

The BEACON

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September 2005

MVYC Boaters Assist DANMARK

by Stuart Matthews

The Danish merchant navy training ship, DANMARK came on a "state visit" to Washington, arriving on Thursday 29 June. The night before her official arrival, she came up the river and anchored off Mt. Vernon so that, the following morning, she could take on official guests and other VIPs including the Danish Ambassador who would sail with her up to Washington. When the Danish Embassy asked MVYC to help arrange the transfer of 35 guests out to the ship, former Commodore Stuart Matthews coordinated the effort.



Above: The Danmark dwarfed the other boats who turned out to watch. Lower left: Kaye Matthews examines the Danmark's launch from the bow of *Friendship*. (Photos: Stuart Matthews)



The DANMARK is big! At 200 feet in length with masts 130 feet tall, she dwarfs even the largest of our club's boats. Boarding requires a long set of steps that are lowered down to the water line. But it is not an easy task getting alongside and exactly in the right position so that guests going aboard can move easily from the ferry boat to the steps. Prior to DANMARK's arrival off Mt. Vernon, Stuart contacted Captain Kurt Anderson by email and it was agreed that they should meet to devise a plan for boarding from our club boats. After she had anchored, Stuart and Kaye took their boat "Friendship" out to the tall ship. After much maneuvering, they made fast alongside and went aboard to be greeted by the Captain and his officers. Following a small reception, (plenty of fruit but no akavit!) a docking plan was devised using large fenders and lines manned by the ship's cadets.

The following morning at 9:00 a.m., club members

(Continued on page 3)

Membership Meeting
Thursday 1 September 8 PM

Next Board Meeting: 19 September 7:30pm
Next Membership Meeting: 6 October 8pm

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Oktoberfest 2005

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2005

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Mount Vernon Yacht Club

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Attendees: Adult Members and their guests



A complete German style dinner will be served. There will also be plenty of Imported German Beer on tap!



Beer, Beer and more Beer!

After dinner, dance the night away to music provided by the Bristol Sounds Dee Jay.

Your check made payable to MVYC will be your reservation. Please send it early. Mail to:

Zita Pojeta, 8726 Parry Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308.

Cut off date will be October 11th.

The BEACON

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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:
15th of month**



The Bosun's Whistle

Bonnie Breneman, Commodore



It seems I just wrote my "beginning of summer" article! Here I am on the eve of our annual Cole's Point cruise to remind you that membership meetings resume on September 1 at 8:00 PM and the next season begins. Remember that this meeting comes up BEFORE the Labor Day weekend.

The fall season is a busy one for membership issues. The Nominating Committee is charged with providing a slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees by September 15, to take office on December 1; the membership meeting on October 6 will confirm the slate and accept nominations from the floor; the November 3 meeting includes the election; the Commodore's Ball on November 5 celebrates the new Board, and then the work for next year begins.

Actually, the work for next year has already begun. The Marina Committee is already pursuing the permits and design for our continuing marina improvements, and the grounds and the house are in a constant state of maintenance and upgrade.

Consider how you can help! Contact Kaye Matthews if you would like to consider a Board position: three directors and the treasurer will complete two years of service and the bylaws require replacement; the Social Committee has several events to plan and execute—see flyers elsewhere in the BEACON. The Power Fleet's annual Cruise Party gives the members with and without boats the opportunity to participate in an evening of cruising and fellowship; the grounds committee will be expecting lots of volunteers for our fall cleanup.

Back to the Cole's Point Cruise—looks like we'll have a great group participating this year! George Brown continues to organize this event in memory of his father, Red Brown, who initiated this "Hot Cruise" as an annual activity for MVYC members. If you missed it, start planning now for next year!

The End of Summer Picnic on the Point is a family event on the last weekend before school starts again. Then there's the annual Oktoberfest and the Commodore's Ball. Join us for these great social events, and don't forget the monthly membership meetings—the first Thursday of each

... Remember that the September meeting comes up BEFORE the Labor Day weekend ...

month at 8:00 PM. See you around the Club!

(Continued from page 1)

Bill Gard, Jim Borches, Bart Hewitt, Jack O'Malley, Jim Gordon and Dave Lohman gathered for a briefing by Stuart on the procedures that had been agreed. We would use several MVYC members' boats, and we would also use DANMARK's small motor launch which was sent out especially, together with a number of cadets (both boys and girls) to help.

In order for DANMARK to meet its schedule for a special opening of the Wilson Bridge, it was important to have everyone on board by 11:15 a.m. At 10:00 a.m., exactly as planned, the guests arrived at MVYC by bus with the Ambassador in his chauffeured limousine.

After a greeting from Stuart, the guests were assigned to the

various boats and, as the weather brightened, they were all safely ferried out to DANMARK without a hitch before 11:00 a.m. Last to arrive was "Friendship" carrying the Ambassador and his wife who were piped aboard DANMARK in true nautical fashion.

Thanks to everyone involved, it was an interesting and fun day. Mt. Vernon Yacht Club performed a good service and received many compliments, including a message of thanks and appreciation from the Ambassador. A great number of pictures were taken of the event which can be seen on the Club's web site.

DANMARK – a brief history.

The DANMARK was launched in 1933 as a training ship for the Danish merchant fleet. When the

Nazis invaded Denmark on April 9th, 1940, the DANMARK was in U.S. waters. To avoid having the ship fall into German hands, Captain Knud Hansen and the DANMARK remained in the U.S. After Pearl Harbor, the Captain made himself and the ship available to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Thus, from January 2nd, 1942 until September 26th, 1945 the DANMARK sailed under the Stars and Stripes, training more than 5000 U.S. cadets.

After World War II, the DANMARK returned to her civilian role as a training ship and maritime ambassador for Denmark – a role which the historical ship still plays today after more than 70 years of active duty.

On Your Mark —

Mike MacNair, Swim Team



On Your Mark...Get Set...Finish Up Strong!

by Cindy Ksenics

And that is what the Dolphins did to wrap up a great season of competition, teamwork, and fun: 1st place in division at Relay Carnival; 3rd place overall in the Blue Division; Five winners at All-Stars; and a sparkling end-of-season awards banquet.

At the Relay Carnival this year, we teamed up with Mount Vernon Country Club to produce a great relay team. Our clubs are so small that combining the two was acceptable and pretty terrific according to the results: **FIRST PLACE** in our division! Hopefully, they will still allow us to be competitive by combining next year; meanwhile it was a great experience for both clubs to be in the game and show their stuff.

Our division meets this year included Mount Vernon Country Club, Evergreen Country Club, and Hidden Creek Country Club. We beat Hidden Creek, and all the other meets were close. On a team with so few swimmers, one or two families on vacation can mean the difference. Having worked the scoring table at the ECC meet, I saw our team finishing first in so many events; we simply lacked the numbers the other teams have to place swimmers in every event. Please recruit your neighbors and friends for next year!

Our All-Stars this year made MVYC proud. We had 5 swimmers at the finals in 9 events. Conor MacNair scored a photo finish 2nd in 50M Back, a 1st

in 50M Breast, and a 1st in 100M IM. Meghan MacNair and Rachelle Nelson finished 6th in their age groups for 50M Breast and Rachelle went on to place 6th in 50M Free as well. Cara Spivack took on 50M Back with a 3rd place and 25M Fly for a 6th place. Our smallest All-Star, Max Pessel took a very proud 6th in 25M Fly. Great finish All-Stars; you made our club proud!

Our end-of-season awards banquet honored swimmers, coaches, leaders and parents for making the season great. Awards this year went to Conor MacNair and Cara Spivack for High Point Scoring; Max Pessel and Lauren Thomas (watch her next year!) for Coaches Award; Thomas Wise and Zoe Stavropoulos for Most Improved; and Joe Wise and Margot Breiner for the Dolphin Award, exhibiting the essence of what it means to be a MVYC Dolphin. Meghan MacNair took home the coveted Spotswood Trophy. She was a team captain this year with Michael Knetemann; they were a great help and example.

Many thanks to our coaches Brooke Sorber and Ryan Doyle for their coaching this summer; Brooke will be returning next year to coach for another season! We can't thank Ellen MacNair enough for her commitment to excellence, for her tireless efforts, and for putting her whole soul into the team for two years of VERY hard, behind-the-scenes work as our team representative. We couldn't have done it so well without her! Next year, Juliette Clark will step down from her role as Starter to relieve Ellen (who will be pool-side as a Stroke and Turn judge). We look forward to supporting her as team rep -- welcome Juliette!

Without all the swimmers getting up every morning to swim and the parents who wake, feed, and drive them (and work at the swim meets, and on and on) we wouldn't have a team. So here's to all of you! Looking forward to next year and another great Dolphin season -- Cheers!

MORE FROM THE COLES POINT TRIP



We suppose Mark and Cynthia Barbaro might eventually tire of giving everyone tours of their 59-foot Fairline Squadron, but darn it, we all wanted to see! (Photo: Russell Poe)



Jim Hamrick attempts to keep the crew in check aboard the venerable Pequod II. (Photo: Russell Poe)

2005 MVYC Fall Clean Up

- Landscaping
- Pool Area
- Mulching
- General clean up

Marina, Pool & Grounds Clean Up Day

Calling all MVYC Members to
volunteer on:

October 15th, 2005 at
8:30 AM

Please bring work gloves, shovels, clippers, rakes, etc!

****Great Way for students to earn
service hours for school!****

RSVP if you plan on joining us!

Call Joanna Meletis (703) 495-9160



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Water-Front View

*Bill Gard &
David Miskimens,
Marina Co-Chairs*



We're making progress on filing our permit application with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to reconfigure and rebuild A and B docks and to reconfigure Outer W.

The permit application will show A and B docks being converted to floating docks and the finger piers on Outer W being rebuilt and re-spaced to provide the potential for more larger, wider boats. We've got a couple of fine tuning changes to make to the application documents before our permit engineers, CoastWatch Engineering, file for the permit with the Virginia MRC.

We've got new aluminum ramps leading to C and D docks, and the slip holders on those docks seem pleased with the upgrade. The ramps were installed by CJS Enterprises (Corky), the same outfit that repositioned and reconfigured C and D docks this past spring.

The work dock at the end of C dock is getting a lot of use. The folks who have used it like the fact that there is now 30 amp power at their disposal. Remember to check with either of the Marina Co-chairmen before planning to use the dock. We like to keep track of availability and usage.

Hydrilla! What else is there to say! Except that the combination of hydrilla and low tide can be a lethal combination to your boat's impellers. Here's a bit of caution from a marina committee member who lost two impellers in one half hour period. If there's a lot of hydrilla around and it's low tide, that boat ride you'd been planning may be more trouble than it is worth.



THIS JUST IN: The Marina Committee made arrangements with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (WMCOG) to clear the marina's entry channel and fairways of hydrilla by using WMCOG's harvesting

equipment. This clean-up should help make the channels a little safer and easier to transit. (Photo: Jim Borches)

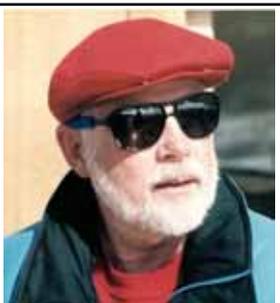


MORE FROM THE COLES POINT TRIP. At least 18 boats made it down for this year's Red Brown Memorial Hot Cruise. Besides the usual gathering to toast Red with a round of Yellow Birds, the trip included live music by The Red Brown and Blues. Top right: Dick McCormack sits in for a song or two while drummer Chris Ruckman looks on in the background. Gene Diotalevi also made a guest appearance on guitar. Lower right: George Brown arranged the entire gathering, including a bushel of delicious crabs. A few drops of rain Saturday morning did nothing to dampen our spirits! (Photo: Russell Poe)



Membership News

Bart Hewitt,
Membership



TOON FOR SAIL

A few weeks ago, 50% of the Toon Fleet captains (the short one) were instrumental with the Danish Tall Ship "Danmark." The "Danmark" is gorgeous; but, if you're gonna buy a boat, you're better off with a pontoon boat.

Why? Well, to start with, "Danmark" has only one pontoon. Toons have two - no scary heeling. "Danmark" draws 17 serious feet. Toons draw, maybe, half an inch (channel-schmannel). "Danmark" has only one pointy bow. Toons have two (ask any musician, the more bows you get, the better - HAR). Plus,

New Member Spotlight



New Members: We would love to introduce you by publishing a few paragraphs describing your family. Please contact Marge Skelly (mmskelly@cox.net or 703-360-8374) or Membership Chair Bart Hewitt (Hewitts.House@Verizon.net or 703-550-6023).

ED & LESLIE ENGLISH moved to Yacht Haven almost four years ago. Ed is a 3rd-generation Old Town Alexandria townie whose family moved to Ft. Hunt Rd. (the "country" at that time). Ed graduated from Ft. Hunt High School, and then attended Frostburg University on a football scholarship. Leslie has lived in No. Va. since graduating from Va. Tech where she majored in Phys Ed. She then attended George Mason U. and got a BS in Nursing. Their family includes their 9-year-old daughter, Torie Lane, and two sons from Ed's previous marriage: Kyle, 20, and Paul, 22. They also have two Dachshunds named Oscar and Scooter. After Torie was born, they started their own pest control business (commercial and residential). As a family, they love to walk, bike, and travel when they can get away. They are looking forward to being active members of MVYC.

SUZANNE & ERICH MOLINA recently moved to Mt. Vernon from the Del Ray area. Suzanne, a native of Philadelphia, earned a Bachelor's degree from Villanova. She is the Director of the DC-based Intelligent Transpor-

"Danmark" is 'way too tall to go under most bridges. Toons can easily go under, say, a cow. And even though "Danmark" is loaded with beautiful blond Danish girls ... uh-oh, here comes Evelyn ...

So as I was saying, be sure to seek out and welcome our two newest families - Rob and Sherry Ca-tron with their kids Sydney and Ryan, plus Ed and Leslie English with their kids Leslie and Tori. These are terrific families - you'll love them! And make a fuss over our August membership anniversary cele-brants, starting with Norma Tomley Avery (such a cutie) who joined in 1959, plus the Wetzels (1965), the James's (1973), the Beggans (Bob and Pam, 1974), Martin Kiefer (1977), the Matthews (1981), and Virginia Edgell (1983).

And as always, if you have a suggestion, a com-plaint, a change of phone/address/E-mail, or if you are young, blond, beautiful, Danish, and live on a "Danmark," call me at 703-799-0401 or E-mail me at - behewitt@cox.net.

Applications Posted

by Bart Hewitt, Membership Chair

Pursuant to Article XV, Section 2(c), The Bylaws of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club, Amended October 3, 2002, the following application for membership has been posted. This family may be offered a member-ship when an opening becomes available.

James and Julie Harrison, 9490 Lynnhall Place, Alexandria, VA 22309

James and Karen Robey, 3708 Rose Lane, Annan-dale, VA 22003

Ian and Jennifer Powell, 9915 Shady Cove Drive, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

tation Society of America. Erich is a native Washingtonian. He earned a BSEE and an MBA, works as a real estate agent with McEneaney Associates, and is part owner of a construction contracting company. He is also a veteran of the US Air Force. They have two daughters: Madelaine is almost 8, and Micheala was born this year on March 10. Madelaine loves swimming, and boasts that at 5, she was already a better swimmer than her father. Micheala is also an accomplished child, having already found her hands and learned how to smile. She is working on sleeping through the night. Suzanne's inter-ests include gardening, and health and fitness. Erich's interests are sports and boating. They both volunteer for organizations including Girl Scouts (Suzanne is a troop leader), Lee-Mt Vernon Soccer (boys), and Community Lodging, which assists with work skills training of low-income residents. They also volunteer for worthy causes such as Feed the Hungry and local marathons. They welcome the opportunity to contribute at MVYC as needed.



In the Spirit

*Susana Gomez & Zita Pojeta
Social Committee*

Sadly, summer is coming to an end. Although we probably won't miss the hazy hot days, we will miss some of the fun we have had on the Point. Let's have one big **End-of-Summer Potluck Picnic on the Point**. This will be Labor Day weekend, on Sunday September 4th at 5:00 p.m. Since this is a holiday weekend, you will have Monday to rest up from your picnic fun! Bring your own drinks, and a main dish, salad or dessert to share.

The annual **Oktoberfest** is scheduled for October

15, 2005. Mark this date on your calendar now. The cost will be \$25.00 per person and will include a complete German style dinner by a caterer that serves the German Embassy, lots of imported beer, and a night of dancing to the music of the Bristol Sounds Dee Jay. Please get your check (made payable to MVYC) mailed early to reserve your place. This is a popular party and has sold out in the past. The cut off date for reservations is October 11th.

I would like to remind everyone that the **Commodore's Ball** will be on November 5, 2005. Please mark this date on your calendar. The Ball will again be hosted by Linda Brown and I am sure it will be a wonderful event! More details will appear later.

The next Social Committee Meeting will be on Monday, August 29th at 7:30 p.m. at the club. If you are interested in being on the committee, please come. All members are welcome.

See you at the Club!

End of the Summer Pot Luck on the Point

Labor Day Weekend

Date: Sunday, September 4th

Time: 5pm

Attendees: All members and their families

Bring your own drinks and an entrée, salad or dessert to share.



Hope to see
everyone there!



MVYC Club Calendar - September 2005

August 28 Coles Point Weekend Cruise	August 29 7:30 pm - Social Cmte Mtg Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	August 30	August 31	1 Garden Club Mtg - 8 am - 2 pm 8 pm - Membership Mtg	2 7 pm - TGIF	3
4  End of the Summer Potluck on the Point	5 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning Labor Day - Pool Closes	6	7	8	9 7 pm - TGIF	10 PYRC - Leukemia Cup Eve - Private Party
11	12 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	13	14	15	16 7 pm - TGIF	17 PYRC - Master of the Potomac
18 PYRC - Master of the Potomac	19 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning 7:30 pm - Board Mtg	20	21	22	23 7 pm - TGIF	24 PYRC - Fall Fling @ MVYC
25	26 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	27	28	29	30 7 pm - TGIF	1

MVYC Club Calendar - October 2005

2	3 7:30 pm - Social Cmte Mtg Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	4	5	6 Garden Club Mtg - 8 am - 2 pm 8 pm - Membership Mtg	7 7 pm - TGIF	8
9 PYRC - Under the Guns	10 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	11	12	13	14 7 pm - TGIF	15 Morning - Fall Clean Up Day  7:30 pm - Oktoberfest!
16 PYRC - Frostbite Regatta (starts on Oct. 15)	17 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning 7:30 pm - Board Mtg	18	19	20	21 7 pm - TGIF	22
23	24 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	25	26	27	28 7 pm - TGIF	29  7 pm - Halloween Bonfire on the Point
30	31  Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	November 1	November 2	November 3	November 4 7 pm - TGIF	November 5 COMMODORE'S BALL