

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association



www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org

Volume 15

Issue 1

February 2003

Officers 2003

Commodore

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

Vice Commodore

Marv Storey, mtstorey@aol.com
(District)

Rear Commodore

Lou Seelig, LCSeelig@aol.com
(Prince William)

Secretary

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(Capital/ Cobb Island)

Treasurer

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

Fleet Captain

Chuck Johnston, ceejays@erols.com
(Cobb Island)

Immediate Past Commodore

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

Members-At-Large

Walt Cheatham,
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(Occoquan)

George Allen, jacksfull@aol.com
(Prince William)

Fran Jarrett, jarrett@olg.com
(Yacht Club @ Swan Point)

John Corley, TheGldnRle@aol.com
(National Potomac)

Andi Storey, awstorey28@aol.com
(District)

From the Commodore

Randy Semper

PRYCA is entering its 32nd year of supporting recreational boating, yachting, boating safety and the interests of boaters in our 21 clubs. We enter the year planning to continue our recent efforts to promote boating safety and interaction among the members of our clubs. We also intend to continue representing our member clubs and their individual members in all matters affecting their boating interests and the interests of recreational boaters in general.

We have completed the first year of our Safe Boat Operation and Training Retention (BOATR) program. The Boat/US Foundation grant made it possible for us to print and distribute copies of the Safe BOATR performance standards to the members of our clubs. While we no longer have the grant funds to run the program, it's off to a good start and PRYCA will continue the program. It is a program designed for our individual clubs to use in promoting boating safety to their members. Members from 16 of our clubs are actively involved with the program. A Safe BOATR Award was established. The club with the highest level of participation each year will get to display the award the ensuing year. The Yacht Club at Swan Point received the award this year with 22% of the boat owners in the club completing the program. The Swan Point Yacht Club leadership did a great job bringing the program to their members. Vice Commodore Marv Storey will coordinate the program at the PRYCA level this year. Congratulations to all who participated in the BOATR program this year. We hope it reinforced your boating knowledge.

Communication within an association like PRYCA is always a challenge. We will use our web site www.PotomacRiverYachtClubs.org and publish four newsletters to help with communication. Our webmaster and newsletter editor PC



February Boating on the Potomac



Ned Rhodes does a great job with these activities. This is the first of those newsletters; the remaining three will be published in April, July, and November. These dates coincide with major events of the association. Our web site provides updated information throughout the year on all of the events sponsored or co-sponsored by PRYCA. Ned posts a copy of each newsletter on the web site. We encourage club newsletter editors to reproduce any of our articles they think may interest their club members.

Two components of our structure are critical in communicating PRYCA's efforts to your club members. The first is the PRYCA Delegate from your club. The Delegate is the primary influence on how your club members view PRYCA. They represent the club to PRYCA and represent PRYCA to your club.

We will hold four Delegates meetings. These meetings will consist of a short (I promise) business meeting and an interesting program. We hope your Delegate or Alternate is able to attend each of these meetings. That's where the Delegate obtains most of the information to relay to your club. The February meeting features a presentation about two programs we think will be of interest to your members. The Rescue 21 program being implemented by the USCG and a test program of a new type chart for navigation.

The next Delegates meeting is scheduled for Monday April 7 at Tantallon Yacht Club. That is our "Commodores" night and we encourage all Commodores to accompany their delegates and speak at the meeting, explaining events and activities of their clubs. It's a great opportunity for the Commodores to meet their counterparts from the other clubs and learn what other clubs are doing. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM

and dinner will be served for a nominal charge.

The second component of our structure critical to communicating PRYCA's efforts is the MAL. MAL is a acronym for Member At Large. The MALs coordinate any assistance needed from the clubs, relay any information that can't wait for the next Delegate meeting, and represent the clubs they serve at the monthly Bridge meetings. We have five MALs, each a voting member of the bridge. This year we separated the clubs they serve more or less geographically.

John Corley, Northern Clubs:
Capital; Eastern; National Potomac;
Port of Washington and Seafarers.

Andrea Storey, Eastern Clubs: Ft.
Washington; District; Washington; and
Tantallon.

Walt Cheatham, Western Clubs:
Fairfax; Ft. Belvoir; Occoquan; and Mt.
Vernon.

George Allen, Mid-River Clubs:
Aquia; Landmark; Quantico; and
Prince William.

Fran Jarrett, Southern Clubs: Cobb
Island; Colonial; Dahlgren; and Swan
Point.

PRYCA handles events for the year in several ways. First, we will gladly publish events of member clubs and associations along the Potomac. Second, we co-sponsor several events with member clubs: Cobb Island Days; Dog Days of August; and the End of Summer party. Third we arrange and conduct two events each year, the Change of Watch and the PRYCA Float-In. Our calendar of events is available on the web site. Here are the planned and cosponsored events for the remainder of the year:

June 6-8 – Cobb Island Days sponsored by Cobb Island Yacht Club and PRYCA.

July 18-20 – The 18th PRYCA Float-In. This year the Float-In coordinator is RC Lou Seelig. He is looking for volunteers to help stage the Float-In. Contact him if you have time to help.

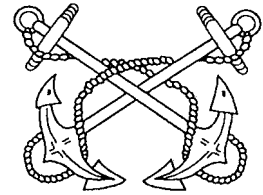
August 16-17 – the Dog Days of Summer sponsored by Colonial Yacht Club and PRYCA.

September – End of Summer Party sponsored by Tantallon Yacht Club and PRYCA.

Other events during the year that might interest you include the Cherry Blossom parade of lighted boats in April, a Blessing of the Fleet in the Occoquan and another in the Washington Channel during May, the Easter Seal cruise for kids in June, and the Holiday Parade of Lighted Boats in December.

This past month PRYCA provided comments on a draft open waterfront zoning proposal from the District of Columbia. The proposed zoning would affect future development along the Anacostia River. Vice Commodore Marv Storey did a superb job preparing our response in a very short timeframe. I'm sure Marv will have more to say about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Obviously, it's a situation we will continue to monitor.

I would like to extend my thanks to those who helped arrange the Change of Watch dinner. Steve Wexler agreed to serve as our Master of Ceremonies again this year. Joe Hadley handled the reservations and the financial aspects. Dianne Bricker and Joe Hadley took care of the table assignments and name cards. Sandra Johnston made the centerpieces and the Aquia crew put them around. PC Monica Lovell



produced the programs.

Awards were presented to two of our members. Andrea Storey received the Meritorious Service award and Toby Jarmen was named an Honorary Captain of the Potomac. Congratulations to both of them.

FROM THE IPC

Curt Johnson

In with the new and out with the old. It has been a real pleasure for me to serve as your Commodore for the past 12 months and a privilege to work with such an excellent bridge. It's the outstanding performance by the Bridge members, the Delegates, the committee members and the support from all 21 clubs that makes PRYCA a strong influence on the Potomac River. Basically it's quality people doing quality work mainly because they love boating and they care. It really makes the job as Commodore easy, but it also makes stepping down difficult. For sure, I can safely say that the year 2002 passed very quickly for me.

The calendar of events for 2003 looks full and again includes the annual Float-In at Fort Washington in July. This event seems to get better each year and if it did get better in 2002 it's probably because we had good people in charge. I thought Marv Storey and Lou Seelig did an excellent job last year and really put on a great show. The only hitch in last year's schedule was canceling the Dog Days of August due to the terrible marina fire. Fortunately no one was injured. Rumor has it that the Marina at Colonial Beach has plans to reopen in 2003 and should be available for the Dog Days event in August.

Probably our greatest achievement in 2002 was to get the BOATR Safety program off the ground and the Performance Examiners qualified.

Under Randy Semper's leadership, PRYCA received a grant from BoatUS to defray the cost of administering the program. At that point the program was on its way. I'm happy to say that this program has been supported by many of our member clubs and is used to promote safety and boating skills in individual clubs. The BOATER Safety program falls right in line with the PRYCA mission of promoting boating safety. I think it can be said that the BOATR Safety program was a success in 2002 thanks to Randy and all who participated. A nice aspect of the program is that it can be used as a guide for an individual club's ongoing safety program that can be reviewed from year to year.

The Bridge for 2003 has approved the budget and has set a course in support of some great events in what should be a very a successful year. It will be my pleasure to continue working with them in 2003. While on the subject of coming events, I know that RC Lou Seelig is putting together a committee to plan and to conduct this year's Float-In. I can't think of a better way of getting in your two cents worth than by being involved with planning for the Float-In. This event can always use the input from someone with fresh ideas. As an example, the seminars that started at the Float-In two years ago were a new idea, and have now become very popular. The Float-In is an event for all the clubs to participate in and it seems to work better when there are more people and more clubs involved. Believe it or not, it can also be a lot of fun.

I can honestly say that I enjoyed my term as Commodore. I want to thank my bridge and those who supported our efforts last year. With the support from all our member clubs, PRYCA can continue to be a positive influence on the Potomac River in 2003.

From the Vice Commodore

Marv Storey

Here we go—another year of exciting cruising adventures. My past year's experience as your Rear Commodore was both exciting and busy. I am glad I was given the chance to be involved. We made it through the 2002 Float-In without any major problems—to a big sigh of relief on my part. This year, it will be Lou Seelig's turn to chew his fingernails.

This year, I am Chairman of the Qualifications Committee and will be keeping an eye on any new clubs for membership in PRYCA. My other major duty will not come until the 2004 Change of Watch when I will have the honor of planning that activity. I am also going to be the one who cracks the whip on Bridge members who don't get their articles to Ned Rhodes on time for the newsletter.

You may be interested in knowing that Capital Yacht Club managed to collect 10 of the 23 prizes awarded for the **Holiday Parade of Lighted Boats at the Alexandria Waterfront and Washington Harbor** Saturday evening, December 7. Of that 10, CYC got the top 4, which were cash, awards of \$500, \$250, \$150, and \$100. Not bad for a night's work—in spite of the snow. Other PRYCA clubs who received awards were: Tantallon YC, Port of Washington YC, Quantico YC, National Potomac YC, and District YC. There were a number of boats from local marinas not associated with PRYCA and a number of those boats also received prizes. I think there were 63 boats that participated. All in all, it was a fun evening for everyone.

Georgetown Harbor held their portion of the Holiday Parade of Lighted Boats on Sunday evening, December 8. We didn't have quite as many boats because some feared the



low trusses of the 14th Street Railroad Bridge. However, those of us who participated had a lot of fun. This parade was a new addition to the Holiday rituals and it worked out very well. I have not received a list of who received prizes but I can tell you those who received the top 4 got some big ones. I sure wish I had received the \$1000 shopping spree in Georgetown. Capital YC cleaned up on this one also. Can't complain though. If you saw their boat decorations, you would know they spent a lot of time in the preparation.

Another area of interest: Your PRYCA recently provided preliminary comments to the DC Office of Planning concerning rezoning along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. The Office of Planning is considering creating a new waterfront zoning district. It will encompass waterfront areas adjacent to the rivers. The reason for this change is to allow for the special needs of waterfront areas. Currently, the zoning regulations are the same as those for areas away from the rivers and they don't meet many unique waterfront needs. PRYCA's comments related to points the Office of Planning might want to modify prior to formal distribution of the draft plan. In particular, existing clubs would need to be grandfathered because they do not have the minimum acreage, parking space, or trail areas defined for future designs. We also requested they include notification to existing clubs. We have been informed through an email response from the Office of Planning that existing clubs would be grandfathered and the clubs on Federal (Park Service) land would not be included unless (at some future date) the land were to be leased or traded to DC responsibility. There will be additional information distributed and meetings held as this process moves forward. We will stay in the loop.

From the Rear Commodore

Lou Seelig

Float-In 2003

It might seem a little early to have an article concerning the 2003 PRYCA Float-In when it is not scheduled until July 18-20. However an event of this magnitude requires considerable planning to ensure that the event continues the high caliber of fun and entertainment we enjoyed in the past.

As the Rear Commodore, I am tasked with organizing this event. My tentative plans are to continue the fine prescient of the past by holding it at the Ft. Washington Marina. Other locations were considered, but would not have been ready for this year. Consequently, we will continue with holding the Float-in at Ft. Washington.

I anticipate the events will be similar to the events of previous years. However I am interested in any new ideas from the member clubs and their members. Regardless of the ultimate format I am in need for volunteers. Volunteers are required to manage a game, arrange for guest speakers, manage the welcome desk, etc. The broader the base of volunteers from member clubs the better the event will be.

This year I have established a theme for the Float-in. The Theme will be "Knowing and Understanding the Potomac." The purpose of creating a theme is to provide a focus for all events. I would anticipate for example that the topics of guest speakers for Saturday morning would focus on various aspects of learning about the Potomac. Similarly, the scavenger may focus on this same theme.

Please call and volunteer. We all need your help to make this a worthwhile PRYCA activity.

From the Fleet Captain

Chuck Johnston

Please accept my thanks for letting me serve as Fleet Captain for the coming year. I follow in a long line of dedicated PRYCA folks who have, over the years, created one of the signal events of any boating season: the Float-In. This well-attended and popular activity will continue in the current season. The result of a combined effort by the Bridge and the Float-In committee, it has been fine-tuned by experience. I intend to follow the example of previous Fleet Captains as it concerns slip assignments.

One additional responsibility is the Supply Officer function. I hope to increase the inventory of items available for purchase. If we can get our logo out there, we can advertise the premier Yacht Clubs Association far and wide. Speaking of wide, I intend to include larger sizes for those of us who might require them. Hey, it worked for Calvin Klein, and it might work for us.

From the Editor

Ned W. Rhodes

Rhodesn@softsysgrp.com

As I sit and type this, it is COLD. I can tell you that I am glad that I am not boating in January or February of this winter.

This should be the first of four newsletters this year and input from the membership is always welcome. I will continue to make updates to the web site as information is sent to me. Delegates, please take a look at your Club's information paragraph that describes your club and has a link to your club website. Please email me if there are any changes.

Maybe it will warm up by March—see you then.



From the Secretary

Paul Malloy

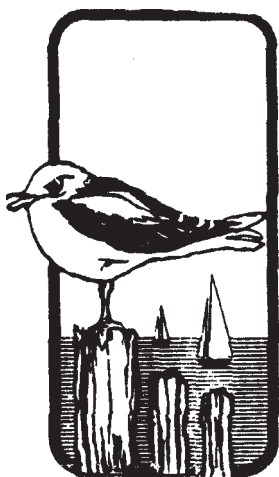
It's Roster Time, It's Roster Time!!!

The beginning of a new year and we all know what that means—I'm going to start bothering people to get the officer rosters information from each and every club. Why? What's the big deal? Simple. It's used by more people than any other document produced by PRYCA. I'm asked by everyone—from club newsletter editors, to staffers, to sales people (to them I say no), for a copy of the PRYCA Roster of Club Officers.

This roster is used so much by so many people during the year it's really a shame to have information in it that is out of date. Many events at various clubs, Changes of Watch, Flag Raisings, Anniversary Parties, could be missed if the invitation is sent to an out of date name and address. Interaction between clubs and contacting fellow boaters in the area is made easy with right names and numbers.

If it's sent to me on nice crisp letterhead the final product will be all the better. But I will take it on a napkin and do the best I can to clean it up, just get me the information.

Thanks for your help and Happy New Year.



From the Treasurer

Joe Hadley

Amazingly, the last year—with me as your brand new Treasurer—passed with no trauma. All the income due was received (finally), all the bills were paid (mostly in a timely fashion) and the year was ended with a few bucks in the bank. A year-end statement showing all the foregoing in some detail is contained in this newsletter.

Sorry about the dues comment above, but it is true (but, see below). Apologies, too, to anyone whose bill/other request for funds wasn't paid within a day or so. Unfortunately, two issues which pertain hopefully explain all of the very few tardy payments. One, since it wasn't my money I was handling (the dollars belong to your association, PRYCA) sometimes it took a little time to verify the bill, determine the exact amount or get a receipt before I would write the check. Two, once or twice I received bills/requests for funds in a less than timely fashion.

But, that's all history as you, via your Delegates, returned me to the said office for another year.

Now, with a year under my belt, there will be some changes made.

First, to the extent possible, dues billing will henceforth be electronic. By the time you read this, your club's Treasurer should have heard from me—via email. If all goes well with this year's billing the entire process will likely be paperless by this time next year. With this system there will be no room or any excuse for the late payment of dues. Anyhow, please note that your club's dues invoice for \$60 (same amount as for the last several years, at least) has been sent and is now due for immediate payment. Commodores, please double check on this with your Treasurers.

Second, now that I've been through the drill once it's pretty obvious to me

where the pitfalls making for late payment lie. And, I have some records which will help me anticipate requests for funds, even if they don't get brought to my attention. Accordingly, I promise to reduce greatly, if not eliminate, any delayed payment on PRYCA's part. And, now if you are due a payment and it has not arrived you can get to me directly with your request. Just email me 24/7 at Treasurer@potomacriveryachtclubs.org.

Last, as your returning Treasurer, it is my duty to inform you that the upcoming year's budget, the one for calendar 2003, was adopted by the Bridge in early December. That budget, including the details, is also contained in this newsletter.

From the Eastern MAL

Andrea Storey

After a year's absence I'm back as PRYCA's MAL for the upper Potomac, East, representing Washington YC, District YC, Tantallon YC and Ft. Washington Boating Association. I plan to attend the flag raising at each club barring conflicts among the four clubs. I'm also PRYCA's representative to the Washington Waterfront Association and in that capacity I will communicate information to PRYCA member clubs about the Harbor Police and Fire Department concerns and waterfront activities on the Southwest waterfront. The Cherry Blossom Parade of Lighted Boats (4/5/03), Blessing of the Fleet (5/18/03) are sponsored by the WWA and the Holiday Parade of Lighted Boats (12/6 & 7/03) is cosponsored by WWA, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association and Georgetown Harbor Business Associates.

If any club or individual has a question about any of these activities please get in touch with me by email (awstorey28@aol.com) or phone (301-572-7457).



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PRYCA – Treasurer’s Report Statement of Financial Condition

for the calendar year 2002
as of December 31, 2002

Opening Balance		\$ 5,603
INCOME		
BOAT/US Foundation (Safe BOATR)	\$ 2,500	
PE burgees	180	
Change of Watch – 2002	12,000	
Dues	1,200	
Quarter Master (sales)	563	
Float-in	23,494	
Interest	<u>18</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$39,955	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$45,558
EXPENSES or paid		
Change of Watch – 2002	\$15,178	
Change of Watch – 2003 deposit	1,000	
DC Biannual Report of Non-Profit Corp	50	
DC Change of Registered Agent	40	
Domain Registration	40	
National Boating Federation dues	200	
Event Grants (200 ea to Cobb Is. And TYC)	400	
Newsletter – printing/postage/software	503	
Safe BOATR – printing/ mailing/PE logos	1,706	
Roster of Club Officers	441	
Misc/other – Bridge paraphernalia/QM supplies	252	
Float-in	<u>18,450</u>	
TOTAL	\$38,260	
Liabilities & Expenses Accrued		
Safe BOATR	794	
Postage, admin	<u>245</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 1,039	
TOTAL EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES	\$39,299	
BALANCE		\$ 6,259



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POTOMAC RIVER YACHT CLUBS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

PROPOSED 2003 BUDGET

CARRY FORWARD from 2002 **\$ 5,000**

INCOME

Dues (21 Clubs)	\$ 1,260
Interest	20
Float-In (net)	1,500
Merchandise (net)* /	<u>220</u>
TOTAL	\$ 3,000

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 8,000

EXPENSES

Change of Watch (net)	\$ 1,500
Newsletter (incl. postage)	500
Website / domain registration	1
Safe BOATR Program (printing)	10
Roster of Club Officers	500
CBYCA & NBF dues	350
Event Grants	500
Misc / other	
postage & banking, corporation fees	375
Bridge paraphernalia, etc.	525
Contingency (flowers, contributions, etc.)	<u>150</u>
TOTAL	\$ 4,411

PROJECTED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

\$ 3,589

Approved 12.03.02



From a Northern MAL

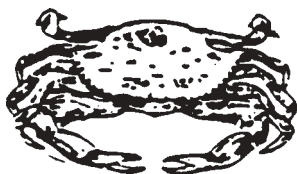
John Corley
TheGldnRle@aol.com

I am pleased to have been elected, at the November, 2002 PRYCA Delegates Meeting, to serve a second year as Member at Large (MAL). I will again be the liaison between PRYCA and the five clubs of the northern district, Capital Yacht Club, Eastern Power Boat Club, National Potomac Yacht Club, Port of Washington Yacht Club, and Seafarers Yacht Club. I look forward to seeing you throughout the year at PRYCA events, and hope to visit with you at your club meetings from time to time, to up-date you on PRYCA activities.

Attending the 2003 PRYCA Change of Watch Dinner-Dance, Saturday, January 25, 2003, at Sheraton Crystal City, was a great way to meet Potomac River boaters and to make new friends as we start a new boating season. And, PRYCA Delegates and club Commodores plan to attend the PRYCA Delegates Meeting, Monday, February 3, 2003 at Mt. Vernon Yacht Club, 1930 hours.

Your participation is encouraged in the PRYCA Safe BOATR program. The program's objectives is to heighten the awareness of boating safety, provide training in safe operation of your boat in a variety of situations, and observe on board demonstration of Safe BOATR skills by yacht club members. Contact me or any PRYCA Bridge or Board member for information on the program.

Safe Boating.



From the Southern MAL

Fran Jarrett
Yacht Club @ Swan Point

Here we are at the marina in 2003, all the slips are empty, except for one lone sailboat, and a new pair of swans who have make their home in Cuckold Creek. It's a different story on shore, boats are parked everywhere. With so many new boaters, the boatyard is almost overflowing on to the golf course. Our new marina did very well the first year.

We have lost the longest standing Commodore ever, Wayne Kuster, who has retired. He is going to be a snowbird now. He'll be in Florida in the winter and up here in the summer.

In the next two years we're hoping we will be dredged and they may be starting on another set of piers, because Swan Point has been discovered. They are building a lot of new homes.

From the Mid Potomac MAL

George M. Allen

Congratulations to the 2002 Bridge for a very successful year. Also my thanks to all the Bridge Members and PRYCA Delegates from the clubs I represented in 2002 (Ft. Washington, Prince William, Tantallon, and Washington Yacht Clubs). The 2003 Bridge is gearing up for this year and making some changes in the MAL Club assignments. This year I am pleased to represent Aquia, Landmark, Prince William and Quantico Yacht Clubs. Each of these clubs has interesting and unique histories. I plan to profile each club in future issues of the Newsletter. For now, here is a little about each Club.

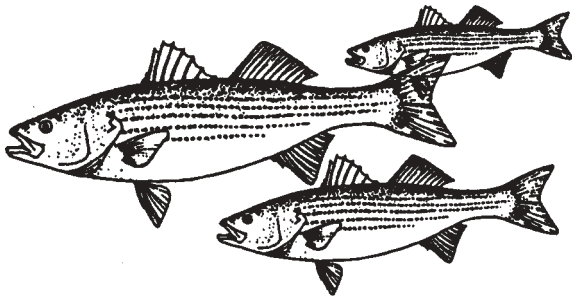
The Aquia Harbor Yacht Club is a recreational boating group that strives to promote safe boating practices through education for its members and

the community. Established in 1975, AHYC has strived to meet its mandate of boating safety, education, the environment and fun. Aquia Yacht Club is located on Aquia Creek.

Also located on Aquia Creek is Landmark Yacht Club. The purpose of the Landmark Yacht Club, Inc. is to serve the interest of boating, to defend against discriminatory legislation and burdensome taxation, to prevent the pollution of neighboring recreational waters, to stimulate a greater interest in boating among the citizens in the area served by the club, to develop a fraternal spirit among local outdoor enthusiasts, to provide a medium for the exchange of boating information, to maintain adequate dock facilities and to do all other things which will tend to further interest in boating generally.

Just up river from Aquia Creek but before you get to the power lines is Quantico Yacht Club. The QYC is a non-profit, type III organization operating under the authority of the Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS). Most QYC members are boat owners, both sail and power, large and small, and some members do not own a boat. All active-duty and retired service members and other authorized MCCS patrons are eligible for membership in the QYC. The club sponsors sailing races, holiday weekend cruises, and a fall crab feast. On race days, some boats are short of crew members and in need of volunteers. It is easy to participate even if you know nothing about the sport.

Continue up river to the Occoquan and you find Prince William Yacht Club. Prince William Yacht Club (PWYC) was established in 1991 to promote safe, enjoyable, and responsible boating activities; to represent its members' interest in matter affecting recreational boating on a local, regional, and national level; to provide instructions, education, and



training in the skills necessary for the enjoyment of recreational boating. PWYC has grown steadily since that time, and can now count 253 member boats.

I hope all PRYCA members get a chance to visit one or more of these clubs and the waters they boat in. All are steeped in history from the quarries of Governors Island to the Mills on the Occoquan.

Invitation To Cruise—Slowly!!

Don Thayer

Last April, Don Thayer and Barbara Finch (Cobb Island Yacht Club) acquired their Kadey-Krogen 48 Whaleback *Special One*. Since taking her over in Stuart Florida, we have cruised over 2600 nautical miles with an average speed of about 7.5 - 8 knots and have enjoyed it to the max.

One of our cruises was to the upper Bay; Baltimore, Annapolis, St. Michaels, and Oxford. We travel in a leisurely manner (some would describe it as "stately". We see no need to rush to one place, then next day rush to another, unless that is the desire of folks.

This summer, we are thinking of repeating this tour, maybe beginning at Cobb Island, thence to Solomons, etc, etc. If the weather and the Bay cooperate, we were thinking of visiting Philadelphia. We have heard that there is maybe only one marina, but it has access to all of the town. Maybe we would even get brave and go through the canal over to Atlantic City so Barbara can get rid of her loose quarters.

Anyhoo! If there are any like-minded folks driving big slow economical trawlers who would like to join our parade, or have ideas for other cruises, please contact us. We will be cruising in the South, but will return to the bay in April or early May. Contact us:

Don Thayer & Barbara Finch
Someplace Special
12092 Neale Sound Drive,
P.O. Box 458
Cobb Island MD 20625
E-mail: don.thayer@erols.com
301-259-0164
Boat Phone: 301-848-0335 (this is a local Waldorf number, so feel free to call us on the boat)

I am looking into plugging my boat computer into E-mail, but am still looking for a way to speed things up. Using the cell phone on e-mail is sort of like watching grass grow and sends costs soaring. If I find an answer, I will publish. At present, we have our grand daughter living in the guest house and she checks the e-mail weekly.



How Dry Is Your Harbour?

MAL Walt Cheatham

Did you know Washington Harbor in Georgetown is so low to the water that it would be inundated during especially high spring floods were it not for special barriers that have been installed to keep the errant water out?

I first learned about this a few springs ago when I noticed a helicopter picture of the area in the Post, and it seemed flags were coming directly out of the water—very high river water because the article was about a flood situation. The more I looked at the picture, the more I realized those were the normal American flags that are on top of the light poles, and that the water was almost to the top of the poles. The picture didn't do a good job of showing the barriers, but the article went on to describe how high the water was and the fact Washington Harbour was dry because the special barriers had been raised.





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When we finally got our “spring rains” here around New Year’s this year, a flood must have been predicted, because I noticed the barriers were raised as I walked across Key Bridge to shop for Susan in our new downtown (no, not from one of the designer stores, from Staples). I pulled a U turn, scurried home to get the camera, and took the accompanying pictures—one on the dock looking towards the buildings and one at the top of the stairs inside looking over the fountains towards the Teddy Roosevelt bridge in

the distance. The barrier is easy to see behind the blue Tony and Joe’s awning because one panel is especially rusty.

The metal panels slide below ground when not in use, and are raised by cranes when needed. (The Post article explained the decision to go with this simple, but time consuming, mechanical system instead of investing in motors and pulleys and devices that would require maintenance over the years.) The panels slide in metal tracks built into the sides of those decorative concrete posts placed equidistant all

along the perimeter of the concrete part of the promenade. I am not sure what locks them in the up position, but next time you are there look at the top of each in its lowered state between the posts. You can see the two eyelets in the top of each used in raising them.

Well, this wasn’t exactly the typical article providing useful boating information, but hopefully you enjoyed seeing something interesting about the river that ties us together and gives us the first two words in our PRYCA name.



2003 PRYCA Change of Watch

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OYC Supports BOATR program

OYC Commodore Snowman presented PRYCA a \$72.50 check to help fund continuation of the BOATR program. There was never a question about PRYCA continuing the BOATR program, but receiving funds to help administer the program was quite a surprise. This short note is to thank OYC for their support of the BOATR program.

PRYCA Commodore Randy Semper suggests working to get at least 10% of the boat owners in your club member certified as Safe BOATRs this year as a way to show your club's commitment to safe boating.



Incoming Commodore Randy and Outgoing Commodore Curt



Puff Pappa Steve was our MC again



Meritorious Service Award Winner Andi Storey and Past Commodore Curt Johnson

2003 PRYCA Change of Watch

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The 2003 Incoming PRYCA Board



Gift of appreciation
presented to Past
Commodore Curt Johnson
by Incoming Commodore
Randy Semper

2003 PRYCA Working Calendar
Responsibility of Rear Commodore

DATE	TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY	PHONE	e-MAIL
* Place holder			** Requires Confirmation			
January						
1/06 - Mon.	1800	PRYCA Board Mtg.	District Yacht Club	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
1/14 - Tu.		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Ned Rhodes (Editor)	703-741-0861	rhodesn@softsysgrp.com
1/25 - Sat		Change of Watch	Sheraton Crystal City	Randy Semper (C)	540-659-4811	rsemper@erols.com
February						
2/03 - Mon.	1800	PRYCA Board Mtg.	** Mt Vernon YC (Bonnie Brenneman)	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
	1930	PRYCA Delegates Mtg.	** Mt Vernon YC	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
		Guest speaker John Malatak. Speaking on Rescue 21 program and Marine 911 service which introduces a test in the Potomac on new charts.		Randy Semper (C)		
March						
3/01 - Sat	1000	PRYCA Board Mtg.	** Aquia Harbor YC	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
3/14 - Fri.		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Ned Rhodes (Editor)	703-741-0861	rhodesn@softsysgrp.com
April						
4/07 - Mon.	1800	PRYCA Board Mtg.	** Tantallon YC	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
	1900	Dinner	** Tantallon YC	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
	1930	PRYCA Delegates Mtg. and Commodores Night	** Tantallon YC	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
* 4/05 - Sat	0800	Cherry Blossom Parade of Lighted Boats (Endorsed by PRYCA)	Washington Channel	Andria Storey		awstorey28@aol.com
May						
5/05 - Mon.	1800	PRYCA Board Mtg.	** National/District/POWER	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
5/10 - Sat		Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet (Endorsed by PRYCA)	Occoquan Bay (PWYC, Farifax, Occoquan)	ORMA		
* 5/18 - Sun	1300	Blessing of the Fleet	Washington Channel	???		
5/24 - 5/26		Memorial Day Weekend				
June						
6/07 - Sat	1000	PRYCA Board Mtg.	Cobb Island	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
6/6-6/8		Cobb Island Days	Cobb Island	Chuck Johnson (MAL)	301-259-4628	ceejays@erols.com
6/14 - Sat		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Ned Rhodes (Editor)	703-741-0861	rhodesn@softsysgrp.com
6/22 Sun		Easter Seal cruise for the kids (Endorsed by PRYCA)		Capital Yacht Club		
July						
7/07 - Mon.	1800	PRYCA Board Mtg.	** Ft Washington Marina	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
7/04 - 7/06		Independence Day Weekend				
7/18 - 7/20		PRYCA Float In	** Ft. Washington	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
August						
8/16 - Sat	10:30 AM	PRYCA Board Mtg.	Colonial Beach	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
	11:30 AM	PRYCA Delegates Mtg.	Colonial Beach	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
8/15 - 8/17		Dog Days of August (Endorsed by PRYCA)	Colonial Beach	Phil Bolin (PC)	804-224-5678	pwbolin@earthlink.net
September						
8/30 - 9/01		Labor Day Weekend				
* 9/12 - 9/15		End of Summer Party	** Tantallon YC	George Allen (MAL)		jacksfull@aol.com
October						
10/04 - Sat	1000	PRYCA Board Mtg.	Swan Point	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
10/14 - Tu.		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Ned Rhodes (Editor)	703-741-0861	rhodesn@softsysgrp.com
November						
11/03 - Mon.	1800	PRYCA Board Mtg.	Washington Yacht Club	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
	1930	PRYCA Delegates Mtg.	Washington Yacht Club	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
December						
12/01 - Mon.	1800	PRYCA Board Mtg.	** Ft Belvoir YC (Alt Pr Wm YC)	Lou Seelig (RC)	703-455-7229	LCSeelig@aol.com
* 12/06 - Sat		Holiday Parade of Lighted Boats (Endorsed by PRYCA)	Alexandria Waterfront and Washington Channel	??????		
NOTE: Fairfax Yacht Club is available for meetings as well as Swan Point Yacht Club in the warmer months.						

Upcoming Events

March 1	PRYCA Board Meeting @ Aquia Harbour 1000
March 14	PRYCA Newsletter Deadline
April 5	Cherry Blossom Parade of Lighted Boats
April 7	PRYCA Board Meeting @ Tantallon 1800
April 7	Dinner 1900
April 7	PRYCA Commodores Night 1930
May 5	PRYCA Board Meeting @ Cobb Island 1000



Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association

2749 North Wakefield Street
Arlington, VA 22207

Address Correction Requested