

Oktoberfest: Es Ist Gut!

In any language, it is good! MVYC's Oktoberfest has always been one of the Club's most widely anticipated and well-attended events, and a crew of members headed by Peter Esser and Stephan Tahmassebi put on a terrific party this year.

The event had an unbeatable combination. For the folks who were hungry — and that seemed to be just about everyone — there was hearty German chow catered by *Bistro Europa*. For those who were thirsty — again, most of us — there was a bottomless supply of fresh German beer, imported by Peter directly from Deutschland. Fresh streudel capped off the meal, and even the weather cooperated.

And no Oktoberfest would be complete without music and dancing! The dining tables were soon sent packing, and the deejay from Bristol Sounds seemed to have every song we could think of.

The food earned universal praise. The brats were just right, the potatoes were perfect, and the pretzel bread was out of this world. Thanks to all who helped.



Joe Hamilton and "Frau Randy" Dellinger at the Oktoberfest. We must say that the wig looked MUCH better on Frau Claudia Reinsel (right). (Photo: George Holthaus)

Boat Owners: We Need You ...

... to consider storing your boat on land this winter!

If the Club's plans to rebuild A and B Docks move forward as expected, we'll need temporary homes for a number of boats that normally spend the winter in their slips. Can you trailer your boat this winter, or arrange to haul your boat for storage?

See page 2 for nearby boat storage facilities.

Membership Meeting
Thursday 3 November 8 PM

Next Board Meeting: 21 November 7:30pm
Next Membership Meeting: 1 December 8pm

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Above: Member Jim Nelson of Woodlawn Tree Service supervises tree trimming at the Fall Clean-up Day. Left: Three energetic young men from the Garden family help clean up the beds along the front walkway. See page 4. (Photos: Joanna Meletis)

Bow Lines

*Chris Ruckman,
Vice Commodore,
Beacon Editor*



Alas, it's time for MVYC boaters to start thinking about winterizing. Not that boating season is over ... far from it!

There's a special quality to late-season boating that you just won't find during the oppressive heat of mid-July. It's a different kind of adventure. Boating in November isn't for everyone, and it helps to have good canvas to keep you out of the wind. Still, there's nothing quite like sipping hot cider while enjoying a slow cruise up the Occoquan River to view the Fall foliage!

After a certain point in the season, every cruise can make you feel like you reached into the empty cookie jar and found one more cookie hiding out, waiting just for you. It's like you are getting away with something — pulling one over on Mother Nature.

Of course, late-season cruising always represents a delicate balancing act. You want to extract every precious moment from the boating season, but you don't want to wait so long that cold weather puts your boat at risk. More than once, my eternal optimism has outrun my common sense ... and I've ended up having to break ice in the shaded recesses of our marina to haul my boat out for the winter.

This year, we have another factor in the equation: the likelihood that MVYC will be working on A Dock and B Dock over the winter. We are encouraging as many boat owners as possible to store their boats on land this winter so we'll have more flexibility in managing this marina repair project.

To help with your planning, here is a list of marinas on the upper Potomac River that offer winter storage. Don't end up in a last-minute scramble!

Marinas Offering Winter Storage

Aqualand Marina. Located near 301 Bridge. 9610 Orland Park Newburg, MD, 301-259-0572.

Fort Belvoir Marina. 5465 Hudson Road, 703-805-3745, www.belvoirmwr.com/marina. Open 9-6 daily (closed Mondays & Tuesdays). The marina's lift is closed, but haul-out service for boats up to 40 feet is available from Woodbridge Marine Salvage, 800-782-9309 or 540-659-9100.

Fort Washington Marina. 13600 King Charles Terrace, Ft. Washington, Md 20744, 301-292-7700, fax 301-292-9577, fwmi@erols.com. Open 8-4:30 daily.

Goose Bay Marina & Campground. Located off Port Tobacco River. P.O. Box 58, Welcome, MD 20693, 301.932.0885, www.goosebaymarina.com.

Hampton's Landing Marina. 16205 Neabsco Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22191, 703-221-4915, info@hamptonslandingmarina.com, www.hamptonslandingmarina.com

Hoffmaster's Marina. Storage for sales customers only. 1214 Swan Point Rd, Woodbridge, VA 22192, 703-494-7161. www.hoffmasters.com. Open M-F 8am-4pm, SAT 10am-4pm, SUN Noon-4pm.

Prince William Marine. Storage for customers only. 12849 Gordon Blvd, Woodbridge, VA 22192, 800-216-2628 or 800-772-3240, www.pwmarina.com. Open Tue-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 11-4, closed Mon.

2006 Board Elections

by Kaye Matthews, Chair, Nominating Committee

At the November Membership Meeting, elections will be held for the 2006 MVYC Board of Trustees:

Commodore
Vice Commodore
Rear Commodore
Secretary
Treasurer
Director (returning)
Director (returning)
Director (returning)
Director
Director
Director

Bonnie Breneman
Chris Ruckman
Jim Borches
Alison Miller
Dave Miskimens
Gene Diotelevi
Bill Gard
Joanna Meletis
Jerry Gray
Brent Pope
Alexi Stavropoulos

Commodore Breneman formally proposed this slate during the October Membership Meeting. Please attend the meeting on Thursday, 3 November 2005, to cast your vote.

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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Don Cannavaro

**Deadline:
15th of month**

The Bosun's Whistle

Bonnie Breneman, Commodore



Thanks to the membership for supporting the Nominating Committee's recommendations for the 2006 Board of Trustees. Your confidence in us is awe-inspiring! Speaking of awe-inspiring, I would like to use my space this month to thank the many behind-the-scenes members who truly keep the wheels of progress moving at MVYC. These folks are not necessarily elected or appointed—they see things that need doing, and do them!

First, I cannot say enough about or give enough thanks to Mark Thompson, our webmaster. He single-handedly developed and published our website because he saw a need and ran with it! He has managed all the features, including email notices, single-handedly for lo, these many years! Some of you may not have seen him around the Club, but thanks to his member photo directory, you can see him up close and personal! The Board has recently assigned a committee to take over the email function, so that Mark is not completely tethered to the website. Please remember to thank him for his efforts!

Mark's wife, Kim Thompson, has chaired our Rules and Bylaws Committee for the past few years. She has provided advice and counsel to the Board as we try to uphold the spirit as well as the letter of our responsibilities to you, the members. If you don't know her face, either, take a moment to look at the photo directory. Say "howdy" and thanks next time you see her!

Now for some folks whose dedication to day-to-day operations you may not know about, even if you see them regularly:

Mary Ann Holthaus, who can be found around the Clubhouse almost every day, keeps us supplied with all the paper

goods, cleaning supplies, and kitchen items that our Club consumes readily. She throws out unused and unneeded items. She, with Joan Jones, tries to keep ahead of the sugar ants. She keeps the tablecloths clean, even after private functions. She weeds and plants and sweeps the sidewalks. And most of all, she keeps the House Chair apprised of maintenance and upkeep issues. Where would we be without Mary Ann! Please tell her "Thanks" the next time you see her. And thanks to her husband, George, for the many ways he helps her with upkeep.

Has anyone seen Don Waller? He usually manages an appearance around the Clubhouse or grounds every day, too. His specialty is electricity. You will often see him testing circuits and replacing outlets, repairing light fixtures and replacing light bulbs. His powers of observation, and the amount of time he

... Mark Thompson single-handedly developed and published our website ...

spends around the grounds, allow him to provide advance notice of potential safety and discomfort issues. (He's good with gossip, too!) Tell him how much you appreciate what he does!

Speaking of gossip, there's a rumor afloat that the social activities of the Club are set up to make a profit. This could not be further from the truth! The Social Co-Chairs, Zita Pojeta and Susana Gomez, and all of their individual event chairs, will once again finish the year breaking even. Some events come out ahead, a few lose money, some are designed to be cost-free to the members — consider TGIF, Commissioning Day, Halloween and Christmas. The Social Committee is probably the most fiscally responsible committee in the Club. And consider these two facts: You could not go out with your spouse or significant other AND have such a great time with friends for the cost of one of our parties; and IF the committee's budget does come out ahead sometime, that cash just goes back into the budget to defray some other Club expense.

If you have a suggestion for a social event, low-cost, no-cost, whatever, contact your Social Committee, or better yet, join your Social Committee. We welcome fresh new ideas.

In closing, let me say thanks to the Board of Trustees: Chris Ruckman, Jim Borches, Allison Miller, Jill Baker, Bart Hewitt, David Miskimens, Revae Moran, Gene Diotalevi, Bill Gard and Joanna Meletis, and ex-officio Past Commodore Jim Hamrick. What an awesome group of volunteers! I hope each of you recognizes the time and dedication that each of these individuals apply to their responsibilities to the great benefit of our wonderful Club. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



Fall Clean-up Day: Local students participated as a form of Community Service. (Photo: Joanna Meletis)

Around The Grounds

Joanna Meletis, Grounds



It was a bright and sunny fall morning and special thanks go out to all who worked from 8am until noon, trimming trees, cutting back vines, removing logs and junk from the water along the docks, clearing off the pool and upper decks, weeding flowerbeds, trimming shrubs, removing trash, sweeping the parking lots and giving our beautiful Yacht Club an altogether, magnificent overhaul and clean up!

Thanks to: Russell Poe (who hauled in his monster trailer to collect all of the debris), Jim Nelson (who brought his tree-eating truck), Ross Cox (who brought all manner of chain saws, garden tools and tree trimmers), Dave Miskimens and Nick Meletis (who both brought blowers), and Ed Martinez (who single-handedly cleared all the fallen leaves from the far side of the Clubhouse). All the following folks brought sheer muscle and elbow grease, and really made it a very fine day: Tom Pojeta, Jerry Skelly, Jacque Knight, David Sharp, Kevin Garden and his boys, Wayne Mason, Jill Baker, Bonnie Breneman, Claudia & Ron Reinsel, Jim Gordon, Jerry Gray, Ed Zebrowski, Bill Gard, Don Waller, Lucas Meletis and Jill Baker. (And if your name is missing, my sincere apologies and thank you for coming!)

Fall Clean Up Day

A great many thanks to all showed up bright and early and volunteered at our Fall Clean Up Day on October 15.

The day started early, with twelve High School senior girls arriving before 8am with rakes and shovels in hand. They came from Lake Braddock and Hayfield High Schools to help get an early start and earn their Senior High School Credit hours for 2005-2006. We also had help from some of the youngest MVYC members as the young men of the Garden family all accompanied their dad in raking and picking up leaves, removing weeds and debris and filling black bags (almost as big as themselves) from the front of the Club House.



CBYCA 2006 Commodore's Ball



The Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club's Association requests the pleasure of your company to celebrate the
2006 COMMODORE'S BALL

Honoring

Commodore Jerry Donofrio & First Lady June

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Saturday, December 10, 2005

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RSVP DECEMBER 1st, 2005

Hospitality Room—1:00-4:00 and immediately following the Ball.

*For reservations and more info, visit
www.CBYCA.org*

*or contact Commodore Elect Jerry Donofrio Sr.
(Boatervoter@verizon.net or 609-877-2561).*



Water-Front View

Bill Gard &
David Miskimens,
Marina Co-Chairs



The Marina Committee is planning to winterize the marina's water system in early November, probably around the weekend of November 5. Be sure to finish any last-minute boat scrubbing before then.

KNIGHT PASSAGE SAILS INTO POTOMAC- CHESAPEAKE ODYSSEY

(First of Three-Part Series)

by *Jacque Knight*

Ed and I were eager to take off for ports unknown. *Knight Passage* had been our faithful sailing vessel for 10 years, serving us through family reunions, overnights, raft-ups and even an MVYC "race" or two. We loved her and trusted she would head for friendly ports, smiling winds and exciting seas.

The following account is taken from our ship's diary, a day-by-day journal of 37 days logged between June 26, 2005 and August 21, with two breaks to return home by car to water grass and get mail. I recommend you keep such an account, although I must admit I almost threw it overboard at Ed a couple of times. I must warn you, 37 days on board a 30 foot x 10 foot capsule, even with your soul mate, is a test — a real test. We made it, we are still married, and we are happy to share our experiences with MVYC adventurers.

Day 1 — Late start, due to heat (!) and last-minute provisioning. Our original plan was to go to Mattawoman, but after getting underway at 9:13 pm, we decided to drop anchor at 10:15 pm in familiar Pohick Bay. Moral of story: do not go "overboard" and try to go too far in the dark when tired or if travel plan comes apart.

Day 2—Up at 5:30 am, raised

anchor at 7:05 and headed for anchor at Aquia Creek in Stafford County to miss forecasted thunder-showers. Under sail at 6.5 knots and into sunny skies by 10:15, we decided to continue on. By 2:55 pm with only 3 knot winds, we were into Forth Point, just up channel from Port Tobacco Marina. This "Plein Air" artistic spot, just north of Red Buoy #4, is straight out of a painter's sketch book: idyllic, peaceful, easy, quiet anchor. We were the only vessel in sight and must have added to the view of several lovely homes nestled nearby.



The author and her husband, Ed Knight, enjoy an Independence Day sunset.

Days 3-4 — We pulled anchor at 8:45 am, passing by inspirational Chapel Point with its white steeple reaching through the scenery to wish us "godspeed." Two large, flapping Manatees alongside waved us farewell. At the #301 Bridge, at 10:15, our binoculars confirmed sighting of a real, live tall ship. Recognizing 200 foot Danmark from Denmark and its 130-foot

We are continuing to work on the project to replace A and B docks with floating docks and to reconfigure Outer W. The permit process is proceeding at a pace consistent with all permit application efforts: take a couple of steps forward, then wait. We're getting bids in on various aspects of the project, and hope to have a proposal to present at the Membership Meeting on November 3rd.

We still need folks to take their boats out of the marina for the winter if possible. See page 2 for a list of nearby storage facilities.

masts that we had seen off Mount Vernon several years ago, Ed radioed in on Commercial Channel #13 to welcome and extend greetings to the friendly, surprised captain. He was heading for a return visit to DC and another welcoming by MVYC crews.

Heading for Cobb Island, we tracked left of Green Buoy 1 North, just past the Spider Marker. We headed for Shymansky's Marina and were welcomed at 12:55 pm by the friendly owner himself. We learned the old Cobb Island Marina, thanks to 2003 Hurricane Isabel, is now the Pirate's Den Marina. It has very nice, improved facilities. Based on our inspection and comparison of the shower facilities (very important to the captain's First Mate), it will probably be on our next trip's itinerary.

Shymansky's, though, has a first-rate restaurant for crabs, and we headed there early at 2:55 to wait out a first-class thunder and lightning show. When the power finally came back on the dock at 9 pm, we were thrilled to learn that the Nationals had beaten the Pirates 2-1.

We awoke to find friends from Prince William Yacht Club and CBYCA docked next to us in their 40-Foot Sea Ray. We then hiked

(Continued on page 7)

*Santa's Coming
to MVYC!*

*(by boat of
course)*

Bring a snack!



Shhh ... parents ... drop off gifts at the Crow's Nest the day of the party. Gifts should be wrapped and labeled with your child's first and last name. Contact Julie and Erik Thomas for more info 703-780-6308.

For All of Our Safety

by Capt. Gary Spivack

One Saturday when my wife, daughter and I were out in our little power boat, HURRICANE, two chance encounters altered our plans for dinner at Tim's.

As we approached buoy 67, we saw Jim Nelson's DAWN TREADER making no way. I hailed Jim, and he said he had fouled some sort of fishing net and couldn't get free. So I offered to go back to my house and get my diving gear and free him. It took about 40 minutes of hard work in the water, but he was free to go on his way—and so were we, we thought.

As we proceeded south towards buoy 66, we saw Peter and Michael Knetemann out sailing in WOODEN WORRY. As I approached, Peter began waving his arms over his head in a classic distress signal. Peter had lost his rudder, and asked if we would tow him into the marina. Of course we would — he would do (and has done) the same for us.

My point is that from time to time, we all need a hand on the river. Maybe it's a lost rudder, a fish net, out of gas, someone sick or Heaven knows what. I was glad I could be there when help was needed. But my arrival on the scene was luck more than anything. As a community, two simple things would cut

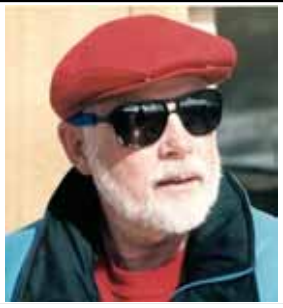
the luck factor way down for all of us.

Might I suggest that when you are on board your boat, you turn on your VHF radio and leave it tuned to Channel 16? Even if you are only sitting aboard your boat at the dock doing some work or having a drink at sunset, monitor the radio. That way, if someone is in trouble on the river, they can call and have a much better chance of getting a response—and some help. If someone on shore knows there is a problem, prompt action can be taken, whatever the circumstances. The two situations I encountered were only inconvenient, not life-threatening, but they could have been.

Another simple thing that takes almost no time is to be aware of others on the river, whether MVYC boats or not, and what they are doing. They may need assistance, but not know how to ask for it. Two years ago, we saw a catamaran sailboat capsized in the river with two people in the water. Clearly, something was wrong, and we were able to pick up the two swimmers before they were overcome by the cold water. Fairfax County Fire & Rescue came on the scene and pulled the catamaran out of danger.

So, turn on that VHF and listen for your neighbor — he may need you. Be aware of the boats around you, and if something doesn't look right, ask a question. As a community, we only have each other to rely on.

Membership News



TOON TWO DOESN'T EQUAL EIGHT

It's been a rough month for the 'Toon Fleet. We asked to have a 'Toon Fleet Table at the Commodore's Ball, and were turned down flat. Why? "Because," they said, "there are only four people in the Toon Fleet. The tables seat eight." But hey - you gotta make lemonade. "OK," we countered, "Even though Toon's company and eight's a crowd, we've put Toon Two together, and decided to .. uh .. whistle a happy Toon. But if you would, please seat us with four good marine mechanics." "Why?" they asked. "Because," we answered, "our outboard needs a Toon-up. (HAR.)

Moving right along. Some folks, while not 'Toon Fleet members, are definitely deserving of special seating. Why? Because they have been MVYC members for 20 years or more. These wonderful people are Bruce and Nancy Valley (1984) and Norma Jean Poe (1962 - WOW!!!). Congratulations to Bruce, Nancy and Norma Jean. Hope you get great seats!

Oh ... I just remembered: November is my last month as your Membership Chair. Now there, there - dry those tears. It's been an honor to be on the Board of Trustees and to serve all of you for the past two years. Sure, sometimes I get Toon Grossed with these silly Toon puns ("Toon Grossed" - get it? HAR.); but never Toon Grossed to remind you: check the Clubhouse bulletin board frequently for member-applicant postings. And until December 1st, if you have a suggestion, a complaint, a change of phone/address/E-mail, or a good Toon pun, please contact me at 703-799-0401 or at behewitt@cox.net. Then on December 1st, you can Toon me out.

(Continued from page 5)

four miles around Cobb Island, seeing how old cottages are phasing out to some new, designer waterfront homes that owners must think will withstand winds and surges until the next 100-year, Isabel-like storm. Traces of her damage are still evident. We also stopped at a well-provisioned grocery and post office, just over the bridge from Shymansky's.

Days 5-7 — I woke up with what I thought must be 40-50 spider bites, later found out to be courtesy of chiggers in the grass around a vacant "for sale" cottage that I had to "inspect." Moral of story: take (and use) plenty of insect repellent, plus include Chigarid.

After paying a modest \$60 for two nights of slip fees, five bags of ice, a pump out, and five gallons of diesel, we left Cobb Island at 9:35 am, and arrived at Coles Point at 12:55 pm. We docked easily in 98 degree temperatures and hot sun to swim in the mercifully cool covered pool.

The friendly marina manager offered free use of a van to go 25 miles to a drug store in Montross to find some Chigarid! And, we took refuge in the air-conditioned bar

and restaurant to check out our other passion in life—tennis at Wimbledon. But, note that Coles Point is also a family-friendly outdoor spot; an 8-year old boy next to us spent his time trapping and proudly showing us his crab catch. The beach is also great for kids. No chiggers!

Days 7-10 — We sailed out of Coles Point into 10-15 knot winds, freshening to 20. Ed was having so much fun he was fooled by the land markings and recommends that to get to Point Lookout in Maryland, captains should watch for three landmarks: 1) a tanker pier; 2) pass island to the left, staying on a 120 degree bearing, watching for shallow spots and fish nets; and 3) look for a red and white channel marker off shore. Pass the buoy, set course at 60 degrees in direction of Smith Creek; Point Lookout and Saint Mary's River are on the left. To enter the marina, follow a zig-zag course of triangle shaped day markers. We traveled 17 miles from Coles Point in 3 hours. By then we had traveled 107 miles on 9 gallons of diesel.

We loved Point Lookout, but would recommend a slip further out. We were in A2, next to the of-

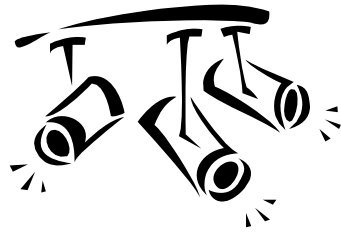
fice, and saw lots of foot traffic. It's amazing how many people take large dogs on boats!

During this stay, we met many interesting people, including a couple on a very livable 34-foot catamaran and another who gave us a tour of their new 68-foot Hatteras cruiser *en route* to Baltimore from Florida. It was powered by two 450-HP engines in a huge walk-around engine room, and had three ice-makers and a Jacuzzi. One morning, as we walked the piers, we heard trumpet music. Out of a Carver 34 appeared a friendly, retired music teacher from Oregon who had just returned with his instrument from a barge trip on the Rhine River, and was now doing an annual Chesapeake cruise with friends. A cruising bonus is that boaters love to share stories.

Point Lookout Marina also provided a free car to travel to a nearby grocery and a super shower, pool and laundry. We won't comment on the restaurant, but the television was good for the finals of the Wimbledon tennis tournament! That night, July 4, from Point Lookout, we watched the impres-

(Continued on page 10)

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).

ROB & SHERRY CATRON and their children, Sydney (6) and Ryan (4 in Dec.), moved to Yacht Haven in March 2004. They live in the home formerly owned by Ross & Gladys Merrick. Rob is a native of Florida, and has been a Virginia resident since 1991. Rob is a partner at the governmental affairs firm, Alcade & Fay, headquartered in Arlington. He specializes in representing the interests of his clients before Congress and the Executive Branch. He earned his undergraduate degree from the Florida State University.

Sherry, a Virginia native, was raised in Bedford and Williamsburg. A graduate of VCU, she worked in the administration of Gov. George Allen as a Legislative Assistant for a senior state senator and as a professional fundraiser for Old Dominion University. She presently volunteers her time at their children's schools, and maintains their home and an excellent garden.

Their daughter, Sydney, likes dinosaurs and animals--even snakes. Her favorite TV show is "The Ten Most Extreme" on Animal Planet. She loves swimming, snorkeling and school. Ryan likes Buzz Lightyear and playing with cars and trucks. His favorite movie is anything with Buzz Lightyear in it. He loves to go swimming, and enjoys being out on a boat in the Virgin Islands.

They are happy to become a part of MVYC, and they welcome the opportunity to pitch in and become valuable members of the community.

WELCOME TWO MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR SET!

A daughter, 6lb, 4oz. **Abigail Faith Sanborn**, was born to Eva & John Sanborn on Oct 5th.

Emmett Pearsall Miller, weighing in at 7 1/2 lb, arrived on Oct 13th just in time to make this month's



Beacon. His parents are Allison & Matt Miller. Allison is an Officer of the MVYC Board, presently serving as Secretary.

Congratulations to both families!

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BECAUSE IT'S THE LAW!

by Doug Borden

No one wants a car accident caused by failing to use good judgment while driving. It's even worse when the weather is poor and the daylight is fading with the loss of Daylight Savings Time. You can avoid damage, injury or death by simply following a couple of common-sense driving rules.

Even when it's "raining cats and dogs," it's amazing how many drivers in our area show so little regard for the dangerous conditions: driving too fast for the road conditions; driving with only parking lights instead of headlights; not using headlights when windshield wipers are on, which has been a Virginia law for several years; and failing to STOP at red lights and STOP signs and before turning right at those signals.

Most safety rules have been written in somebody's blood. Somebody failed to drive responsibly, resulting in damage, injury, or death that could have been prevented by obeying the law. Just listen to a local radio station any day – in bad weather or good – and you will hear reports of preventable automobile accidents by drivers who ignored the rules of the road.

Two simple acts can make it safer for all. First, turn on your headlights when low visibility exists because of rain or fog. Even if headlights may not light up the road so you can see better, they do help the other driver to see YOU! And second, adopt the habit of always stopping completely at a traffic light or STOP sign or before turning right at the signal. Even if the impatient driver behind you honks the horn, you will avoid more close calls than he/she will.

While you are at it, please don't forget to buckle your seat belt. That, too, is the law!

Can we count on you? I promise I won't honk my horn when you stop at a red light or STOP sign.



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All coupons must be presented at the time of write up. Coupons cannot be combined. Coupons expire November 30th, 2005.



In the Spirit

*Susana Gomez & Zita Pojeta
Social Committee*

The 2005 Oktoberfest was a lively party, as usual. There were approximately 94 members and guests in attendance. The party was hosted by Peter Esser and Stefan Tahmassebi. Guests who like German style food raved about the food that was catered by *Bistro Europa*. They especially liked the wursts (which were grilled at the Club during happy hour), the fresh pretzel rolls, and the apple strudel that was still warm when it arrived at the party. Of course there was plenty of German Oktoberfest style beer and a lot of dancing to the music of a good deejay. Thanks Peter, Stefan, and to the hard-working committee, as well as some non-committee volunteers who helped clean up after the party. It was a really fun party.

The next social event will be an all-member Halloween Bonfire on the Point. This party will be at 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 29th. Costumes are encouraged for adults and children. There may even be some prizes! But even if you are not into costumes, don't let that keep you away. Apple Cider and ingredients for S'mores will be furnished. Please bring a dish to share, your own roasting stick, and something to drink, if you want something other than the apple cider. Julie and Erik Thomas will host this party.

The formal event of the year, the Commodore's Ball, will be held on November 5th. Hopefully, everyone has already returned their reservation cards to Linda Brown. Linda and her committee do a fabulous job making the Ball an event to remember, and we are looking forward to it. Thank you, Linda, for the wonderful events that you have hosted for us all to enjoy.

It is hard to believe, but Christmas is just around the corner, and you may want to plan to attend our holiday parties. The Christmas Party for adults will again be hosted by Mary and John Galloway. The party will be on Saturday, December 10, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. The admission is to bring a dish to share. Please see the flyer in this Beacon for details.

Santa will make his yearly visit to Mount Vernon Yacht Club (by boat of course). The Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 11, 2005 from 2:30 until 4:30 P.M. There is no charge for this party, but bring a snack to share. Shhh ... parents: Drop off gifts at the 3rd floor Crow's Nest the day of the party. Gifts should be wrapped and labeled with your child's first and last name. Contact Julie and Erik Tho-

mas (703) 780-6308 if you have questions. See flyer for details.

Get ready for a fabulous New Year's Eve Party. It will again be hosted by Joanna and Nick Meletis ... remember what a wonderful time we all had last year! Watch for details in the next Beacon.

This is my last Social Committee article. The new co-chairs for 2006 will be Anna Diefendorf and Gail Mlinarchik. My co-chair, Susanna Gomez, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the support that you have given us during this year. Our job was made much easier by you, the many members who helped by being on the Social Committee, hosting parties, being on party committees, helping clean up after parties, helping with Commissioning Day, hosting TGIFs and helping in many other ways. I would especially like to thank Mary Ann Holthaus for all she does behind the scenes for our social events. We always knew that the supplies would be there, and that we would not run out of anything. And have you ever wondered who always gets all of those nice tablecloths ready for the next big party ... yes, it's Mary Ann! Thank you, Mary Ann. I'm sure all of you will continue to support the Social Committee under Anna and Gail. Again, a big Thank You to everyone who helped make 2005 another successful social year.

See you at the Club!

Zita and Susana

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sive fireworks from Corinthian Yacht Club, a fellow CBYCA club.

Day 10 — We left Point Lookout at 9:30 am with forecasts of 1-2 foot waves and clear skies. Imagine our dismay about 11:00 when we began surfing 5 to 7 foot waves in seas that were confused to say the least! Old salts we talked to later called the waters near Smith Point "like a washing machine," and we could identify with that! I found a spot in the companionway and prayed while Ed radioed a nearby sailor on *Night Wind*. Happily, he was headed for our destination: Mill Creek off the Great Wicomico River. We could see him, but not our charts. The wind and water were that heavy.

After 5 ½ hours, four in the washing machine, and 36 miles, we anchored in by-then idyllic Mill Creek, another "Plein Air" spot with 10 foot depths of protected anchorage. Now 143 miles from Mount Vernon, we were exhausted but thankful that the bilge was amazingly dry.





Ed says he learned an important lesson: instead of depending upon using the GPS in real time, plot the course before taking off for the next port!

Next Installment: Tides Inn to The Bay

MVYC Club Calendar - November 2005

October 30	October 31 HALLOWEEN  Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	1	2	3 8 am - 2 pm - Garden Club Mtg 8 pm - Membership Mtg ELECTIONS!	4 7 pm - TGIF	5  COMMODORE'S BALL
6	7 7:30 pm - Social Cmte Mtg Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	8	9	10	11 7 pm - TGIF	12 Eve - Private Party
13 5 pm - Sail Fleet - Annual Awards Dinner and Chili Bowl	14 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	15	16	17 7-9 pm - Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	18 7 pm - TGIF	19
20	21 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning 7:30 pm - Board Mtg	22	23	24  THANKSGIVING	25 7 pm - TGIF	26 Eve - Private Party
27	28 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	29	30	December 1 Garden Club Mtg - 8 am - 2 pm 8 pm - Membership Mtg	December 2 7 pm - TGIF	December 3 Boat Parade of Lights Weekend 5:30 pm - Old Town, Alexandria

MVYC Club Calendar - December 2005

4 Boat Parade of Lights Weekend 5 pm - Washington Harbour in Georgetown	5 No Social Cmte Mtg this month Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	6	7	8	9 <u>NO TGIF!</u>	10  5 pm - Adult Christmas Party
11  2:30 pm - Children's Christmas Party	12 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	13	14	15	16 7 pm - TGIF	17
18	19 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning 7:30 pm - Board Mtg	20	21	22	23 7 pm - TGIF	24
25  CHRISTMAS	26 Morning - Clubhouse closed for cleaning	27	28	29	30 <u>NO TGIF!</u>	31  9 pm - MVYC New Year's Eve Party