



The Bosun's Whistle

By Ron Reinsel, Commodore

Spring at Last...

We have made it through another winter. Mild though this one was, winter is a boater's least favorite season. With our vessels put to a well deserved rest, we long for days on the water and evenings by the docks. The pool is covered and quiet. The river takes on a somber grey tone and the joys of summer seem years away. But now we are tantalized by an early spring. Socks have been burned. Slip assignments have been made and the Marina begins to re-fill. Boat projects are underway and another Commissioning Day, and another great season, are at long last in sight.

We have also been busy during the winter to prepare for both this season and the many seasons to come. A full calendar of events, sponsored by the Social Committee as well as the Power and Sail Fleets, awaits with activities throughout the coming months. The Swim Team season is poised to start. It's time to get ready for a wonderful new year.

On the physical preparation side, we have re-built our formerly crumbling entrance gates, with great thanks to Jeff Kirkland and his crew. And many thanks also to Grounds Committee Chair Clay Collier for organizing this year's Spring Clean Up Day and to all of the Club members who give their time and efforts to make the property come alive for the season.

Around the Marina, we are also preparing for the planned upgrade of C, D and E docks. While the physical reconstruction of C and D will begin in the fall after the close of the coming season, we are now proceeding with the infrastructure improvements to supply those refurbished docks with power and water. Those efforts include pulling new electrical supply service as well as purchase of dock pedestals, similar to those used on A and B docks, which will be installed as soon as possible on E dock, and then on C and D as a part of their reconstruction.

continued on Page 3...

**MVYC Meets...
MTV?**

By Neal Beggan

While we all enjoy the scenic views of The Point and adjoining Dogue Creek, have you ever thought you would see our beloved marina on MTV? Well, after last month's video shoot for local artist "Akshan" you just might.



Long-time club member Neal Beggan owns a music studio in his home in Herndon, VA called Sleepy Hollows Studios which he operates with his brother Kyle. Neal and Akshan (real name Nickia Palmer), grew up in Mount Vernon and met in 7th grade chorus class after Akshan moved to Virginia from Jamaica. The two bonded through music and developed a friendship while going on to attend both Mount Vernon High School and then James Madison University. Many of you have undoubtedly met Akshan at the club or at a raft-up, but the lucky ones have heard him sing.

Two years ago they began work on the "Island Rocker" album (available on iTunes) and wrapped production in November 2011. They are now in the process of conducting a 12- month marketing push for the project. Part of that push is to shoot videos. In early February they, along with a production crew, shot a video for the upcoming single aptly titled "February Soft" which was released on February 29th, 2012. Footage was taken on Outer W dock facing Ft. Belvoir and Maryland, as well as around our treasured fire pit.

Be sure to check out the [final product on Youtube](#) (search: "Akshan February Soft"), pass it on to family & friends, and please leave comments. Neal & Akshan would personally like to thank Mount Vernon Yacht Club for allowing them to shoot, and especially Mike Holland and Jim Gordon for helping to make the "fire" scenes fantastic.

IN MEMORIAM

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club
mourns the passing of
JIM LAWLER.

Rest in Peace, Jim - we'll miss you.



The BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB
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Deadline for Next Issue:
15th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

April 5
May 3
at 8:00 pm
1st Thurs of the month

Board Meetings

April 16
May 21
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

April 9
May 14
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month

WELCOME ABOARD

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"

~ Robin Williams



Yes, spring is coming. If Robin Williams is right, then that means nature is calling us to party. Even though winter was more mild than usual, it is time to shed your overcoat and come out and enjoy time at the Club. Take a look at the Social Committee's calendar and the Power and Sail Fleet lineup of events and you can see that the events and activities are getting into full swing. Make sure you have them marked on your calendar as "not to be missed."

As you all know, the best recruiting tool is inviting people to the Club and having them spend time seeing first hand all that membership in MVYC can offer. This year, please make a special effort to come to Commissioning Day on Sunday May 6, and consider bringing guests. Come for the ceremony and plan to make a day of it. Bring a picnic lunch or items to throw on the grill and help showcase MVYC to those who have not yet discovered us. If you haven't been to the club in a while, think about making the effort to join your fellow members for Commissioning Day this year. As one of the more unique events we have I hope all members – new and seasoned - will come, celebrate, and enjoy the festivities.

Membership Update

First, my apologies to Bruce & Nancy Valley. Last month's Welcome Aboard erroneously listed them among the members who have decided to leave our ranks. They are still active club members and I regret the error.

Second, please join me in welcoming our newest members, **Robert (Rocky) and Sally Laha**.

They are a delightful couple who promise to bring "divine" things to our membership. Rocky is the Pastor at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria. Sally is a first-grade teacher at Alexandria Country Day School as well as an ordained Elder in the church. They come to MVYC by way of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Richmond and now call Alexandria home. Armed with power tools, garden equipment and lots of enthusiasm they are sure to become familiar faces around the point and the clubhouse. They also hope to become regulars on the river and at the docks, as they are actively in the hunt for a boat. In addition to their commitment to the church and the community, they enjoy the theater, cooking, spoiling their granddaughter, and of course boating. Welcome Aboard, Rocky and Sally!



With the addition of the Lahas, our current membership now stands at 218 families, 215 active and 3 honorary. We are well-below our cap of 230, so if you know of friends or neighbors who might be interested in joining MVYC encourage them to spend time at the club and consider putting in an application.

Pursuant to Article III of the MVYC Bylaws one application for membership currently is posted on the Club bulletin board: Ben and Katherine Van Diest, who reside on E. Linden Street in Alexandria. The membership committee will schedule their interview in anticipation of the Board's April 16 meeting.

Final 2011 Payments are Due April 30

Just a gentle reminder to those who opted to pay their 2011 dues and fees in two installments that your final payment is due on April 30, 2012. All payments that are received by midnight on the 30th are timely. If you miss the deadline, you will be subject to late fees. Please feel free to contact me at membership@mountvernonyachtclub.com or (703) 619-1096 or if you have any questions about your membership or payments due.

The Bosun's Whistle from Page 1

Our dredging permit remains under review; however, progress is being made. In mid-March we gave the required publication notice of the application with the public comment period set to expire at about the time you receive this copy of the Beacon. If all goes well, we should finally have approval not too long thereafter and thus keep us on schedule to begin the Big Dig this fall. While nothing goes quickly, we are well on our way to making MVYC bigger, better, and most importantly, deeper.

We are also pleased to report that one of our alumni members, Al Grande, has been selected as one of this year's Living Legends of Alexandria. Before relocating to the Greenspring senior community, Al and his wife Claire were long standing Club members and Al (in addition to having carried the Olympic Torch past Mount Vernon on its way to the 1996 Games in Atlanta) served for many years as MVYC's Master of the Gas Dock. The award recognizes Al's many contributions to the Alexandria community and we add our thanks and appreciation for all of his service to the Mount Vernon Yacht Club.

On a sadder note, we also mourn the death of our long-time Club member Jim Lawler who passed away during the past month. Jim was a great friend to all of us and will be deeply missed by all. The most sincere sympathy of the entire Club goes to Jim's wife Nancy and his family.

KUDOS FOR PAM BEGGAN AND AL GRANDE

by Bart Hewitt

Two of our most treasured MVYC members have been publicly praised for their charitable efforts. An article in the Connection Newspapers featured Pam Beggan for her service to the community. She was awarded an honorary membership in the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club for "over 30 years of community service, especially for organizing the fresh fruit and produce collection after the weekly Farmers Market at the Sherwood Hall library's parking lot.

Al Grande, a long-time member of MVYC, was featured on the front page of Greenspring's "Neighbors" publication. The article, entitled "The man behind the legend", chronicled Al's many accomplishments and community efforts as an officer in the Military Police, and later as a local businessman. As a military officer in Viet Nam, Al and his wife Claire took a refugee Vietnamese Family into their home. Upon returning to the USA he and Claire successfully sponsored the family for citizenship in the USA. And later, now owner of his own printing business, he "reached out to students at nearby T.C. Williams High School," giving jobs to students, teaching them how to run the presses and run a business.

So, MEGA-KUDOS, Pam and to Al, from all of your MVYC friends and admirers!!!

Toon Fleet Gnus

By Bartonius Hewitt, Toon Fleet Co-Captain

Finally ... the feature you have all been waiting eagerly for: The Toon Fleet Puzzler of the month:

Why is the word "News" in the title of this article (1) spelled "GNUS", and (2) why is it capitalized? Oh, silly Power Fleeters and Sail Fleeters and No-Boat Fleeters; the answer is simple. The word is capitalized to illustrate the fact that the Toon Fleet is a "capital" organization. (Long Silence)

This is just one more example of the high standards of article writing that is just one of the high standards demanded by the Toon Fleet Co-Captains who live by really high standards. A most convincing illustration of this, and as a way to show the "other" fleets that the Toon Fleet tolerates, even likes them, your Toon Fleet Co-Captains are scheduled to take a cruise on the Power Yacht Patriot II pretty soon, notwithstanding that the boat is a power boat, and therefore subject to scorn and ridicule.

Finally, please note that the previous sentence is impossible and disgustingly long, a typical and oft-anticipated element of most Toon Fleet articles.

HOUSE REPORT

From the House Guy, Don Basham



Please do not add unauthorized "Recycle" labels on trash cans. There are authorized and acceptable recycle bins that have been procured for the sole purpose of recycling. Putting signs on other waste receptacles does not make them approved for recycling.

Lights burning when nobody is present remains a problem. This continually costs the club extra dollars for electricity, and is the responsibility of all club members to enforce. Take a look around when you are departing the clubhouse and turn off unnecessary lights.

As always, if you see something that needs attention that I have missed, or if you have recommendations to improve on the quality of the House, please do not hesitate to contact me. I WILL take your comment under consideration and will attempt to fix the problem before you have time to take a second look.

Please call 703-799-7777 with problems or email me at bashamd@ix.netcom.com.



Commissioning Day May 6th

Honoring the Nautical Blue and White Tradition

By Jacque Knight

April is the time to get out your Commissioning Day “uniforms” and play Navy for the annual Blessing of the Fleet festivities on Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m.

Last year’s event got underway on a beautiful, sunny day on The Point while Navy Seals were conducting their spectacular raid of the Bin Laden hideaway in Pakistan. The news that night seemed especially poignant to many of us after participating in an especially patriotic ceremony with band, bagpipes, and the Color Guard and Drill Team from the US Coast Guard.

The 2012 Commissioning Day Committee will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 to plan another memorable day. We’re hoping to continue our fair weather tradition and have sunny skies and smooth waters for the Mount Vernon High School Crew team race.

The Rev. Ruth Walsh, a former Marine and now interim pastor of St. James Episcopal Church on Old Mill Road, will offer the invocation and blessing of the fleet.

Boat captains are encouraged to decorate their decks for the annual sail fleet and power fleet competition.

MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB ANNUAL COMMISSIONING DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 6TH AT 2:00 PM
4817 TARPON LANE

- U.S. Coast Guard Drill Team
- U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard
- Mount Vernon Community Band
- Mt. Vernon High School Rowing Team Race
- Congressional, ST, and County Representatives

GUESTS WELCOME

BLUE AND WHITE NAUTICAL DRESS

St. Pats Party Wrap-Up

By Marianne Ketels

Top ‘o the mornin’ to you, MVYC revelers! And thank you for making the 2012 MVYC St. Patrick’s Day Party a great success. From Irish garb, to Irish whiskey, to corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots, to scavenger hunts and party games, the celebration was cheerful, fun and a fine tribute to the wearers of the green.

Big congratulations go to the participants in the Scavenger Hunt: Bonnie Brenneman, Kim and Steve Donock and Russell Poe. The Brenneman/Donock Team won the first prize of Irish Whiskey, a gift certificate to Murphy’s Irish Pub, a CD of Irish tunes, and lots of chocolate gold coins. The Poe Team won a most delightful Booby prize. Equal congratulations go to the participants in the Shamrock Walk, Lauren Bazel and Tracy Groff, winners of a lovely Shamrock plant and lots of lucky Irish coins, LuAnn Kirkland and Traci Newcomb, winners of the Booby Prize, Kim Daniels and Steve Donock, and Andrea Stierman and John Leary and Amy and Dave Walker.. The Potato Race Teams also did a masterful job. They included Joe Castor, Bill Gard, Jerry Gray, Marianne Ketels, Jim Lexo, Jane Mutnick, Randy Plante, Russel Poe and Claudia and Ron Reinsel. The winners were Bill Gard, Jerry Gray, Marianne Ketels, Jim Lexo and Randy Plante. They received two sacks of fine organic potatoes and lots of Irish lucky coins.

A huge round of applause goes to the St. Patrick’s Day Party Committee: the Chair and Co-chair Harriet Singleton and Marianne Ketels, the corned beef and cabbage chefs, Bill Gard and John Leary, the scavenger hunt and games creator and organizer, Petra Gray, and all of the other chefs, bakers, decorators, planners, and clean-up crew, Chris and Lauren Bazel, Linda and Fred Brown, Karen Gard, Joan Jones, Zita and Tom Pojeta, Andrea Steirman, and Chris Tagliati.

A grand time was had by all!

See select photos...next page!



Photos courtesy of George Holthaus



St. Pats 2012



Power Fleet

By Alexi Stavropoulos

Spring came to us early this year, March felt like May, and I'm sure some played hooky from work to play a few rounds of golf and others probably snuck away to get a head start on some yard work. At the end of the day I'm sure many got the itch and started getting their boats ready for the season. Odds are that many managed to splash early this year. As we get ready to go out on the river, let's take a few minutes to make sure that all of our safety equipment is in good working order. In an effort to help keep our boats current with safety equipment we will have our annual vessel safety check later this month. The safety check is free and will be performed by US Coast Guard Auxiliary Floatilla 25-8. The inspection is open for all boats in the marina as well as trailer boats, and will be held on the 28th of this month from 9am -11am. See add in this month's beacon for the vessel requirements.

The following day is our brunch cruise to Philips Seafood restaurant in DC. Tracy Groff is hosting this event and has reserved a room for all us at the restaurant. She has arranged for several captains to take us for a cruise up river to the DC waterfront. See the ad in this month's Beacon and sign up for this day of fun on the river along with some good food.

Commissioning day is on Sunday, May 6st, and we will be looking for the "bested dressed boats". I hope we have many boats dressed up for the occasion. The Power Fleet events calendar is posted on the web site. Take look and come out and join us for some fun with friends on the river. If there are any events that you would like to get more information about, or would be interested in helping with, feel free to contact me at powerfleet@mountvernon-yachtclub.com.

See you on the river!

On The Docks

by Jerry Gray and Steve Donock, Marina Chairs
Email: marina@mountvernon-yachtclub.com

As we write this it is mid-March and it's over 70 degrees. If this holds out we will all be back on the river soon. A mild winter also means no damage from ice and snow and an easier start to the boating season. We won't get too excited yet; we still need to get past the spring rains and all of the debris they wash down the river each year.

By the time this publishes we will be ready to deploy the no-wake markers and Red Channel marker in Dogue Creek. If you have not participated in this semi-annual event you don't know what you are missing ... or maybe you do. Another semi-annual event is winterizing and de-winterizing the marina water system. If the overnight temperatures remain above freezing over the next few weeks we will turn the water back on to the docks.

We had an easy year for slip assignments with some new boats and some wait-listed boats getting assigned slips this year. We have a few slips available for boats in the 22 ft. or less range; so if you didn't apply for a slip check with Jerry or Steve about slip availability.

Don't forget your USCG Auxiliary Safety inspection. Eager CG Aux inspectors will be at the club on March 28 from 9 AM till noon providing this valuable service. You will get a sticker to display on your windshield, and peace of mind knowing you have your boat properly equipped for the season.

This Month in Naval history:

1783

Congress declares end of war with Great Britain

1861

Fort Sumter surrenders to Confederate forces

1925

First planned night landings on a carrier, USS Langley, by VF-1

1993

SECDEF memo orders Armed Forces to train and assign women on combat aircraft and most combat ships, but not to ground combat positions.

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Mike...we all smile right along with you - boating season..here we come!

On Your Mark

By Juliette Clark and Sherry Catron, Swim Team Representatives

It was such a mild winter that the Dolphins are considering circulating a petition to open the pool early... like around April 15th! But while we await another fun season at the pool, we are busily working on our plans for the upcoming year. We have had two DCCL planning meetings thus far, and there are several changes coming that will affect our season. First, we are back to a six-meet schedule, since FINALLY the 4th of July doesn't fall so close to a Saturday meet. Second, the League decided to revert back to a three-division structure to tighten up the competition. Both changes are very positive, and we are looking forward to great season.

The Dolphins are fortunate in that our head coach, Mark Murray, will be returning to lead our team; however, as of this writing, we still have not filled our assistant coach position. Sherry Catron is our team's co-representative this year, and she is quickly learning the job so that she can fly solo next year. We need to get a few more parents trained as officials, so Dolphin parents... prepare to be nagged.

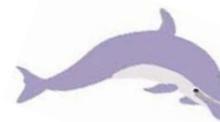
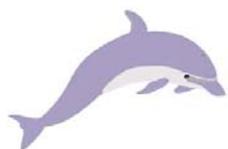
We have several events upcoming, and our first is on Spring Clean Up Day on April 21st. Instead of our usual Pancake Breakfast, we are serving lunch to the hungry clean-up crew. Bring your rakes, shovels, gloves, and weeders to the Club, work hard, and then enjoy a BBQ platter and a cold drink in the lower level of the clubhouse. Lunch will be served starting at 11:30, and this deliciousness only costs \$7.00.

Our next event is our Kick Off Banquet on Saturday, April 28th. We always enjoy getting together for great food, and then the kids watch a movie while the adults catch up after a long winter. If you have school-age children and are interested in checking out the team, please join us on April 28th at 5:30 PM.

Just because the MVYC pool is closed, it doesn't necessarily mean that our Dolphins are all stuck on dry land. Grace and Connor Ragland have been working out with FBST all winter. Rosemarie and Patrick Spollen took a few months off from swimming, but have been back in the water getting tuned up since January. Alex Gray got bitten by the swimming bug and made the transition to winter swim this year. Cara Spivack worked out in the mornings with FBST through the fall so that she could play Field Hockey and still be in shape for MVHS Swim and Dive. She has been struggling with a shoulder injury for several years, and after having another painful swim season she finally decided to have corrective surgery in late January. We wish her a speedy rehab! Joe Wise and Ann Gailliot swam for MVHS as well, including swimming the dreaded 500 meter freestyle event, and they improved their times across the board. Sydney and Ryan Catron continue to burn up the pool for Curl Burke, placing very high across their age groups in multiple events and qualifying for both the Tom Dolan and Junior Olympic Championship meets. All of this off-season training should translate to a lot of ribbons this summer. Great job Dolphins!

Below you will find our schedule through the 4th of July. Please come out for one of our home meets... we serve an awesome lunch... and watch for upcoming emails this summer for Splash Parties and our annual 4th of July extravaganza.

Go Dolphins!



Saturday, April 21st	10AM-1PM	Pool Clean Up Day and BBQ Lunch Fundraiser (in conjunction with Spring Clean Up Day)
Saturday, April 28th	5:30-9:00 PM	Kick-Off Party and Movie MVYC
Tuesday, May 29th	4:30-6:30 PM	Afternoon Practice Begins
Saturday, June 16th	8:00 AM	Dual Meet 1 vs. Evergreen Country Club (Away Meet)
Wednesday, June 20th	9:00-11:00 AM	Morning Practice Begins (5:00-6:00 PM Afternoon Practice Continues M-Th)
Saturday, June 23rd	8:00 AM	Dual Meet 2 vs. Mt. Vernon Country Club (Home Meet)
Saturday, June 30th	8:30 AM	Dual Meet 3 vs. County Club of Fairfax (Away Meet)
Wednesday, July 4th	12:00 PM	Fourth of July Party at the Pool!

FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECK



BY U.S. COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY
FLOTILLA 25-8

RESULTS GIVEN ONLY
TO VESSEL OWNER

DECAL AWARDED
WHEN VESSEL PASSES
INSPECTION

SEE THE REQUIREMENTS:

Google: SafetySeal.net / Click on [Virtual VSC](#)

ITEMS COVERED

1. DISPLAY OF NUMBERS
2. REGISTRATION/DOCUMENTATION
3. PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES
4. VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS
5. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
6. VENTILATION
7. BACKFIRE FLAME CONTROL
8. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES/BELL
9. NAVIGATION LIGHTS
10. POLLUTION PLACARD
11. MARPOL TRASH PLACARD
12. MARINE SANITATION DEVICES
13. NAVIGATION RULES
14. STATE AND/OR LOCAL REGULATIONS
15. OVERALL VESSEL CONDITION

Saturday April 28th 9am-11am

All boaters, power, sail and trailer boats, even Toons are welcomed

Sign up for your inspection at the point.
Jim Reisa along with flotilla 25-8 will perform the inspections.

Hot Dogs & drinks provided by the Power Fleet.

Please contact Jerry Gray call if you have any questions at 703-785-6262



April 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2 pm Kids Easter Party 	2 AM Closed for Cleaning	3 9 am Yoga Class	4	5 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	6 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	7
8 Happy Easter	9 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30pm Social Cmte Mtg	10 9 am Yoga Class	11	12	13 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	14
15	16 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	17 9 am Yoga Class	18	19 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	20 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	21  9 am - 2 pm MVYC Spring Clean Up
22	23 AM Closed for Cleaning	24 9 am Yoga Class	25	26	27 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	28  9 am Safety Inspection
29 10 am Brunch Cruise	30 AM Closed for Cleaning					

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9 am Yoga Class	2	3 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	4 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	5
6  2 pm Commissioning Day	7 AM Closed for Cleaning	8 9 am Yoga Class	9	10	11 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	12 11 am Photo Shoot  3 - 5 pm Mother's Day Tea
13 Happy Mothers Day	14 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30pm Social Cmte Mtg	15 9 am Yoga Class	16	17 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	18 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	19
20	21 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	22 9 am Yoga Class	23	24	25 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	26 11 am Memorial Day Raft Up / Spring Fling
27	28 AM Closed for Cleaning	29 9 am Yoga Class	30	31		



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

Spring Cleanup Day!



Mount Vernon Yacht Club
Saturday, April 21st
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



Come join other members for our best chance to get the club facilities ready for Commissioning Day and the warm days of spring.

All levels of ability and effort are needed!

(Mark tools with your ID)

Rakes – lawn or garden, shovels/spades, hoes, weed trimmers, wheelbarrows/garden carts, pitchforks trowels, dandelion digging tools, miscellaneous other tools.

ALSO – DON'T FORGET Support the Swim Team! Come to the BBQ Lunch Fundraiser!