

Bosun's Whistle

By Jerry Gray, Commodore



School is out, the Marina is full, the Pool is on summer hours and finally the weather actually feels like summer. We are looking forward to the increased activity that summer brings to MVYC, there is sailing, waterskiing, tubing, raft-ups, cook outs, swimming and sunbathing, or just relax. We have something for everyone; so enjoy the club and it's summer amenities.

The New Members party at the end of June promises to be a Great (Gatsby) time, the Club has eight new member families to welcome this year. Our membership chair Dan O'Keefe has worked hard ushering in a really great group of new members. Be sure to thank Harriet Singleton and her Social committee for setting up a very nice event.

The swim team season kicked off in June with an away meet at Trump National, rumor has it that records were broken. The MVYC Dolphins have three home meets this year so please come out and cheer them on. Check the Calendar at www.mountvernonyachtclub.com for times and dates.

The 4th of July at MVYC is one of the club traditions, softball in the morning, pool party and pool games all day and the Ft. Belvoir fireworks are visible from the point. For you fireworks fanatics Alexandria puts on a big show on July 13th to celebrate the city's birthday.

Communication at MVYC is typically email, if you have an announcement send it to MVYCNEWS@mountvernonyachtclub.com and our Communications Chair Gene Diotalevi will get it out usually within 24 hours. For those of you who already use Twitter or want to become more advanced in social media Gene established a twitter account that you can follow. Just "Follow" @MVYCNEWS on Twitter and you will get the same MVYC communications in a way that may be more convenient for you.

Have fun and enjoy the summer.



Spring Raft-Up!

To the few hearty souls that made it out of the marina - glad you had such a great time!



**Please note...the Beacon will be on vacation in August.
The next issue will be coming your way in September.
Enjoy the rest of your summer!**

Photos courtesy of Chris Bazel

The BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB
4817 TARPON LANE
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Deadline for Next Issue:
20th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

Suspended
until September

Board Meetings

July 15
August 19
September 16
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

July 8
August 12
September 9
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month

Membership

Submitted by Dan O'Keefe, Membership Chair



Membership News

I can't believe that July is just a few days away. It seems like the Spring just flashed by, one minute we are celebrating St Patrick's Day and the next it's the 4th of July. However, I don't want to sell the spring short. The Spring not only refreshes our lawns and gardens it has brought new life to our membership rolls. We have been fortunate to have a great group of Newcomers who have jumped in and become active in a variety of activities.

This growth in membership is continued proof that the efforts of our existing members are our greatest recruiting tool. Thanks for your efforts, and keep up the good work.

I want to continue to take the opportunity to introduce several more of our new member families and invite you to meet them all at the new members welcome party on June 22nd.

The Nagel Family

The Nagels, currently an active duty military family stationed here in the National Capital Region, are residents of Oregon. Tye is an army officer and Joanna is a stay-at-home wife originally from Germany. They have a ten year old daughter named Maya Oceana.

Tye has been around boating all his life and grew-up boating and sailing in Oregon and Washington State. They currently own a Catalina 22 sailboat. Tye holds certificates in both Basic Keel Boat and Off Shore Coastal Cruising from the American Sailing Association. Over the past six years, They have been active members of a sailing club on Fern Ridge Reservoir in Eugene, OR. They pleasure sailed and competed regularly in club regattas.

The Wallace Family

Steve and Lori met and married in 1989, on the Island of Guam, while both were stationed at Anderson Air Force Base. Steve, originally from North Carolina, works at The Pentagon, he is the senior enlisted member of the Air Force JAG Corps. He has been in Air Force for almost 28 years and plan's on retiring next year. Lori, originally from New Hampshire, works on Fort Belvoir for the Army Medical Chief of Staff.

They have two children, Cody- age 21 and Tori- age 13. They bought their most recent home, nearby in the Southwood subdivision. They bought their first boat, a 28ft Maxum, at the end of last season and are eager to participate in the power fleet activities.

The Lay Family

The Lays, our newest members live at 4706 Tarpon lane. They have been Yacht Haven residents for three years but their military status has changed and they will now be assigned in the area for an extended period of time and want to better know their neighbors. Scott works for the Department of the Army and Kelly works for the National Credit Union Administration. The have 2 daughters Sydney age 3 and Kamryn age 18 mos.

Dock Master Musings

HISTORY AND INSIGHTS FROM THE WHARF AT MOUNT VERNON ESTATES

By Marianne Ketels, Mount Vernon Dock Master



George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill



George Washington erected a large stone gristmill in 1791 to increase production of flour and cornmeal for his plantation. He also wanted to export high quality flour to the West Indies, England, and Europe. In 1797 Washington's newly hired Scottish farm manager, James Anderson, encouraged him to build a whiskey distillery adjacent to the gristmill. Washington was hesitant but then agreed to move forward. "[A distillery is] a business I am entirely unacquainted with," he wrote to Anderson that June, "but from your knowledge of it and from the confidence you have in the profit to be derived from the establishment, I am disposed to enter upon one."

The first distilling was done using two copper-pot stills installed in the cooperage next to the gristmill. The 600 gallons made sold very well and yielded a good profit. Washington then agreed to build a new facility that would contain five stills. In 1798, the first year it operated, the larger distillery produced 4,500 gallons of rye whiskey. The following year, production rose to nearly 11,000 gallons. George Washington's distillery had become one of the largest producers of whiskey in the United States.

It took a team of eight to keep the new distillery running. James Anderson's son, master distiller John Anderson, produced the alcohol with the help of one assistant and six slaves. The chief beverage made at the distillery was rye whiskey using George Washington's original mash bill (60% rye, 35% corn, and 5% malted barley).

Covering the period 1797-99, the account ledger documents the distillery transactions and records the various whiskeys sold. The distillery also produced apple and peach brandies, some of which likely were enjoyed by the Washingtons and their guests. The inventory taken soon after Washington died indicates that cinnamon whiskey, persimmon brandy, peach brandy, and apple brandy, along with whiskey, were stored in the Mansion's basement.

After Washington died, Lawrence Lewis, husband of Martha Washington's granddaughter, Nelly, briefly operated the distillery and gristmill. By 1804, both James and John Anderson had left Mount Vernon, forcing Lewis to seek managers for both facilities.

The last mention of a working distillery was in 1808, when an Alexandria merchant renting the property advertised whiskey for sale. A fire in 1814 destroyed the structure.

Over time the gristmill fell into disrepair and by the 1850s was dismantled. In 1932 the Commonwealth of Virginia built a reconstruction of the mill and in 1997 the Ladies of Mount Vernon assumed management of the site and restored the mill to working condition. In 2007, Mount Vernon completed its reconstruction of the distillery. Three years later, with support by Members of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, Mount Vernon employed the same techniques used in the late 1790s to produce George Washington Rye Whiskey for sale to the public.

George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill are open to the public April 1 through October 1 from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. Stop by and talk to the costumed interpreters who will take you back to a fascinating time in our neighborhood's history.

On The Docks

by Marina Co-Chairs, Steve & Alexi

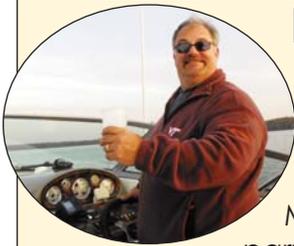
Email: marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com



As I am writing this article the calendar says first day of summer. I am sure we are all wondering what happened to our spring? Perhaps this is a turning point and the weather will become more favorable for us boaters. Activity around the marina has started to pick up, most boats are back in their slips and the gas dock is pumping gas.

Last month's storms brought in quite a bit of debris and most of it has ended up on either side of the ramp on the bulkhead. We would all agree that limbs on the ramp would make it rather difficult to launch a boat so it makes sense to remove the limbs. If you remove a limb or any debris to launch a boat it should go in a dumpster or pushed back into the water after the launch. Wood cannot stick out of the dumpster. On the other hand wood that floats in will float back out.

There are some loose ends on C & D dock that we would like to wrap up this month. There are some boards on the bulkheads that need to be secured and others need to be replaced. We are always looking for volunteers to help out on some loose ends and minor repairs throughout the marina. One on-going noted earlier are the limbs on the ramps of the bulkheads we all need to monitor this and either toss them back in or they may require a chainsaw in order to fit in the dumpster. If you have any free time and would like to help send us an email at marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com. We can review the list and you can pick the task that suits you. We appreciate all the help!



Power Fleet

Submitted by Chris Bazel, Power Fleet Captain

Spring weather can be somewhat unpredictable here on the Dogue, as many of you have experienced this year. Our May events may have had some troubles but we managed just the same. The photo-shoot originally scheduled for May 11 was finally held June 1st. It was a nice day and I thank all the boaters that participated. A special thanks to Russel "Pokey" Poe for helping out and doing the photography, I think the pictures turned out very nice. Look for an email soon and we will get the photos up on the wall of fame soon.

The Memorial Day weekend raft up had some tidal and weather difficulties as well. But the folks that did manage to make it out and attend had a fun and festive time. Thanks to Courtship for being the anchor and for all the other boats for having us aboard. To anyone that could not make it this time, no worries, there will be plenty more opportunities in the future and with any luck mother nature will play along.

Upcoming in July we will have the annual MVYC Parade of Lights out on the Potomac. It's a great chance for all the crews to get creative and decorate your vessels in style. Patriotic theme is the norm, but you are welcome to bling up your boat any way you wish. Dave Miskimens is the POC and you can look for more info in the flyer and an email coming soon. After that, many of us will head down river July 19th – 21st for the annual PRYCA Float in at Coles Point. (Hoping to have as much fun again as we did at the kick-off event in Cobb Island!) Our PRYCA representative Dan O'Keefe and I will be trying to coordinate things for that weekend. I'm hoping for a large and enthusiastic turnout from the club so we can recapture the cup that has eluded us these past few years. But not to worry, it's all about the fun and not just the competition.

In August we will again be doing the club cruise to St Mary's. Look for info on that event from Alexi Stavropoulos and Gene Diotalevi. If interested, please send them an email to RSVP for this special event at: St.Marys8.16.13@gmail.com

Happy summer and see you on the river!

WHY KNOT!

Submitted by Past Commodore, Bill Gard



Monkey's Fist -- Plus Splitting the Coil and Heaving a Line

Last month we mentioned a knot called the Monkey's Fist. A Monkey's Fist is an organized ball of rope at the end of a line that gives heft to the line when you are trying to heave the line from boat to boat, boat to shore or shore to boat. The Monkey's Fist can also be tied as a decorative knot and the Monkey's Fist has also been used as a weapon.



Tying the Monkey's Fist can be a bit complicated. If you want to see an entire sequence of steps involved in tying one version of a Monkey's Fist, link to: <http://www.animatedknots.com/monkeysfist/>

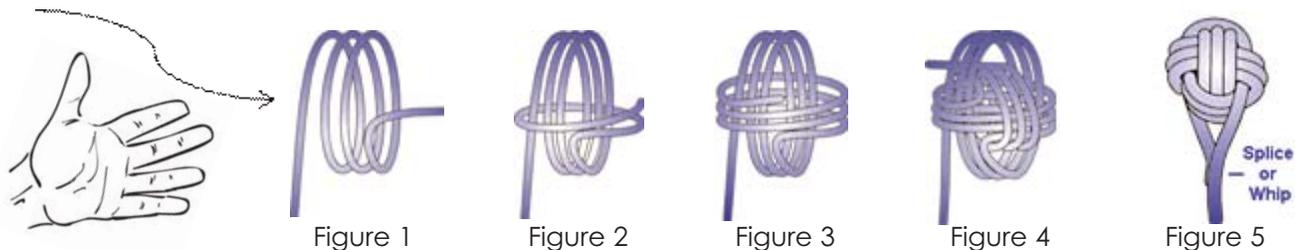
(Although I found this procedure confusing and difficult to execute, it makes a nice looking knot.)

Figure 1 Monkey's Fist

Coast Guard crew members, naval personnel and seasoned mariners use many different ways to tie a Monkey's Fist. Here's one simple way:

Wrap a rope three times around your hand with your fingers spread (Figure 1). Then remove your fingers and start making turns passing outside the middle of the first three turns (Figure 2). Complete the three second turns (Figure 3), then make three more turns passing inside the first set of turns and outside the second set (Figure 4). Tighten up the knot, then splice or whip or tie the working end to the standing part Figure 5).

Fingers here:



Hint – give yourself plenty of rope at the working end. To finish the knot using a ½ inch line, I had to allow 9 to 10 feet at the working end of the rope. After you try a few times, you will eventually catch on that this is a Carnegie Hall situation – it takes practice, practice, practice to get good result both in tying and finishing the Monkey's Fist. At the recent knot tying training session, MVYC members Jim Nelson and Roger Fuller showed us ways to tie Monkey's Fist knots that were easy to tie and easy to undo. See either Jim or Roger if you want expert guidance in this and other knots.

A safety caution: The Monkey's Fist can be tied around a small weight to make the heaving line easier to throw a long way. But heavy weights at the end of a heaving line can be a danger to those catching the line and dock hands have been known to cut heavily weighted Monkey's Fists off the end of heaving lines. Another interesting aside, weighted Monkey's Fists were used as weapons in gang wars on the docks.

continued next page...

WHY KNOT! continued...

Splitting the coil and heaving a line

Before throwing a heaving line (with or without a Monkey's Fist) split the coil into two parts. Throw the smaller half as a neat coil so that it carries the distance. The rope pays out partly from the coil you throw and partly from the coil in your hand (See Figure 6).



Figure 6 splitting the coil

More Knot Tying Links

International Guild of Knot Tyers

<http://www.igkt.net/beginners/what.php>

This is the site of the International Guild of Knot Tyers [sic] and their beginner's section is a simple graphic presentation of different types of knots and their uses. And since the IGKT is British, some of the language is delightfully quirky.

NetKnots.com

http://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/monkeys-fist

NetKnots.com has knot tying instructions in graphic sequences with corresponding text descriptions for each step in tying the knot, as well as animated visuals of tying the knot. Nice and simple. Plus they sell Knot "cards" with graphic depictions of knot tying sequences.

Unsolicited Knocks on Your Front Door?

The Fairfax County Police often see an uptick in door to door solicitation complaints /calls as we head into the summer season. The information below is provided as an FYI...

All door to door solicitors or peddlers are required to be licensed by the County.

Here is an example of what the County Solicitors License looks like.

The rules/prohibitions are clearly printed on the license:

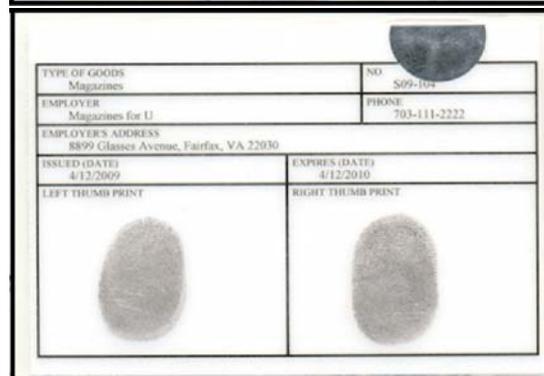
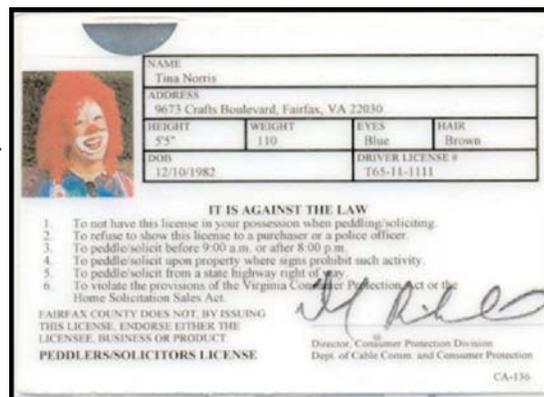
1. They must have the above license in their possession at all times when soliciting/peddling
2. They must show you the license upon being asked
3. Cannot peddle/solicit before 9am or after 8pm
4. Cannot peddle/solicit on properties where signs are posted prohibiting such activity
5. Cannot peddle/solicit from state highway right of way
6. Cannot violate provisions of the VA Consumer Protection Act (VA Code 59.1-196 – 59.1-200) or Home Solicitation Sales Act (VA Code 59.1-21.1 – 59.1-21.7a)

You can use the Virginia State Code online, to look up the above mentioned code sections (Line 6) -

<http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm>

The Fairfax County Solicitor's License is a laminated card that displays the solicitor's photograph, name, and personal information on the front side. The back side of the license displays the solicitor's business information and thumbprints. It is valid for one year from date of issue.

If you believe there is a unlicensed solicitor in your community, **please call the non-emergency police number – 703-691-2131** – make sure to give as detailed description as you can of the person(s) and any vehicles involved, as well as their last known location/direction of travel.



MVYC Kid's Page



Nature Column: Blue Tailed Skinks

By Katt Reisetter

Blue Tailed Skinks grow to about 8 inches long. Males are a little longer than females. These skinks are usually black or brown with a blue tail. Young skinks have a bright blue tail while adults have a dark blue tail. The color of their tail will scare away predators. When they lose their tail it will grow again slowly.

Females build nests under a log, stump, or tree. They lay up to about a dozen eggs. They take about 55 days to hatch! They will eat unhatched eggs. EWW! They are found in moist woods near logs, stumps, and rock piles mostly in Virginia.

They eat insects including: Grasshoppers, Earthworms, and Daddy Long Legs. They also eat small mice.

Their predators include: Virginia Opossums, Red Foxes, and Raccoons.

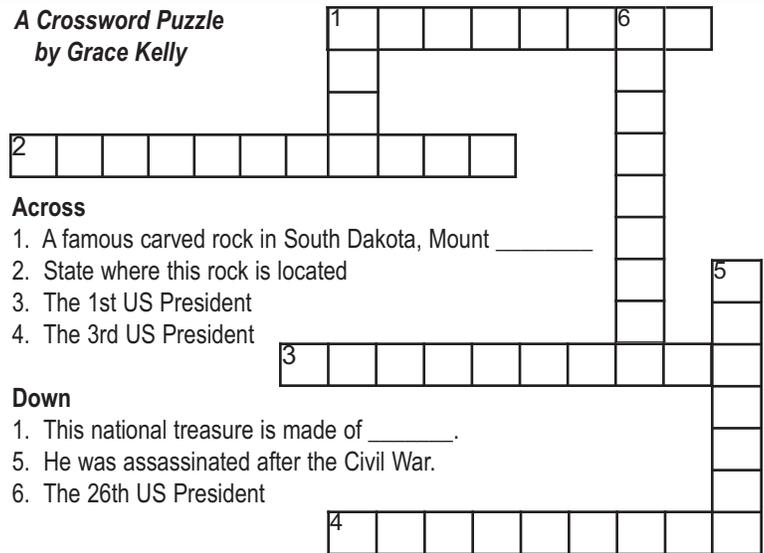
A Riddle by Alex Gray

We are a rock group. All of us are deceased, and one of us was assassinated. Who are we?

A: Mount Rushmore

The Monster Climb

A Crossword Puzzle
by Grace Kelly



Across

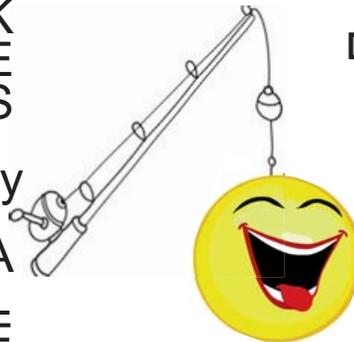
1. A famous carved rock in South Dakota, Mount _____
2. State where this rock is located
3. The 1st US President
4. The 3rd US President

Down

1. This national treasure is made of _____.
5. He was assassinated after the Civil War.
6. The 26th US President

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X

What's the best way to communicate with a fish?



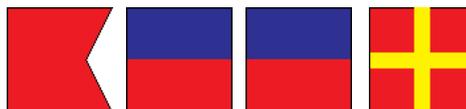
Drop a line!

What do you call a fish with no eyes?

Fsh.



Nautical Flag Joke: What is a tree's favorite drink?





PRYCA UPDATE

Submitted by Dan O'Keefe

The PRYCA events schedule got off to a great start with the Cobb Island Yacht Club's "Cobbstock – The Summer of Love" Summer Kick-Off. 45 boats from 10 different yacht clubs joined the members of CIYC in celebrating a wonderful weekend reliving the 60's. MVYC was well represented.



The events started with a Captain' Hour on Friday evening and appropriately ended with a delicious "Hangover Brunch" on Sunday morning. In between there were a variety of events to keep participants busy.



The Pokey Bead

Popular activities included "Best Dressed Hippie" Contest, beer tastings, a Crab Cook-off, Music Trivia Contest and a Psychedelic Art contest. The main event, a scavenger hunt for Love Beads was highlighted by the "I Love Pokie Bead." The Celebrity Bead was to commemorate the help Russel provided during the 2012 kick-off event. Quoting the Event Brochure "Pokie represents the good in all of us."

Next UP on the Schedule:

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association's 2013 FLOAT-IN at Cole's Point --- July 19th to 21st

Friday Night "PARTY ON THE BEACH"..... GILLIGAN'S ISLAND THEME!!!

Saturday Morning Continental Breakfast, Saturday Night Buffet and Awards Banquet, Dancing to your favorite tunes!!!!!!! PRYCA Cup Competition. Door Prize Raffles. Seminars and demonstrations. Sunday Brunch.

Reservations are still open and we need additional participants to help win the "Float-In Trophy".

For additional information on this or any PRYCA activities contact me at danokeefe711@msn.com

P.S. We could use ideas for an MVYC T-shirt using the Gilligan's Island theme.

Boating Equipment for Sale

All good stuff!! Everything half of West Marine prices!

**FOR
SALE
BY OWNER**

**Call Stuart Matthews
703-780-2535**

- Winslow 6 man Life Raft in Pelican Box
- Pelorus (deviation checking compass)
- 2 x Propellers 16" aluminum
- Numerous fender line adjusters
- 2 x 25ft 30 amp power cords
- 25ft 30 amp power cord in special storage holder
- 30/50 amp power pigtail
- NOAA paper Charts covering all of Chesapeake Bay
- Chesapeake Bay chart books
- Boat rear view mirrors
- And more!

 July 2013 

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------|--|---|----------|
| | 1 AM Closed for Cleaning | 2 | 3 | 4  Happy 4th of July Noon POOL PARTY! | 5 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF | 6 |
| 7 | 8 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30pm Social Cmte Mtg | 9 9 am Yoga Class | 10 | 11 | 12 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF | 13 |
| 14 | 15 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg | 16 9 am Yoga Class | 17 | 18 7 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg | 19 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF PRYCA Float In → | 20 |
| 21 → | 22 AM Closed for Cleaning | 23 9 am Yoga Class | 24 | 25 | 26 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm NO TGIF | 27 |
| 28  6 pm MVYC Dolphins End of Season Awards Banquet | 29 AM Closed for Cleaning | 30 9 am Yoga Class | 31 | | | |



August 2013



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------|--|-----------------------|-----------|---|--|----------------------------|
| | | | | 1 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club | 2 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF | 3 |
| 4 | 5 AM Closed for Cleaning | 6 9 am Yoga Class | 7 | 8 | 9 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF Red Brown Memorial Cruise → | 10 |
| 11 → | 12 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30pm Social Cmte Mtg | 13 9 am Yoga Class | 14 | 15 7:00 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg | 16 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF | 17 |
| 18 | 19 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg | 20 9 am Yoga Class | 20 | 22 | 23 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm NO TGIF | 24 |
| 25 | 26 AM Closed for Cleaning | 27 9 am Yoga Class | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Labor Day Raft Up |



THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB
4817 TARPON LANE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22309

**Get Festive for the Fourth! Decorate your boat and Come
join the 11th Annual MVYC parade of lights**

Evening of Wednesday July 3rd

Gaither near buoy 67 by 8:30 pm

Tune to VHF channel 69



Contact Dave & Angie Miskimens for more info at 703.619.9601