



The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by Ron Reinsel, Commodore

In Commission

In accordance with our Club's five-and-a-half decades of traditions, on the first Sunday in May we mark the official start of the year's new boating season with Commissioning Day. It is not merely a once a year chance to don our nautical Blues and Whites (although that's important too), or another opportunity to raise a glass or two with our friends and Club mates (although that is even more important). Commissioning Day honors a centuries-old custom of celebrating the entry of vessels and their crews into active service. Please join us as we re-dedicate not only our boats, but the entire Club to service for a new year. After a long hard winter, not to mention weeks of boat work preparations, we are at last ready to hoist our flags and report that we are "in commission" for the promise of a new season afloat.

This year Commissioning Day is Sunday May 1st with the festivities beginning at 1400 (that's 2:00 pm for the landlubbers). So haul out your blazers and white pants. Dress your boats with signals and pennants. Let the speeches proceed and the cannon boom. Most of all, let the sun shine on a splendid day on the Point and all season long.

Many thanks to all who put so much work into making our Commission Day the very special occasion that it is. Most particularly, we thank Jacque Knight and Susan Rehe who have planned and organized the event for many years, the entire committee, and to the helping hands of the many Club members who make it such a wonderful day.

As we commission the fleets, we have also spiffed up the Club House. New carpeting, in nautical blue, has been installed throughout the House - and it looks great. Our appreciation goes to House Chair Don Basham for overseeing the project.

Two items on the agenda for our May 5th Membership Meeting should be of great interest to all Club members:

First, we will begin the meeting early, at 7:30 pm, with a presentation from the Fairfax County Police Marine

continued on Page 3...



Photos by George Holthaus



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Annual Sock Burning Party



The BEACON

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Deadline for Next Issue:
15th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

May 5 7:30 pm*
June 2 8:00 pm
1st Thur of the month

Board Meetings

May 16
June 20
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

May 9
June 13
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month

WELCOME ABOARD

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair



"The lovely thing about cruising is that planning usually turns out to be of little use."
- Dom Degnon

Well, here we are... May. I hope you all feel that sense of relief that comes with knowing "I have paid all my yacht club dues and fees." Final payments of annual dues and marina fees were due on April 30. For those of you with that nagging sense of regret because you forgot to send the check, please contact me as soon as possible to avoid the nagging of a Membership Chairman chasing you down.



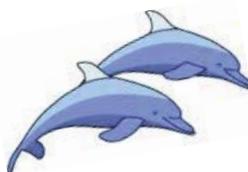
As I reported at the last membership meeting we currently have 226 members, which means there is room for more and no waiting list. We are coming into our busy season and this is the perfect time to introduce MVYC to prospective families who can contribute to our organization and also can enjoy all that our members and our facilities have to offer. I want to make a special appeal to invite friends and neighbors to join you for any of our upcoming events, or simply for an afternoon on point. The grounds look their best and the boats are quickly filling the marina, so this is a perfect time to make a good impression on families who might be interested in joining. If you have people you know who would like more information about membership, feel free to put them in touch with me directly by email: (thebazels@yahoo.com) or phone (703-619-1096).

Pool News

By Amy Walker

We are about a month away from the opening of the pool. I hope you are as excited about it as I am. We have new chairs coming and the chaise loungers are being refurbished. I politely ask each member to look at the pool rules on-line. Go to the website, click on "Membership", click on "Documents, Bylaws and Regulations", then click on "MVYC Pool Rules". Please pay particular attention to the diving board rules. It is the most dangerous area of the pool and will be the area of interest this summer. We welcome the caregivers who will be watching your children this summer. I have met several good ones over the past few years. I ask that you send an email to Pool@mountvernonyachtclub.com with the names of your kids and your emergency contact information. It will be kept on file in the Lifeguard Office in the event of an emergency. I look forward to seeing you poolside!

Peace, Amy



Mark your calendars for the following Swim Team Events!

May 14, 5-10 PM - Dolphins Swim Team kick off banquet
July 4, Noon - 4 PM - Pool Party
July 31, 5-10 PM, Dolphins Swim Team awards banquet

*FYI...May Membership Meeting

The membership meeting on **May 5, 2011** will begin at 7:30pm. That evening we will have a presentation by officers from the Fairfax County Police, Marine Patrol Division.. They will discuss boating from their perspective; i.e., what to expect when hailed over, do's and don'ts etc. You won't want to miss it. The regular meeting will begin immediately after this presentation.

Bosun's Whistle from Page 1...

Patrol Unit. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know the officers on the River beat.

Second, our Long Range Planning Committee, chaired by Past Commodore Bill Gard, has completed its initial study of necessary marina improvements and will report its recommendations to the membership. As discussed a few months ago, I requested that the committee evaluate, prioritize and develop preliminary cost estimates for a number of important marina issues that we will need to address over the coming years. These include potential refurbishing of C and D Docks, possible realignment and re-design of Inner W, maintaining the integrity of the marina bulkheads, providing additional marina electrical services, and possible maintenance dredging. The committee's work and the Club's input on those recommendations are essential to developing a multi-year plan and capital budget to keep our facilities safe, functional and up to date. Most importantly, the projects must meet the expectations of our members. I encourage you to attend the committee's presentation and to make your priorities known.

Finally, we are hopeful of completing the update of our electronic security system before the opening of the swimming pool later in May. Our computerized pass-card system had become so outdated that it was no longer technologically supported. The new replacement system will not only allow us to better and more securely control access to the Club facilities, but also will permit us to provide differing levels of access for adult members (full access to all facilities including the House) and children (access only to the pool and grounds). The new system will also require the distribution and use of new passcard devices (either pass-cards or fobs). Once we make the change-over your old cards will not work. We will announce the distribution of the new devices shortly. The first two devices issued to each member family will be free, additional devices may be obtained at cost. As always, in accordance with the Club's Rules, members are responsible for all usage of their access devices and may not lend their full access devices to dependents or anyone else for purposes of gaining access to any part of the Club House. See Mount Vernon Yacht Club Rules and Procedures Rule 5.1.

Now - the winter is behind us.
Spring is here. It's time to go outside and play.

Social Committee Update

Contributed by Clay Collier, Social Committee Chair



Here we go!

We are all champing at the bit to get our boats out of the driveway and into the water. Driving along the GW Parkway and seeing a lone, happy captain navigating his way up the river causes whining, grumbling and comments like... "look, he's in the water already! When can we put it in the water!!" Hopefully, by the time this article goes out, the whining and grumbling will have ceased and the marina will be full!

The Sock Burning was tons of fun! There were some new socks, some old socks and a very distinct pair of pantyhose/tights that won the prize for most innovative sacrifice. An eloquent speech was made by none other than Ron Reinsel involving some guys who lost the war and some soldiers of Northern Aggression... and some boots and a boat.

And a big thanks to Eva Sanborn for hosting the Kid's Easter Egg Roll and Party - everyone had a great time!

Coming Up:

May 1... Commissioning Day, 1pm-4pm, chaired by Jacque Knight and Susan Rehe. Decorate your boat, watch the USCG Drill Team, color guards, bands and maybe a few local political figures. Don't forget your blue and white Sunday best!

May 7...Mother's Day Tea, 3pm-5pm, Hosted by Pam Beggan. This event is open to all sisters, neighbors, houseguests, children of all ages, as well as mothers - anyone who might enjoy a few hours of tea and sandwiches. A return to a more genteel age is a lovely way to spend the afternoon.

June 25... 55th Anniversary Party, 6pm to midnight. The plans for this stupendous event are really coming together. The committee has been meeting and planning for lots of great food and dancing under the stars on the Point! Stay tuned for more information ... but reserve the date!

As an added bonus, the social committee, with tremendous help from Christine Stavropolous, will be selling Tervis tumblers with the club insignia to help defray the cost of social events. These double-walled, clear plastic glasses are perfect for boating, picnicking, patios and pools. They come in two sizes, according to your thirst level (wink, wink), and will be on sale at Commissioning Day. Keep an eye out and deck out your galley with the latest in cool beverage ware!

There are lots of other happenings going on at the club. Keep an eye out for power and sail fleet festivities, swim team events and lots of other things to do and enjoy! 'Tis the season!!

Toon Fleet News

by Bart Hewitt, T.F.B.S.

As I write this, Evelyn and I are preparing to spend a week with Glenn and Carol Whited down in Alabammy. We like them partly because they have a Toon. A big one. With THREE pontoons. Glenn's motto is "Bigger Is Better!" The extra (middle) pontoon houses a mammothly powerful Mercury I/O engine. The Whiteds don't keep their mega-toon in a slip. They keep it on a launch pad. (NASA has just recently retired its last space shuttle; but if they decide to build another one, they could power it with Glenn's toon engine.) And when we get back from Alabammy, we'll provide you with a complete report on our Toon flights, featuring a list of the potentially-life-supporting galaxys we passed on the way to the outermost reaches of the known universe.

**Grab your poodle skirt,
slick back your hair...**



Mount Vernon Yacht Club 55th Anniversary Party

Saturday, June 25, 2011

6 p.m. Cocktails

\$35.00 per person

7 p.m. Dinner

On the Point – Under The Tent

**Keep an eye out for your mailed invitation!
Responses must be received by June 20, 2011**



**MVYC Tumblers!
Back by popular demand!**

The 12oz cup is \$12.00 and the 16oz cup is \$16.00. Contact Christine Stavropoulos at christinezoe@aol.com to purchase your MVYC tumblers.

MVYC mourns the passing of Wrigley,
beloved dog of Bill and Karen Gard.

Rest in peace, Wrigley... we will take good care of Bill and Karen.



Brunch Cruise Whets Everyone's Appetite for Boating Season

by Chris & Lauren Bazel

The unofficial start of the 2011 boating season – the power fleet's annual brunch cruise – was a huge success! There were 47 MVYC members, kids, and guests who enjoyed a luxury cruise up river to the Chart House restaurant in Old Town. We think we can say with confidence that all came back from the excursion well-fed and ready for even more great boating this season.

A very special thank you needs to go to our four able captains – **Bill Gard, Steve Donock, Jim Fletcher and Jerry Gray** – for having their boats buffed, polished and ready to go. HOOOOZAAHHH!

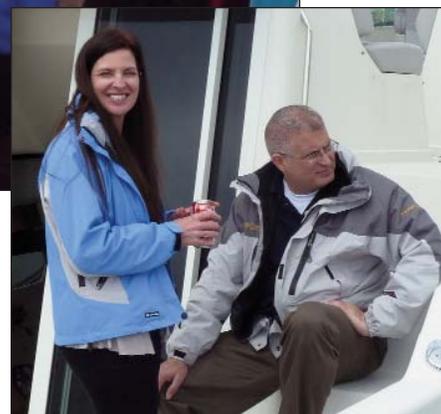


The weather in the morning wasn't as warm and sunny as all had hoped, but the return trip more than made up for it. Oh yea, the sun was out, the breeze was light and you could not have asked for better conditions. There was even enough water in the marina to ensure all vessels had an easy cast off and were able to come back to dock with no problems.

For those who missed it, keep your eye on the calendar and be sure to join us at future events in the coming months. If this day was any indication, we are in for a good and fun season. MVYC ROCKS!!



Photos courtesy of
Chris and Lauren Bazel





MVYC Mother's Day Tea

Please join us, and feel free to bring guests!

Saturday, May 7th
3:00 - 5:00 pm
MVYC Clubhouse



Don't forget your tea hats!



Please RSVP to
Pam Beggan
(703) 360-9016.

On The Docks

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

The marina is in full swing and everything is in working order. On April 9th Jack Sanders scheduled the annual cleanup day which was preceded by a great Pancake breakfast hosted by the Swim Team. I was able to get a few volunteers to work on some marina projects that day and they did a fantastic job.

The water was turned back on to all docks, and a group consisting of Rick Mullins, Dan O'Keefe, Ernie Dauray, Don Basham, Jim Borches, and Pat McCarthy combined to assist in repairing water leaks on docks D, B, and Inner-W. Thanks go to all of these folks for pitching in and getting this done.

The old Dinghy Dock floats were laying around the parking lot and Alexi Stavropoulos organized a party to disassemble and haul away a couple of tons of wood. It's funny how people gravitate toward a job as soon as they see chainsaws and sledge hammers come out; we could have charged admission. Helping out were Steve Donock, Frank Quigley, Mike Holland, Jim Walton, Neal Beggan, David Donock, Joe Castor, and Bill Gard. Thank you all.

On April 17th the No Wake markers and the Red Channel marker will be deployed. Thanks go to Bill Gard for volunteering "Fire Dog" and to Mike Holland for his boat to deploy the Red marker.

The Gas Dock opens April 23/24 and will operate every Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM – noon. A list of the weekly Gas Dock volunteer assignments is on the website along with the list of alternates. Gas prices look like they are going to be high, in July 2008 our gas price topped out at \$4.17 per gallon. As of this writing I won't know the price on opening day; but, it is a good bet that it will be over \$4.00, let's hope prices drop as fast as they went up.

Nautical term of the month:

Following sea (adj)

Definition: Ocean waves fetching in the same direction as the heading of a vessel, usually catching up with the vessel and passing under the keel. A following sea gives the vessel a slow pitching action, and makes steering difficult since the seas counteract the normal function of the rudder, and can in the extreme cause a vessel to broach.

Boat for Sale or Trade!

**In todays hectic world
we all need a**



Luckily member Jim Fletcher has his wonderful and comfortable 1978, 44 ft, Gulfstar Motor Cruiser available for you to purchase.

Current price only \$134,900. Roomy 14.5 ft beam, fuel efficient twin diesel engines, sleeps 6.

For more details and pictures go to www.yachtworld.com Listing # 76437-2245235

You can contact Jim
at 703-360-7020

or via email:

jlfbsf@verizon.net





May 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  1pm - 4pm Commissioning Day	2 AM Closed for Cleaning	3 9 am Yoga Class	4	5 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 7:30 pm Membership Mtg	6 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	7 11 am Boat Photo Shoot at Mt. Vernon  3 - 5 pm Mother's Day Tea
8 	9 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	10 9 am Yoga Class	11	12	13 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	14  5 pm Swim Team Kick Off Banquet
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 10 am RAIN DATE Boat Photo Shoot at Mt. Vernon
22	23 AM Closed for Cleaning	24 9 am Yoga Class	25	26	27 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	28 2 pm Memorial Day Raft-Up/Spring Fling
29	30 AM Closed for Cleaning	31 9 am Yoga Class				



June 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 7:30 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 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	11
12	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  6 pm MVYC 55th Anniversary Party
26	27 AM Closed for Cleaning	28 9 am Yoga Class	29	30		



THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB
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