

Come and join us to begin a great boating season with the

Blessing of the Fleet

May 13th 2006 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Bring your boat and crew for this special time-honored seafaring tradition...

- ➔ **dedicated to boating safety**
- ➔ **celebrating the new boating season**

Plan now to “parade dress” your boat with festive flags and colors! Invite family and friends to participate in a chaplain’s invocation of blessing for safe cruising the year ahead **for your boat and crew.**

This simple ceremony harkens back to ancient times when fishermen and seafarers yearned for good fortune and safety at sea—which at times was perilous. As the fleet departed seaward, priests invoked blessings upon each vessel as it departed. The Occoquan community re-invigorated the annual Blessing of the Fleet in 1999 when the tradition was embraced by the yacht clubs of the Occoquan vicinity and the [Occoquan River Maritime Association](#).



How does it work?

Fairfax and Prince William County First Responders, Cost Guard, and Law Enforcement will lead a procession of boats outbound from Prince William Marina passing the Blessing Boat moored at the Belmont Bay Harbor Marina fuel dock. Participating boats will form-up proceeding outbound passing the Blessing Boat and, once “blessed”, proceed outbound. The procession will include a host vessel with local dignitaries and media representatives embarked.

A detailed float plan and Notice to Mariners will be posted at local marinas and will be distributed through yacht club newsletters and Internet websites.

Plan now to take part!

The Blessing of the Fleet—an Occoquan tradition—is sponsored and coordinated by the [Occoquan River Maritime Association \(ORMA\)](#) and its member organizations, with support from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Fairfax and Prince William County public safety agencies.

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