



The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by
Bill Gard, Commodore

Security

I had hoped to write a light, spring-is-coming article for the March Bosun's Whistle; but, alas, weightier issues need to be addressed. If you didn't have an opportunity to read my February 15th Commodore's Communique, here's a condensed version.

Several boats were broken into at the MVYC marina sometime between Friday evening and Saturday morning, February 12-13. Six boat owners reported break-ins, four on Outer W and two on B dock. So far almost all of the property taken has been identified as electronics -- TVs, Chart plotters, GPS units, VHF radios, and handheld electronics. No beer or liquor is known to be missing. This sounds more professional than our usual problems with kids looking for alcohol.

Jack O'Malley, MVYC's head of security, talked to Fairfax County police and intends to continue to work with them to keep the investigation into these thefts open. Several of the theft victims filed police reports.

The first question the police asked was whether we had security camera tapes they could look at. We don't. With that in mind I've asked Jack to develop a proposal to the MVYC Board of Trustees to procure and install a video security system that can adequately monitor MVYC property at all of our vulnerable points of entry and store any recorded activity for subsequent retrieval. A number of potential enhancements were identified in the security report published last year, including installing substantial barriers along the east property line and the north entry to the parking lot; beefing up the parking lot gate; motion detector-activated floodlights

continued on Page 3...



WELCOME ABOARD - Membership Report

Contributed by Rob Reinsel, Vice Commodore and Membership Chair

As we dig out from the winter snows and look forward to a new boating season, don't forget that it is also time to renew your membership in MVYC. Dues and fees are due by midnight February 28, 2010. If you have not already done so, get those membership forms (and checks) in right away! Payments received after the due date are subject to a 5% late fee and failure to submit a timely marina application/renewal may result in loss of a slip and marina seniority.

While we are finalizing this year's membership rolls, we want to welcome new members who recently joined the Club:

Rob and Linda Sudsoff



Rob (better known as "SudS" and you will have to ask him why the last "S" is capitalized) and Linda were married in 1992 and have lived in Woodlawn Manor since 1993. They are avid wine collectors and Linda loves to cook. SudS is a life-long coin collector and enjoys the sport of boxing - not just watching, he teaches it at Lee District Park.

SudS and Linda have one child, Helen, who is thirteen and attends Walt Whitman Middle School. Helen plays the violin in the school's advanced symphonic orchestra, is also a member of the Mount Vernon Thunderbirds softball team and active as a cadet girl scout.

The Sudsoffs are long time members of the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon and summer often finds them at concerts at Grist Mill Park when not enjoying movie nights at home or, now that they are members of the Club, taking in the amenities of MVYC where they look forward to meeting new friends and sharing some food and good wine.

Welcome SudS and Linda!

Notice is also given, pursuant to Article XVI, Paragraph 7C, of the MVYC Bylaws, that the following families have submitted applications and could be offered membership in MVYC when an opening becomes available:

Perry ("Bear") and Barbara Baker
3304 Wessynton Way
Alexandria, VA 22309

James Fahey and Traci Newcomb
2311 Mary Baldwin Drive
Alexandria, VA 22307

Michael and Jayne Prescott
5221 Burke Dive
Alexandria, VA 22309

BOAT FOR SALE

1996 Wellcraft Power Boat - "IRIS BELL" on A dock
Low hours, 3 years old, 250 HP Mercruiser I/O, Full Galley

Giveaway price: \$13,500

Contact Joe Hamilton at 703-282-3604

or joseph.hamilton5@verizon.net

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

BILL GARD, COMMODORE

BEACON STAFF

Editor: Bart Hewitt
Asst Editor: Blair Beggan
Asst Editor: Chris Lewis
Photographer: George Holthaus
Photographer: Russell Poe
Circulation: Delong Litho

BEACON EDITOR

9123 Cherrytree Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22309
Phone 703-799-0401

All Club members may submit articles, letters and notices for editorial review and possible publication. Submission by e-mail or compact disc is encouraged.

© COPYRIGHT 2010

MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cover artwork by Don Cannavaro

Deadline for Next Issue:
15th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

March 4
April 1
at 7:30 pm
1st Thur of the month

Board Meetings

March 15
April 19
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

March 8
April 12
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month

Bosun's Whistle from Page 1...

(with an override for club evening events); contracting for random night-time patrols by the police or other security entities; motion detector alarms on individual boats. In coming weeks the Board will be discussing these along as well as the possible installation of a video security system.

In another security issue, several teenagers were observed on the ice in the lagoon recently and were asked to leave by an MVYC member. They refused and wouldn't leave until they were ready to go. The police have informed us that they will apprehend trespassers who do not leave when asked to. I would like to appeal to all members to challenge unknown visitors on club property and if they don't belong, ask them to leave. If they refuse, call the police and report that we have trespassers who refuse to leave the property. The Fairfax County Police non-emergency number is 703-360-8400.

Please let me or any Board member know your thoughts on the video security system. Also, let me know any additional suggestions you have about security. You can also send comments to Security@mountvernonyachtclub.com.

Alexandria City Dock Slips

The City of Alexandria is strongly considering converting most of their transient slips to permanent year-round leasehold slips, which would severely curtail MVYC group and individual visits to the Old Town waterfront. Here is the gist of a letter on the subject that I sent to City Councilman Paul Smedberg, who oversees the waterfront:

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club consists of 125 boat owners, many of whom cruise to Old Town Alexandria for day trips as well as weekend stays. Several times a year we organize "float-ins" where several (four to ten or twelve) boats cruise to Old Town for the weekend. Each boat has from two to four MVYC members who stay the weekend. When we have our float-ins, our members shop, tour, eat out and patronize Alexandria's businesses. Additionally, when these float-ins occur several additional MVYC members drive to Old Town to join fellow Club members on their boats and around town. These folks bring yet more business to Old Town merchants and vendors.

If the Alexandria City Dock becomes unavailable for float-ins, our club, as well as several other boat clubs along the Potomac, will probably shift activities to other venues, most likely to National Harbor which has good transient facilities as well as attractive shopping and dining. National Harbor continues to grow as a destination and once Alexandria loses the cruising business to them, I fear it will be difficult to get boaters back to Old Town.

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club urges you and the Alexandria City Council to consider retaining a substantial number of transient slips.

Several MVYC members, along with other yacht clubs along the Potomac are organizing a protest campaign and we'll soon let you know to whom you should address your concerns. In the meantime, former MVYC Board member David Miskimens has agreed to take the lead for MVYC in dealing with the City of Alexandria and we already have had active involvement in this issue from current Board member Alexi Stavropoulos, Past Commodore Stuart Matthews and MVYC member Troy Clayton, an Old Town business owner and chef/owner of Geranio's restaurant. If you would like to get involved in this effort, please contact Dave or me.

Social Committee

Report

*Contributed by Amy Walker
Social Chair*



Hi there folks! As I write this article it has started snowing again, so I am renaming this report the "Snowcial Report". Because of the snow, the Snowcial Committee meeting was canceled. The Valentine's Day TGIF - canceled. My sanity - canceled or under 3 feet of snow! Thanks to the O'Keefe's and the Mayer's for agreeing to host a wonderful Valentine's Day TGIF that was canceled! The Mardi Gras has not been canceled. As I write this, the party has not happened yet; but thanks go to Lauren Bazel and her crew for the time they have put in to make it a great party. Our upcoming events are:

Mar 8 - Snowcial Committee meeting

Mar 12 - St Patrick's Day TGIF

Mar 21 - Kid's Easter party hosted by Eva Sanborn and Julie Thomas

Mar 27 - Sock Burning Party hosted by Bill Gard and Ron Reinsel

Apr 11 - Sea and Supper: Something fishy will be going at the club for children of all ages. I have booked Marine Biologist, Andrew Wilson from *Touch The Sea*. In his hour long presentation, we will see an exciting assortment of live marine animals. Some are indigenous to this area, some are not. Some you can touch, some you cannot. I am asking for \$5 per family/couple to help cover a portion of the cost. The presentation will begin 3pm with a potluck supper to follow. And no ... you are not required to stick to the "fish theme" for your potluck dish. Hope to "sea" you there!



May 2 - Commissioning Day

Remember our TGIF's. If you would like to host one contact Joan Jones at 703-780-2965 or via email at NCCNL@aol.com. If you have an idea that you would like to share, come to our next Snowcial Committee meeting on Mar 8th, or contact Amy Walker at deewalk11@verizon.net or by phone at 703-780-8904. Peace!

On The Docks



Submitted by
Marina Co-Chair
Jerry Gray

marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com

Once again we have slogged through weeks of snow cover after Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and forebode six more weeks of winter. Phil, being over 120 years old, is the gold standard of winter prognosticators. According to Wikipedia; On February 2, (Groundhog Day) of each year, the town of Punxsutawney Pa. celebrates the beloved groundhog with a festive atmosphere of music and food. During the ceremony, which begins well before the winter sunrise, Phil emerges from his temporary home on Gobbler's Knob, located in a rural area about

2 miles east of town. According to the tradition, if Phil sees his shadow and returns to his hole, the United States will have six more weeks of winter. If Phil does not see his shadow, spring will arrive early. Well, Phil saw his shadow.

The storms of February 5-6 and 9-10, labeled "Snowmageddon" by President Obama (why can't the Commodore think of these names), paralyzed everyone except those with boats in the marina. Our members shoveled 2+ feet of snow from boats and docks and deployed additional ice eaters in an effort to prevent boat damage or even sinking. We are sad to report that we had one member's sailboat go under after the first storm and was raised by a crew in dry suits only to go down again in the second wave of snow. Water pouring into through-the-hull fittings that are just above the water line can quickly sink a boat with thousands of pounds of snow load. We do have high volume electric pumps available for members to use if they have a large quantity of water in their bilge.

March is here and we look forward to some more temperate days. Slip assignments are in progress as renewal applications finally all came in at the end of February, Assignment letters should be out well before the 15th of March.

Nautical term of the month:

Slush Fund - a slushy slurry of fat was obtained by boiling or scraping the empty salted meat storage barrels. This stuff was called "slush," and was often sold ashore by the ship's cook for the benefit of himself or the crew. The money so derived became known as a slush fund.

TOON FLEET NEWS

Contributed by Bartonius du Mont V'non

Toons (Pontoon Boats, in case you've been in Sri Lanka for a few years) have so, so many advantages over ordinary, less civilized boats. Just recently, it took two record snowstorms to highlight this important point. Most folks, you see, leave their boats to freeze in the water all winter, or they heartlessly store them out in the harsh winter cold: unprotected, vulnerable, abandoned. We, on the other hand, treat our Toon as a member of the family. During the winter months we store our Toon safely in her own Toon Port, carefully protected from the ravages of snow and ice. Furthermore, while snoozing through the winter under roof, the Toon serves a critical function. Under the protective protection of her protected deck and pontoons we store stuff for the winter, such as our grandson's wagon, his snow sled, the snowblower, the garbage can, the recycling bin, and several other really valuable items that I can't remember right now. Even during the harshest winter, you see, the Toon never abandons her role as a family friend. In next month's *Beacon* we will extol even more of the Toon's features. They will impress you just as much as these did.

BOAT FOR SALE

Southern Comfort

1990 33.5' Wellcraft St. Tropez

Low hours, gently used,
well maintained

Queen of Germany pricing
\$38,500

Call Bill Gard - 703 360 0450
or contact:

bkgard123@aol.com

OVERLAND



Thanks for the photos, Stu Matthews!



CRUISE



Save the Date - *SEA and SUPPER!*

Sunday April 11th, 3 pm - ?

Join us for a 1 hr. presentation from marine biologist, Andrew Wilson.

See and feel a REAL starfish, eels, puffer fish, and MORE!!

\$5 per family/couple

Pot Luck feast to follow the presentation.

Questions? Contact Amy Walker at deewalk11@verizon.net or 703-780-8904



Mardi Gras... MVYC-Style!



Photos courtesy of
George Holthaus

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY

SUNDAY, MARCH 21 2-4PM
ON THE POINT (Weather Permitting)

Come and enjoy games, an Easter Egg Hunt
and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny!

*Remember to bring a basket and a snack to share!



Power Fleet

Contributed by Alexi Stavropoulos

Snow, snow and more snow, we were up to our elbows in snow. That did not stop the members of MVYC from getting together and watching the Super Bowl projected on a big screen in the clubhouse. After the first batch of snow, we thought we would have to cancel the event. Instead, we changed the menu from burgers to potluck. Then Big Red showed up to plow out some parking spots, and by kick-off we had a huge turnout with lots of good food. I would like to thank Jerry and Petra for the big screen and Ricky for plowing out the parking spots.



Just when you think it's over, round two hits us and we end up with another dilemma; Tim's Overland. The day after the second hit, Christine was on the phone with Tim's. They were still hoping we would come and we were hoping the roads would be clear. Christine made one request to Tim, and that was to assure her that the streets would be clear for safe passage. Tim assured her it would be clear, and he did not let us down. MVYC showed up and packed the house. Again we filled up the entire bar side of Tim's and had a great time. At one point, a boat showed up at the docks and several of us noticed a kayaker making his way over from Leesylvania Park. Tim and his staff were very thankful for the turnout, and as always, took very good care of MVYC.

My hat is off to all of you that took the chance and came out to both Power Fleet events last month. It was a great time, and after being cooped up and sick of shoveling all that snow, it was nice to get out and have some fun with good friends.

MVYC Power Fleet Events Calendar 2010

Annual Sock Burning Party

March 27th
(Power/Sail Social Event)

Brunch Cruise

Apr 18th

Safety Inspection

Apr 24th

Commissioning Day

May 2nd
(Best Dressed Boats!)

Memorial Day Raft Up

May 29th

Wounded Warriors

May 31st
(Power/Sail Social Event)

Boat Photo Op

Jun 12th
(Rain Date: Jun 26th)

8th Annual Parade of Lights

Jul 3rd

PRYCA Float In

Jul 16-18th

St. Mary's Cruise

Aug 20-22nd
(Red Brown Memorial Cruise)

Labor Day Raft Up

Sept 5th

Fall Cruise Party

Sept 18th

Alexandria Overnight

Oct 16th

Lobster Fest

Oct/Nov TBD

MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB YOGA CLASSES



TUESDAY MORNING SERIES

9:00am - 10:15am

SCHEDULE

MARCH 9, 16, 23, 30
(no class on Mar 2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES

7:15pm - 8:30pm

SCHEDULE

MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, 31



Monthly Cost:

Payable beginning of each month, based on number of classes plan to attend for that month per series:

1 Class = \$12.00; 2 Classes = \$24.00; 3 Classes = \$36.00; 4 Classes = \$48.00; 5 Classes = \$60.00

Ed Saul

RYT (Registered Yoga Teacher)

703.472.0111 (Cell/Text)

ed4yoga@cox.net



March 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 AM Closed for Cleaning	2 9 am Yoga Class	3 7:15 pm Yoga Class	4 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club 8 pm Membership Mtg	5 9:30 am Yoga Class 7 pm TGIF	6
7	8 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	9 9 am Yoga Class	10 7:15 pm Yoga Class	11	12 9:30 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm St. Patrick's Day TGIF	13
14	15 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	16 9 am Yoga Class	17  Happy St. Pat's Day! 7:15 pm Yoga Class	18 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	19 9:30 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	20
21  2pm - 4pm Kids Easter Party	22 AM Closed for Cleaning	23 9 am Yoga Class	24 7:15 pm Yoga Class	25	26 9:30 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	27 12 pm Sock Burning Party 
28	29	30 9 am Yoga Class	31 7:15 pm Yoga Class			

April 2010

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



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

BOAT FOR SALE

1992 Formula 36 P.C.

Price: \$65,000

Original owner, kept under cover, gel coat perfect.

Twin 502 Merc's, 450hrs. New flat screen TVs, canvas, ice maker, cabin heater and refrigerator.

Will keep it on my lift over the winter.

I am a MVYC member. Lynn Schutt, Phone 703-946-3881

For photo go to:

www.agyg.com/index.cfm?mypath=brokerage/featuredyachts
click on "Formula 36 PC"