



The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by
Ron Reinsel, Commodore

Merry Almost Ides

Welcome to March! It's a good thing that February is the shortest month. Having now put it behind us, the blossoms of spring are awaiting, the end of winter and the start of a new boating season are almost in sight. In just a few short weeks the equinox will turn, we will commend our winter socks to the flames and prepare our vessels for open water.

As we all get ready for a new year on the river, I am pleased to announce that the Club has recently renewed its membership as a participating member with BoatUS. The advantages of that membership include the ability for Club members to join or renew their individual BoatUS memberships at half price (\$15 per year) with access to BoatUS insurance and towing programs, discounts at participating marinas for fuel, services and other goodies. Use the Club's number – GA80061Y – to get the membership discount.

I am also pleased to announce that we have commissioned the Long Range Planning Committee, directed by Past Commodore Bill Gard, to prepare a multi-year plan for maintaining and improving our marina facilities. Over the past few years we have directed much of the Club's efforts and resources to a number of necessary projects, most particularly re-surfacing and other improvements to the pool

continued on Page 9...

Very Distinguished Volunteer

Contributed by Ron Reinsel, Commodore

Bonnie Breneman

Everyone knows the Momadore, Bonnie Breneman, and her untiring work for MVYC over the years. The Club wishes to honor her as its very first Very Distinguished Volunteer.

Not only has Bonnie served in numerous positions on the Board of Directors, including, of course, as a Past Commodore of the Club, but also as MVYC's delegate to the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association (PRYCA) and as the Treasurer, planner and official admissions collector for many Power Fleet festivities, cook outs on the Point, and other Club events.

During Bonnie's tenure as Commodore, her significant accomplishments included implementing the Marina of the Future project in the wake of Hurricane Isabel that resulted in relocating C and D docks, converting A and B docks to floating docks, and the rebuilding Outer W. Bonnie also presided over the planning and implementation of MVYC's 50th Reunion gala.

For the past several of years Bonnie has also been invaluable to the Club in her service on the Membership Committee. She has been the keeper of the Club's membership accounts, and has spent countless hours in charge of the incredibly time-consuming and thankless task of maintaining the membership roster and, most importantly, of managing the billing and collection of the dues and fees that keep the Club running.

Bonnie has recently decided to retire - not only from her day job, but also from her positions as Membership Accounts Guru and PRYCA delegate. In thanks for her dedication and significant efforts on behalf of MVYC, the Club has presented her with the "Bonnie Bell" – a plaque complete with a brass ship's bell – to toll her many years of commendable service.

Please join us in saying "Thank you Bonnie, well done".



The BEACON

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Deadline for Next Issue:
15th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com



WELCOME ABOARD

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair

*For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way.
Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day.
– Irish Blessing*

Wow, March already. Lucky for me, the annual billing process went very smoothly. Thanks to all members who sent in your slip applications and membership fees on time. If, however, you are reading this and have not yet sent in your annual dues and fees, I am afraid your luck has run out and late fees are accruing on all unpaid balances. Please make sure to get your checks in as soon as possible, or contact me directly if you have any questions or problems.

Welcome, John Sawyer!

On the bright side of the shamrock, join me in welcoming our newest member, John Sawyer. Thanks to time spent at MVYC as a guest and his membership in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, John is a familiar face to many in the club. Now, we are thrilled to now have him aboard officially and are ready to take him up on his offer to be an active volunteer! John is a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who now calls Springfield, Virginia home. His father was a merchant mariner who captained one of the ferries going from New Bedford to Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, which is where John must have gotten his love of boating. He also is an active member of the VFW, Moose, and the American Legion. And, when he needs a break from his active life, he works as a bankruptcy attorney with an office in the City of Fairfax.



Upcoming Meetings...



Membership Meetings

March 3
April 7
at 8:00 pm
1st Thur of the month

Board Meetings

March 21
April 18
at 7:30 pm
3rd Mon of the month

Social Committee Meetings

March 14
April 11
at 7:30 pm
2nd Mon of the month



Save-The-Date

Rock Around the Club At The 55th Anniversary Celebration

June 25, 2011
6pm – 12 am
Rain or Shine
50's theme



Trivia question: In 1956 during the weeks of Jan 14th through Feb 11th, Dean Martin had a #1 hit. Without checking Google first, what is the song? *(Answer planted elsewhere in this issue!)*

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

March 12, 7-11 pm
St. Paddy Gras Party
Chairs: Harriet Singleton / Marianne Ketels

March 26, 5-7 pm
Sock Burning
Chairs: Ron Reinsel / Bill Gard

April 17, 11 am - 2 pm
Kid's Easter Party
Chairs: Eva Sanborn / Julie Thomas

May 1, 1 - 4 pm
Commissioning Day
Chairs: Susan Rehe / Jacquie Knight

May 7, 2 - 4 pm
Ladies Day Tea
Chair: Pam Beggan

June 25, 6 pm - midnight
55th Anniversary Party
Chairs: Christina Stavropoulos / Amy Walker



Trivia Answer:
Memories Are Made Of This

September 3, 12 noon - 5 pm
Wounded Warriors
Chairs: Bill Gard

September 24, 7 - 11 pm
Oktoberfest
Chairs: Pete Esser / Stefan Tahmassebi

October 22, 2 - 4 pm
Kid's Halloween party
Chair: Amy Walker

November 12, 6 - 11 pm
Commodore's Ball

December 10, 7 - 11 pm
Adult Holiday Party

December 11, 1 - 3 pm
Kid's Holiday Party

December 31, 7 pm - 1 am
New Year's Eve



Social Committee Update

Contributed by Jennifer Collier, Social Committee Chair

Last year's March Beacon article for the Social Committee went something like this: "Snow...cancelled event...Snow...cancelled event...more*#!-ing snow...cancelled event." But not this year!! February was a dry, festive month at the clubhouse! The Superbowl party/ Chili Cook-off was a great success, thanks to Janet Fincher and her team of linebackers: Jerry and Petra Gray, Julian Fincher, Mike Holland, Bonnie Breneman, Jim Gordon, Ricky and Angie Mullins, Jeff and LuAnn Kirkland, and Bill Gard. Lots of chili was prepared, eaten and judged. Catalina Holland proved to be the crowd favorite and won the most fabulous trophy ever created! Her name will be inscribed on the solid gold nameplate for all eternity. Russell Poe won the 50/50 drawing. Even though there were mixed opinions about the half-time show, everyone had a great time.

The Art Show and Wine and Cheese Reception proved to be a lovely afternoon. Lots of beautiful artwork including photographs, jewelry and paintings by such talented artists, including a few members, coupled with good wine, great cheeses and pleasant company made for a fantastic time. Thank you to Madeline O'Malley and Carol Hamrick for chairing this event, and hopefully, doing it again next year. If you would like to exhibit your works, please contact either Madeline or Carol so they can add your name to the list for next year. The more the merrier!!

COMING SOON:

1) **St Paddy Gras Party: Saturday, March 12.** Harriet Singleton and Marianne Ketels are chairing this event, which, it is rumored, will involve floats, a king cake, a parade queen, and a leprechaun. Alexi Stavropoulos has offered to be two of those things. You pick which ones.

2) **Sock Burning: Saturday March 26.** Ron Reinsel and Bill Gard are chairing this event, which promises to involve tradition, wood, fire and bare feet. Hopefully, we won't have any multicolored flames from really dirty socks.

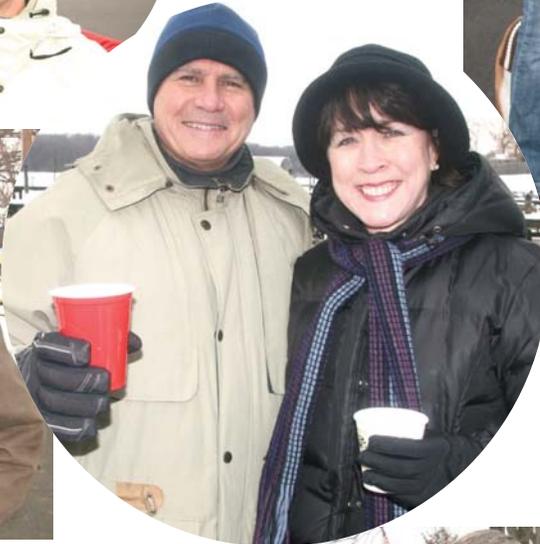
3) **Social Committee Meeting: Monday, March 14 at 7:30pm.**

COMMISSIONING DAY Get your burgees and boat decorations ready!! Sunday, May 1st is only 74 days away!! Come out and get the season started!!

SAVE THE DATE: 55th Anniversary/Newcomers Party will be held on June 25 on the point. Preparations are under way for a fun celebration of this wonderful club. Please plan to join us... details and invitations to come.

That is all.

2011 Frostbite



Photos by George Holthaus





On The Docks

Submitted by
Jerry Gray, Marina Chair

marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com

It's mid February at this writing and winter is finally starting to break. National Airport recorded the first 70 degree day since the end of October. Not quite as much snow as last year but twice as cold.

I await the new slip applications for the 2011 boating season which starts March 15th. Since I won't have all of them until at least March 1st; the letters or emails notifying slip holders of their assignment for 2011 should be going out by March 8th. Based on the wait list accumulated in 2010 I expect that we will have a full marina in 2011.

Those boats that are wintering in interior slips should plan to relocate to their assigned slips as soon as possible.

If you think you will be in the temporary slip later than March 15th please let me know or contact the slip holder directly to help avoid a conflict.

Gas Dock Volunteer forms will go out in late March or early April and the Gas Dock will open April 23rd for the season.

Once the ice clears for good we'll schedule a date to re-deploy the Red Channel marker and No-Wake markers. Dock water will also be restored once the threat of a hard freeze passes. I'll be looking for volunteers for both jobs. Deploying channel markers is a breeze compared to picking them up; and we will have few water leaks to take care of when the water is turned back on.

Nautical term of the month: **Press Into Service**

The British navy filled their ships' crew quotas by kidnapping men off the streets and forcing them into service. This was called Impressment and was done by Press Gangs.

House Committee Report

Contributed by Don Basham, House Committee Chair

This is meant as a reminder to the old salts and may be new material for the new members. When you sponsor or coordinate an event at the Club, you are the responsible person to ensure that the club is returned to its original condition prior to the event. This includes washing of linens and club kitchen utensils. All waste products should be placed in the dumpsters, and no leftover food products should be left in the refrigerator. The floors should be broom clean, as we do have a cleaning service that will handle the fine tuning. The recycle containers should be emptied into the green recycle bins near the dumpster, when you cannot get another can or bottle into the container. Please help Harriet and me to manage the recycling effort.

After the Superbowl event, I noticed that the lower level stairway banister is loose. That may be partly my fault because I did not stop the children when they were running and jumping from the stair landing and swinging on the corners. Remember, your children cannot be brought to the club and turned loose to do as they choose. Normally one child is no problem; but when they start to grow in numbers, they are no different than we were as young folks. They want to play, and they forget that everything in sight is not a gym set. It is your club. Keep it in good shape.

Toon Fleet News

by Bart Hewitt, Toon Fleet Weenie

There is an asphalt path that parallels Mt. Vernon Highway from Grist Mill Park past the dog park to Peartree Landing. The beautiful woods around it had become strewn with trash - soda cans, bottles, food wrappings, dog leavings, old rugs, even old clothing. The Toon Fleet, community-minded as it is, undertook to remedy this blight. The Fleet spent about four hours picking up all of that trash, filling seven large trash bags with debris. We were energized in part by the Fleet Co-Captain who, recalling his Army basic training, kept motivation high by repeatedly intoning, "I don't wanna to see nuthin' but asses and elbows!" Our rewards were (1) immense satisfaction, and (2) several bleeding wounds caused by trudging through the flippin' thorny vines that infest the area. The wounds will go away. The satisfaction will remain. The Toon Fleet rides again!



Trash or 'Green' Treasures

Contributed by Harriet Singleton

Thank you to all for supporting the recycling program at MVYC. With the boating season about to be launched and more parties on the calendar, would just like to remind all of several things. Just like homes and businesses participating in a 'green' program, it is important to remember to separate trash from recyclables.

Following Fairfax County guidelines may be found at:

(http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/publications/recycling/redgreen-nonres-plus.pdf)

Leftover fries, pizza crusts and pie pieces are not recyclable, including the containers they were served on and the paper napkins you used to wipe the crumbs from your smiling faces. But, the plastic utensils you used to devour them are recyclable. All those beverage vessels (plastic, glass, and metal) can be 'greened up', so please feel free to donate them to the recycle bin.

Speaking of the BINS for such items, there are several conveniently located on the club property. Two were placed inside the house kitchen; but just like trash after an event, please remove to the designated wheeled container next to the 'trash' dumpster close to the security gate. You are welcome to clean out your car and boat by making a 'green' donation at either outdoor container at the point gathering area or on your way home in the container near the gate.

So remember, if you needed your teeth to consume, it is probably trash. If it was poured down your throat, it was most likely in a container that is recyclable and is better in a bin than in the rivah.

Spring Clean-up Day

Mount Vernon Yacht Club
Saturday, April 9, 9:30-1:00



Come join other members for our best chance to get the club facilities ready for Commissioning Day and an Important Anniversary Year

All levels of ability and effort are needed (mark tools with your ID)

Rakes - lawn or garden, shovels/spades, hoes weed trimmers, wheelbarrows/garden carts, pitchforks trowels, dandelion digging tools, miscellaneous other tools

ALSO - DON'T FORGET

Support the Swim Team!
Come to the Pancake Breakfast!
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
All you can eat - \$5.00!

Got Pancakes?

Come to Spring Clean-Up Day
Saturday, April 9th



Support the MVYC "Dolphins" Swim Team

Featuring blueberry, chocolate chip, or plain pancakes, with plentiful bacon and sausage!

Hot coffee! Fresh OJ! Friends and neighbors!

The best part: All you can eat - \$5.00

While you are there, stock up on your favorite MVYC items from the Ship's Store!

Ship's Store MegaSale!

Come and get your...

Tees Burgees Hats Coozies

Spring is finally here!

Saturday, April 9th, 8 - 10 am in the Clubhouse

Celebrating Spring

By Karen and Bill Gard

It might be a good idea to stand upwind on March 26th when the Mount Vernon Yacht Club holds its 6th annual Sock Burning to usher in the 2011 boating season.

MVYC boaters —be they Sail, Power, or ‘Toon’, Paddle Boat, Kayak, or Canoe—like to wear deck shoes without socks between the vernal equinox and winter. But when those winter temperatures hit, we pull our socks back on and wait anxiously until the season turns again, and we can toss them into the fire for another year. (We should probably consider ourselves lucky that we don’t have the seasonal situation of the planet Saturn, where an equinox occurs once every 15 years. A 15-year boating season would be nice, but then imagine the following 15 years without any boating at all. Especially if you wear that same pair of socks until Spring.)

The sock burning custom appears to have originated locally. According to the website of The Annapolis Maritime museum:

“The tradition dates back to the mid-1980s when Bob Turner, then manager of the Annapolis Yacht Yard, got tired of the winter blahs. He’d spent the whole season working on OPBs (other peoples’ boats), all the while collecting metal filings, bottom paint grindings, sawdust, fiberglass fibers, and globs of paint, caulk, resin and filler in his socks. On the first day of spring one year, he took off his socks, put them in a paint tray, doused them with lighter fluid, and toasted spring with a longneck beer while they burned. “

There are now sock burnings in other boating towns from Key West to Seattle. At one of the many spinoffs of the Annapolis sock burning, a boater threw a hand-sewn doll into the fire. He was burning his boat mechanic in effigy, he said, because “the no-good fink had dallied and now (my) boat would never be ready in time.”

But as spring gets closer, months become weeks, weeks become days and socks become foot shackles destined to be thrown off. Part of the Annapolis sock burning tradition is to speculate how long boaters can go barefoot before their toes protest from the cold. Allowances are made on days when temperatures fall below 30 degrees Fahrenheit and winds top 17 knots. It’s called the “wimp-chill factor.” At our own sock burning, MVYC burners drink beer, red wine, white wine or even “brown” spirits to be assured of warmth as the winter season goes up in smoke.

Please plan to join your fellow MVYC members to celebrate the arrival of spring and the earthly boating season. We’ll have a cookout, a bonfire and toasting of marshmallows as well as socks. Mark down March 26th on your calendar and we’ll provide further details in emails as the “equisox” approaches.



Ode to the Sock Burners

By Jefferson Holland, Poet Laureate of Eastport, 1995

*Them Eastport boys got an odd tradition
When the sun swings to its Equinoxical position,
They build a little fire down along the docks,
They doff their shoes and they burn their winter socks.*

*Yes, they burn their socks at the Equinox;
You might think that’s peculiar, but I think it’s not,
See, they’re the same socks they put on last fall,
And they never took ‘em off to wash ‘em, not at all.*

*So they burn their socks at the Equinox
In a little ol’ fire burning nice and hot.
Some think incineration is the only solution,
‘Cause washin’ ‘em contributes to the Chesapeake’s pollution.*

*Through the spring and the summer and into the fall,
They go around not wearin’ any socks at all,
Just stinky bare feet stuck in old deck shoes,
Whether out on the water or sippin’ on a brew.*

*So if you sail into the Harbor on the 21st of March,
And you smell a smell like Limburger sauteed with laundry starch,
You’ll know you’re downwind of the Eastport docks
Where they’re burning their socks for the Equinox.*



“ABOUT BOATING SAFELY”

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



TWO CLASSES SCHEDULED → → → TAKE YOUR PICK!!!!!!

1. **Knight of Columbus** **SATURDAY March 19 .. 8 AM TO 5 PM**
8592 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309
2. **Mt. Vernon Yacht Club** **SATURDAY April 16.. .. 8 AM TO 5 PM**
4817 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309

Who must have a boating certificate in 2011 ??????

VIRGINIA Waters -PWC operators 50 yrs of age and younger.
-Motor Boat oper. 20 Yrs or younger

ALL POWER BOATERS MUST CARRY A CARD BY 2016 !!!!!

MARYLAND Waters (Potomac River)

- All boaters born after **July 1, 1972**

DC Waters (North of Woodrow Wilson Bridge)

- All Boaters regardless of age are required to carry a BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE OR CARD now.

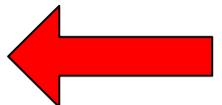


\$40.00 - INCLUDES A COMPLETE COURSE MANUAL,
IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, **CERTIFICATE AND CARD**
(A couple who wish to share a single manual may enroll for \$60)

COURSE TOPICS:

- . INTRODUCTION TO BOATING; BOATING LAW
- . BOAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT; SAFE BOATING
. NAVIGATION; BOATING PROBLEMS
- . TRAILERING, STORING AND BOAT PROTECTION
. HUNTING, FISHING, WATER SKIING

TO ENROLL CONTACT: RICH MILLER:
Eaglesailor75@cox.net or 703.780.3765



SPACE IS LIMITED – SIGN UP NOW!

BONUS!!

FREE One Year Boat US Membership with Certificate!

Bosun's Whistle from Page 1...

and to last year's fence and security efforts. Now it is time to re-focus our attention on what makes a yacht club a yacht club – its marina.

Some years ago, after considerable hurricane damage, we undertook our Marina of the Future initiative. Among the results of that effort was the conversion of most of our slips to floating docks. Initially C and D docks were relocated and rebuilt, primarily with Club labor and re-using as much material as possible. Next, A and B docks were re-designed and re-built this time with much more robust materials and professional results. The contrast and amenities between the two efforts are striking and our home-grown efforts on C and D docks are already more than showing their age and less than optimal functionality. They are in need of serious effort.

Our perimeter bulkheads also need attention. They are also aging and in many locations are prone to serious infiltration and vegetation growth that are accelerating their deterioration.

We have also discussed possible realignment and re-design of Inner W in order to increase its capacity and functionality and also have considered possible service improvements to Outer W.

Finally, but certainly not least, there is the perennial issue of how to get not merely bigger and better, but also deeper.

As a result, I have asked our Long Range Planning Chair, assisted by our current Marina Chair and Vice Commodore Jerry Gray, to head up an assessment effort for these and other necessary undertakings and to report back to the membership in May, before our summer meeting recess. The objective is to establish the priorities, parameters and preliminary budgets necessary to get these projects on track, both now and into the future, so that we can properly budget for and sequence their accomplishment, hopefully beginning early next year.

Most important to this effort is input from the membership. The plan must address not only our physical needs, but also reflect the Members' requirements and ideas. I ask that you please contact Bill, Jerry or me to offer suggestions on these or other projects and their relative importance, priorities and timelines.

In the meanwhile, this is the month St. Patrick come to New Orleans on the Potomac for a grand St. Mardi Gras celebration and don't forget to come to Burn Your Socks for the Equinox. We hope to see you there.



**MVYC Snowy Luau Festival
Winter Wonderland Weekend
Canaan Valley, West Virginia
March 17-20, 2011**

Snowy Luau Festival is a long standing Timberline tradition which has grown each year to the current reputation as the biggest festival in the region. The family oriented weekend features authentic Hawaiian music by the annual appearance of Gordan and the Aloha Band, Polynesian dancers, pig roast on the deck and a huge bon fire. There will be prizes for the best and most unique costumes and downhill races. Saturday night there will be a fireworks display on the summit of Herz Mountain and a torch light parade flowing like lava from the top of the mountain to the base lodge. Then still more Hawaiian music and followed by even later rhythm and blues music.

Enjoy:

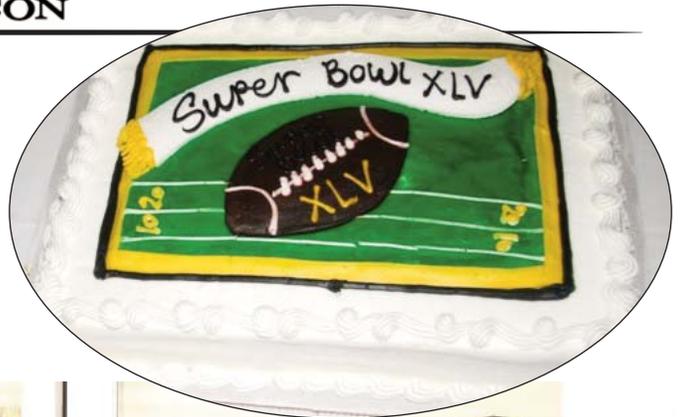
- Weekend socializing with several MVYC members
- Winter wonderland mountain scenery
- Downhill skiing at Timberline & Canaan Mountains
- Snowshoeing, snowboarding
- Cross country skiing, ice skating
- Hiking, horseback riding, hot tubing
- Live evening entertainment at the ski lodge
- Or just plain relaxing by the fire
- Plenty to do if you don't ski!!!

\$150/per person for 3-nights, 4 days
(Saturday night dinner included)
Room for 22 people



First come-first served for best bedrooms, so RSVP now!

Make checks payable to:
Mary McGowan
9420 Forest Haven Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309
571-215-7590
Tobin143@hotmail.com



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Photos
by
George
Holthaus



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 7:30 pm TGIF	12  7-11 pm St. Paddy Gras Party
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 5-7 pm Sock Burning Party 
27	28 AM Closed for Cleaning	29 9 am Yoga Class	30	31		



April 2011



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 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	12 9 am Yoga Class	13	14	15 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	16
17  11 am - 2pm Kids Easter Party	18 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	19 9 am Yoga Class	20	21 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	22 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	23
24 HAPPY EASTER! 	25 AM Closed for Cleaning	26 9 am Yoga Class	27	28	29 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	30



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