



[www.MountVernonYachtClub.com](http://www.MountVernonYachtClub.com)

Volume 50, No. 2

February 2013

### Bosun's Whistle

By Jerry Gray, Commodore



February is upon us and folks are thinking about boating and how easy it is going to be moving around the marina with all of that deep water.

The dredging is complete and the new "C" and "D" docks are being prepped for water and electricity. This has been a huge undertaking that was more than a year in the planning process and fully managed end to end by our own members. I know most of you have heard these names before, but Bill Gard, Jim Borches, Jeff Kirkland, and Ron Reinsel were responsible for getting this project off the ground, and Jeff has handled the management of the dredging contractors since they arrived on-site in early December. Steve Donock, Alexi Stavropoulos and a litany of Marina volunteers have moved boats as needed to keep the contractors on schedule. Special thanks to all of the boat owners that relocated their boat for the winter; it made a big difference. Alexi will be heading up the task force to get water and electric provisioned on both new docks and will be looking for volunteers to assist. Join me in thanking these members for making this happen on time and, it appears, well within our budget.

At the January membership meeting our annual budget was unanimously approved ensuring that MVYC can continue to operate in 2013.

continued on Page 3...

### NEW YEAR'S EVE RIO de JANEIRO STYLE!

Submitted by Julie Owens

The Club broke with tradition and hosted a TGI-New Year's Eve Party this year. Midnight was set for Rio time—10:00! We toasted the New Year with quite a few bottles of sparkling wine. If we had fewer fireworks than our theme city, we had no less enthusiasm. It was a spirited party!

Plates and plates of hors d'oeuvres—lime shrimp and empanadas were favorites—lined the bar. Members brought in a varied and generous selection of main dishes. Dick Schumacher collected hours of bossa nova and rumba tunes that helped set the tone. We think about 45 members joined us, though it was hard to tell because people were doing a lot of moving around with the music and conversations. Others claim 60.

The decorations carried the theme of fireworks over the bar and at the tables with starry sprays.

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE IN RIO de JANEIRO

Unfortunately we were too busy partying to take pictures, so you will have to use your imaginations!

While many left between 10:00 and 11:00, a few hardy souls lingered on to well past midnight. Many said they especially liked the 10:00 toasts and the TGI rather than a ticketed format.

BOGART · BERGMAN · HENREID



Ideas for a 2014 party are already taking shape. What would you think of a Casablanca Theme — (though not 7:00 pm toasts) perhaps with a piano-bar and white evening jackets? So romantic...

### IN MEMORIAM

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club  
mourns the passing of JIM HAMRICK

Jim, you are so missed.



# *The* BEACON

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

**JERRY GRAY, COMMODORE**

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20th of the month

[Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com](mailto:Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com)

## Membership

*Submitted by Dan O'Keefe, Membership Chair*

It's that time of year again. The annual dues and fees notice along with the annual volunteer forms are in the mail. Again this year we will be e-mailing an electronic file that can be completed online, printed, signed, and returned with your check. Completing the electronic form before printing it will help ensure that all required information is correct.



There have been minor changes made to the volunteer form. Please review the form, and sign up for those activities where you feel you can best contribute. Remember that it is expected that we all contribute our skills in some capacity so that "Our Club" can continue to provide quality activities and well maintained grounds and facilities. Remember "nothing will work unless you do"- Maya Angelou.

As you know from last month's Beacon, we are starting 2013 well below our maximum membership of 230. This topic was the subject of discussion during our January membership meeting. As a result, the members voted to establish a subcommittee to address the issue in depth, establish recommendations, and to report back to the membership.



Under those directions we are in the process of forming the committee, establishing a schedule and building an agenda. If you are interested in participating as a committee member or have ideas for possible initiatives, please contact me at [Danokeefe711@msn.com](mailto:Danokeefe711@msn.com) or 703 727 6781.

## Upcoming Meetings...



### Membership Meetings

February 7  
March 7  
at 8:00 pm  
1st Thurs of the month

### Board Meetings

February 18  
March 18  
at 7:30 pm  
3rd Mon of the month

### Social Committee Meetings

February 11  
March 11  
at 7:30 pm  
2nd Mon of the month

The "Douge Rogue"  
needs a new Captain!  
1986 Carver Mariner 28'  
Great family boat

Contact Susan Fitzgerald  
Home: 703 780 2815  
Cell: 703 927 2039

### Bosun's Whistle from Page 1

A major topic at this meeting was membership. MVYC has been described as the best kept secret on the Potomac River. It is time to get our members excited about letting that secret out a bit. Our Membership chairman, Dan O'Keefe, will be forming a committee to look at ways to boost our membership numbers and encourage our members to recommend people they know to the club.

The Social and Power Fleet calendars were also set in January, so take a look online or in the Beacon and come out and participate in the many great events that are planned for 2013. Thanks go out to Harriet Singleton and Lauren Bazel for putting those meetings together and establishing some dates that our membership can plan around.

Speaking of the Power Fleet. Chris Bazel has agreed to become Power Fleet Captain in 2013. Alexi Stavropoulos is stepping down after honorably serving as Power Fleet captain for 5 years after taking the helm from Dave Miskimens in 2008. Thank you to both Chris and Alexi for their service and for this smooth transition.

At the end of January dues notices were sent to everyone, if for any reason you did not receive your dues notice please contact Dan or any member of the board. Dues must be in by the end of February, I am sure Dan will be onsite at 11:59 PM 2/28 to greet those who stroll up in the final minutes to drop off their payment.

Consider filling out your membership/Slip renewal/Volunteer sign-up form online. The online form can be saved and emailed and then you simply follow up with you check for payment. Filling the form out online helps in several ways, the form is perfectly legible, and the data can be collected electronically eliminating the manual handwriting interpretation and data entry that has to be done with paper forms.

## HOUSE REPORT

*From the House Guy, Pat McCarthy*

Our beautiful Clubhouse supported us all by hosting several membership and private parties during the recent holiday season. The Dubai Yacht Club burgee recently presented to the Club is now properly displayed along with the other club burgees.

The elevator has successfully passed another quarterly inspection and the elevator oil heater has been turned on for the winter season keeping the oil viscous and the elevator capable of routine travel speeds.

An external header trim board above the exit door near the 2nd floor bar has been caulked to eliminate a damaging water leak.

The air filter in the first floor HVAC unit has been removed, washed, and reinstalled.

Some of you may have noticed that the Crow's Nest icemaker is not working. It has experienced several problems since last summer. We are planning to order and install a new icemaker soon. I will report when the new one is operational.

I occasionally see or have reported to me instances of "house abuse" which I suspect occur inadvertently, but which tend to cause irritation and require corrective work by others who were not involved with the original house event. Please remember that the Clubhouse belongs to all of us and should be treated with the respect we do our own homes. I'm going to add brief summarized reminders of house rules to the end of these reports. The reminders will be in no particular order and may be related to recent behavior, expected seasonal activity, or in anticipation of specific future events and activities. A complete set of Clubhouse rules can be found within the Rules and Procedures document in the Documents and Bylaws section of the club's website.

House Rules Revisited: Preformed groups of non-members in excess of 12 invited by any Club Member, or group of Members, to the club shall require the advance approval of a minimum of 5 members of the Board of Trustees. All facilities must be treated with respect and left clean and in proper working order. Children are not permitted in the Clubhouse, unless accompanied by a Club Member or participating in a Club-sponsored activity taking place in the Clubhouse where an adult Club Member or their authorized caregiver is present and responsible for their supervision. An authorized caregiver will be defined in a future House Rules Revisited entry.

## Dock Master Musings

HISTORY AND INSIGHTS FROM THE WHARF  
AT MOUNT VERNON ESTATES

### George Washington's missing Vessel

During the night of July 23,1788 a violent storm struck the waters around Mount Vernon causing George Washington's miniature ship the Federalist to be ripped from her mooring and sink. To this day it has never been found. However, help may be on the way!



Mount Vernon has been partnering with an archaeological group called the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program(LAMP), the Maryland Historical Trust(TRUST) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to conduct an archaeological survey of the Potomac River bottom along Mount Vernon from Little Hunting Creek to the north, to Dogue creek to the south. (1)

To accomplish this, the boats are using side scan sonar and a magnetometer to map the river bottom. The sonar detects objects protruding above the bottom. When the multiple images are overlaid on one another they provide a map of the river bed. The magnetometer measures magnetic fields. Together they give a unique picture of what maybe below. Shipwrecks are one item the various surveys expect to document. Finding the Federalist would be the crown jewel.

The miniature Federalist was a 15 foot replica of the original Federalist that fought in the revolutionary war. The boat was a gift from the merchants of Baltimore to George Washington' in appreciation of Washington's work with the Constitutional Convention. The tiny replica was ship-rigged and carried seven sails. In May,1788 she set sail from Baltimore Harbor. She was commanded by Captain Joshua Barney, a highly decorated Revolutionary hero. He sailed down the Chesapeake Bay and then up the Potomac River to Mount Vernon. (2) On Monday June 9,1788, Captain Barney presented the vessel to General Washington.

The archaeological Survey Partnership "...found sonar signals that may indicate that a boat the Federalist('s) size is present". As the survey work continues we will let you know what is found.(3)

- (1) the Keeper's Blog:Underwater Archeology at Mount Vernon
- (2) NASOH,Newsletter, vol.13,no.3 Spring 1988
- (3) "Underwater Archaeology", the Kojo Nnamdi Show 10/25/10



*Editor's Note:*

*A replica of the Federalist is now located at BWI Airport near Concourse D*

**Solve it!** A bit of nautical flag humor...



**How do make a hankerchief dance?**

**Put a little**  **in it!**

## Power Fleet

By Alexi Stavropoulos

It's a new year, a new boating season and we have a new Power Fleet Captain. After five years of serving as Power Fleet Captain for MVYC, I am happy to pass on the flag to our new Power Fleet Captain, Chris Bazel.

When I took over as Power Fleet Captain from Captain Dave Miskimens, my plan was to continue the traditions and create some new ones. There are many events that the PF hosts throughout the year and I realized adding more was not something we needed, it was to take the fun events we had in place and find ways to expand or add a different flavor.

We added shuttle boats, ski boats and Jet Ski's to memorial the Memorial Day raft-up. We made an effort to change locations for our brunch cruise every year. Coles Point Marina was in disarray and a small group of us searched for a new destination for the "Red Brown" memorial cruise and continued the tradition at Dennis Point Marina. There we added a group BBQ and were able to have members come by land and stay at a nearby hotel and tents by the docks.

In my first article, I wrote that the very first power fleet event we attended was the 2nd annual parade of lights and how much Christine, Zoe and I enjoyed that evening on the river with our new friends. I hope many of you can look back and remember the first time you rafted up or went on a brunch cruise. Whatever the event was, whether you are a boater or a non-boater who came along for the ride, I hope it was a memorable event and that you will continue to join in on the fun that the Power Fleet has to offer. I would like to thank all of you for participating over the years. Though I can't list them all, there are many that I would like to thank for helping me out over the years. A special thanks to my mates Christine and Zoe for their help on and behind the scenes.

Chris was not able to make the first meeting but is Co-captain Lauren held a great meeting. I know that Chris will continue and add his flavor to the events. I hope all of you will continue to join in and help out so that we will have a safe and great year of boating.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Power Fleet Captain MVYC and I look forward to seeing all of you on the river.



2013 is shaping up to be another fun and exciting year at MVYC. Both the Social Committee and the Power Fleet have done their planning and come up with a terrific line up of events. So mark your calendars now and keep an eye on your emails and monthly Beacon for details. If you have ideas for additional events or want to be part of the crew that pulls these events together just contact Harriet Singleton, Social Committee Chairman, or Chris Bazel Power Fleet Captain.



### MVYC 2013 Event Calendar

DATE	EVENT
February 3	Super Bowl Party
February 23	Tim's Rivershore Overland "Cruise"
March 16	St. Patrick's Day Party
March 23	Kid's Easter Egg Roll Sock Burning
April 27	Boat Safety Inspection
April 28	Brunch Cruise
May 5	Commissioning Day
May 11	Ladies Day Tea MVYC Photo Shoot
May 25	Memorial Day Raft-up
June 22	New Member's Party
July 3	Boat Parade of Lights
July 19-21	PRYCA Float In
August 16-19	Red Brown Memorial Cruise
August 31/Sept 1	Labor Day Raft-up
September 7	Wounded Warriors
September 28	Oktoberfest
October 19-20	Alexandria Overnight Cruise
October 26	Kid's Halloween party
November 9	Commodore's Ball
December 14	Adult Holiday Party
December 15	Kid's Holiday Party
December 31	New Year's Eve

## On The Docks

by Steve Donock & Alexi Stavropoulos, Marina Co-Chairs  
Email: marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com

As I write this we've been teased by a mild winter but I'm feeling a change in the air that may force me to reconsider outdoor activity for a while. If your boat is at home or at an easy access facility for the winter, this is the time to venture out and take stock of what's needed for the upcoming season. Check expiration dates on flares, check fire extinguishers, give your fenders a once over and inventory and replace lines – both your permanent dock lines and those used for travel. Even if a boat is seldom used, lines deteriorate and become virtually impossible to take off in an emergency and certainly are not safe enough to protect your boat in foul weather.

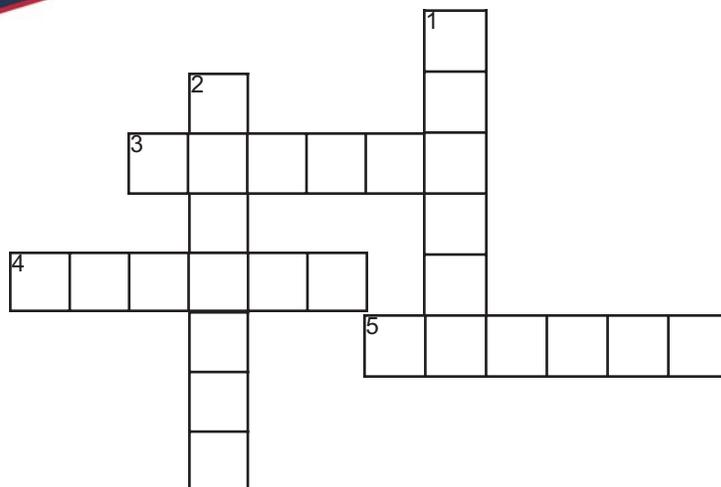
As the first phase of the marina project comes to a close we will be gearing up for phase two. The new C & D docks will require the installation of the pedestals, the water lines and electrical conduit. Our goal is to start towards the end of the month so we can have the docs ready to go when the boating season starts. We already have several volunteers to help with this project and we are looking for more. Look for an email to come out in the next two weeks.

Over the coming months you'll be hearing more about lines, knots and line handling on these pages from Club salts – some older than others! Keep warm and let's hope for an early thaw.

The boating season will be upon sooner than we think and one key ingredient many of us will need for our boats is gas. After many years of managing the gas dock, Jerry Gray has retired and we are looking for a volunteer to take over his duties. Anyone interested in managing the gas dock can email us at mvycmarina@gmail.com The weekend gas attendant volunteer sign-up sheet will be sent out later this month.



## MVYC Crossword Challenge



### Across

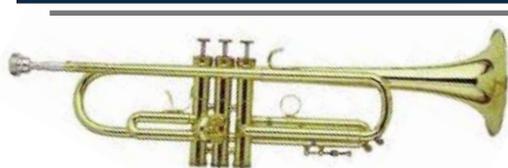
- 3 Equipment you fish with
- 4 1st President's 1st name
- 5 Last name of Toon Fleet Captain

### Down

- 1 What we did to our lagoon
- 2 Beloved deceased trumpeter

## Need a Babysitter? Want to Babysit? Let's Get Connected!

Look at the 2013 MVYC event calendar you can see this is going to be a busy year. Many of our events are family events where kids of all ages can come and have fun but some of our events are just for the adults. Since the point of all these activities is to bring as many members together as possible, the Social Committee thought it would be useful to compile a list of those "young adults" in the club who are available as babysitters that can be shared with members in need of child care for an evening. So, if you have a "child care entrepreneur" in your household that would be interested in being on the list, please send a note with their: name, age, contact phone and email to Lauren Bazel ([ldbazel@gmail.com](mailto:ldbazel@gmail.com)). Once we get a list started we can figure out the best way to make it accessible to members.



## BRASS PLAYERS Wanted!

Bart Hewitt is looking for a few professional-level brass instrument players.

The idea is not to make money for ourselves; rather it is to play for charitable organizations - nursing homes, schools, etc. etc. as a community service. I am an ex-TUSAB euphonium player, seeking two trumpeters and a french horn or euphonium player. I have lots of music and am willing to buy more at my own expense. If you are such a player, or know one/two/three, contact me at 703-799-0401 or [barthewitt@verizon.net](mailto:barthewitt@verizon.net).

## WHY KNOT!

Submitted by Past Commodore, Bill Gard

**Tourist in NYC: How do I get to Carnegie Hall?**

**New Yorker: Practice, practice, practice.**

In the last issue of the Beacon, we noted a favorite saying of a certain MVYC Vice-Commodore : "If you don't know knots, tie lots." Some people would interpret this just like that New Yorker -- as a suggestion to practice, practice, practice tying knots the right way. But there's an alternative interpretation. The saying is usually viewed as a comment on some folks' habit of haphazardly wrapping lots of lines around stuff and hoping the hodge-podge holds. Sort of a quantity versus quality approach.

The problem with tying knots with lots of loops and turns is that the resulting jumble of line can be difficult to undo in emergencies, or if you're just trying to leave a dock in a bit of a hurry. If you've got to cast off quickly or take strain off a line, it can be an ordeal unwrapping a dock line from a cleat or a piling turn after turn after turn. By contrast, a couple of turns around a cleat or a simple clove hitch around a piling when you first tie up can be perfectly effective, yet quick to undo. The cleat hitch and the clove hitch around a pile secured with a half hitch are the most common ways to secure a boat to a dock.

### **CLEAT HITCH**

The cleat hitch for tying up at a dock is shown in the accompanying set of illustrations. A few clarifying comments for each illustration:

1. Do not bring the line around the near horn
2. Go around the far horn
3. Loop back and
4. Go under the near horn,
5. Cross over the middle of the cleat,
6. Go under the far horn,
7. Loop back over the middle of the cleat.
8. (Here's where it gets tricky) Twist a loop in the line forming a half-hitch, with the working end of the line going under the part of the line that just passed over the cleat.
9. Pass the loop over the near horn, and
10. Pull on the working end of the line and tighten the line. The crossover line used with the half hitch secures the line and is called a locking hitch

As displayed in figure 10 (*next page*), the correct result should be two parallel lines across the center of the cleat, with a single line crossing over the parallel lines.

### **Some caveats:**

- These illustrations (*next page*) show the simplest approach to tying a line to a cleat hitch while leaving the line easy to release.
- Some experts recommend tying several figure-eight loops around the horns before using the locking hitch. That may work quite well depending on the size of the cleat and the thickness of the line,
- Some experts recommend against using the locking hitch, especially on large vessels and when towing another boat.

The cleat hitch and lots of other boating knots can be seen in animation on the website:

<http://www.animatedknots.com/>

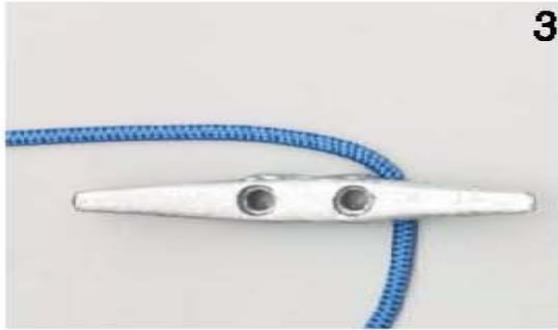
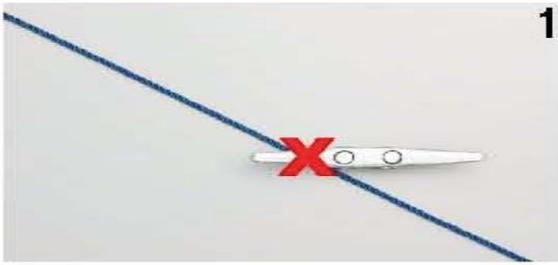
Click on the boating icon.

**One more thing.** On Saturday April 27 the MVYC Power Fleet will host the annual U.S. Coast Guard boat safety inspection. At that event, we will set up a table or two to provide demonstrations of knot tying, complete with hands-on instruction. Please join us and learn marlinspike seamanship from our salty experts.

**Next month – the Clove Hitch and the Bowline**

Please send comments and suggestions to [bkgard123@aol.com](mailto:bkgard123@aol.com).

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## Social Committee

*Submitted by Harriet Singleton, Social Chair*

Thank you to the Owens and Schumachers for hosting the TGI-NYE. It was a nice showing at the Rio NYE Celebration. Julie and Susan have started planning for the next New Years Party with a Casablanca-Piano Bar theme. Stay tuned for details in the coming months. Thank you again!

Thank you to all those attending the Social Committee in January. This year the Power Fleet and Social calendars were coordinated to make sure there were no overlaps or conflicts. This edition of the Beacon contains a list of activities for both groups for your convenience and planning in the months to come. You'll notice that two future children's activities have been listed on the same days as other adult events for several reasons.

Sponsors and organizers of the children parties are still needed. Without organizers, those events will have to be cancelled. As the children grow up and lose interest in Easter Egg Hunts and Halloween parties, parents that previously hosted those fun times are now going in other directions with their children. If you have children still interested in either activity and would like to coordinate an event, please let me know.

### Super Bowl Party on February 3rd



Get your favorite chili recipe out and prepare for the chili competition. Join Super Bowl fun on the first Sunday in February to cheer on the bowl teams, enjoy some burgers, dogs and more. Who will be the winner of the 50/50 raffle this year? Proceeds to help purchase a much need PC for the swim team. More details included in the Beacon and will be sent electronically too.

### St. Patrick's Day



Marianne Ketels and myself will be co-chairs of the St. Patrick's Day party to be held Saturday, March 16. We welcome you to join in the party planning to make it another festive occasion. Stay tuned for a planning meeting in the coming weeks. If you would like to add you name to the committee, please let me know at [hescs@verizon.net](mailto:hescs@verizon.net).

## Super Bowl XLVII / Chili Competition

### Sunday, February 3rd



Start time 4:00 ish



Chili competition before dinner



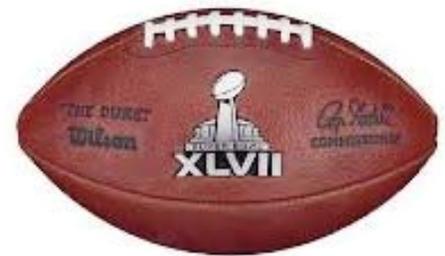
Hot dogs and hamburgers to be served 5:30ish



Kick off at 6:30

50-50 raffle (proceeds to support new PC for swim team)

Bring a dish if you like but don't forget your award winning chili!!



## Host a TGIF - It's An Easy Way To Make Friday More Fun

*Submitted by Harriet Singleton and Lauren Bazel*

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Unless you live under a rock or a dock, most people know that TGIF stands for Thank-Goodness-It's-Friday. At MVYC, it also means it is time for to unwind from the week and get primed for the week-end in a casual and comfortable way with friends.

What you may not know is that members can make this casual event even more fun by hosting a particular theme night. Interested in hosting but not sure what you are getting yourself in for? Have no fear, below is everything you need to know.

**Step one**, pick a theme. Anyone can be a sponsor of a TGIF and it is a great way to spread some fun and cheer with a special theme or event. Would you like to celebrate a month of birthdays; have a wine tasting; Cinco de Mayo; game night; or whatever you fancy? Your creativity is up to you. Although, most TGIFs are hosted in the clubhouse, when the weather permits, outside is always an option. There are endless possibilities!

As a sponsor, you can do as much as you would like when it comes to decorations or additional food and beverages. Since TGIF is potluck and BYOB, your job number one is to get people excited about the theme and looking forward to spending the evening with friends.

**Step two**, pick a Friday. A simple call or email to Joan Jones to see whether there are any calendar conflicts will get you started. While TGIF is a standing event, if there is a club party on Saturday or the clubhouse is rented on Friday, TGIF may get canceled. Check with Joan or Harriet Singleton so your preferred Friday can be locked in early.

**Step three**, TGIF starts at 7pm so if you are hosting, make sure to be there early enough to set it up the way you want. The dinner bell is rung at 8pm and when things wind down after dinner the hosts and others make sure things get cleaned up.

That's all there is. Pretty easy, and depending on how creative you are, it can be really fun! We have a great group of members and there is no better way to get to know them than by hanging out on a Friday night.

So what are you waiting for? There are plenty of Friday's to pick from. If you have an idea, please let Harriet and Joan know.

It is your club and your clubhouse so please make the most of it all year long!



# February 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	2
3	4 AM Closed for Cleaning	5 9 am Yoga Class	6	7 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	8 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	9
10	11 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30pm Social Cmte Mtg	12 9 am Yoga Class	13	14 	15 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	16
17	18 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	19 9 am Yoga Class	20	21 7:00 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	22 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	23
24	25 AM Closed for Cleaning	26 9 am Yoga Class	27	28		



# March 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31					1 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	2
3	4 AM Closed for Cleaning	5 9 am Yoga Class	6	7 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	8 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	9
10	11 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30pm Social Cmte Mtg	12 9 am Yoga Class	13	14	15 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	16
17 	18 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	19 9 am Yoga Class	20	21 7:00 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	22 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	23
24	25 AM Closed for Cleaning	26 9 am Yoga Class	27	28	29 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	30



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