



The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by
Bill Gard, Commodore

The MVYC Board of Trustees has voted to award the Mount Vernon Yacht Club's Distinguished Volunteer Award to Bonnie Breneman.

Bonnie is a long-time club member and a recent Past Commodore who also held several board positions leading up to her election as Commodore. During Bonnie's tenure in that position, her significant accomplishments included implementing the Marina of the Future project in the wake of Hurricane Isabel, and the planning and implementation of MVYC's 50th Reunion gala. The Marina of the Future project included relocating C and D docks, converting A and B docks to floating docks, and rebuilding Outer W. Bonnie continues to contribute, serving on the MVYC Membership Committee where she keeps the membership records and finances in order and drives the annual membership renewal effort. Bonnie also is MVYC's liaison to the Potomac River Yacht Club Association (PRYCA), participates actively in Power Fleet event planning, and acts as treasurer for the periodic Club-wide cookouts on the point. Bonnie's diligence has contributed greatly to keeping these events in the black. (So consider yourself warned- don't try to get in without paying!)

Please join me in thanking Bonnie for her service to the club.

Membership Meeting Budget Issues and Beyond

At the January membership meeting, after members voted to pass the budget as submitted by the board, floor discussions covered a number of issues.

continued on Page 3...



New Year's
Eve
2009

WELCOME ABOARD - Membership Report

Contributed by Rob Reinsel, Vice Commodore and Membership Chair

As January turns to February two events are certain: Ground Hog Day and the delivery of annual Club Billing Statements. As we often say, our members and their selfless service and volunteering are the life blood of the Club. Of course, membership dues help too.

By now, you should have received your letter enclosing the 2010 Membership Renewal and Billing Statement and we are anxiously awaiting its return. As a reminder, our membership year begins January 1 and the boat slip year begins March 15. The Billing Statement includes an invoice with the due date for both. The format is a two sided form with the boat/slip/power/dinghy data on the back side. Please return your completed form together with the appropriate payment not later than the end of this month. For those members who pay their Club dues in two installments, the installments are due before March 1 (i.e. not later than February 28) and before May 1 (i.e. not later than April 30). Payments received after the due dates will be subject to a late fee of 5% per month or part thereof.

Use the membership renewal form to update your membership records with names, street and email addresses, and telephone numbers. As reflected in the bylaws, membership is a family affair with the head of household and his/her spouse maintaining one vote per membership and the responsibility for adhering to the Bylaws and Rules. Dependents and other household residents, including nannies or au-pairs, should be listed separately. Please do not include adult children who are not dependents (even if they are household occupants). The e-mail section should include only e-mail addresses at which you wish to receive MVYC news and information, subject to the MVYC privacy policy. Please complete and SIGN the application for membership renewal, even if you are not required to pay any fees.

Most importantly, MVYC relies on volunteers for all its functions - Board members, standing committees, parties and other social activities, and work parties for all of the things that need to be done around the Club. The Club simply cannot provide the quality activities and facilities that it does without each member's support. Therefore, members are expected to sign on for one or more activities or pay the non-volunteer fee. If you have an interest or an area in which you would like to lend a hand, make it known. Please complete the volunteer form and/or remit your voluntary payment. Additionally, MVYC wishes to maintain a directory of members who own businesses and would like other members to know about it. For those interested in having this information published, please complete and submit this section of the application.

Hellos and Goodbyes:

As we start the month, our total membership now totals 222. Of those, 218 are Active Members in good standing and 4 are Honorary Members. In reaching this number, we reflect the resignation of long-time members Mark and Denise Zuk. Mark is a former Commodore of MVYC, and together Mark and Denise have contributed greatly to making the Club the wonderful place that it is. The Zuks remained Club members for a number of years after moving to Spotsylvania, Virginia, but have finally decided to relinquish their membership. We wish them all the best.

We are also pleased to announce the posting, as of January 15, of the application for prospective membership of Michael and Jane Prescott.

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Deadline for Next Issue:
15th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

February 4
March 4
at 7:30 pm
1st Thur of the month

Board Meetings

February 15
March 15
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

February 8
March 8
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month

The Bosun's Whistle continued from Page 1...

Potential projects that were addressed include reconfiguring Inner W, rehabilitating the bulkheads adjacent to A, B, C and D docks, planning for and possibly implementing the dredging of the marina, and upgrading or replacing C and D docks. These Marina-related projects have significant cost implications which will have to be considered. Another subject raised was replacement of the club's unreliable and deteriorating electronic piano. Suggestions for tackling this problem included fund raising events and a financial contribution by the Club.

In addition to the topics covered at the meeting, a number of other items need to be considered in the days ahead. One is replacement of the large TV(s) with flat-panel plasma or LCD unit(s). Infrastructure issues are also of concern: the HVAC systems, which are nearly ten years old and need more and more repairs as they age; frequent flooding from the front of the clubhouse into the pool locker room entrances can only be resolved by re-grading. All of the above initiatives will be discussed by the Board over the next several weeks and months in an effort to prioritize our needs and find ways to finance the projects. We are fortunate to have access to a more than adequate line of credit. Our challenge is to manage our resources effectively.

All that said, I'm going to tie this back to MVYC volunteers. We are fortunate to have a cadre of professional tradespeople and business owners who continuously donate time, materials and equipment to the club. These folks' contributions keep our dues and fees low, allowing us to balance the budget, even with reduced membership numbers. Without the help given by the likes of Jim Nelson, Jim Gordon, Rick Mullins, Mark Barbaro, Neal Beggan and others, we'd have to spend thousands of dollars on tree services, painting and dry-wall repairs, landscaping, grading and plumbing, asphalt repairs, power washing and more. Without Mike and Catalina Holland and Gene Diotalevi, we'd be spending a lot more money on communications and web site hosting. Without Jim Fletcher, Jim Borches, Jeff Kirkland, Alexi (you know his last name), Jerry Gray and others, we'd be spending a lot more on cookouts and other informal social events. And then there are the folks who volunteer for the Club's formal parties, Commodore's Ball, Commissioning Day, Christmas decorating. If I listed every volunteer for every activity, Volunteers Blair Beggan and Bart Hewitt would have to bump up the page count of the BEACON and that would cost more money. Thanks to all of you, whether you were acknowledged by name or appreciated here anonymously.

So. MVYC members -- when you get your membership renewal application for 2010, please make sure you find an area of volunteering to your liking and join the Board and all the active volunteers who keep the place going.



Social Committee Report

Contributed by Amy Walker, Social Chair



Happy New Year to you! I hope January is providing a much needed rest for you after a busy December. A big Thank You to Karan Cerutti, Pat Stallings, Lorraine Phillips, and the Waltons for hosting a wonderful New Year's Eve party. I saw several members and guests cuttin' the rug (or rather, the floor) that night. (Don't worry Greg Rehe - the floors don't have to be redone.)

January was a quiet month for social events, but February will be festive:

Feb 7: the Positively Perfect Power Fleet is throwing the Superbowl party.

Feb 12: Valentines TGIF will be hosted by the O'Keefe's and the Mayer's. Come spend some special time with your special someone.

Feb 20: The Mardi Gras party. Lauren Bazel and her "krewe" have an exciting party planned for you. Get your "krewe" together and build a mini float. Prizes will be awarded. See the write-up elsewhere in the Beacon for more details.

Marching into the next month, we have:

Mar 12: St. Patrick's Day TGIF

Mar 21: Kids' Easter party

Mar 27: Sock Burning party

If you would like to host/chair or just help with any these events, please let me know! You can contact me at deewalk11@verizon.net or (703) 780 8904.

For hosting a TGIF, contact Joan Jones at NCCNL@aol.com or (703) 780-2965

I would like to cordially invite you to come to a Social Committee meeting and share your thoughts. It is great to hear new and creative ideas. Next meeting is Feb 8th at 7:30, the following one on Mar 8th at 7:30. Hope to see you there!

The Unbelievable Marant Plant Murals

Contributed by Bartonius du Mont V'non

For all of you intrepid walkers and bikers: You just gotta see this. On the back side (river side) of the huge Marant Power Plant north of Alexandria, there is a 1200-foot-long, 10-foot-high cedar fence. The Mount Vernon Trail runs right past it, between the fence and the river. On this fence a team of artists has painted a series of incredible murals. Running chronologically south to north, they portray scenes from the life of George Washington. It is a staggering work in its size, scope, content and artistry. You just gotta see it. Because of tree cover, it's difficult to see from a boat on the river - best just to walk or bike past. Park close to the river at the north end of Old Town, take the bike trail north. You will be amazed.



**When the saints, go marchin' in. Oh, when the saints go marchin' in.
Lord, I want to be in that number. When the saints go marchin' in...**



**For sure, ye want to be in *this* number
when the good times roll at
MVYC's**

MARDI GRAS 2010

**SATURDAY, FEB. 20
7PM-11PM
\$20 per person**



**Get in da party mood!
Wear purple, green and gold,
Find the feathers, masks and beads,
Put on the dancin' shoes and...**

Laissez les bon temps rouler!!

Don't dally now! RSVP by Feb. 14

**Make checks payable to:
MVYC and place in the club mailbox or send to:
Lauren Bazel 4321 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria VA 22309**



**Be part of the First Annual MVYC Mardi Gras Parade
Form ye Krewe, build ye float, and earn ye beads!
Ye may even win a prize!!**

**Never built a float?
No worries. Harriet Singleton will help ye out. But parade space
be limited so email her (hescs@verizon.net) by Feb.10**



MVYC Power Fleet Events Calendar 2010

Frostbite Party

Jan 16th
(sorry if you missed it!)

Superbowl Party

Feb 7th

Tim's Overland Cruise

February 13th

Annual Sock Burning Party

March 27th
(Power/Sail Social Event)

Brunch Cruise

Apr 18th

Safety Inspection

Apr 24th

Commissioning Day

May 2nd
(Best Dressed Boats!)

Memorial Day Raft Up

May 29th

Wounded Warriors

May 31st
(Power/Sail Social Event)

Boat Photo Op

Jun 12th
(Rain Date: Jun 26th)

8th Annual Parade of Lights

Jul 3rd

PRYCA Float In

Jul 16-18th

St. Mary's Cruise

Aug 20-22nd
(Red Brown Memorial Cruise)

Labor Day Raft Up

Sept 5th

Fall Cruise Party

Sept 18th

Alexandria Overnight

Oct 16th

Lobster Fest

Oct/Nov TBD

Power Fleet

Contributed by Alexi Stavropoulos



We kicked off the 2010 Power Fleet season with a great frostbite. As the date grew closer, I thought we would all be in parkas huddled around turbo heaters and the fire pit. As it turned out, we had a 50 degree day that brought out 95 members and friends, 22 kids and a clown. There were several prospective new members that joined in on the fun and got a chance first-hand to see the kind of fun we have at MVYC.

We all got to enjoy delicious ribs, prepared by the Jims, (Borches & Fletcher) that fell off the bone as you ate them. They were followed by burgers dogs and beans that were prepared on the new MVYC Monster Grill, manned Jerry Gray & Jeff Kirkland. These two guys wished it was 32 degrees out as they cooked on this thing.

Behind the scenes setting up, prepping and making sure we had the sides ready to go were Pat & Judy McCarthy along with LuAnne Kirkland, Harriet Singleton. Jim Gordon made sure we had plenty of beer and wine. Bill Gard made sure we had plenty of ice for all our drinks. Zoe Stavropoulos & Bonnie Breneman greeted and collected as everyone came down for the event. Petra Gray provided sweets for all to enjoy. Jim Nelson swung buy at the crack of dawn and dropped off some fire wood and Rick Mullins supplied a load of wood as well.

It was nice to just sit back drink a beer and look around at everyone having a good time. I think I can speak on behalf of this group we call "Team A-", that take the time to get together, to shop, cook, set up, and clean up. It is a pleasure to do all this work for our friends and members of MVYC. This has always been reflected by the great turn out by all of you and seeing everyone have a great time. Thank you all for coming out and thanks to a fun group of friends for making good food and wonderful frostbite.

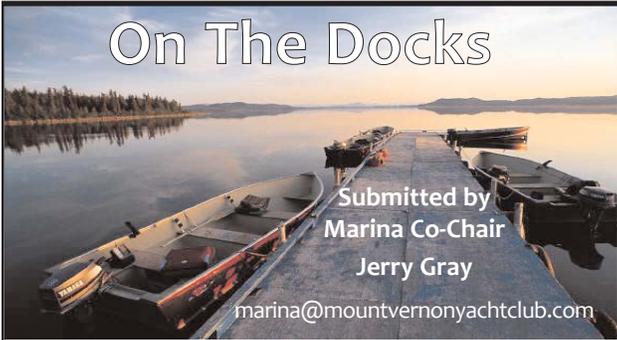
If I could just go back for a minute to the Monster Grill. Last year for the Wounded Warrior's event we had a big grill donated for the event by American BBQ. After that event and realizing that a grill like that would be extremely useful to our club, Rick Mullins built us this terrific big grill. I'd like to thank Rick for his hard work on the grill, it came in handy for the Frostbite and I know it will be put to good use for many other events at MVYC.

Last month we had a good turnout for the 2010 Power Fleet event planning meeting. We carried over many of our past events and rearranged several of them. We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers. If you see an event you like please join in on the fun and feel free to contact me or the point of contact of an event for more information.

I would like to take a moment to thank Russell Poe, George Holthaus, and Stuart Mathews for always taking photos at various power fleet events. They manage to catch these fun moments for us to look back at. Shortly after each event you can visit the MVYC web site to view these wonderful glamour shots.

Upcoming events this month are the Superbowl Party on February 7 and the Tim's Overland Cruise on February 13th. For future events check the MVYC web site for the complete 2010 Power Fleet Events schedule. If you would like any additional information on power fleet events you can contact me at powerfleet@mountvernonyachtclub.com.

On The Docks



Submitted by
Marina Co-Chair
Jerry Gray

marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com

The marina has survived being iced over for several weeks and the snow storm on Dec 19th that brought nearly 2 feet of snow. During the membership meeting in January we discussed several marina projects and we are continuing to work out the details concerning some of the dock or bulkhead work that may be proposed later this year. The budget was approved and we will move forward with the preliminary work that will allow us to fully understand what it would cost to dredge the marina.

Nautical term of the month: "As the Crow Flies"

When lost or unsure of their position in coastal waters, ships would release a caged crow. The crow would fly straight towards the nearest land thus giving the vessel some sort of a navigational fix. The tallest lookout platform on a ship came to be known as the crow's nest.

TOON FLEET NEWS

Contributed by Lazlo Frammerhausen
Ghost Writer for Bart Hewitt, Toon Fleet Co-Captain

The Toon Fleet has been a beehive of activity this winter. I cannot speak for the other Toon Fleet Captain, but this one cranks, man! Every day it's something, in the wide, wide world of Toons. Like just yesterday, I was walking past my Toon, which was comfortably snoozing on its trailer in the Toonport. As I passed, I noticed some really ugly-looking greenish-brown stuff dangling from one of the hulls. We Toon Captains have multiple hulls to deal with, you see, and they are made of aluminum, a rather user-unfriendly material. Not that I have any argument with aluminum, as it is light and durable, and lovely to look at, although it does seem to make the craft appear kinda like a beautiful ballet dancer wearing big metal shoes. I thought the reference to a "Ballet Dancer" might give this article a touch of class. I can tell that it's not working. Maybe I should just move on and finish this article. Or better, maybe I should just end it here.

Editor's Note:

The following letter was received from a Mr. Beggan (I believe the spelling to be correct) who, it appears, has had some association with the Mount Vernon Yacht Club in the past. There is anecdotal evidence that he may be afloat to some degree, in a location known only to God. The staff of the BEACON assumes no responsibility or liability for the contents therein, said contents exhibiting a poorly-disguised political bent. MVYC is, after all, an apolitical entity. And for those who, against all advice, wish to follow the exploits of this Mr. Beggan, his wife, Pam, and their sailing vessel the "Paragon," you may do so by viewing their Blog at the following address:

<http://www.blueechostudios.com/ParagonsParable/>

Commodore William Gard
Mount Vernon Yacht Club
4817 Dolphin Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22309

January 12, 2010

Dear Commodore Gard,

It is with great sadness and regret that at dusk at exactly 1230 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), the "50th" MVYC Burgee was struck for the last time from HMS-BO (His Majesty's Ship - Barack Obama) PARAGON. This occurred approximately 3 nautical miles up the Miami River in South Florida.

A near mutiny ensued when the 1st Mate and the Captain (assign titles and duties to whom you wish) could not agree on the proper protocol - bury it or burn it. All we agreed upon is:

A. It is dead

B. Even in this industrial, dilapidated warehouse, dock area which is potentially life-threatening (reminds us of "W" Dock), our neighbors on working tugs, tramp steamers/freighters, the local warlords of M13, the Crypts, and the local auxiliary of the MV Garden Club think the MVYC Burgee devalues the neighborhood and must come down. Down it came!

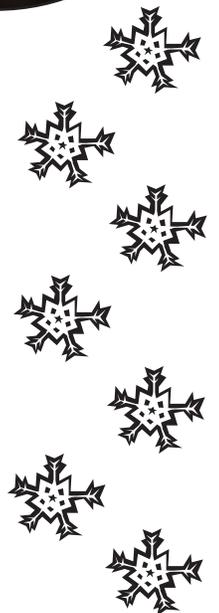
To achieve a compromise, Captain and 1st Mate (assign titles and duties to whom you wish) have elected to return the beloved burgee to you in the spirit of the Green Dolphin, the Burnt Sock, whatever Speedo suits are still active, and David Walker's guitar which, from what we understand, was seized by the membership so Walker would stop singing.

Best wishes. We miss you guys,
Bob and Pamela



WINTER

2010





February 2010



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



March 2010



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



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