



Bosun's Whistle

By Jerry Gray, Commodore

One more month of cold, possible snow and all of the other things that come with winter around here, and then we can start thinking about boating again. We had taste of the Polar Vortex and I don't want to see that return anytime soon.

February is here, we have a budget approved for the year and your Board members and Chair persons are already working on this year's projects. More to come as plans and times are established.

The annual Frostbite Picnic is January 25th and, as of this writing, has yet to occur. But we hope for a large crowd and three types of Chili to stave off the cold. Thanks in advance to Gene Diotalevi, Bill Gard and Jim Fletcher for being the Chili chefs, and to Bear Baker for making the cornbread.

Some of the other traditions that occur in February will be Superbowl Sunday with good food and a big screen. Then next up is Tim's Overland - being at Tim's always makes you believe that summer is just around the corner.

So, I am just waiting for Groundhog day to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow. If he does, he predicts 6 more weeks of winter - if not, he predicts an early spring. His predictions are as good as any.

Dock Master Musings

HISTORY AND INSIGHTS FROM THE WHARF AT MOUNT VERNON ESTATES

By Bob Beggan, Mount Vernon Dock Master



RULES OF CIVILITY AT MVYC

Whether we live on one of George Washington's 5 Farms or in Centerville or beyond, every MVYC member family is indebted to George & Martha for many things - not the least of which is our lagoon which was George Washington's #1 Pig Farm!

The "Mount Vernon (the real one) January, 2014 eNewsletter" tells us George Washington at 16, copied all 110 "Rules of Civility" popular at the time. This is now considered as "a formative influence in the development of his character"

In a way, we are upholding his wisdom, his values and his land & shoreline (amounting to 10.5 miles of waterfront when he was alive), a good portion of which we now occupy and preserve.

With all due respect, and relying on the scholarship of the wonderful neighborhood resource of Mount Vernon, we thought it fun to apply some of George Washington's original transcriptions verbatim as he copied them, to our lives.

Print-outs of all 110 Rules of Civility are posted at the Club. Members are challenged to find other rules which apply, especially "5 CLOCK CLUB" and "TGIF". You are also invited to suggest more "rules" applicable to other club activities to the Beacon Editor (BBeggan@aams.org)

Rules of Civility Copied by George Washington Applied to MVYC

7 & #52 - MVYC POOL

"Put not off your cloths in the presence of Others, nor go out your Chamber half Drest"

"In your Apparel be Modest and endeavour to accommodate Nature, rather than to procure Admiration keep to the Fashio[n] of your equals Such as are Civil and orderly with respect to Times and Places"

#25 - COMMISSIONING DAY

"Superflous Complements and all Affection of Ceremonie are to be avoided, yet where due they are not to be Neglected"

It only gets better...continued on Page 5...

The BEACON

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20th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

Membership

Submitted by Dan O'Keefe, Membership Chair



Please join me in welcoming our newest member Emerson Sandoval. Joined January 7th. Parents Fabian and Ginny Sandoval proudly endorsed his application.

Speaking of new members, please welcome Tom Connolly and Michelle Anderson the first members of 2014. Tom is a 26 year veteran Captain with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Dept. Michelle owns a hair salon, Vichelles Hair Magic in Hayfield. She has been a lifelong resident of Fairfax County, growing up in the Alexandria section. They began their boating experience 7 years ago with a 20' pontoon. Now have a 270 Sundancer, berthed at Belmont marina. They enjoy the boating life, meeting new people and socializing.

February Membership Anniversaries

- Luigi & Mimi Picciano 42nd
- Connie Brown 27th
- Doug & Joan Borden 26th
- Matt & Betsy Mathes 12th
- Rich & Anna Diefendorf 11th
- Pat Stallings & Karen Cerutti 9th
- Mike & Catalina Holland 6th
- "Bear" & Barbara Baker 4th
- John Sawyer 3rd



Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

February 6
March 6
at 8 pm
1st Thurs of the month

Board Meetings

February 17
March 17
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

Note new dates!

February 13
March 13
at 7:30 pm
2nd Thurs of the month

SAVE THE DATE! IT'S A PARTY!

And it just happens to be on the same day as the Super Bowl...

Come and join us on February 2nd to enjoy steamed Shrimp (steamed to order), Smoked BBQ Butt and homemade Mac-n-Cheese while watching some great commercials...oh yeah, and some FOOTBALL! Due to the perishable nature of shrimp, we ask that you RSVP via email to mvycsuperbowl@gmail.com by Tuesday, January 28.



Date: February 2, 2014
Where: MVYC
Cost: \$10 (at the door)
Time: TBD

Menu
Steamed shrimp
BBQ
Mac-n-Cheese
Assorted frosty beverages and wine.

RSVP to mvycsuperbowl@gmail.com

This is a family friendly event and is open to friends and family of MVYC. Kids under 10 eat free with the exception of shrimp.



On the (Temporarily) Snowy Docks

Submitted by Marina Co-Chair, Steve Donock

As I write this we're a couple hours into what's predicted to be a fairly significant snowstorm. It's hard to imagine that in just a couple months we'll be starting to get our boats ready for the season. I can't wait! As you might imagine things are fairly quiet around the Marina. I'll take this time to remind everyone to make sure to fill out the boat information on the renewal forms carefully. Incorrect and/or incomplete forms cannot be processed with the rest of the applications and can delay slip assignments. So, please check over your information very carefully. As we did last year, the majority of you will receive your slip assignments via email. If you've changed your email address since last year please make sure you let the Club know.

Just as a reminder to all, we do everything we can to use the slips in the Marina most efficiently. As boats grow in size this becomes a challenge in that we have to consider more than just one boat's length and beam but those of the boats all around them - even those across the fairway. We also have to consider a boat's electrical requirements and match that to the power we have available on each dock. We do everything we can to limit the number of boats that have to move from year to year but please bear with us. Many times a member will ask for a different slip that they had the year before and we do what we can to accommodate those requests. Remember to note these requests in the proper place on your renewal form. Again, there is a lot to consider when moving boats so please keep this in mind.

If you're requesting a slip for the first time it is absolutely critical to have your boat information filled out completely and accurately so we can try to find the proper slip for your boat. As always, if you have specific questions about the slips, or the Marina in general, please feel free to drop a note to marina@mvyc.net.

Here's to an early Spring!

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HOUSE REPORT

From the House Guy, Pat McCarthy

Sunday December 15th was a beautiful crisp day with a bright sun shining low in the winter sky and many tykes in the clubhouse anxiously waiting for Santa and his elves to arrive via water taxi. Our little ones had a great time greeting, being entertained by, and receiving wonderful gifts from the big man in the red suite. However many parents trying to record this wonderful moment had a difficult time with the apertures on their cameras. The reason for their difficulties was the manner in which the intensely bright sunshine passed through the window simultaneously creating bright and dark sections in the room. This problem emanated from a broken window shade drawstring that made fully lowering the window shade impossible. I apologize for this lost moment. Since then the broken window shades on the crow's nest and main levels have been repaired.

Another repair was the installation of a dusk to dawn photo cell in the exterior lamp fixture box that illuminates the building and front entrance way, replacing a malfunctioning manual timer that required multiple adjustments during the course of the year. Finally, a new battery and anodes were installed in the cardiac defibrillator kept in the life guard room in case an emergency situation develops in the pool deck area.

House Rules Revisited: Rental of the clubhouse does not include access to the third floor crow's nest, pool (unless specifically approved by the Board of Trustees), pool decks, or marina. Members' access to the crow's nest during periods when the clubhouse has been rented shall be, to the extent possible, via the elevator. Club members not invited to the private party are to avoid mixing with those attending. Non-members attending the private party are prohibited from going to the crow's nest.



WHY KNOT!

Submitted by Past Commodore, Bill Gard

"To be always ready a man must be able to cut a knot, for everything cannot be untied."

-- Henri Frederic Amiel – Swiss Philosopher



Henri Frederic Amiel also wrote, *"Destiny has two ways of crushing us – by refusing our wishes and by fulfilling them."*

Typing up at docks

This month we continue the series of articles that fulfill your wishes of being able to tie up at a dock. Here's a couple of alternative ways to secure mooring lines to pilings.

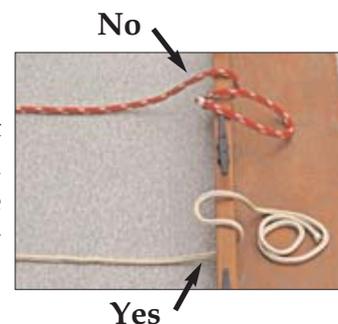


How to Tie Your Boat to a Dock that has a Bull Rail

Well, I guess to answer that we'd better figure out what the heck is a bull rail. It's a long piece of timber running along the edge of a dock with spacer blocks between the timber and the dock. At times you'll run into docks with no cleats – just bull rails. Bull rails seem to be more common in the Pacific Northwest.

Bull Rail – snagging it with a hook on a line from a boat.

The best way to tie up to a bull rail is to pass the dock line coming from the boat under the bull rail on the dock. This will put the line over the bull rail if it is led back to the boat. If the dock line from the boat goes over the bull rail, the dock line will wrap around the bull rail when the line is being released and will probably jam.



If the line starts under the bull rail on the dock it is easier to feed it back to the boat. Feed it under the bull rail and back over the bull rail to a boat cleat when possible. Your crew can then cast off the mooring lines without leaving the boat or doing the "Leap of Death" to get back on board.

Mooring line under the bull rail on the dock, over the bull rail, and back to a boat cleat

A round turn and two half hitches work well to secure a dock line to a bull rail. The round turn with two half-hitches is secure and is quick to tie, helps to control a loaded line, and will help keep the line under control and not pull your crew's hands into the bull rail if the mooring line has a lot of strain on it.



Round turn and two half hitches securing dock line to bull rail

When casting off, if the dock lines are tied to the bull rail with a round turn and two half hitches, untie the knots and take the dock line back to a boat cleat with just a single turn around the Bull rail. Then when you are ready to leave the dock, the crew can board the boat and release the dock lines from the boat and pull them back to the boat under the bull rail.

This article was excerpted from "Boating Safety Tips, Tricks and Thoughts from Captnmike" at:
<http://captnmike.com/2012/08/06/how-to-tie-your-boat-to-a-bull-rail-part-1/>

Rules of Civility Applied to MVYC continued from Page 1...

#56 - 5 O'CLOCK CLUB

"Associate yourself with Men of good Quality if you Esteem your own Reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad Company"

#82 - CLUB CLEAN-UP DAY

"Undertake not what you cannot Perform but be Carefull to keep your Promise"

#6 - MVYC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

"Sleep not when others Speak, sit not when others stand, Speak not when you should hold your Peace, walk not on when others Stop"

#9 - SOCK BURNING/FIREPIT

"Spit not in the Fire, nor Stoop low before it neither Put your hands into the Flames to warm them, nor Set your feet upon the Fire especially if there be meat before it"

#20 - SAIL FLEET

"The Gestures of the body must be Suited to the discourse you are upon"

#33 & #35 - MVYC BOARD

"They that are in Dignity or in office have in all places Precedency but whilst they are Young they ought to respect those that are their equals in Birth or other Qualities, though they have no Publick charge"

"Let your Discourse with Men of Business be short and Comprehensive"

#36 - COMMODORE'S BALL

"Artificers & Persons of low Degree ought not to use many ceremonies to Lords, or Others of high Degree but Respect and high[ly] Honour them, and those of high Degree ought to treat them with affability & Courtesie, without Arrogancy"

#94 - OCTOBERFEST

"If you Soak bread in the Sauce let it be no more than what you [pu]t in your Mouth at a time and blow not your broth at Table [bu]t Stay till Cools of it Self"

#66 - NEW-COMERS' PARTY

"Be not forward but friendly and Courteous; the first to Salute hear and answer & be not Pensive when it's a time to Converse"

#98 - TGIF

"Drink not nor talk with your mouth full neither Gaze about you while you are Drinking"

#109 & #110 - MVYC EXPERIENCE IN GENERAL

"Let your Recreations be Manfull not Sinful"

"Labour to keep alive in your Breast that Little Spark of Ce[les]tial fire Called Conscience"

Source:

<http://www.mountvernon.org/manmyth/rules-of-civility>
Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens' "January 2014 eNewsletter"

Social Committee Update

Submitted by Christine Stavropoulos, Social Co-Chair

We are off to a great New Year with many fun traditional events planned and some exciting new ones as well. Our last meeting was well-attended and we expect the next one will be too! To that end, we are changing the date to the second Thursday of every month, as Monday is a difficult day of the week to attend meetings. February 13th at 7:30 pm is our next meeting and we hope to continue seeing new faces there. Our goal is to serve every member of the club by hosting a series of diverse events that cover all types of interest, while trying to accommodate the diversity of our membership.

Upcoming events:



Super Bowl! February 2nd at 5 pm. \$10.00 for steamed shrimp, BBQ. Mac-n-Cheese, beer win and soda. RSVP at mvycsuperbowl@gmail.com



Valentine's Day TGIF will be hosted by the Wine Club. Bring your sweetheart and a dish (remind him or her that they are your "dish") and enjoy.



If you are an artist or know one, we are having an Art Show on Sunday, March 23rd from 2-5 pm in the clubhouse. If you are interested in participating, please contact Madeline O'Malley at (703) 704-9101.

Finally, the Committee is looking for folks to host theme-based TGIFs. The following ideas were proposed at the last meeting and we are open to all ideas: Dock parties, family-friendly and Halloween. There is very little work involved in hosting a TGIF, as everyone brings a dish to share. Also, we're searching for folks to host this year's OctoberFest! Interested? Contact Social at social@mountvernonyachtclub.com.

Thanks to all who attend(ed) and sent emails of support! We can't do it without you.



Save the Date...
Valentine's Day Wine Sharing TGIF

Friday February 14 at 7pm

The "wino committee" will be your host for this special TGIF to celebrate all the good things in life -

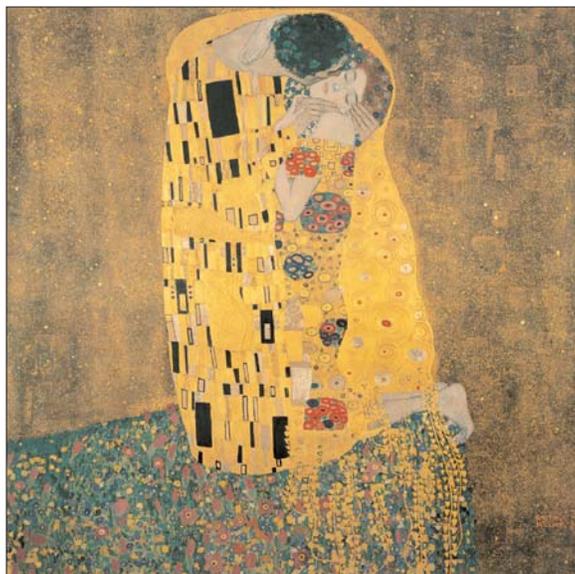
Love, Friends, Food, Chocolate, and, of course, wine.

Bring a bottle of your favorite wine along with a dish to share.

We hope to see you all there!

Calling all Artists!

An Art Show is planned for March 23, 2014 from 2-5 pm at the Clubhouse. It will be open to MVYC members, friends and neighbors.



If you would like to exhibit your work or have any questions, please call Madeline O'Malley at 703-704-9101.

Art will be shown at the artist's own risk. All sales and transactions are between the artist and the buyer.

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pssst... The brand new MVYC website will be unveiled at the Membership meeting on February 6th. A member user demo will be held, along with a follow up registration session!						1
2 5 pm Superbowl Party! 	3 AM Closed for Cleaning	4 9 am Yoga Class	5	6 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	7 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	8
9	10 AM Closed for Cleaning	11 9 am Yoga Class	12	13 7:30pm Social Cmte Mtg	14 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm Valentine's TGIF	15
16	17 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	18 9 am Yoga Class	19	20 7 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	21 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	22
23	24 AM Closed for Cleaning	25 9 am Yoga Class	26	27	28 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	



March 2014



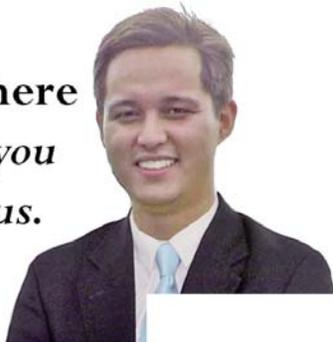
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16	17 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	18 9 am Yoga Class	19	20 7:00 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	21 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	22
23 2pm ART SHOW	24 AM Closed for Cleaning	25 9 am Yoga Class	26	27	28 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	29
30	31					



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