



## The Bosun's Whistle

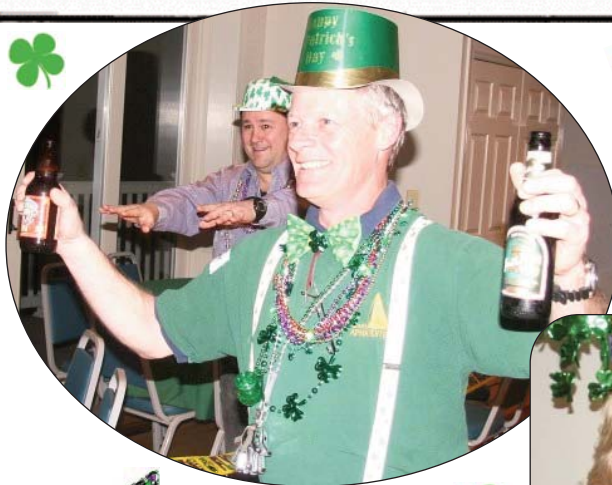
Submitted by  
Ron Reinsel,  
Commodore

"April Boat Work Hours Brings Such Pleasure", to quote Kenneth Grahame, "There is nothing--absolute nothing--half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." To quote many an MVYC boater, "It's only a month until Commissioning Day, and boy, do I have a lot of work to do to get ready for a new season!"

Yep, the clocks have sprung forward, socks have been burned, new slip assignments have been made, and it is time to prepare for a new year on the water. Off with the tarps and winter grime. On with the polish and thoughts of summer time. Commissioning Day this year is Sunday May 1st - only a month away. But before we don our nautical blues and whites and give champagne toasts, it is time to break out the work clothes and tools (and undoubtedly break open our wallets at West Marine) and begin to mess about with our boats in the annual rites of spring.

March was a great month at the Club, highlighted by a spectacular St. Paddy's Gras party. Many thanks to Marianne Ketels, Harriet Singleton and their committee for bring to MVYC the best of both New Orleans and the Emerald Isle, including a surprise visit from St. Patrick (McCarthy) himself.

continued on Page 3...



Photos  
by  
George  
Holthaus



## St. Paddy Gras Party



# The BEACON

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

RON REINSEL, COMMODORE

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Deadline for Next Issue:  
15th of the month

Beacon@MountVernonYachtClub.com

## Upcoming Meetings...



### Membership Meetings

April 7 8:00 pm  
May 5 7:30 pm\*  
1st Thur of the month

### Board Meetings

April 18  
May 16  
at 7:30 pm  
3rd Mon of the month

### Social Committee Meetings

April 11  
May 9  
at 7:30 pm  
2nd Mon of the month



## WELCOME ABOARD

Submitted by Lauren Bazel, Membership Chair

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"  
- Robin Williams

Yes, spring is coming. If Robin Williams is right, then that means nature is calling us to party. So, shed your overcoat and come out and enjoy some time at the Club. Just take a look at the Social Committee's calendar and the Power and Sail Fleet lineup of events and you can see that our events and activities are getting into full swing. Make sure you have them marked on your calendar as "not to be missed" and if you have friends and neighbors that are interested in learning more about MVYC, invite them along.

Right now, we have 226 total members, which means we do have room for 4 new families before we start compiling a waiting list. There is one application currently posted and perhaps a couple more that may officially come in this month. Now is the time to help us fill out our membership with great families!

### Final 2011 Payments are Due April 30

Just a gentle reminder to those who opted to pay their 2011 dues and fees in two installments that your final payment is due on April 30, 2011. All payments that are received by midnight on the 30th are timely. If you miss the deadline, you will be subject to late fees. Please feel free to contact me at (703)619-1096 or [thebazels@yahoo.com](mailto:thebazels@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about your membership or payments due.

Remember  
how much  
fun boating  
was like in  
the 50's?



When gas was  
so cheap you  
just floated  
around in  
your car!

Well get ready to relive those great times at the

## MVYC 55th Anniversary Party

Cause we'll be



## Rockin around the Docks

Saturday June 25th from 6 til midnight



*Be there or be square!*

### \*FYI...May Membership Meeting

The membership meeting on **May 5, 2011** will begin at 7:30pm. That evening we will have a presentation by officers from the Fairfax County Police, Marine Patrol Division.. They will discuss boating from their perspective; i.e., what to expect when hailed over, do's and don'ts etc. You won't want to miss it. The regular meeting will begin immediately after this presentation.

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

Now we get to work preparing our boats, the Club and ourselves for a grand new season. As we shake off the throes of winter, it is also time to ready the Club for spring. The annual spring Clean Up Day is set for Saturday April 9th. Come on down with your work gloves, rakes and other tools of beautification to help put a spring face on the Club grounds. The day will kick off with a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Swim Team complete with a special Ship's Store sale. So be prepared to load up on carbs, garb and fresh new burgees.

As we get our boats ready for a new year, also remember to check the expiration date on your flares, the condition of your PFD's and running lights, and the charge on your fire extinguishers. Just so that you can show off your amazing state of readiness, we will be hosting the annual USCG Vessel Safety Inspection on Saturday April 30th (the day before Commissioning Day). You have all month to get prepared and then proudly display a brand new Coast Guard decal declaring to all of your marina mates (and the world at large) that your boat is indeed ready for the season. And not a moment too soon, because ...

Did I mention that the very next day – Sunday May 1st – is Commissioning Day! Time to dig out your best navy blazers and white pants. Time to decorate your boats (there will be prizes awarded to the best decorated vessels from both the sail and power fleets). Time to hear rousing speeches punctuated by cannon fire. And most importantly, time to raise a glass (or two) to announce that we are in commission for a new year.

**Social Committee Update**

*Contributed by Clay Collier  
Social Committee Chair*



Signs of Spring: the birds start singing at the crack of dawn... the daffodils start showing their pretty yellow heads, dock assignments go out, more boats in the marina... and, as of this writing, **ONLY 46 DAYS UNTIL COMMISSIONING DAY!!**

We had one big celebration so far in March. The St. Paddy Gras Party was a McRagin'Cajun success! About 80 people attended... and danced the night away. Rumor has it there were a lot of people wearing beads at the end of the night...but we don't have any details as to how they acquired them!

**Coming Up:**

**April 17... Kid's Easter Party...** 11am-2pm  
Hosted by Eva Sanborn. This day promises to be a fun day for all... including the kids!! Bunnies and eggs... what else do you need?

**May 1... COMMISSIONING DAY!!!**...1pm-4pm  
Chaired by Jacque Knight and Susan Rehe... get your blue and white ensemble ready and your boat decorations out!!

**May 7... Ladies Day Tea...** 3pm-5pm  
Hosted by Pam Beggan... This special event is for ALL the ladies of the club.

**June 25... 55th ANNIVERSARY PARTY**  
6pm to midnight  
A tremendous effort is going into the planning of this event that will welcome our new members as well as celebrate our anniversary and kick off the summer! Plan to be there!

As always, let me know if you want to help with a party, or if you have an idea for another one! We're always looking for an excuse to get together. The next Social Committee meeting is Monday April 11 at 7:30 pm so please attend and get involved!

See you at the club!

**Mount Vernon Yacht Club  
Commissioning Day**



**Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 2 pm  
Guests Welcome!**

- US Coast Guard Drill Team
- Color Guard
- Mount Vernon Community Band
- Mount Vernon High School Rowing Race
- Congressional, State & County Representatives

**Blue and White Nautical Dress**



## Power Fleet Report

By Alexi Stavropoulos

Last month we received our slip assignments from the marina chair, so it is safe to say that the 2011 boating season is upon us. In January, we kicked off the year with a great frostbite at the point. There were many members along with family and friends that came out to a snow-covered point and enjoyed delicious food, hot and cold drinks and a warm bonfire.

In February we had a great snow-free road trip to Tim's Rivershore. The bar area was packed with MVYC members enjoying summer drinks and food. It was a clear day, the water was calm and many were staring at the empty docks longing for the day when they will be looking out in the river to see boats at the docks and on the hook. March rolled in and we burned socks at the point to wish for a smooth and calm boating season.

It's April; many boats are back in the water and we are all getting ready to make plans and head out for some fun on the River. Our first group boating trip is coming up on the 10th. The Bazel's will be hosting this year's Brunch Cruise. Check out the flyer in this month's Beacon, sign up for the event, get assigned to a boat and enjoy the cruise up-river.

Safety is something we all think about when we are boating. Every year we have a safety day inspection at MVYC, and we are fortunate again to have members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary come out to inspect our vessels. Jerry Gray will be hosting this event on April 30th. This is for all boats at the club including trailered boats. The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) inspections are from 9-1pm. Prior to the 30th take a moment to make sure you have all the requirements for your vessel, and that your flares are up to date. Take a look at the VSC requirements listed in this month's Beacon to see what the requirements and suggested items listed for safe boating are. On the same day of the inspection, we will have a swap meet at the point. We all have some boating items that we no longer use and I'm sure there are boaters that may be able to put them to good use. Dust off some of those boating items you have and bring them to the point.

Commissioning day is on Sunday, May 1st and we will be looking for the "best dressed boats". Over the past few years there have been fewer and fewer boats dressed up. The Power and Sail Fleet will give out awards to the best dressed boats, and maybe this year we'll consider including the toon fleet. I encourage all of you to dress up your boats with banners and flags and bring the spirit of this day back to MVYC!

See you on the river!

## Toon Fleet News

by Bart Hewitt, Toon Fleet Commander

Back in the Good 'Ol Days, popular songs had actual melodies that you could sing without acquiring deafness and/or a hernia. They also had lyrics you could safely sing in the presence of children. Songs like, for instance, "Splish Splash, I Was Takin' a Bath, Long About a Saturday Night."

Well, the Toon Fleet, as part of its continuing effort to garner even more respect as a major player in the MVYC boating community, has formally adopted the above-mentioned song as its Official Theme Song. I mean, it makes sense, because Toons have two hulls, and therefore, the "splish splash" of the song clearly evokes the joy of hearing those two hulls hit the water in the spring. When putting ordinary boats into the water, all you hear is a single kind of "splutch" noise. "Splish splash," friends, is where it's at. And do any of the other MVYC fleets have an official theme song? Well, do they? (Note the deafening silence from the Power and Sail Fleets.)

You see, the Toon Fleet is untiring in its quest to serve as a first-class example for all other fleets to follow. And for those few of you who still doubt the surpassness of Toons, please note the Toon Fleet Captain's use of important university-level words such as "garner" and "hernia." The air is rare up here in the lofty heights of toonship.

# Power Fleet Safety Day

## Coast Guard Auxiliary Courtesy Safety Inspection

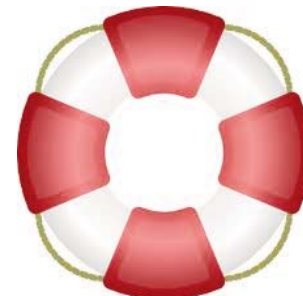
Flea Market and Swap Meet of Marine (and other stuff!)

**When:** Saturday, April 30th, 2011  
Inspection & Swap Meet 9 am - 1 pm

**Where:** On the Point

**Who:** All Boaters - power, sail & trailer boats

**Cost:** **FREE**



*If you plan to bring some items to sell at the Swap Meet, we ask that you bring a card table to set up your "booth".*

**Hot Dogs & drinks provided by the Power Fleet.**

Safety Day Committee Chair: Jerry Gray

Please call Jerry you have any questions: (202) 253-0413



## VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

### • VSC DECAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Display of Numbers
- Registration/Documentation
- Personal Floatation Devices
- Visual Distress Signals
- Fire Extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Backfire Flame Control
- Sound Producing Devices/Bell
- Navigation Lights
- State &/or Location Devices
- Navigation Rules
- Overall Vessel Conditions

### RECOMMENDED & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Marine Radio
- Dewatering Device & Backup
- Mounted Fire Extinguishers
- Anchor & Line for Area
- First Aid & PIW kits
- Inland Visual Distress Signals
- Capacity/Certificate of Compliance





## Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 9th  
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!



Time to wake up



from your Winter snooze,

and head out on the delicious **BRUNCH CRUISE!**



Sunday  
April 10th

Meet on the Point - 10 am  
Depart up river - 10:30 am

Return approximately 3:30 pm

Check your e-mail for more details.

## 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

## CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY

SUNDAY, April 17th  
11 AM - 2 PM



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!

# "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.

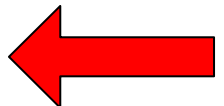


**\$40.00** - INCLUDES A COMPLETE COURSE MANUAL,  
IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, **CERTIFICATE AND CARD**  
(A couple who wish to share a single manual may enroll for \$60)

#### 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](mailto:Eaglesailor75@cox.net) or 703.780.3765



**SPACE IS LIMITED – SIGN UP NOW!**

**BONUS!!**

**FREE One Year Boat US Membership with Certificate!**



# 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 Spring Clean Up Day! 8 am - 10 am  9:30 am - 1 pm 
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 9 am - 4 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Class
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	30



**SAVE THE DATE** for the **MVYC Mother's Day Tea**  
Saturday, May 7th from 3 - 5 pm at the Clubhouse!



## May 2011



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



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

**John Hancock**  
FINANCIAL NETWORK

## Long-Term Care

Over the course of a lifetime you save and invest to achieve many goals. But have you taken into account how the future need for long-term care can impact your financial security, your quality of life and your family's well being?

As a member of the Mount Vernon Yacht Club, you and your family are eligible to receive **premium discounts** on long-term care insurance from John Hancock Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.). Eligible family members include:

- Spouses
- Parents
- Siblings
- Children
- In-laws
- Step-parents
- Step-children

For more information, please contact:

**Faisal Syed-Haq** *financial advisor*  
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[www.SFPfinancial.com](http://www.SFPfinancial.com)

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