

ORMA and its affiliates proudly announce the

2009 Blessing of the Fleet

May 9th 2009 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Captains and crews! Join your friends for a special time-honored seafaring tradition...

- ➡ **dedicated to safety afloat**
- ➡ **"Launching" the new boating season!**

Plan now to captain your boat and be among the hundreds of boats with festive flags and colors! Invite family and friends to participate in a traditional blessing for safe cruising the year ahead ***for your boat and crew*** with a "flair for safety" !!

This simple ceremony harkens back in history to times when fishermen and seafarers yearned for good fortune and safety at sea—which was nearly always perilous. As the fleet departed seaward, clergymen invoked a blessing on each vessel as it departed. The Occoquan community re-invigorated the 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](#) as a fun way to highlight safety afloat.



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. 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. The event is marked by recognition for our First Responders. for safety afloat, and for fun boating!

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, Fairfax, and Prince William County public safety agencies.

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