



The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by Ron Reinsel, Commodore

In Like a Lion...

The month of March brings many things. In addition to the last weeks of winter, March also provides us with St. Patrick's Day, the Vernal Equinox, and the start of Daylight Savings Time. The last of these gives a very (if not too) early hint that summer is yet to come. At MVYC, the other two give us reasons to celebrate. St. Pat's will be a rousing Club party celebrated with much wearing of green, consumption of corned beef and appropriate brew, and perhaps even a visit from St. Patrick himself. The Equinox marks the first day of spring; and at MVYC, that means it's time for the annual Sock Burning Party and Blessing of the Feet that marks the official beginning of "Let's Get Ready for Boating Season"! Both will be great fun and are not to be missed.

Update on the Marina capital improvements program: The planning is proceeding toward both the dredging project as well as the renovation of C and D Docks and utility upgrades. Both are ambitious undertakings. The dredging effort will give us increased depth throughout the Marina basin and outer W area to a minimum of 4 1/2 feet at mean low tide. The Dock Renovation includes replacement of the floats and decking for C and D docks with materials essentially similar to those used in the re-building of A and B docks, modifying certain of the slips on the south side of C dock to potentially accommodate larger boats, increasing the electrical service capacity and providing dock pedestals for electrical service to many of the slips on C and D as well as E docks. The number of slips will remain the same, but the improvements will be significant.

Our designs are complete, our financial house in order to take on both projects, and bids have been solicited for both projects. We are prepared to go forward; however, nothing goes as quickly as we all might like.

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WELCOME ABOARD

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair

St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.

~ Adrienne Cook



Top o'the morning, lads and lassies! Yes, it is March already and your Membership Leprechaun is happy to report that the annual billing process is officially over. Now, the task turns to the Marina Leprechauns who will be working hard allocating slips for the upcoming boating season. Thanks to all for making this year's process run smoothly. A very special nod goes to Mike Spollen who created the new electronic version of our billing statement, and to all those who accepted and completed their forms all electronically. This really helps reduce our printing, postage, and distribution costs. It also makes it much easier for us to keep our membership records up to date, because the information can be taken right from the forms and put into a database. We want to keep working to make this process as user-friendly and paperless as possible, so if you have suggestions for next year send them along.

Thank you, as well, to everyone who sent in your slip applications and membership fees early and on time. If, however, you are reading this and have not yet sent in your annual dues and fees, I am afraid your luck has run out - late fees are accruing on all unpaid balances. As you know, only those members who have made timely payments can be considered for marina slips, so please make sure to get your checks in, or contact me directly if you have any questions or problems.

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IN MEMORIAM

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club mourns the passing of **JOE FITZGERALD** Long-time club member, husband, father and grandfather, And friend. We will miss you, Joe.

The BEACON

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Deadline for Next Issue:
15th of the month

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WELCOME ABOARD from Page 1

Membership Update

We have had some changes to our membership this month. Bruce & Nancy Valley (1984); Loran & Joanna Ambs (2007); Tom & Mary Morrison (1999); and David & Melissa Narins (2005) have opted to move on from MVYC. We wish them all well as they now enter the ranks of our “extended family.”

Pursuant to Article III of the MVYC Bylaws, two applications for membership currently are posted on the Club bulletin board: Robert “Rocky” & Sally Laha, who live on Agnew Avenue in Alexandria, and Brian Atkins, who lives in Arlington. The membership committee will be scheduling interviews in anticipation of the March 19 Board meeting.

To bring everyone up to date, our current membership now stands at 219 families, 216 active and 3 honorary. We have 62 Yacht Haven members and 167 non-Yacht Haven members. With openings for 11 member families, now is the perfect time to introduce MVYC to friends and neighbors who may be interested in joining. As you all know, the best recruiting tool is just inviting people to the Club and having them spend time meeting members and seeing first hand all that MVYC membership can offer them.

I want to put in a specific plug for Commissioning Day on Sunday May 6. Consider coming for the ceremony and then bringing a picnic lunch and making a day of it on the point. As one of the more unique events we have, it is really an event I hope all members will participate in and use as one opportunity to showcase MVYC to those who have not yet discovered us.

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

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

Board Meetings

March 19
April 16
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

March 12
April 9
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month



Save the Date! 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 Pancake Breakfast!

The Bosun's Whistle from Page 1

Our permit application for dredging remains under review by the County. As we have discussed before, the environmental time window for dredging activity is restricted to certain of the winter months. Given the time consuming permit approval process as well as the logistics involved in relocating boats to accomplish the work, we previously decided that it would be best to proceed with this project in the fall after the close of the coming boating season.

Meanwhile, we had hoped to undertake the demolition and primary construction of C and D docks this winter before the start of the new boating season. We have received very complete bids from various contractors and were prepared to take on the work in February and during the month of March. However, none of the prospective contractors were prepared to assure us that they could complete the work in time for the basic docks to be ready for occupancy by early April. Rather than potentially put the start of the season at risk for the many members with boats on C and D, we will also push the dock construction effort to the fall. We will use the coming months to undertake the utility infrastructure upgrades so that the electrical capacity will be available when the docks are ready.

This fall, when we are set to commence the physical work on both projects, we will necessarily have to temporarily relocate many, if not all, of the boats in the Marina. Obviously, this will be a major effort and we will try to minimize the "down time". We ask all of the slip holders who will be affected for their cooperation, patience and understanding while we take on this important improvement for the Club, and suggest that those who ordinarily winter their boats in the Marina consider using that time to pull their boats for any needed repairs. As the season goes on we will keep the slip holders updated on the schedule and coordinate the relocation efforts.

Many thanks go to Bill Gard, Jim Borches, Jeff Kirkland, Jim Hamrick and to Marina co-chairs Jerry Gray and Steve Donock for all of their great work and continuing efforts on both of these major projects.

On a more serious note, in mid-February we lost our dear friend and long-time Club member Joe Fitzgerald. Joe was an absolute delight, a great wit, a wonderful resource, a treasured part of the MVYC family and, not insignificantly, a charter member of the Five O'Clock Club. The day before his passing Joe had just returned from a Florida vacation with many of his close MVYC friends. His kind is irreplaceable and he will be deeply missed. Our love, and the most sincere sympathy of the entire Club go to Joe's wife Susan, and to all of Joe's family.

Toon Fleet News

By Bart Hewitt, Toon Fleet Doppelhuller

There is not much Tooning to be done these days. Why? Because, it's winter, silly Other Fleet person, and the Toon Fleet is up on blocks. So what can we talk about? I know ... Mountain Biking (or MTB for those of you with a limited education). (I can do this because (1) I am an avid and daring mountain biker myself, (2) there is a fabulous, challenging mountain biking venue very nearby at Lake Accotink Park in Annandale, (3) there's lots of singletrack (insider MTB term) through expansive woods, with lots of uphill climbs and downhill screamers (another insider term), lots of roots and rocks and logs and streams to negotiate around/over/under/through, and (4) I am the Beacon Editor and I get to do anything I want. So - the Toon Fleet challenges you: if you are a mountain biker, or a daring wannabe, call me. I will gladly be your guide. You need a sturdy mountain bike with fat, knobby tires and lots of gears, a good helmet, some old clothes you don't care about, a zest for adventure, and possibly a death wish. What does all of this have to do with the Toon Fleet? Absolutely nothing. Get over it. Sumer Is Acumen In.

**TO CELEBRATE THE DEMISE OF WINTER,
HASTEN THE COMING OF SPRING,
AND KICK-START THE COMING BOATING SEASON:**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE ANNUAL
MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB
SOCK BURNING PARTY
AND BLESSING OF THE FEET
ON THE POINT
SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2012
5 TO 7 PM (OR LATER)**



**BEER, BRATS AND BONFIRE
PROVIDED
BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESERT
TO SHARE AND SOCKS TO BURN**

**THE COVETED MVYC HOT FOOT TRAVELING
TROPHY WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE MOST ORIGINAL,
HUMOROUS, IMAGINATIVE, OUTRAGEOUS
AND/OR ODIFEROUS SOCKS**



New Year's at the Club!



*Peter and Mary, we
are so sorry
for your loss...*



Tobin
2/3/99-2/21/12



Power Fleet

By Alexi Stavropoulos

What a way to kick off 2012. In January, we had a Frostbite that was filled with family, friends and good food. There were over one hundred and fifteen in attendance for some delicious pork from our chiefs Jim Fletcher and Jim Borches. Jerry Gray and Jeff Kirkland manned the grill and cooked additional food for the event. The weather in January can go either way, but there is a group of people that love to put this event together. Behind the scenes, Judy McCarthy keeps us all in order. She makes sure the food tables are well organized and always stocked. I would like to thank our servers this year, Petra Gray, Harriet Singleton, and Luanne Kirkland. I would also like to thank the set-up-and-tear-down crew, as well as our shoppers and runners, Bill Gard, Roger Fuller, Mike Holland, Jim Gordon, Dan & Christine O'Keefe, Pat McCarthy and Joe Castor. Thanks to Bonnie Breneman and Zoe Stavropoulos for checking everyone in as they arrived. We had so many helping hands - my apologies if I have left someone out.

Last month we had a great turnout at Tim's. The two-month renovation/repairs were finished two days before our arrival and the crews at Tim's were happy to be open for business. We had over fifty members gather for this year's overland cruise, and we did get a chance to see a bit of snow blow through that afternoon. Next time you go to Tim's make sure you take a look at the table by the main entrance as well as the bar. During the renovation Tim took photos from some of our previous overland cruises and had them clear-coated onto the table and bar.



TIM'S
Overland
Cruise

Next month we will start bringing our boats back to the marina and our power fleet events will move from land to the river. We will have our annual vessel safety day inspection for all boats - there will be more information about the event along with a flyer in the April Beacon. We also have our annual brunch cruise at the end of April. Tracy Groff is hosting this event, and she is planning a trip up into DC. Keep an eye out for more information and flyers for this event as well.

Date change: please note that the April 21st date for the Vessel Safety Inspection has changed to Saturday April 28th starting at 9am.

See you on the River!

HOUSE REPORT

From the House Guy, Don Basham



Please let me start this month's Beacon Article with an Apology. I used friends and fellow club members as harsh examples in my last article after the event had passed and the problems were corrected. I apologize to the Zebrowskis and Wassels for the lack of sensitivity used for my joke about the Christmas Tree remaining up for another year. Ed and I had previously discussed the tree staying up longer than normal and I did not think before putting the pen to paper. I truly hope that Ed, Margaret, Des and Ann will forgive me and continue to give a festive and bright tree, year after year. Please join me in asking them to continue their ritual of setting up the tree.

No, the club does not have a laundry contract with Julio or his Crew. When you use the club linens, it becomes the responsibility of the event chairperson to ensure that the linen is washed and returned to the linen locker. My suggestion would be to assign this task to one of the volunteers in the cleanup crew.

Illuminated lights when the club is empty remains a problem. Take a look around when you are departing the club and turn off unnecessary lights. This is your money that is being needlessly expended.

Thanks to those that are filling up my Honey-Do List. I make twice-weekly walkthrough inspections, but cannot spot every problem. As always, if you see something that needs attention, or have recommendations for improving the quality of the House, please do not hesitate to contact me; I WILL take your comment under consideration and will probably 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.



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MVYC St. Patrick's Day Party

- Date:** Saturday March 17th, 2012—RSVP by March 12th
Time: 7 p.m.
Who: Adult members and guests
Where: MVYC Clubhouse
Cost: \$20 per person

Come join us for

Irish food



Irish drink



Irish tunes



and Irish FUN!



Reserve your tickets now!

To RSVP by March 12th contact Harriet Singleton at hescs@verizon.net or (703) 660-0707. Make check payable to MVYC and send to Harriet Singleton at 6307 Golf Course Square, Alexandria VA 22307, or drop off at the clubhouse mailbox.

March 2012



U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Boating Safety Training Schedule
March 3 and 17

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



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 	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 - 2 pm Safety Inspection
29 10 am Brunch Cruise	30 AM Closed for Cleaning					



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



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- Siblings
- Children
- In-laws
- Step-parents
- Step-children

For more information, please contact:

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financial advisor

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