 of the grants went to yacht clubs and 2 went to boating associations such as PRYCA. The remaining awards went to USPS, CGAUX, police and fire units, a historical association, and a group of Kayakers. A lot of thanks go to John Malatak of the Aquia Harbour Yacht Club and other PRYCA members who devoted countless hours to developing this program for the association.

The last scheduled BOATR Performance Examiners (PEs) certification session was held in March. The December and March sessions now give us an initial group of 31 certified PEs. That's enough to get the program off to a good start this year. The initial PEs can certify others in their clubs to work as PEs after the boater completes all of the BOATR performance standard requirements.

We now have PEs in 16 of our member clubs. It is particularly gratifying to see PEs from some of the clubs that have been less active in PRYCA activities during the last few years. I hope it's a start of increased PRYCA involvement on their part.

Congratulations to the 21 people that completed the March PE certification sessions. The names of all PEs from each club are listed in the table at the end of the newsletter. Thanks to all of you for your interest and effort.



The PRYCA Board of Directors authorized the PEs to fly a PRYCA flag with the letters PE embroidered on the flag. This is in recognition of their efforts and as a service to other club members that want to locate a PE. The PEs are still responsible for the cost of the PRYCA burgee, but PRYCA is going to cover the cost of embroidery work.

Is your club using the PRYCA Safe BOATR program to promote safe boating among your club members? The BOATR program was developed with the idea that our individual clubs could use it in their efforts to promote safe boating. Using the \$2,500 Boat/US grant, PRYCA printed and distributed 2,000 copies of the Safe BOATR Performance Standards to our member clubs. There should be enough copies for the clubs to distribute a copy to each of their members. If you haven't taken the BOATR program to your club members, ask yourself if you are meeting your responsibilities as a leader of your club? We will all feel badly if someone from our club is seriously injured in a boating accident this year. Consider how much worse you will feel if you failed to focus attention on boating safety when you have a program designed to help do just that.

Some ideas one club plans to use to promote the BOATR program include training sessions oriented toward the performance standards at the end of their monthly meetings. Another club plans to conduct some of the on-water activities on club cruises. You might try some of these or develop ideas of your own. If your club develops new ideas to promote the BOATR program, I will be interested in hearing about them.

One interesting concept I heard involved the management of the blue BOATR Record Cards. This idea called for one person to manage the cards for all club members. The individual

boaters keep the 19 page Performance Standards. The PEs will sign the Performance Standards and notify the person managing the BOATR Record Cards when someone has completed requirements for one of the 10 activities. This club involved feels the approach may alleviate potential problems with lost cards.

From the Rear Commodore

Marv Storey

This is the last issue of the newsletter prior to two exciting upcoming events. **Cobb Island Days** to be held at Cobb Island on the weekend of May 31 through June 2, and the **PRYCA Float-In** to be held at the Fort Washington Marina on the weekend of July 12 through July 14.

Cobb Island Days is the first PRYCA co-sponsored event for the year. It is well worth the cruise. The marina is within a short walking distance of the Town Square where a number of events are planned or you can browse the many booths offering a number of interesting items to purchase. There are also several excellent restaurants all within a comfortable walk. If you just want to wander around, the island is all level ground and there are many interesting homes too look at as you get your exercise. Don't forget to put this event on your calendar. It is always a lot of fun.

The **PRYCA Float-In** is the premiere boating event of the year. It is a must event to attend. This year, we anticipate that Fort Washington Marina will have fewer slips to rent; however, the marina is still the only one on the Potomac having enough room. I am keeping my fingers crossed that we will be able to lock in at least 80 slips but actual availability will not be known for at least another month. With this in mind, I encourage every club to work

toward minimizing the number of boats and maximizing attendance through doubling up families on one boat wherever possible. Andi and I were temporarily boatless two years ago when the *Orion* was getting a new engine. We doubled up on the *Whale Song* with Larry and Karen Karjala. It was a lot of fun (and I didn't have to worry about a boat).

Last year's **Float-In** had a number of new events with several excellent seminars and demonstrations. We intend to keep the same general outline of activities. Of course, we will have the scavenger hunt so make sure you bring along all sorts of miscellaneous junk that might be something that will be needed. The Blow Boat Races and 2nd Annual Blow Boat Regatta will be on the schedule so line up your club's expert in accurately directing hot air. Dinner and dancing on Saturday evening is always great. We will have the same caterer as we have had for several years, Putting on the Ritz. They do an excellent job. Our DJ will be Peggy Castle who we have also had for several years. She rounds out the evening with a lot of great music.

Additional information on the Float-In along with registration forms were provided to all clubs at the Commodore's Night at Tantallon YC on April 1st. If you have not already heard from your Commodore or PRYCA Delegate about the details, corner one of them. **Since we anticipate having more boats than slips, get your club's reservations in as early as possible.** There are two possibilities for handling overflow. There is space to anchor out across from the fuel dock and there may be space at Tantallon YC (we will know more about Tantallon later).

If anyone has questions, don't hesitate to phone me at 307-572-4656 or email at mtstorey@aol.com.

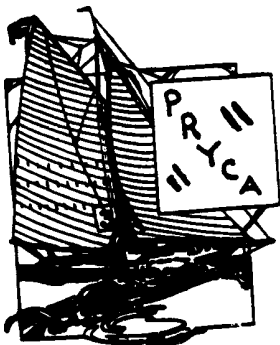
From the Secretary

Paul Malloy CYC/CIYC

At long last (since 1992 at least) it appears that Capital Yacht Club will once again host a Yacht Regatta on the upper Potomac. All sailors are invited to participate. Vessels will be using a handicap rule to level the playing field.

In cooperation with the United States Naval Sailing Association (USNSA) and the Pentagon Sailing Club (PSC), Capital Yacht Club will host two charity events, the first on the weekend of May 10-12 and a second event during Veterans Day weekend. The charity to benefit from the events is Operation Enduring Wind; an effort sponsored by the United States Naval Sailing Association and the United States Naval Sailing Foundation to solicit funds to send small sailboats and sailboards, along with safety equipment, to the Island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Diego Garcia is a key support base for sailors, marines, airmen, soldiers, and merchant seaman supporting the war in Afghanistan. It is a remote location that offers few recreational opportunities for these young service men and women. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

Trophies will be awarded to each class winner and plaques will be provided to all entrants. For questions, entries or more information please contact Ed Engle, Peter Lejeune, or Keith Lyon at Capital Yacht Club.

**Minutes of PRYCA Bridge Meeting**

Saturday March 2, 2002
Aquia Harbour Yacht Club
DRAFT

Commodore Curt Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. He then thanked Aquia Harbour Yacht Club Vice Commodore Darrell Edgar for hosting the meeting. VC Edgar then shared some information with the board in regards to local dredging operations.

Minutes of the Board of Directors and delegates meetings of February 2, 2002, at Mount Vernon Yacht Club were distributed. Joe Hadley made a motion to accept, seconded by Chuck Johnson, and unanimously passed.

Vice Commodore Randy Semper asked if everyone had received date changes for the PE session at Mount Vernon Yacht Club. Dates have been changed to March 14th and 24th. A discussion ensued in regard to the possibility of embellishing the PRYCA burgee of those that qualify as Performance Examiners. Randy will draft a letter to Boat/US regarding this issue. MAL Chuck Johnston related his enthusiastic response from the members at Colonial Beach Yacht Club to his BOATR presentation at their meeting. Two members of Colonial plan to attend the PE session at Mount Vernon Yacht Club.

Rear Commodore - no report

Fleet Captain Lou Seelig talked about the Float-In and the options for persons not able to get assigned slips. A healthy and stimulating discussion followed focusing on the budget and possibilities to increase revenue at the Float-In.

Treasurer Joe Hadley distributed the treasurer's report and the Change of Watch breakdown. Discussion followed with several ideas to consider for next year's event.

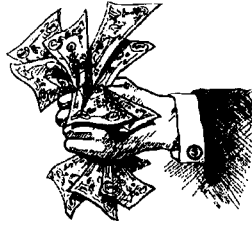
All clubs but three (3) have dues paid for the current year.

Audit Committee Chair Walt Cheatham then presented the Board with the audit report for the year 2001. Signed original to secretary.

Secretary Paul Malloy reported only a few rosters remain outstanding. Some of those have given verbal information so the club rosters will go to print shortly. The information gained at the February meeting has been very helpful in the label process. Labels will be ready for Ned Rhodes at the April 1st meeting.

WWA - no report

Commodore Johnson reminded those present of the March 15th deadline for articles for the newsletter. Board members spoke of possible subjects. Mention was made that the next meeting of the PRYCA Board and Delegates being April 1st at Tantallon Yacht Club. This is Commodore's night, Board of Directors meeting at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:00 and delegates meeting at 7:30.



Commodore Johnson requested those persons available to fill vacant liaison positions consider same. Volunteers came forward in the following fashion.

- Liaison to Coast Guard Dist 5 - Lou Seelig
- Liaison to CG Auxiliary - Lou Seelig
- Liaison to Dept. of Fisheries - P/C Phil Bolin
- Liaison to DC Harbor - John Corley
- Liaison to DC Fire & Rescue - John Corley
- Liaison to DC Consul of Government - John Corley

Group discussion followed regarding the ongoing Port America project at Smoots Cove.

- Board Members at Large Reported
- John Corley
 - Rhonda Carson
 - Chuck Johnston

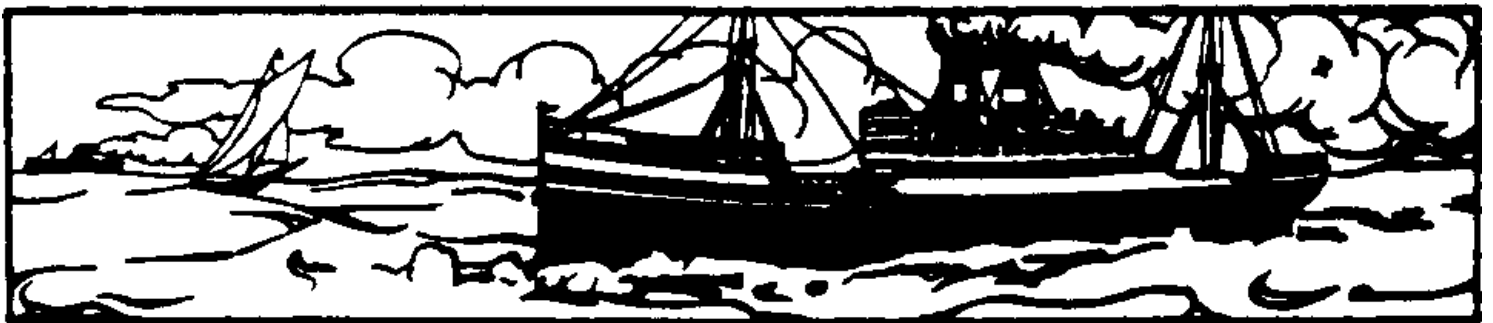
Commodore Johnson asked board members to give thought to subjects for articles for the next newsletter. Motion was made and approved to close the meeting at 11:52AM.

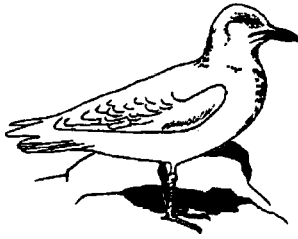
Respectfully submitted,
Paul Malloy, Secretary

POTOMAC RIVER YACHT CLUBS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

2001 Income/Expense Statement (audited)

Opening Cash Balance:		\$ 5,115
Income:		
Dues	1,200	
Change of Watch	7,980	
Float-in	21,220	
Interest	25	
Other	251	
Total Income:		30,675
Expenses:		
Newsletter / Website	211	
Postage	78	
Roster / Handbook	399	
NBF Dues	200	
Change of Watch	9,687	
Float-in	17,820	
Safe BOATR Program	298	
PRYCA Sponsored Events	400	
Other	1,094	
Total Expenses:		30,187
Net Cash Surplus / (Deficit)		488
Ending Cash Balance		\$ 5,603





From the Immediate Past

Commodore

Phil W. Bolin

Oyster Wars on the Potomac River. On an AOL web site I found this account of the Oyster Wars.

"Oysters were in such high demand at one point that men who owned private oyster beds along shore were forced to join together and build guardhouses on pilings, out in the middle of the beds. Armed, they'd take turns standing watch all night.

As for the popular and most bountiful oyster beds in the bay, actual war broke out between Maryland and Virginia oystermen over these beds. Under the Jenkins Award of 1877, Maryland actually lost the rights to 23,000 acres of the best oyster bottoms to Virginia. Marylanders, most attributed to be Smith Islanders, continued to dredge there anyway, flaunting the attempts to control this by the patrol vessels of both states.

In 1859, there was an actual, pitched battle between the Maryland and Virginia watermen, in Woman's Marsh. Though casualties were high, when a Virginia patrol boat appeared, both sides broke off fighting, so they could drive off the patrol boat together, before resuming the fight. The Virginia boat returned with the Maryland patrol boat, and this combined force subdued both sides.

These hostilities continued until the oyster beds gave out, around 1910, but until that time, both states were forced to regularly increase the size of their 'oyster navies.'"

Dog Days of August. The Colonial Beach event, Dog Days of August, is Friday thru Sunday, August 16-18 2002. We'll have southern hospitality on arrival Friday. On Saturday we'll have the usual winery tour, followed by a

great pig roast dinner Saturday evening with a live band. An added attraction this year is that Colonial Beach will be sponsoring the 'Rod Run to the Beach.' Over 350 street rods will be in town for a Saturday show and parade. A great event that is free for all. Transportation will be available for those that want to attend the Rod Run and the parade route comes very close to the Marina where the Dog Days event will take place. You won't want to miss this event. Details and registration forms will be passed out during the April 1st PRYCA delegates meeting at Tantallon Yacht Club.

From the Editor

Ned W. Rhodes

Rhodesn@softsysgrp.com

I am slowly but surely trying to keep the PRYCA website (www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org) current and it is always a time consuming job. As I receive information about the upcoming events such as Cobb Island Days and the Float-In, I will post that information on the site.

You may have recently notice a marked improvement in the speed of the PRYCA site as I have moved the site to a dedicated server in Texas. This new server is part of a large server farm that is fed by multiple OC-12 and DS-3s from uunet, Quest, Sprint, SBC and Time Warner. Downloads should be much faster and your connection should run out of bandwidth before it does.

I am also going to experiment with a new event calendar format that shows the events in graphical form. It will allow you to search out events and to display them in multiple formats such as by week or by month. Please let me know if that format works for you.

And the site I was using to convert PDF files into HTML files (so you could read one page at a time) decided to "revamp" their site and the free service seems to have gone away. Well, I have actually purchased the software to do the conversion so you will begin to see club newsletters once again on the site in PDF and HTML formats.

Delegates, please take a look at your Club's information paragraph that describes your club and has a pointer to your club website. Please mail me if there are any changes.

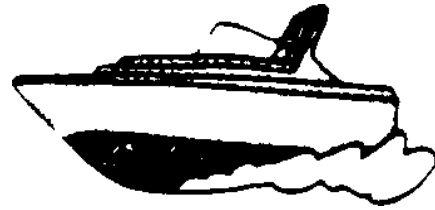
From a MAL

John Corley

I'll be serving as the PRYCA liaison with the DC Harbor Police, the Harbor Branch of the DC Fire Department, and the Congress of Governments (COG). If you need assistance coordinating boating issues with these organizations, telephone me at 703-532-5429, or e-mail me at TheGldnRle@aol.com. I'll do my best to see that your issue gets prompt attention.

I am pleased to have attended the February membership meetings of the Eastern Power Boat Club and the National Potomac Yacht Club. I discussed the Safe BOATR program at each meeting, and urged that the clubs participate. I also reminded the Commodores and PRYCA Delegates that PRYCA Commodore's Night is April 1, 2002 at Tantallon Yacht Club.

Established in 1963, the National Potomac Yacht Club has promoted boating on the Potomac River for pleasure and recreation, boating education, and boating safety for nearly four decades. NPYC meets monthly at the Columbia Island Marina, on the Pentagon lagoon, where it was formed and where many of its members still keep their boats. The club organizes cruises and social activities throughout the year, and publishes news of these



events monthly in The SKIPPER. NPYC is an active supporter of PRYCA and this year plans to participate in the Cherry Blossom Parade of Lights, the Blessing of the Fleet, Easter Seals Cruise for Kids, Cobb Island Days, the Float-In at Fort Washington, Colonial Beach Dog Days, and the End of Summer party at Tantallon.

Occoquan River Blessing of the Fleet

May 4th from 11a.m. to 2p.m.
Walt Cheatham, MAL

More than a hundred recreational boats are expected to cruise along the Occoquan River, 25 miles south of Washington, DC, to take part in the area's fourth annual Blessing of the Fleet, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 4.

This year the Navy chaplains will invoke their blessing on each outbound boat as it passes the fueling dock of the new Belmont Bay Harbor Marina, located just at the end of the river's no-wake zone. This dockside blessing site is expected to allow a more weather-friendly ceremony than last year's event, which was hampered by high winds and low tides.

The Occoquan River Maritime Association (ORMA) is again acting as event sponsor and coordinating the efforts of the Prince William, Fairfax and Occoquan Yacht Clubs—with support from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Potomac Marine-TowBOAT/U.S., and Fairfax and Prince William County public safety agencies.

The event is open to all boats in the area. Local dignitaries are being invited to take part and observe while embarked in Captain Bob Wilcox's Occoquan-based motoryacht *Sanctuary*. In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.

ORMA was established in 1999 to coordinate activities of businesses and boaters in the Occoquan River area improve commercial and recreational use of the river, environmental preservation, safety, navigation, and education. In addition to coordinating the annual Blessing of the Fleet, ORMA has played a leadership role in promoting federal funding for dredging of hazardous portions of the Occoquan channel and in the Town of Occoquan's successful bid to obtain federal grants for construction of transient docking for recreational boating.

Organizations that have pledged their support to ORMA include Salisbury Towing, the Town of Occoquan, Virginia Concrete, Maryland Rock Industries, Belmont Town Associates, Vulcan Materials Co., Potomac Marine, Inc., West Marine-Woodbridge, Prince William Marine Sales, Inc., Occoquan, Fairfax and Prince William yacht clubs, Hoffmasters Marina, Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association and the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association.

Chris Webster is currently ORMA coordinator having replaced ORMA founder Jim Ball who has moved from the area. Chris can be contacted at WebsterCW@msn.com. We hope to see you on our river May 4th for the blessing.

From a Delegate

John Kenyon
Landmark Yacht Club

If history repeats itself, this may become an annual epistle from Landmark Yacht Club to the PRYCA newsletter. As I look back into my LYC archives, I see that it was exactly one year ago that we submitted an article. Since we are very proud of our LYC

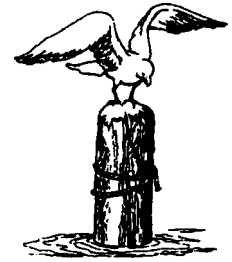
heritage, I will reiterate just a few facts from our roots.

Landmark Yacht Club, as we now know it, was established in the latter part of 1955. Landmark, along with Capital Yacht Club is proud to share the honor of being one of the only two remaining charter members of the PRYCA. The LYC history contains records of relationships with Capital as far back as 1958. Much of the early PRYCA leadership came from Landmark. The following commodores were LYC members: Charles Chalkley (72-73), Frank Palmer (76-77), Peter Kern (78), and Bill Green (80).

The club moved to Aquia Creek in 1959 where the existing clubhouse was constructed. That location is still the center of our club activities. Over the years since the club was established, the facility has remained essentially the same. We have added paint, power, lights, dock pilings and plumbing. Last year we installed air conditioning! We can now stay cool in August without having to jump in the creek.

Boating flourished in the clubs early years. The club focused on boating safety. We took trips all up and down the Potomac and Chesapeake. In 1973, gasoline shortages and price increases had a serious effect on boating. Large-scale boating dwindled and many boating clubs turned to activities that were more social. This continued into the 1980's during which time the club severely reduced its participation with the PRYCA.

During the past decade, boating interest and activity with the PRYCA has rebounded at LYC. We owe much of this rejuvenation to PRYCA Commodores John Hancock and Bud Clark. Although we remain a relatively small club, many cruisers have returned to active roles at Landmark. During the past couple of years, a very strange departure from our club's traditional boating personality has



occurred. Yes, unbelievably, masts which are actually attached to sail boats are moored in our slips. So, while our "traditional" members cruise up and down the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, we have other members enjoying the waters using more of Mother Nature's natural resources to blow them across those same waters. I too have recently evolved from the captain of a cruiser to a captain of the "other" class vessel.

Our club's single major event of the year remains our "long" cruise. Past cruises have taken us to destinations as far south as Manteo NC, and north to the C&D Canal. Of course, we have enjoyed many ports in between. The PRYCA float-in remains a club favorite, as we are able to visit with many of our nautical friends. We may not see some of these friends again until we gather at the Change of Watch celebration. The changes in progress at Tantallon are exciting for us at LYC. Even before this boating season begins, we look forward to the end-of-summer party there. Since this is typically a smaller event, it facilitates a more intimate time with the clubs in attendance. We anticipate kicking QYC's butt again this year in the tug-of-war contest.

Recently, bonds have been established through smaller weekend retreats with individual clubs. We look forward to more of these and encourage all clubs to do the same. We are on Aquia Creek at 77°20' W, 38°24' N. Set your GPS and come see us. Just remember to come around the south end of marker 1 to avoid the sandbar at the mouth of the creek.



From a MAL

Chuck Johnston
Southern Region Clubs

Cobb Island Yacht Club celebrated their Change of Watch ceremony on Saturday, March 9, 2002, at Shymansky's Restaurant. Cobb Island Days was featured in the business meeting preceding the Change of Watch. This popular PRYCA-sponsored event will have an expanded format this year. It all starts with a midway carnival running from Thursday, May 30th through Sunday, June 2nd. It includes a Firemen's Parade on Saturday, crafters on the Mall, demonstrations by the firemen, a pig roast and what we hope will become an annual event: a parade of boats. Held in Neale Sound and led by the Cobb Island Fire Boat, the parade will feature boats from the visiting and host clubs decorated to match the patriotic theme. The assembled masses will select their favorite boat(s) and indicate their preference by tossing a quarter into the coffee can with the matching number. All quarters collected will be donated to charity. The boat with the most quarters is the parade winner, so vote early and often!

Based on early indications, Cobb Island Days will be a tough ticket this year. More boats, fewer slips. Bob Jackson, PRYCA Delegate from the club will have applications available to member clubs at the April 1 PRYCA meeting. Don't delay in getting these applications back to CIYC!

Colonial Yacht Club. At the club's Change of Watch Ceremony in February, Commodore Frank Markham graciously yielded the floor to this correspondent. Speaking about the PRYCA/Boat/US Grant program for boating Safety (BOATR), I was pleased to notice the enthusiastic response, especially from the first mates. Colonial has decided to add a website for their

club and has selected a grizzled veteran of the web wars to do the design.

Dahlgren Yacht Club's Ron Cox will attend the Physical Examiner's Class for PRYCA's BOATR program.

Vice Commodore Chuck Erwin has agreed to be the BOATR Physical Examiner for **Yacht Club @ Swan Point**. Chuck is filling in for Wayne Kuster, who is out with rotator cuff surgery. Let's all have a good thought for Wayne and wish him a speedy recovery. Makes it a lot easier to reel in those fish when your arm doesn't hurt.

Helms Awards presented to Johnson and Ruritan Club

Lee Woolf
The Free Lance-Star
March 20, 2002

Serving a cause seems to come naturally for Curtis Johnson.

Now 66 and a longtime resident of Aquia Harbour, Johnson served in the Navy as a pilot for 28 years before retiring in 1982.

By then, he already was a charter member of the Aquia Harbour Host Lions Club, and he will mark his 22nd anniversary as an active contributor to that organization next month.

In recent years, Johnson's community service has included special projects to help both youth and adults with mental disabilities.

In recognition of his efforts, Johnson was awarded the 2002 Florence Helms Award earlier this month by the Stafford Parks and Recreation Commission at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet.

Also recognized was the West Stafford Ruritan Club, which received the Helms group award.

The first Helms memorial award was presented in 1975, and it is named after a public-health nurse and member of the recreation commission who died of cancer in 1974 at the age of 42.



Photo by Robert A. Martin, The Free Lance-Star

According to Tammi Ellis of the parks and recreation department, the award has been presented over the years to a long and deserving list of persons and organizations who have contributed to Stafford recreation, education, guidance, health or other fields, and influenced the character development of county youth in a positive way.

For the past six years, Johnson has helped organized a summer project at the Aquia Harbour Yacht Club. Children with mental disabilities and

their families are invited for a morning of boat rides on Aquia Creek as part of the community's Marina Fest.

"It's always a very nice day; the kids really enjoy it," said Jan Griffin, the executive director of the local Association for Retarded Citizens, who works with Johnson on the project.

"There's a cookout, as well as the boat rides. And you can tell that the people involved really go out of their way so everyone will have a good time."

For about 12 years, Johnson also

has worked with the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board to organize a Christmas party for about 50 adults with mental disabilities. The evening at a local restaurant includes lots of food, gifts, a deejay with music and a visit by Santa Claus.

"I guess it all started for me with the Lions club," said Johnson. "When they were just getting started, my wife [Alma] said, 'Let's go to a meeting and see what it's all about.'"

"And that's when the idea of community service just sort of grabbed

me the idea of giving something back and how important it is to help folks who are less fortunate. That's what it's all about."

Through his work with the Lions club and the Stafford County Department of Social Services, Johnson has helped provide eyeglasses and hearing-aid equipment to families in need.

Johnson was nominated for the Helms award by David Giese, a fellow Aquia Harbour resident and Lions club member.

"If somebody needs help, he's right there," Giese said of Johnson. "There's never an end for him when it comes to giving.

"He has a lot of help with the projects. But if he wasn't there to organize it all, things would fall apart."

Curtis and Alma Johnson will have been married for 42 years next month, and they have lived in Aquia Harbour since 1978. They have three grown children and three grandchildren. Alma Johnson helps her husband with his community projects and also is active in the Aquia Evening Lions Club.

The West Stafford Ruritan Club

earned its Helms award for being one of the most active community-service groups in the county.

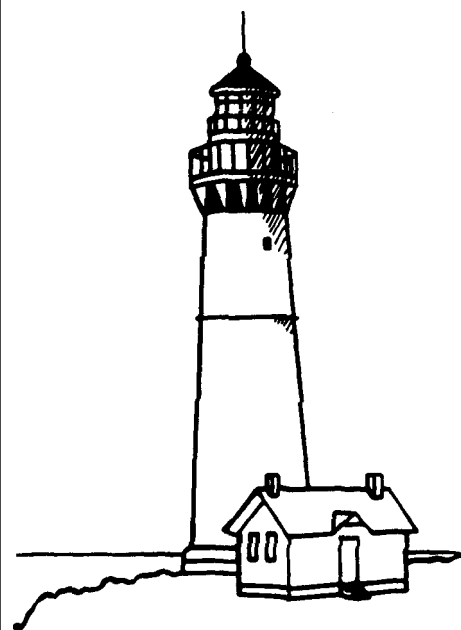
The club was chartered in 1961 and has sponsored youth softball teams in the county's parks and recreation leagues since 1971. Carl Coogle, a past Helms Award recipient and a charter member of the club, has coached many of the Ruritan Club teams.

The club also provides uniforms, equipment, transportation, trophies, team banquets and dinners for participants.

For the past 10 years, the Ruritan Club has sponsored an annual Easter Egg Hunt for the public. This event attracts about 175 children each year.

Since 1991, the Ruritans have awarded an annual \$500 academic scholarship for deserving high school students seeking to advance their education.

In addition, the Ruritans join with three local churches to distribute holiday baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas to assist families with donations of gifts and food. The Ruritans also will be sponsoring a Special Olympics activity in the future.



<u>Club</u>	<u>PE</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>PE</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>PE</u>
AHYC	Arnie Schwartz	District	Marv Storey	OYC	Joe Livingston
AHYC	Curt Johnson	Dahlgren	Ron Cox	OYC	Ned W. Rhodes
AHYC	Darrell Edgar	EPBC	Rebecca Winfield	OYC	Rudy Noori
AHYC	Ed Leonard	EPBC	James Winfield	PWYC	George Allen
AHYC	John Malatak	FBYC	Gil Norton	QYC	Jay Nix
AHYC	Mike Coffey	FBYC	Joel David	QYC	Martin Betts
AHYC	Randy Semper	LYC	Sheldon Burstrom	QYC	Michael Crouch
CIYC	Chuck Johnston	MVYC	Bonnie Breneman	SPYC	Chuck Erwin
Capital	Kim Hesser	NPYC	John Corley	TYC	Mark Viehoever
Capital	Paul Malloy	OYC	Allen Jorsey	WYC	John Anderson
				WYC	Steve Ricks

2002 PRYCA CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY
* Dates to be Finalized			** Requires Confirmation	
January				
1/07 - Mon	6:00 PM	PRYCA Board Mtg	** National Potomac YC	Marv Storey (RC)
1/15 - Tue		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Ned Rhodes (Editor)
1/26 - Sat		<i>Change of Watch</i>	Sheraton Crystal City	Curt Johnson (C)
February				
2/04 - Mon	6:00 PM	PRYCA Board Mtg	** Mt Vernon YC	Marv Storey (RC)
	7:30 PM	PRYCA Delegates Mtg	** Mt Vernon YC	Marv Storey (RC)
March				
3/02 - Sat	10:00 AM	PRYCA Board Mtg	** Aquia Harbor YC	Marv Storey (RC)
3/15 - Fri		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Ned Rhodes (Editor)
April				
4/01 - Mon	6:00 PM	PRYCA Board Mtg	** Tantallon YC	Marv Storey (RC)
	7:00 PM	Dinner	** Tantallon YC	Marv Storey (RC)
	7:30 PM	PRYCA Delegates Mtg and Commodores Night	** Tantallon YC	Marv Storey (RC)
* 4/06 - Sat	8:00 PM	<i>Cherry Blossom Parade of Lighted Boats</i>	Washington Channel	
May				
5/04 - Sat	10:00 AM	PRYCA Board Mtg	** Quantico YC	Marv Storey (RC)
* 5/19 - Sun	1:00 PM	<i>Blessing of the Fleet</i>	Washington Channel	
5/25 - 5/27		<i>Memorial Day Weekend</i>		
June				
6/01 - Sat	6:00 PM	PRYCA Board Mtg	** Seafarers YC	Marv Storey (RC)
* 5/30 - 6/02		<i>Cobb Island Days</i>	Cobb Island	Chuck Johnson (MAL)
6/15 - Sat		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Ned Rhodes (Editor)
July				
7/01 - Mon		PRYCA Board Mtg	** Ft Washington Marina	Marv Storey (RC)
7/04 - 7/07		<i>Independence Day Weekend</i>		
7/12 - 7/14		<i>PRYCA Float In</i>	** Ft Washington Marina	Marv Storey (RC)
August				
8/17 - Sat	10:30 AM	PRYCA Board Mtg	Colonial Beach	Marv Storey (RC)
	11:30 AM	PRYCA Delegates Mtg	Colonial Beach	Marv Storey (RC)
8/16 - 8/18		<i>Dog Days of August</i>	Colonial Beach	Phil Bolin (IPC)
September				
8/31 - 9/02		<i>Labor Day Weekend</i>		
* 9/14 - 9/16		<i>End of Summer Party</i>	** Tantallon YC	George Allen (MAL)
October				

Upcoming Events

May 4	PRYCA Board Meeting @ Quantico YC
May 19	Blessing of the Fleet in Washington Channel
June 1	PRYCA Board Meeting @ Seafarers YC
June 30	Cobb Island Days



Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association



2749 North Wakefield Street
Arlington, VA 22207

Address Correction Requested