



The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by Ron Reinsel, Commodore

Autumn's Arrived

The season has now swung to Fall. The leaves are turning. The catalogs from West Marine remind us that winterizing is just around the corner...but not just yet.

November also means that it is time for Club elections. At our Membership meeting on Thursday, November 3rd we will conduct our annual election of the Club's officers and directors for the coming year. It is very important that we gather a quorum of all of our members for the meeting so that we can officially conduct this essential business. Please make it a point to attend. (Editor's note: it is unlikely that this Beacon will reach members' mailboxes before the November 3rd meeting. We hope that this Beacon will be put on the MVYC website in time for members to read it there.)

In addition to the elections, at the November meeting we will also present to the membership the details of, and request approval for, the proposed refinancing of the House mortgage loan. After lengthy negotiations with our bank, led by former Commodore Jim Hamrick, I am pleased to report that we have obtained approval to extend the term and the amount of the House loan while significantly lowering its existing interest rate. As a result, (subject to approval by the Members), we will have access to an additional approximately \$250,000 to fund our planned capital improvements while increasing our mortgage payment by just a bit over \$200 a month.

Additionally on the financial front, I am further pleased to report that we have also renegotiated the terms of our letter of credit arrangement with the bank resulting in a similarly lowered interest rate.

As an update on our current undertakings, the long-awaited engineering study for marina dredging has finally gotten under way.

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MVYC Cyclists Triumph At Seagull 100 Cycling Event

By Bart Hewitt, Senior Cyclist



Seagull Cyclists (left to right) - Seagull riders Jerry Gray, Jim Borches' son Andrew, Jim Borches, Bart Hewitt, Mike Holland, Bill Gard and Liz (friend of Jerry and Bill from the Washington Post).

On Sunday, October 15th, a team of avid bicycle riders from MVYC participated in the 2011 Seagull Century event. This is an annual ride, held on Maryland's Eastern Shore, that attracts thousands of riders from all across the country each year. There are several courses to choose from, each starting on the campus of Salisbury University. The courses take riders out to the Atlantic Ocean at Assateague Island and back, or optionally, along back-country roads through the beautiful farm country north and west of Salisbury. Our riders included (see photo) Bill Gard, Bart Hewitt, Mike Holland, Jim Borches, Jim's son Andrew, and Liz, a friend of the Grays and Gards.

A 25-miles-per-hour headwind all day long made the riding particularly grueling. But the group triumphed, each rider successfully completing his/her chosen route in approximately eight hours.

Evelyn Hewitt, Karen and Junior (the dog) Gard, Petra and Alex Gray, and Jackson Borches (the dog) met the cyclists at various points with good food, good company and enthusiastic encouragement. That evening at a local restaurant, much good food, laughter and libation capped off a great, exhausting, exhilarating and successful biking day.

See additional photos on Page 5...



The BEACON

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

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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

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair



"Anything you can do needs to be done, so pick up the tool of your choice and get started." --Ben Linder

The first order of business this November for all MVYC members in good standing – which I am thrilled to report is ALL of our current 223 member families – is to participate in the election of our Board at the November 3 membership meeting. The monthly membership meetings are an important way for all of us to keep up with what’s happening at the club, hear about what the plans are for the future, and think about ways to get more involved.

As we look ahead to the start of another membership year, it is a good time to consider what more you want to do as an active club member. Everyone writes the checks (and we appreciate that); but remember that we are an all-volunteer organization, so there is more than that expected of us as members. What committees, events, and activities will you participate in over the coming year? What new ideas can you bring to “spice” things up? What new events or activities would you like to suggest? This club boasts a wide variety of members with a broad range of talents. We want to see more of you, and we want our events and activities to involve as many people as possible. So, as we give thanks to the volunteers who continue to do so much, let’s also consider joining those ranks and taking full advantage of this tremendous community to which we belong.

In that spirit, please welcome our newest members, **Mike and Amy Phelps**. Mike and Amy were both born and raised in suburbs outside of Boston, Massachusetts and now live in Riverside Estates. They both attended undergraduate school in Boston and met through mutual friends. Mike earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management from Wentworth Institute, and Amy earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Information Systems from Simmons College. Amy also continued on to graduate school and got her MBA from Bentley College. They were married in 2005 and relocated to Alexandria for work purposes in 2006. Mike currently works for Berkel Construction as a Superintendent. Amy currently works for the National Institute of Standards and Technology as a Computer Scientist in the field of healthcare information technology. As if the lives of these young professionals weren’t busy enough, they also have a dog, Gus, and in November 2009 welcomed their first child, Benjamin.



Now they are ready to branch out, meet new people, and get involved here at the Mount Vernon Yacht club. By next summer, hopefully, they and their 25 foot Steiger Craft, “Go Phish,” will be regulars at the club and on the river.

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

November 3
December 1
1st Thurs of the month

Board Meetings

November 21
December 19
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

November 14
December 12
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month

On The Docks

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

The Boating season is coming to a close; most boats will be winterized in November with the exception of those few who never really take a season off. If you plan to winter in the water this year and wish to move your boat to an inside slip please let me know. Also, if you are pulling your boat out for the season let me know when your boat is out so I can keep track of what slips are available for temporary winter use.

Winter also brings a few marina tasks that we will schedule for November and early December. I will be setting a date to pull the "No Wake" markers and the red channel marker, and will need volunteers to assist. Look for an email from me in the next week or so.

The dock water system will be winterized as soon as the weather threatens to drop below freezing - most in late November or early December. For this I will also send an email asking for volunteers to assist.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers this year that helped to make the marina run smoothly.

Nautical term of the month:

Dogwatch: a short, evening period of watch duty on a ship



*It's
almost
here!*

2011 Commodore's Ball

*Saturday, November 12th
Mount Vernon Country Club*

Cocktails 6:00 pm / Dinner 7:00 pm

*Cash Bar
Black Tie Optional*

Social Committee Report

by Clay Collier, Social Committee Chair



Well, I just spent an hour skimming the leaves off the pool... only to have a lovely fall breeze kick up and drop another million or so straight into the water. The only thing worse than closing up the pool is taking the boat out of the water. But just because we are not cruising up and down the river, does not mean we can't have lots of fun in the clubhouse and on the point!!

Just like closing up the summer house, we have chores to do at the Club in order to get ready for winter on the water. Thanks to everyone who joined us with rakes and chain saws in hand. Before we know it we'll all be out planting and cleaning up and getting our boats back in the water!! I'm trying to optimistic, folks...

The ghouls and goblins (no, I'm not talking about Alexi and Dave) were in full regalia for the kids Halloween party! Lots of games, bobbing for apples, donuts on strings, and a fortune teller made for a wonderful day for all. Many thanks to Amy Walker and Jen Collier for putting the whole thing together and keeping everyone busy and happy!!

Coming up:

November 12... Commodore's Ball... Get your tux pressed and your Manolos shined! This promises to be a night of fun and frolic courtesy of Angie Miskimens and her fantastic committee!

December 10... Adult Holiday Party hosted by Mary Galloway

December 11... Kid's Holiday Party, hosted by Julie Thomas and Dawne Ragland

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Bosun's Whistle from Page 1...

We had anticipated that the marina survey would have begun in mid-September; however, the continuing autumn rains delayed the start of the survey by a couple of weeks. The good news is that the physical survey work is now complete and engineering report should be completed shortly and ready to present to the membership.

Once that report is in hand we can begin making realistic estimates of the amount of material that will need to be removed, and undertake discussions with potential contractors on costs.

The bad news is that the weather delay pushes us even further toward the limited time window during which dredging can take place each year, and thus making it questionable whether we will be able to begin the actual dredging this season. However, we are at last beginning the first steps toward becoming bigger, better, and more importantly, deeper.

In addition to improving our facilities, we also need to focus on maintaining what we have. At our Anniversary Party in June, I spoke about our Club being much more than merely bricks and mortar, but rather that it is really built upon the strength and spirit of its members. Our membership remains strong, but recent inspections have noted that some of our bricks and mortar (particularly at our driveway entrance gates) are seriously deteriorating. Grounds Chair Jack Sanders has been busy soliciting proposals for repair and restoration that will, hopefully, be able to address this issue within the current budget.

We are also hopeful that we can similarly address the reconstruction of the landing area on the outside entrance to the second floor of the House. Earlier this year we had to remove much of the "wood" floor in this area due to significant warping as well as water leakage issues that affected the Pool chemical room which is located directly below. As a result of some projected budget savings in other areas, we may be able to re-program adequate funds to address this unscheduled reconstruction during the current year.

Speaking of budgets, as we turn to this time of the year we also begin development of our budgeting process for the coming year. While we already have an ambitious agenda, now is the time for Club members to make their views and visions known. If you have ideas that you think should be considered, please let me or other Board members know.

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From the House

by Don Basham, The House Guy



In my frequent checks on the house, I continue to find the lights burning on the first and second floors on occasion, even though no one is in the House. Please turn out the lights when you are the last to leave the clubhouse. The foggy window on the 2nd floor has been removed and is being repaired by Del Ray Glass. Thanks go to Jim Hamrick for arranging that. I am also encountering better reporting on problems with the House, and wish to thank those who are providing the feedback. It looks as though we will finish the year under budget for the House, and may be able to use the excess funds to repair the west entrance decking, since we have not been able to get the right parties together for the repair. We also now have bug lights on the 2nd floor Smoking Deck; I think it has helped to keep the bug population in check.

A few complaints have been received about using the DVD player in the 2nd Floor Bar area. Select the AV-1 for input to the TV and then use the DVD player to play your DVD. The selection buttons are on the right side of the TV. Please return it to "Component-1" after using the TV to watch a DVD. Hope everyone got good use of their boats during the marvelous weather we had throughout the warm months.

Toon Fleet News

by Bart Hewitt, Toon Fleet Co-Captain

By the time you read this, the entire Toon Fleet will have been pulled and stored safely down at Harbin's. We're pretty sure. Harbin's has graciously said that they DO have room in their storage lot for the whole fleet, as long as we get the Toon to them by, say, sometime in September or October. I'm writing this report in October, so you would think everything is OK. If everything is OK, I will have successfully extended this article out to more than one hundred words, a very nice size for an article if you ask me. If, however, something unexplainable or inexplicable happens), like if some mysterious cosmic shift occurs and our solar system is sent spinning across the universe at speeds up to 29 bazillion miles per microsecond, then all bets are off. But hey ... as long as we can pick up our Toon at Harbin's around next April or so and slide her back into the lovely, blue, crystalline waters of the Potomac River, ...

Toon Term Of The Month: Pointy - the front end of a pontoon. Note that some Toons have two pontoons, and some have as many as three, in which case, the technical name is modified to read "Really, Really, Really Pointy."

Bosun's Whistle from Page 4...

On a less pleasant topic, at last month's Membership Meeting we addressed concerns expressed by a number of members on a recurring topic – dogs on Club property. This is an issue that seems to come in cycles and in the past we have tried to handle it in an even handed manner and have relied on the discretion of members to minimize any adverse incidents. Recently, however, both the number of pets on the property, the lack of control over them by some owners, as well as the failure of some owners to clean up after their pets, have again become problematic. Unrestrained pets, as well as their unclaimed deposits, not only may adversely affect the enjoyment of the Club by other members, but there have also been a number of near tragic incidents involving cars and free running dogs in the parking lot that could have had dreadful consequences, not only for the dog, but also for its owner and the driver.

I am a dog owner myself whose old Golden Retriever loves to come to the Point to meet her friends (both human and canine). I want to respect my fellow Club members, and would be devastated if my dog were involved in a parking lot accident. As a result, if you see Molly and me on the Point, trust me that she will be on a leash and any poop will be scooped. I ask the same of all of our other dog owning members.

More officially, after consideration by the Board, we remind all Club members that Rule 1.5 of the MVYC Rules and Procedures provides that: "Pets shall be leashed at all times. Owners shall clean up after pets." The Rule is the rule and it must be complied with by all members.

Finally, on a merrier note, get your best duds ready for the Commodore's Ball on Saturday evening November 12th. It will be a great party. See you there.

MVYC Cyclists - Seagull 100 Cycling Event



Photos courtesy of Mike Holland



U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: Boating Safety Training Schedule

The final schedule for Coast Guard training has been released, and is as follows:

- November 12 and 19
- December 3 and 17
- January 7 and 21
- February 4 and 18
- March 3 and 17



Kid's HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Photos courtesy of George Holthaus



November 2011



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



December 2011



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  7 pm Kid's Holiday Party	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 Adult Holiday 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
25 	26 AM Closed for Cleaning	27 9 am Yoga Class	28	29	30 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	31  7 pm New Year's Eve Party



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