



**The Bosun's Whistle**

Submitted by  
Bill Gard, Commodore

As you can imagine, my emotions are mixed as I write this, my final Bosun's Whistle. I find that I'm somewhat melancholy at ending my service as Commodore, but that is offset by my belief that I leave things, I hope, in pretty good shape.

If true, that is due to the MVYC Boards in 2009 and 2010 who performed yeomen's (and yeowomen's) service to the membership. It is also due to non-Board volunteers who help keep the place going.

The Marina (Jerry Gray) is highly functional and is almost full of (paying) boats. Gas dock volunteers keep thirsty vessels topped off.

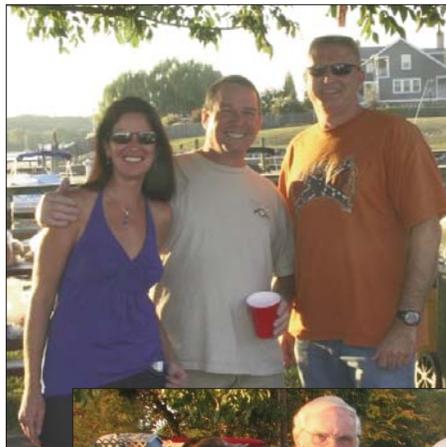
The Pool (Alexi Stavropoulos) is in top shape – white-coated and re-infrastructured with new pumps and controls and umbrellas.

The Swim Team (Juliette Clark) is always pumped. The Pool Moms are a living, breathing, life force of their own and are one of the most reliable, consistently hard working groups I've ever seen. And "Pool Moms" is not gender-specific. Several he-men qualify, though they'd probably prefer to be called Pool Dads.

The House (Greg Rehe) is always in good repair and consistently undergoing long-term improvement. Greg has enlisted a whole new group of members to participate in house maintenance activities.

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**2010 Fall Cruise After-Party**



Photos courtesy of George Holthaus

# *The* BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB  
4817 TARPON LANE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22309

**BILL GARD, COMMODORE**

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All Club members may submit articles, letters and notices for editorial review and possible publication. Submission by e-mail or compact disc is encouraged.

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Cover artwork by Don Cannavaro

Deadline for Next Issue:  
15th of the month

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## WELCOME ABOARD

*By Ron Reinsel, Membership Chair*

With the coming of November and the impending handoff of the Membership Chair responsibilities to a new Board member, I am pleased to report that the Club's membership is not only strong, but that we are about to reach an auspicious number. Including our most recent additions, we begin the month with a membership complement of 229 families – just one shy of our ceiling of 230. With another prospective member set to be interviewed about the time you receive this edition of the Beacon, and with more applications on the way, this month should return us to not only a full membership roster but also to a short membership waiting list – a roster strength that the Club has not enjoyed since December of 2008.

It has been a challenging year. Since last November, MVYC lost 15 members due to relocations, deaths or resignations. However, during that same time, the Club has had the good fortune to add 25 great new members to its rolls. The thanks for that accomplishment goes to the membership who have encouraged potential new members to join the Club, to the many members who have graciously sat on interview panels, and to everyone who makes this Club such a wonderful and inviting place to attract new members.

A full membership complement makes the Club not only fiscally strong, but it also adds vitality and energy, new blood, new ideas and talents, and willing minds and bodies to take on all of the tasks and to enjoy all of the pleasures that the Club has to offer.

While the numbers are strong, such a large infusion of new members also presents a challenge: One in ten of our ranks have been members for less than a year. That leaves it up to the "old timers" not only to make our many new members feel welcome, but also to actively integrate them into the Club's culture and activities. If you see an unfamiliar face, introduce yourself. If you are chairing a committee or an event, seek out and encourage new folks to join in. It will be a benefit to us all.

*continued on Page 3...*

## Upcoming Meetings...



### Membership Meetings

November 4  
December 2  
at 7:30 pm  
1st Thur of the month

### Board Meetings

November 15  
December 20  
at 7:30 pm  
3rd Mon of the month

### Social Committee Meetings

November 8  
December 13  
at 7:30 pm  
2nd Mon of the month



## Save the Date!

# 2010 Commodore's Ball

Saturday, November 13, 2010  
Mount Vernon Country Club

Cocktails start at 6pm  
Dinner and dancing to follow  
Look for your invitation in the mail

WELCOME ABOARD continued...

**Alec Christoff & Suzan Aramaki**



Novice watermen Suzan Aramaki and Alec Christoff keep a vacation house, as well as a 20 foot Boston Whaler, in Solomons at Lusby, MD. They love the camaraderie of the boating community; but, living in the Hollin Hills neighborhood, found that their boat was too far away in the Solomons to use on a regular basis. MVYC offers a perfect opportunity for them to bring their boat closer to home and to meet other water-oriented folks in the Mount Vernon area.

Alec and Suzan are both attorneys. Suzan works for the Department of Commerce and Alec teaches for Stanford University in DC. Suzan grew up in this area and graduated from both the old Hammond High School in Alexandria and from Georgetown Law School. Alec was raised in Northern California and first went sailing on San Francisco Bay.

They look forward to learning the ins and outs of the Potomac waterways from Club members as well as joining in and supporting the Club's many social activities.

**Gil Davenport & Maritza Zermeño**



Gil & Maritza have recently moved from Redondo Beach, CA back into the house on Forest Haven Drive where Gil was raised. Gil's father, Jack, was one of the founders of both MVYC and MVCC. In fact, Gil's boating experience at the Club is a bit unusual. As a teenager, he asked his father when he would be able to take the family 31-foot Broadwater cabin cruiser out on his own. His father said, "When you become a Coast Guard Auxiliary instructor." Gil was certified as an instructor at the age of 16 and his father lived up to his word. Needless to say, there were more than a few worried boaters at the Club seeing a teenager docking such a large vessel.

Gil attended Hampden Sydney and VCU and then moved to the Los Angeles area in 1978. He has had a varied career including in banking, digital video and private consulting. Maritza was born in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, a city at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet, in located the center of the country where the Mexican revolution began. She operated a successful glue factory in Leon for 20 years before moving to California with her 4 children in 2000, where she began an art import business. She also taught art in the local school district, received her insurance license in 2005, served on a number of volunteer boards, and fulfilled a lifelong dream of becoming a U.S. citizen on February 21, 2008.

Gil and Maritza are sailors who may be reluctantly leaving their 28 foot Columbia with its 4 1/2 foot draft in California but expectantly in search of something with a bit shallower draft for the waters of the Potomac.

**Roger and Tanya Fuller**



Roger and Tanya are no strangers to the Club. They have attended a number of events as guests over the past few years, including many of our Wounded Warrior Picnics, various cookouts on the Point, and both formal (if there are such things) and informal raftups.

Tanya is originally from Kingstree, South Carolina and is employed as a paralegal with a firm in D.C. She enjoys concerts, cooking and flower arranging and (Social Committee please take note) she is also an experienced party planner. Roger is about to enjoy retirement after a long and varied career with the United States Coast Guard where he has been both a boat driver and the (not just a but The) Navigator. He will celebrate his retirement by taking on a new job with the Feds.

Roger and Tanya live in Springfield, but are naturally drawn to the water and to the Club and look forward to its many social opportunities. They are also the proud new owners of a 26 foot cruiser which they acquired from a Club member (whom they can now keep close tabs on for any warranty issues).

**Bosun's Whistle from Page 1...**

The Grounds (Jack Sanders) have never looked better, despite the challenges of damaging snows and droughts this year. Jack is great at rallying members for the spring and fall clean-ups. (Plus, Jack himself has been observed strategically placing sprinklers and dragging soaker hoses around the grounds during dry spells.)

Membership Committee—Past Commodore Jerry Skelly brought long-term members into the interview process, and Ron Reinsel grabbed that bit and ran with it to the point that we are on the verge of full membership. And don't forget Past Commodore Bonnie Breneman's service in handling the gritty details of membership finances. Hail Bonnie!

Social—What a success! Claudia Reinsel and Amy Walker reinvigorated our social program, resulting in an impressive level of participation by experienced as well as new party hosts. Lots of party planning and "game-day" volunteers as well as party-goers resulted in great, great social activities!

Secretary—Evelyn Hewitt and Peter Esser kept us straight and narrow and documented and publicized. Not my shtick, but absolutely essential, and thank God for them.

Security—Thanks to Susan Fitzgerald and Jack O'Malley, we are approaching peace in our time—at the Club, anyway. What a difference a (substantial) gate makes.

Treasurer (Tracy Groff) is a tough job. Pay too soon and we pay interest on borrowing. Pay too late and everyone is on your case. It's the hardest job in the Club and my thanks to Tracy for handling it with aplomb.

Can't forget the BEACON staff—Bart Hewitt, Chris Bazel, and Blair Beggan. Bart would have chucked this job years ago, but then who would publish the ongoing chronicles of the Toon Fleet? Chris produced amazing graphics and I'm awed at his technical agility. Blair is a blessing and a marvel.

Web Site and Communications—A huge thank you to Gene Diotallevi for seven years of leadership as he heads off to active duty with the Coast Guard. Mike and Catalina Holland, who have provided invaluable web site assistance, are perfectly poised to take up the challenge passed on by Gene.

Past Commodore Jim Hamrick continued to contribute his financial and project management skills to Long-term Planning efforts that enable the Club to keep up with members' current and evolving needs while remaining financially solvent.

Mary Ann Holthaus keeps the house stocked with supplies—one of those critical jobs that often goes unheralded but certainly isn't unappreciated.

Joan Jones deftly handles house rentals and is the spunky vital spark behind our TGIFs.

We are fortunate to have such a great group of volunteers. My thanks go out to them and to the members with whom it has been my great pleasure to work—and play—these past years.

Of course, none of this good work can happen without the support and goodwill of you, our MVYC members. So I ask that you continue to volunteer your help in the many activities essential to keeping the Club running—lend a hand, attend our social activities, offer a pat on the back to the folks who are working to keep the Club the wonderful community that it is.

A thousand thanks, folks. See you at the Point.  
Bill

P.S. Whether or not you are attending the Commodore's Ball on Saturday November 13, please join Karen and me at our house for a pre-ball cocktail party from 5-6 p.m - 4520 Dolphin Lane in Yacht Haven.

## **ART SHOW COMING TO MVYC**

An Art Show is being planned for next year, in February or March. So all of you artists out there - now is the time to get started on your projects. Further details will be made available soon. For more info, contact Madeline O'Malley, Carol Hamrick, or Jerri Pogue.





### Social Committee Report

Contributed by Amy Walker, Social Chair

It was raining the other day. I was at a traffic light at the Wal Mart. The person behind me gently bumped into me. I got out in the pouring rain to check it out. Everything was fine. But of course my shoes got soaking wet again (remember the Jonas Brothers concert from last month?). Later that day I bumped into a fellow club member at work. The next day I bumped into 2 more club members at the 7-11. So that got me thinking. I “bumped into” a boatload of yacht club members and their guests at the Oktoberfest party. What a fantastic event! Thanks to Peter Esser, Stefan Tahmassebi and their committee: the Donocks, Mutnicks, Givens, Benz’s, Kirklands, Don Basham, Harriet Singleton, Jim Lake, and the Bronkemans (who aren’t even members!) Thanks also to Cori Esser for giving up Peter for the entire week prior to the party! They put forth a monumental effort with great results. I hope you were able to attend. If not, we have some more great opportunities for you to “bump into” club members:

**Commodore’s Ball:** Nov 13 at Mount Vernon Country Club. You should have received your invitation in mail by now. Please return the RSVP provided by Nov 5. It is a great time to break out of your regular attire of khakis and flip flops and get dressed up for a change.

**Grown-Ups’ Holiday Party:** Dec 11, 6-10 pm. This event features a pot luck supper, caroling, and good cheer. More info to follow next month.

**Children’s Holiday Party:** Dec 12, 2-4pm. This event features crafts, music, and Santa visiting by boat. More info to follow next month.

**New Year’s Eve, Dec 31st:** This is an grownups-only event. More info to follow next month.



As always, if you have questions or ideas you can contact me at 703-780-8904 or via email at [deewalk11@verizon.net](mailto:deewalk11@verizon.net). If you would like to host a TGIF, please contact Joan Jones at 703-780-2965, or via email at [NCCNL@aol.com](mailto:NCCNL@aol.com).

### Toon Fleet News

by Bartonius du Mont V’non

There are many things about Toons that most people don’t know. This may due to the fact that most people don’t give a rat’s patootie about Toons. But that would be an unfair conclusion, just as many of our local elections lead to unfair conclusions. It is important to note, though, that Toons care about each other. We recently traveled to Alabama to visit the Whited Toon, which told us clearly that it misses our toon very much, and chastised us for not bringing our toon along. There used to be a Basham Toon; but, sadly, a few months ago it disappeared downriver. (Some of us think it was secretly sent on a clandestine military mission; or possibly, it was BRAC’d to Alabama to take the pressure off all the stuff that is being BRAC’d to Ft. Belvoir.) Anyway, all of this has served its purpose, which is to produce a Toon Fleet News article for the Beacon, when the writer can’t think of anything intelligent to write about. To quote Ex-President George Bush: “Mission accomplished!”

## Save-The-Date for MVYC Holiday Events



**Grown-Ups  
Holiday Party**  
Saturday, December 11  
6 pm



**Children’s  
Holiday Party**  
Sunday, December 12  
2 pm

OKTOBERFEST!



**PROST!**

Photos courtesy of George Holthaus





# November 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 AM Closed for Cleaning	2 9 am Yoga Class	3	4 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	5 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	6 3:30 pm Beer, Beef & Tail Party
7	8 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	9 9 am Yoga Class	10	11	12 7:30 pm TGIF	13  6 pm Commodore's Ball
14	15 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	16 9 am Yoga Class	17	18 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	19 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	20
21	22 AM Closed for Cleaning	23 9 am Yoga Class	24	25 	26 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	27
28	29 AM Closed for Cleaning	30 9 am Yoga Class	<h2>Happy Thanksgiving!</h2>			



# December 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	AM Closed for Cleaning	9 am Yoga Class	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 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	7 9 am Yoga Class	8	9	10 9 am Yoga Class 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 MVYC Board 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	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	



THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB  
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## Don't miss the Beer, Beef and Tail Party at the Point!

Saturday, November 06 at 3:30 PM at the point!

**Price: \$15 (\$10 for 13 and under)**

Includes one lobster (1.24 to 1.40 pounds), Pit Beef, mussels, slaw, the infamous Buford Boil (potatoes and corn), oyster shooters (with or without a distilled beverage) and other frosty beverages.



**Don't Delay! The lobster order deadline is Monday, November 1st!**

### 3 Ways to RSVP:

- Reserve via e-mail at: [mvyccbandt@gmail.com](mailto:mvyccbandt@gmail.com)
- Reserve via phone at: (703) 408-6764 (Bonnie B)
- Reserve via check and lobster payments:

MVYC

ATTN: Bonnie (Beer, Beef and Tail)

4817 Tarpon Lane

Alexandria, VA 22309

