



### The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by  
Ron Reinsel, Commodore

February is a boater's toughest month. The depths of winter are upon us. Our vessels are either on the hard or shivering in a cold marina. The laughter on the docks has been replaced by the hum of ice eaters. Spring seems like it is still a year away. But now is the time to begin to think and plan for a new boating year and a rousing new season.

While the hardest of the Club souls will turnout for our annual Frostbite Picnic on the Point, for now most of our activities will stay in the warmer indoors, including a great Super Bowl Party and Chili Cook Off, the always favorite Tim's Overland, and preparations for Mardi Gras. But the real effort will be going toward getting the Club ready to celebrate its 55th Birthday – its Emerald Anniversary.

1956 was auspicious year. As a reminder of what else was going on at the time: Elvis Presley recorded his first hit (Heartbreak Hotel) and first appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show; Dwight Eisenhower was re-elected to a second term as president; "My Fair Lady" opened on Broadway; Don Larson threw a perfect game in the World Series; Albert Sabin developed the oral polio vaccine; the U.S. tested the first H Bomb on Bikini Atoll (and women's swim suits would never be the same); Huntley and Brinkley debuted on NBC News; the Defense Highways Act was passed resulting in the construction of forty thousand miles of Interstate Highways; a first class stamp cost three cents, a gallon of gasoline was twenty-two cents, and the average new home cost \$11,700 (on the other hand the average annual wage was only \$4,450).

continued on Page 3...

### WELCOME ABOARD

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair

The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Welcome  
Dave & Gail Richmond!



Gail and Dave were high school sweethearts, married in August of 1965, after Gail finished nursing school and Dave wrapped up at University of Maryland undergraduate and prepared to enter U of Md Medical School. They have three grown children, counting among them a son, Anthropology Department Chair at Georgetown University, a ballet dancer daughter whose career included a long stint with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and a clarinetist who is currently on active duty with the 7th Fleet Band in Japan. Three grandsons round out the family. Gail and Dave were on active duty with the Air Force for 27 years before retiring and settling in the Mt. Vernon area. They lived on Riverside near Collingwood for 14 years, before moving to Yacht Haven in 2000. Last summer, Gail and Dave bought Dick McCormack's 27 foot O'Day sailboat – "The Bug" – to replace their smaller and 22 foot MacGregor Venture which they keep docked at their Forest Haven home.

Gail put Dave through medical school, working as a visiting nurse in Baltimore, and later worked inpatient pediatric nursing. During Dave's Air Force career, Gail worked as homemaker and learned to speak fluent Dutch during their stay in Holland. When stationed in Oklahoma, she was the volunteer head of the airbase thrift shop. Since settling in northern Virginia, Gail worked for a local pediatric practice, and later at a women's center. She volunteered for many years as medication nurse at the county mental health center, and has accumulated more than 500 hours as a volunteer at Mt Vernon estate. She has also served repeatedly as election officer for the Westgate precinct. If you vote in the precinct, you've probably seen her! She has been active for many years in the local League of Women Voters, holding various offices, including a stint as a lobbyist on Capital Hill. Gail enjoys gardening, participating in a local book club, canoeing, cycling, and being a doting grandmother.

continued on Page 2...

# *The* BEACON

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

**RON REINSEL, COMMODORE**

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## Welcome Aboard from Page 1...

Dave graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Maryland School of Medicine, and did a rotating internship at the University of Oregon in Portland before joining the Air Force as a General Medical Officer. After 2 years overseas in Holland, he became a flight surgeon, and flew in the F-4 Phantom. He served as Clinic Commander at three different locations, including the Bolling Clinic in Washington D.C. After completing a Family Practice Residency at Malcolm Grow Medical Center, he was Residency Director at the USAF Hospital, Carswell AFB, Texas, and held the same position at Malcolm Grow for many years. He finished his Air Force career as Chief of the Medical Staff at Malcolm Grow and had attained the rank of Colonel. Upon retirement, Dave went to work for Kaiser Permanente at the Springfield center. After retiring from Kaiser in 2005, Dave and a friend flew to Oregon and cycled home across the US, covering over 4300 miles in 2 months. Dave now works part time at Performance Bike shop in Springfield, diagnosing and treating sick bikes. Dave's volunteer activities have included Red Cross work at Malcolm Grow, Mt Vernon neighborhood watch, and serving as assistant chief election officer, Westgate precinct. For the last presidential inauguration, Dave volunteered with other Washington Area Bicycling Association members to park 1,000 bicycles for visitors to the mall. Dave enjoys cycling, sailing, gardening, and "grandfathering".

Please join me and the Board in extending a hearty welcome to our newest members, Dave and Gail Richmond.

### Annual Dues and Volunteer Forms

Thank you to all those who have "opted in" to receive the dues and fees notice and the annual volunteer form electronically. This will help the Club reduce the costs of printing and postage. Please fill out the forms electronically and then print, sign, and include with your check. As you all know, payment must be received by midnight February 28, 2011, in order to avoid incurring late fees. You can save on postage and ensure that we get your check on time by dropping it off in the Club mailbox. I will post a note on the box just after midnight on February 28 so you can be sure if there is no note, your check is on-time.

Don't forget, along with your annual dues is the annual volunteer form. MVYC relies on its volunteers, and as you know, it is expected that all members will volunteer in some capacity so that the Club can continue to provide quality activities and maintain our grounds and facilities. Put your enthusiasm and fresh ideas to good use in 2011 by taking an active role in Club events. If you have any questions, or ideas for new initiatives, please feel free to contact me or any member of the board.

## Upcoming Meetings...



### **Membership Meetings**

February 3  
March 3  
at 8:00 pm  
1st Thur of the month

### **Board Meetings**

February 21  
March 21  
at 7:30 pm  
3rd Mon of the month

### **Social Committee Meetings**

February 7  
(moved from the 14th\*)  
March 14  
at 7:30 pm  
2nd Mon of the month

### **No, They Were Not Hallucinating**

*Snuck in by Bart Hewitt*

You may have heard Bill Gard and a few others claim that they spotted a boat towing a house out on the river. Those kinds of stories can only be the product of either (1) too much liquid refreshment or (2) serious mental issues. In this case, thankfully, the story is true. It must be true, because it was featured in the January 20th Washington Post, section B, page 2, complete with photo.

The rumor that Alexi Stavropoulos was living in the house at the time is absolutely not true.

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

It was, of course, also the year that a corner of George Washington's old Union Farm property along Dogue Creek was transformed from cow pastures into residences and MVYC was founded. Since then we have grown and matured into the wonderful facility and the strong, vibrant community that we are today.

As we reach this milestone, it is time to both celebrate and to reflect on how far we have come, and on where we will be going in the future. We have built not only a solid foundation but also a tradition of good fellowship, good friends, and great times along the water. Happy Birthday to us!

As we symbolically renew our commitment to all of the wonderful things that make our Club the very special place that it is, remember that February is also time for real Membership Renewal, submission of this year's slip applications, and most importantly, to commit to volunteer our services to keep MVYC the jewel of the Potomac.

In the meanwhile, as we anxiously await the spring thaw, keep the warm thought in mind that it is only three months until Commissioning Day.

**Toon Fleet News**

*by Bart Hewitt*

Have you ever seen one of those lovely, heart-warming photos of a mother swan protecting her brood by sheltering them under her wings? Warms the very cockles of yer heart, don't it?. Well, if you drive past our house on Everglades Drive, you can see a similar heartwarming sight. There, safely in her Toonport, you will see our Toon, carefully protecting the garbage can and the beautiful blue bin (note effective use of alliteration) containing newspapers to be recycled. I know it warms my cockles every time I go out there with the garbage or some old newspapers containing even more pithy quotes by our hard-working, dedicated politicians, many of whom are hard at work day after day by doing important things like trying to find out just exactly what "cockles" are, and how they can be used to flummox us. And now, having brilliantly completed the creation of yet another idiotic Toon Fleet News article for the Beacon, I'm going to get out my dictionary and find out what a "flummox" is. Retirement is wonderful.

**Social Committee Update**

*Contributed by Clay Collier, Social Committee Chair*



Happy New Year All!! Well, here we go... just a few short months and we'll be on the river again! As of this writing, it's only **108 days until Commissioning Day!!**

January has proven to be a quieter month, but it started with a BANG!! The **New Year's Eve Party** was a great success. The DJ was supposed to quit at 1am, but everyone was having such a great time that he kept playing until 1:30. Many thanks to Jim Walton for hosting a fantastic party, and to Dan and Chris O'Keefe, Jayne Brady Prescott, Terry and Cathy Stott, and Valerie Carney Walton for all their help. Note that the O'Keefes, Prescotts and Stotts are all new members and have never put on an event at the club, so special thanks to them for stepping up to the plate to help create a topnotch event.

Next Up: **Super Bowl Party**, hosted by Janet Fincher

Date: Sunday, February 6

Time: 4pm-ish 'till the fat lady sings

Food served: 5:30-ish

Kick off: 6:20-ish

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Since the boating season is around the corner (sort of) and we're all tired of the cold, it's time to end the football season by throwing another world-class football bash! Come and watch the game on a huge screen (not just a big screen - a HUGE screen!), have a cold beer, handmade burgers, hot dogs and potato salad. And as if the game was not enough... we'll have a 50/50 raffle, square bets and the famous chili competition. Please bring a favorite dish or dessert or party snacks to share. In order to determine how many burgers and dogs to buy, **please RSVP** to [superbowl@mountvernonyachtclub.com](mailto:superbowl@mountvernonyachtclub.com) and let us know you're coming!

Coming Soon:

**Annual Art Show with Wine and Cheese Reception**, hosted by Madeline O'Malley and Carol Hamrick, Sunday, February 13, 2-5pm.

**St Mardi Gras Party** – Saturday, March 12

**Next Social Committee Meeting is February 7 at 7:30pm.**

(Note that normally the Social Committee meeting would fall on February 14th, but that's Valentine's Day so I moved it up a week)

We have lots of opportunities to host parties (or co-host with a friend if you're a chicken!) throughout the year. It's a fun way to volunteer and get to know lots of members. Just shoot me an email or show up at the next committee meeting if you'd like to help out. Come and show everyone just how much fun you are!!

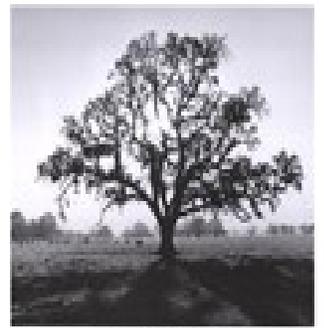
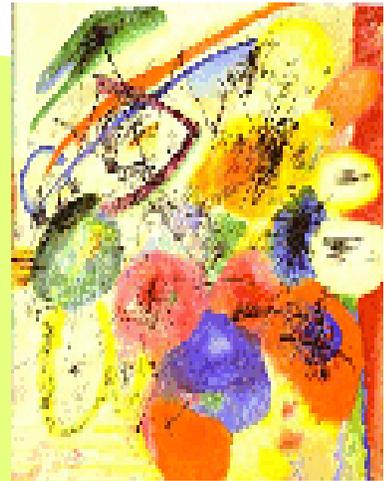
The Artists of Dogue Creek

# Art Show

## Wine and Cheese

## Reception

Join us for an afternoon of art.  
Mount Vernon Yacht Club members,  
friends, and neighbors.



**Sunday February 13**

**2:00 – 5:00**

**Mount Vernon Yacht Club**

**To All Exhibitors:** Please bring paintings ,  
sculptures, and crafts to the Yacht Club

between 1:00 and 2:00. Easels are needed and tables will be available. Art will be shown at the artist's own risk. All sales transactions are between artist and buyer.

All work must be removed by 5:00 p.m.

**Information; Madeline O'Malley 703-704-9101 or Carol Hamrick 703-780-6755**

# February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9 am Yoga Class	2	3 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	4 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	5
6  4pm Superbowl Party	7 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	8 9 am Yoga Class	9	10	11 7:30 pm TGIF	12 Tim's Overland Cruise
13  2 - 5 pm MVYC Art Show	14  AM Closed for Cleaning	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					

# March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9 am Yoga Class	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
13	14 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm 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	31		



THE MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB  
4817 TARPON LANE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22309



## Super Bowl / Chili Competition Sunday Feb 6th

Bring your team spirit  
and your chili!



Join us for a 50-50 raffle

Cold beer and soda

Start time 4:00ish

Hot dogs and hamburgers to be served at 5:30ish

Kick off at 6:20

Cost \$5.00 at the door



Bring a dish if you like and don't forget your best chili!  
RSVP: [superbowl@mountvernonyachtclub.com](mailto:superbowl@mountvernonyachtclub.com)

