



The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by
Ron Reinsel, Commodore

As the festivities from a delightful Commodore's Ball slowly begin to fade into memory, sitting down to write my first Bosun's Whistle column brings home the reality that the watch has really changed and that I now have, both literally and figuratively, some very large shoes to fill. It is both an honor and a challenge; and I promise that, with the support of a great new Board of Directors, I will try to do my best.

One of the foremost responsibilities of the Commodore is to recognize and thank all of the members of the Club who contribute so much to its success. With the Change of Watch the greatest thanks goes to our now Immediate Past Commodore Bill Gard. Bill has done an exceptional job and led the Club with a steady resolve through sometimes challenging times as Commodore over the past two years. He has always been an even hand at the tiller, tireless in his dedication and hard work, and selfless in giving his time and talents to making MVYC the pleasant – and now even more safe and secure – harbor that we all enjoy. Bill has left the Club in great shape, and I can only hope to live up to his fine example. We all owe Bill our deepest thanks and gratitude for his service – and even more so to Karen for letting us have him for the past two years. Thank you, Bill and Karen. Many thanks also go to our outgoing Board members: Former Commodore Jerry Skelly, Treasurer Tracy Groff, Secretary Peter Esser, and Board Member and House Chair Extraordinaire Greg Rehe. Each of them has given countless hours to making the Club function, paying its bills, keeping its books and records clear, and maintaining its facilities in true Bristol fashion. As an all-volunteer organization, I believe that every member of the Club should at some time serve on the Board of Directors. These fine folks have set a wonderful example by giving their time and service.

continued on Page 4...

Commodore's Ball and Change of Watch 2010

By Angie Miskimens



Additional photos on Page 3!

One hundred and sixteen Mount Vernon Yacht Club members and friends gathered to honor our outgoing Commodore Bill Gard and retiring Board members. The commissioning of the incoming board members and Ron Reinsel, the new Commodore, was followed by the Change of Watch and an evening of dancing with music provided by the DJ from Metro Mix Entertainment. If you did not attend the Ball this year, you missed a fun-filled performance by "Carnac" and his honorable side kick. David Miskimens and Chris Ruckman did an outstanding job of entertaining the audience. Many laughs were had by all.

Dave Walker sang a musical tribute about the great times we have had over the past year at MVYC. Great job Dave!

Ball Committee members, co-chaired by Angie Miskimens and Petra Gray, provided the assistance needed to make this event a huge success! Big thanks to Marge and Jerry Skelly, Margaret and Ed Zebrowski, Revae Moran, Ann and Des Wassell, Chris Ruckman and Diane Wilson, Marianne Ketels, Bill Gard, Karen Gard, Linda Brown and Amy Walker.

Special thanks to Jerri Pogue for her thoughtful invocation, Russell Poe for photographing each arriving member, and to the Master of Ceremonies Chris Ruckman for livening up the evening! Thanks to Steve Donock for handling the flags, and for the special honor by David Donock for the Change of Watch ceremony.

The BEACON

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Deadline for Next Issue:
15th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

December 2
January 6
at 8:00 pm
1st Thur of the month

Board Meetings

December 20
January 17
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

December 13
January 10
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month

WELCOME ABOARD

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair



“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.”

-Henrik Ibsen

(Major Norwegian playwright of the late 19th century, 1828-1906)

As I transition into the role of Membership Committee Chairman, I first want to congratulate and thank our outgoing chair – and now Commodore – Ron Reinsel, who worked with many of you to bring our membership roster up to an impressive 227 member families. And we are not done yet. When he handed over the committee folders he also posted the following three applications on the club bulletin board in the hope that we will hit that magic number of 230 before year end.

David and Gail Richmond
John Sawyer
Arlyn and Sandra Bronkema

Those of you who know any of these folks please invite them to a TGIF or the upcoming Christmas Party and help introduce them to the MVYC community as they await their interviews and offers of membership. We all were new members once, and there is no better way to meet new friends and get acquainted with our organization than by socializing at one of our events.

I am thrilled by the thought of kicking off 2011 with a full membership roster because as an all-volunteer organization our members are our lifeblood. We rely not only on their financial support, by also on their contributions of time and talent.

To the new members who have joined the club this past year, I hope we have made you feel welcome. And to all members – new and old – remember you are not only welcome, you are needed. There will be a lot to do in the coming months and I encourage you all to attend the monthly membership meetings; participate in social events; lend a hand where you can; cheer for the swim team; enjoy the camaraderie of TGIF and the beauty of the point; and get the most out of your investment in MVYC.

If you have friends interested in becoming members, or have any questions concerning membership, please feel free to give me a call at (703) 619-1096, or drop me a note at thebazels@yahoo.com.

Toon Fleet News

by Bart Hewitt, Toon Fleet Co-Captain

The fleet is out of the water and under cover for the winter, as are the fleet’s officers and crew. But the fleet continues to provide benefits. Underneath it are stored various pieces of lawn-maintenance equipment and our grandson’s red wagon. Further, we can also be certain that at least one family of squirrels will use it for shelter this winter, and will assuage their hunger by munching on the plastic furnishings inside, as they have in previous years. We take great pride in that (1) the Toon Fleet provides needed food and shelter to the hungry, and that (2) we get to demonstrate the Toon Fleet’s high regard through the use of important literary words like “assuage.”



2010 COMMODORE'S BALL



Photos courtesy of
Russell Poe

Slip For Rent:

40 foot by 15 foot covered E Dock slip on downriver side of the Fairfax Yacht Club. Covered slip. Deep water. Power and water. Because it is on the downriver side and there is no dock opposite, it can accommodate boats up to 50 feet in length. \$ 1,500 for 12/1/2010 to 2/28/2011. \$ 5500 for 3/1/2011 to 2/28/2012. Call Stefan Tahmassebi at 703 267 1259 or 703 915 6252 or email at stahmassebi@nrahq.org.



Bosun's Whistle from Page 1...

It is also appropriate to both welcome our new Officers and Members of the Board and to announce the jobs the jobs that they will be filling:

New Vice Commodore Jerry Gray – In addition to stepping up to the Vice Commodore position, Jerry has graciously agreed to serve another term as Marina Chair.

New Rear Commodore Jack Sanders - Jack has done a wonderful job as Chair of the Grounds Committee and will also continue to keep us green and growing.

New Treasurer Alexi Stavropoulos – While Jack keeps us in the green, Alexi hopefully will keep us in the black.

New Secretary LuAnn Kirkland – Will put her skills to work to ensure that the members are kept well apprised of the meetings of the board and membership.

New Board Member Don Basham – Will take charge of the House Committee.

New Board Member Lauren Bazel – Will take on the Membership Committee with a special charge of integrating our many new members into the Club.

New Board Member Clay Collier – Will act as Chair the Social Committee and keep our spirits jolly, including with a celebration of our 55th anniversary year.

New Board Member and Former Commodore Stewart Mathews – will bring his experience and sage advice to the Board as Member at Large

Returning Board Member Jack O'Malley – Will continue his able service as Chair of the Security Committee.

Returning Board Member Amy Walker – has done such a grand job this year as Chair of the Social Committee, and will now bring her talents to chair the Pool Committee.

I thank each of them for agreeing to serve, and I ask for their help – and each of you for yours – to make this another great year for the Mount Vernon Yacht Club.

And last, but far from least, very special thanks to Angie Miskimens, Petra Gray and their committee (including perennial past chair Linda Brown); to Master of Ceremonies Former Commodore Chris Ruckman; to photographer to the stars Russell (Pokie) Poe, song master David Walker, and our surprise visitor from the East, Karnack the Miskimeness, for making our Commodore's Ball one of the best (and best attended) in memory. It was a fantastic evening.

Now, before we turn to the holidays and the preparations for our “double nickels” birthday year, we also will be addressing the more serious business of developing the Club's annual budget that will be presented to the membership at our January meeting. Beginning in early November and continuing through December, the Board will be formulating our budget plans for the coming year. If you have issues that you think should be addressed in the budget, I urge you to discuss them either with me or the appropriate Board member.

In the meanwhile, Happy Holidays to all.



2010 Beer, Beef and Tail!

Photos courtesy
of Alexi Stavropoulos



MYC GROWN-UPS HOLIDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
FROM 6 TO 9 PM AT THE CLUB

ENJOY A POT LUCK FEAST
WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND GUESTS
BRING A DISH FOR 10 PEOPLE

LAST NAMES STARTING WITH:
A TO H: HORS OEUVRES
I TO P: ENTRÉE -MEAT OR VEGGIE/SALAD
O TO Z: DESSERT

WINE, BEER AND SODAS TO BE
PROVIDED BY THE CLUB!

JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CAROL
SING-A-LONG!

CALL CLAY COLLIER WITH QUESTIONS
@ 703-799-0733.





Social Committee Report

Contributed by outgoing Social Chair, Amy Walker

Believe it not, I don't have an opening story. Lucky you! I have too many other things to talk about. First, I am pleased that Clay Collier is the new Social Chair. Clay and his wife, Jen, have chaired the New Member's party for the last three years. Clay is well versed in party logistics. I know you will support him as much as you have supported me.

Second, we had a busy month since I last wrote:

Kid's Halloween / Oyster Roast:

We had a beautiful day for this event on the point. Thanks to the Halloween chairs, Jeanine and Dave Simmons; they always put on a good show. Thanks to the Oyster Roast- Superman Mike Holland for taking over for Russell. Thanks to Janis Waltermire for making all the sides, and to Betsy Mathes for picking up the oysters. Thanks to the grillers and shuckers: Woody Evans, Chris Bazel, Dave Walker, Peter Esser, and new member Glen Stone. I appreciate your time and effort.

Jazz Brunch: I was unable to attend but heard it was a wonderful event. Thanks to Mary Galloway, Mary McGowen, Marge Skelley for making it happen. Thanks to Cold Fusion for giving us a treat.

Commodore's Ball: Wow, Ladies and Gents- you clean up real nice! Thanks to co -chairs Angie Miskimens and Petra Gray and their committee for a beautiful and entertaining evening. I cannot even begin to tell you how much fun the ball was this year. See Angie's article to get the scoop. You do not want to miss this next year!

Upcoming Festive Events:

Dec 11 - Adult Holiday Party hosted by Mary Galloway. Come join us for cocktails, caroling, pot luck dinner and great friends. For more details, see the ad elsewhere in the Beacon.

Dec 12 - Kid's/Family Holiday Party hosted by me! Join us for crafts, snacks, music and a visit from Santa by boat (not to be missed). We ask the parents/grandparents to provide a small wrapped gift with your child's name on it for Santa to give out. For more details, see the ad elsewhere in the Beacon.

Dec 31st - New year's Eve hosted by the Waltons and the Bazels. More info to follow via email.

Thank you to Joan Jones for taking care of the TGIF's. I appreciate your commitment. Thanks to Don Basham for pitching in when you were needed. As always, contact Joan if you would like to host a TGIF at NCCNL@aol.com or by phone at 703-780-2965. If you have some ideas for Clay or would like help with a party, contact him at Clay@ctam.com

Thank you for letting me serve as your Social Chair. I have met so many members this past year. I consider myself lucky. Stop by and visit me poolside this summer !

Peace ... Amy Walker

Children's Holiday Party

Sunday, December 12th, 2 - 4pm - MVYC Clubhouse

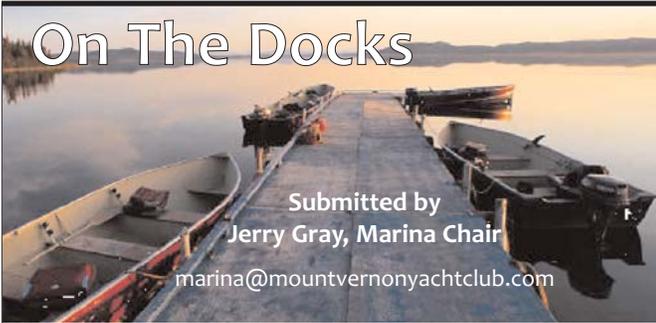
Please join us for cookie decorating, crafts, music and a visit from SANTA BY BOAT!

Shhhh...

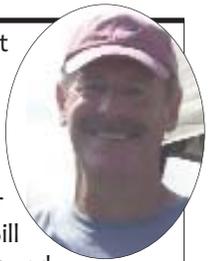
Parents - Please bring a small, inexpensive, wrapped gift with your child's name on it to the Crow's Nest by 1PM on Sunday before the party.

Bring a snack to share!

On The Docks



Submitted by
Jerry Gray, Marina Chair
marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com



We had some really nice days in early November, but all some good things must come to an end; at least until winter is over. After a fabulous Commodore's Ball on Saturday, a pretty large group of Volunteers joined me on Sunday November 14th to help pull the No-Wake markers and the Red channel marker for the winter, the MVYC version of "Dirty Jobs". Bill Gard used his boat, Fire Dog, to ferry the group around Dogue creek to retrieve the eight no-wake buoys that MVYC privately maintains. Mike Holland used his boat, Fish Tales, to retrieve

and tow in the Red channel marker and deploy the ice buoy in its place. Everyone hoisted, scrubbed, and/or hauled all of these. I want to thank that group for their volunteerism and for making this years job a fast and easy one: Bill Gard, Rick Mullins, Steve Donock, Mike Holland, Kevin Wirth, Mike Spollen, Julian Fincher, Jim Borches, and Pat McCarthy. We'll reverse the process in the spring.

Most members have either pulled their boats or winterized in the water, and we have taken requests for temporary winter slips inside the basin for folks on Outer-W that prefer to move inside for the winter. We also have few hardy souls that plan to do the Alexandria parade of lights in December, and one or more that just can't wait for ice to form so they plow through it.

If you have an ice eater you are not using, or one in need of repair, let us know and we'll put it to good use.

Nautical term of the month: **Pipe Down** - means stop talking and be quiet. The "Pipe Down" was the last signal from the Bosun's pipe each day which meant "lights out" and "silence".

Power Fleet

By Alexi Stavropoulos, Power Fleet Co-Chair



I had recently driven down to the marina. The point was quiet, there was a chill in the air, and the sun had just started to set behind the trees. It was high tide, and as I looked around the basin at the still waters and empty slips, I realized that the 2010 boating season had pretty much come to an end. I stood there for a while and started to think about the past boating season and how much fun I'd had with my family and friends on the water and at the point. We kicked off the boating season with a brunch cruise, a great Memorial Day raft-up, where we had a large turnout of boats. Recently-joined members showed up at this event to see what it was about; boats passing by slowed down to see this huge raft up, everyone was having a blast. From there, we continued with numerous events - the Parade of Lights, the PRYCA Float-in, The St. Mary's (Red Brown Memorial) event. Talk about a great party. Who would have thought we would get 23 boats, a camper, and three tents for a huge party down at the mouth of the Potomac? We had Dick McCormick serenading us with karaoke, a delicious BBQ under a big tent and a huge bonfire. Then there was the Labor Day raftup, the fall cruise and the overnight in Old Town. In between there were smaller raft ups at Three Sisters, cruises to Tim's, tubing and water skiing. It was a fun and safe boating season.

When the sun had completely vanished behind the trees at Ft Belvoir, I thought of the event that closed out a great boating season - the Beer, Butt & Tail! What a great party! But It's not just about the party. These point parties over the past several years have been put together by a small group of members that enjoy cooking food for everyone and just want to have some fun at the point with other MVYC members, friends and family. The menu over the years been deep fried turkey, steak, beef, lobster, followed up with mouth-watering sides like mussels, hot spinach salad and Beaufort boil. This BB&T was awesome, the turnout was the biggest yet, and everyone had a great time. The fact that over 203 people showed up for the event showed us that the members, along with friends and family appreciate all the time and effort that is put into the point parties. This year the group consisted of the usual suspects along with some new members that wanted to lend a hand. We all showed up several hours before the event to get everything started and were back the next morning for cleanup. On behalf of myself and everyone that showed up to the BB&T, I would like to thank Gene Diotallevi and Bill Gard, who went to Maryland to pick up the 200 lobsters and mussels, all the guys helping Gene set up the lobster grill and assisted him with cooking the lobsters, Jerry Gray and Jeff Kirkland for spending hours on the grill cooking the beef, Jim Fletcher and Jim Borches for doing all the shopping and cooking up the low country boil, and Jim Gordon for the beer and wine. Behind the scenes in prep work, setup, slicing and dicing and cleaning up, I would like to thank, Judy & Pat McCarthy, Dan O'Keefe, LuAnne Kirkland, Harriet Singleton, Christine Stavropoulos, Julian Fincher, Zoe Stavropoulos, Chris & Lauren Bazel, Mike Holland, Steve Donock, Chris Ellis and Roger Fuller. I cannot forget the one that keeps us all in check and who we love to call "The Knee Capper" - Bonnie Brenemen. I hope you all enjoyed the event as much as we did in presenting it to you.

Coming up in early 2011 is the Frostbite cookout at the point and the Power Fleet events meeting for 2011 boating season. I hope to see you all there. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Distinguished Volunteer - Jim Hamrick

By Bill Gard, Immediate Past Commodore

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club Board of Trustees has recognized Past Commodore Jim Hamrick with its Distinguished Volunteer award. In addition to his years on the MVYC Board Jim was involved in a many activities that predate much of the current Club's membership.

Recalling Jim's contributions, several long-time members offered specifics that I would like to share with you. The following was provided by Past Commodores Bonnie Breneman and Jerry Skelly, whose recollection of club events and activities reaches back farther than my own:

When Jim was serving as Jerry Skelly's Rear Commodore, they worked together vigorously to plan and build the clubhouse we now have. Jim headed the planning committee for the re-building of the house and supervised the reconstruction—very substantial efforts, for which Jerry expresses special gratitude. Jim acted as our general contractor (even though we paid a lot of money for one) during the design, demolition and rebuild of the house that was completed in 2001. Jim lived and breathed the house project for two years and was the driving force behind the wonderful facility we now enjoy. He sweet-talked the membership into more spending than we ever thought we could afford—just by explaining to us how it was possible! His banking skills were an enormous help, and he worked with the bank to turn our plans into reality.

He was the inspiration for the Marina of the Future after Hurricane Isabel, which got the membership behind the major upgrades and repairs the club was able to complete while Bonnie was commodore.

Jim's chairmanship of the Long Term Planning Committee has been quite successful in gaining membership support because of his positive attitude and down-to-earth presentations. He is able to translate information or proposals that seem convoluted, complex, or too expensive into straightforward plans that make sense.

Jim is a thoughtful mentor for leadership in a volunteer organization. He backs up his critiques and suggestions with positive actions that help us as a club to move forward.

Jim's parliamentary expertise arises from his own intellectual curiosity; he studied Robert's Rules of Order and condensed the really usable and relevant parts into a document that applies to organizations like ours. He made the Rules a relevant tool to use for sticky meeting situations, which helps keep the momentum going and the discourse positive.

Jim and his crew have always been the providers of Yellow Birds (a delicious punch with a potent kick) at our annual down-river event—a unifying activity first suggested and organized by Red Brown. Jim even provided the traditional punch and sent it along with Bonnie one year when he couldn't be there!

In addition to helping to secure financing for the construction of the new clubhouse, Jim was instrumental in structuring the long-term mortgage and the line of credit that we now use to flatten out the spikes in MVYC's revenue and expenses throughout the year.

As Commodore for the past two years, I have relied on Jim for practical financial, political, social, and boating advice during my stewardship of the Club. His counsel has been invaluable.

Jim also serves on the neighborhood advisory board for the Mount Vernon Estates and Gardens. In addition, he is a published author ("Dr. Asberry Wiggins: A Secret Long Kept, Stories Once Told") as well as an accomplished musician who lends his talents to weekly musical sessions with other club members and neighbors.

Please join me in thanking Jim Hamrick for his service to MVYC and the community. And Jim, thanks for the Yellow Birds!



MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB YOGA CLASSES

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY MORNINGS

9:00am – 10:15am

Monthly Cost for December:
Tuesdays (4 classes): \$48.00
Fridays (3 classes): \$36.00
Both Days (7 classes): \$84.00

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS:

December 7, 14, 21, 28

FRIDAYS:

December 3, 10, 17

(No class December 24 or 31)

Ed Saul, 6212 Ruby Virginia Ct, Alexandria VA 22310
703.472.0111 (Cell/Text) ed4yoga@cox.net



Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association



www.PotomacRiverYachtClubsAssociation.org

Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association 2011 Change of Watch-Dinner Dance Saturday, January 22, 2011

at

Hilton Springfield

6550 Loisdale Road

Springfield, Virginia 22150

703-971-8900

Cocktails: 1800

Dinner: 1900

Change of Watch Ceremony: 2000

Dancing to follow w/music provided by "25th Hour Band"

Winter Uniform/Black Tie Optional or Business Suit

\$70 per person before November 30th /\$75 per person after November 30th
(No refunds after January 14th)

Menu

Caesar Salad w/ asst Bread & Rolls

Roasted Beef Terous Major with Fennel Gruyere Potato Gratin

or

Tuscan Chicken with Basil Mashed Potato

(Vegetarian Meal available upon request)

Hotel Block of Rooms reserved at per room rate of \$89.00 (plus state and local taxes) until December 31, 2010.
Make reservations directly with Hilton Springfield at Telephone 703-971-8900.



Meal Selection: Roasted Beef Tuscan Chicken Vegetarian

Name _____ Guest Name _____ Titles _____

Yacht Club _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Please Send Coupon & Check to PRYCA Treasurer Frank Erwetowski, 11420 Mohawk Ct, Swan Point, MD 20645
or
To your Club's PRYCA Delegate



December 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	3 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	4
5	6 AM Closed for Cleaning	7 9 am Yoga Class	8	9	10 7:30 pm TGIF	11 6 pm Grown-Ups' Holiday Party 
12  2 pm Children's Holiday Party	13 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	14 9 am Yoga Class	15	16 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	17 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	18
19	20 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	21 9 am Yoga Class	22	23	24 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	25 
26	27 AM Closed for Cleaning	28 9 am Yoga Class	29	30	31 8 pm  New Year's Eve Party	



January 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 AM Closed for Cleaning					1
2	3 AM Closed for Cleaning	4 9 am Yoga Class	5	6 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	7 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	8
9	10 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	11 9 am Yoga Class	12	13	14 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	15
16	17 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	18 9 am Yoga Class	19	20 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	21 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	22
23	24 AM Closed for Cleaning	25 9 am Yoga Class	26	27	28 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	29



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

In Search Of...

Dog Walker



Tobin

Late mornings, between 10:00 and 12:00, Monday-Friday
Perfect for a home-schooler (12 or older), retiree, or anyone
with 30 minutes for a leisurely stroll with a gentle, slow
moving Senior Citizen Golden Retriever

Call Us

Peter's Cell: 703-200-0362

Mary's Cell: 571-215-7590

Home: 703-799-6584