



### The Bosun's Whistle

Submitted by Ron Reinsel,  
Commodore

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US

It's June and the boating, swimming and socializing weather is great. The days are getting longer, the evenings are getting lovelier and, after another wonderful Commissioning Day, MVYC is getting ready to celebrate a milestone anniversary.

55 years ago this month the Mount Vernon Yacht Club was given birth on the banks of Dogue Creek. Since then we have grown, matured, re-built and replenished ourselves many times over. Some members have come and gone, but many members have stayed and stayed. Several members' children have become members themselves, and even some of their grandchildren now enjoy the delights of the Club. Over the years we have been enriched by many hundreds of generous guiding hands, through both good times and some not so good times. We owe a great debt of thanks to all of those whose efforts brought us here and who nurtured the Club to be the great thing it is today.

We are proud of our past, but also enthusiastic about our future. Our membership is strong and is made stronger by our many new members who will help lead us in the years to come. We count ourselves as lucky to be able to attract such willing and able friendly souls to our ranks. It is not just the beautiful setting and fine facilities that bring them here. Far more important than those are the warm welcome and gracious spirit of all our members. We are not just a place to park a boat or dip a toe in a pool. We really are a very extended family drawn together by a mutual love of the water and, more importantly, mutual respect and admiration for each other. We are an exceptional place filled with truly exceptional folks.

continued on Page 4...



## Commissioning Day Report

By Jacque Knight

Everyone who attended the Mount Vernon Yacht Club Commissioning Day on May 1, 2011 will remember the precision and professionalism of the young Coast Guard Color Guard and Drill Team, while at about that same time, their Navy Seals colleagues were carrying out such a spectacular mission for our country in Pakistan.



Recalling that amazing day, we can all better understand how important it is to work together to get things right! And our whole club, Commissioning Day Committee, guests and program participants did just that. We had a few spittles of rain, but the show went grandly on. A highlight this year was the addition of the bagpiper, Tim Kirkpatrick of the Washington Scottish Pipe Band. He piped down from the gate to the Point, getting the program off on time and ahead of possible showers. After the Mount Vernon Community Band of about 30 players sounded the bugle call and four flams, Master of Ceremonies Jim Hamrick took over.

Commodore Ron Reinsel was truly surprised to be bagpiped in as part of his introduction. "I've never been piped in before," he almost gasped. Then, as the commodore read the names of the two MVYC members who had passed away this year - Norma Jean Poe and Ron Jones - the bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," and a moment of silence was observed.

It was a beautiful scene, and many remarked afterwards how meaningful it was. The Coast Guard Color Guard performed an even smoother than usual flag raising and commissioning, followed by the blessing of the fleet by the Rev. Charles Oberkehr, new pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church on Old Mill Road.



continued next page...

# The BEACON

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Deadline for Next Issue:  
15th of the month

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## Upcoming Meetings...



### Membership Meetings

Suspended until September

### Board Meetings

June 20  
July 18  
at 7:30 pm  
3rd Mon of the month

### Social Committee Meetings

June 13  
July 11  
at 7:30 pm  
2nd Mon of the month



## Commissioning Day continued from Page 1...

Then, the Drill Team, larger than in previous years, put on another spectacular show. Their Drill Master, Andrew Hammersmith, had participated in the MVYC commissioning programs in 1998 and 1999. "I remember it was an awesome event," he said, "and it was great today too." Hammersmith said he was going back to the Coast Guard Office to put MVYC on the calendar for next year's program on the first Sunday in May, May 6, 2012.

Guests who spoke included the following: State Senator Toddy Puller, State Delegate Scott Surovell, Fairfax County Chair Sharon Bulova, Mount Vernon County Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla 25-8 Vice Commander Rich Miller, Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association Vice Commander Don Basham and Jacque Knight of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association. Ryan Ward, coach of the Mount Vernon Rowing Crew Team, also attended and announced that his teams would again race following the ceremony. Soloists on the program were Bart Hewitt, who sang the national anthem, and Dick McCormack, who sang "God Bless America." Sailboat Knight Passage won the Sail Fleet decorating contest, and Stu and Kaye Matthews' Friendship won the Power Fleet honors. Prizes were two of the new 55th anniversary tumblers.

Early that morning, the Commissioning Day Committee welcomed other club members to help set up tents, chairs and tables. Those who heeded the call from co-chairs Susan Rehe and Jacque Knight (in their 15th year together!) were as follows: Jim Lake, Joe Castor, Amy Walker, Bear Baker, Ernie Dauray, Susan and Greg Rehe, Fred Brown and Linda, John Leary, Don Basham, Harriet Singleton Givens, and Jack O'Malley.



Additional Commissioning Day photos - next page!

## Toon Fleet News

by Bart Hewitt, Toon Fleet Co-Captain

In the interest of engendering a high level of educational value in the Beacon, it seems appropriate that the Toon Fleet Co-Captain (1) provide occasional educational articles about Toons to the MVYC boating community, (2) include in those articles a plethora of big words like "plethora," and (3). In this, the first article of the series, we will discuss the origin of The Toon. One interesting theory posits that The Toon was originally invented centuries ago by Pacific Islanders who desperately needed a way to get to other islands where the beer might be cheaper. To test this theory, an anthropologist named Thor Heyerdahl built a raft out of native materials. (Interestingly, he was named "Thor" by his mother, who, just minutes before he was born, complained that her stomach felt "Thor."). After eight months at sea, he finally spotted a small island, and upon landing, was immediately worshipped by the natives, who mistook him for Justin Bieber. And The Toon, now considered a sacred icon sent by their chief god, Stavropooloonie, and was preserved and also worshipped. Look for further expositions on this fascinating subject in future Beacons.



Photos courtesy of Russell Poe

# Commissioning Day

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

So put on your fifties finest and come celebrate our "double nickels" birthday on Saturday evening June 25th. It will be a spectacular, long awaited and well deserved party.

As we prepare to commemorate our anniversary and get ready for our next decades, I particularly want to thank Past Commodore Bill Gard and his Long Range Planning Committee for their outstanding work in studying and recommending needed maintenance and improvements to our marina facilities. For those who may have missed Bill's presentation of his committee's results at last month's membership meeting, a copy of his Power Point presentation is posted on the Club web site. Over the summer the Board will be working on the committee's recommendations, and particularly how we can budget and pay for the projects that have been identified as necessary for our future. Even while we are laying out the multi-year plan, we are proceeding now with preparing for the permitting process to enable us to undertake the recommended maintenance dredging of the marina basin. It will not happen overnight, but it is the first step.

Kudos also to Pool Chair Amy Walker who has worked like a trooper to get the pool prepared for its annual opening. Not only is the water sparkling, but everyone will really enjoy the new deck chairs and refurbished lounges that will make afternoons around the pool an even more comfortable and relaxing pleasure this season. Thanks Amy!

On a less happy note, I am sad to report that we have had to say goodbye to an old friend. As many of you may have noticed, the large old oak tree at the front of the House did not well survive the winter. Most all of its limbs were bare of new growth or leaves, its trunk was full of rot and it had reached the point that it posed a threat to the House. Regrettably, the time had come to bring it down safely before a strong summer storm did the deed in a far less controlled and more damaging fashion. Our thanks go to member Jim Nelson and his crew for a job well done. All ideas for its replacement should be directed to Grounds Chair Jack Sanders.

Finally, as a reminder, now that summer is here and we are all busy with our boats and other fun in the sun, in keeping with Club tradition we will suspend our monthly membership meetings until September.

In the meanwhile: See you at the 55th. Bring your dancing shoes.

**Pool News**

*By Amy Walker, Pool Committee Chair*



Many thanks to the following people for helping to ensure a successful pool opening: Bill Gard, Jeff Kirkland, Kevin Wirth, Alexi Stavropolous, Don Basham, David Walker, Harriett Singleton, Traci Newcomb, Christine Stavropoulos and Jim Borches. And of course, a special thanks to the Winkler Pool Management people.

This summer, it is very important that, if you have a caregiver watching your children at the pool, you MUST send an Email to me at pool@mountvernonychtclub.com with your emergency contact info. We will keep it on file in the guard's room in case of emergency.

I hope you take the opportunity to enjoy the pool this summer and some of its new furniture!

Pool Hours will be as follows:

Prior to School closing  
Mon- Fri 2 - 8pm, Sat /Sun 11- 9 May28th - Jun21st

After School closing:  
Sun- Sat Jun 22 - Sept 5 11 - 9pm

Peace ... Amy Walker

**House Committee Report**

*Contributed by Don Basham, House Committee Chair*



Please treat the clubhouse as if it were your home, since it actually is. And, please remember a few of our past-learned rules to make the house last longer. The window blinds should remain closed when the club is not in use. If you open a blind, please close it before you depart, or have someone else take responsibility for the closure. The lights cost us money; so, if you turn on a light, please be sure to turn it off after use when departing. (That means completely off, not partly off or just turned down.) Also, if you put perishable refuse in the inside trash containers, please remember that it is perishable and will cause a smell if left in the house. Always be sure to take the trash bags to the proper dumpster outside prior to departing. Finally, also be sure to check the inside recycle bins before leaving, and if full, empty them into the large, green recycle bins outside (cleverly marked "RECYCLE"). Thanks for making OUR CLUBHOUSE a nicer place to live.

# Mount Vernon Yacht Club 55th Anniversary Party

**Grab your poodle skirt,  
Slick back your hair...**



**\$35.00  
per person**

**Saturday, June 25, 2011  
6 p.m. Cocktails  
7 p.m. Dinner  
On the Point – Under The Tent**

**Keep an eye out for your mailed invitation!  
Responses must be received by June 20, 2011**



**MVYC Tumblers!  
Back by popular demand!**

The 12oz cup is \$12.00 and the 16oz cup is \$16.00.  
Contact Christine Stavropoulos at [christinezoe@aol.com](mailto:christinezoe@aol.com)  
to purchase your MVYC tumblers.

# On The Docks

Submitted by Jerry Gray, Marina Chair, [marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com](mailto:marina@mountvernonyachtclub.com)

It's June already and as of mid-May nearly everyone has their boat in the water despite rain, cool temperatures, and wind that only a sailor could love.

Extreme tides backed up by flood waters and winds from the south and east have loaded the marina with drift wood. In fact flood waters covered the point on April 16th loading up the grounds with debris only a week after cleanup day. Volunteers that arrived the next day to help deploy our no wake buoys and channel marker also pitched in to start cleaning up a lot of the wood. I would like to recognize Glenn Stone and his entire family and Jim Gordon for removing a huge amount of debris from the bulkheads and parking lot on Sunday.



The Point, April 16th

The Club's policy on what to do with floating debris has been vague at best. Large floating debris should be pushed out into the creek and be allowed to exit the marina area naturally or towed away if that is necessary. Please do not remove large trees or limbs and stack them on the docks or bulkheads unless you have a chain saw and are prepared to cut them up. Smaller stuff can be placed in the dumpsters, but it must fit inside the dumpster.

**Nautical term of the month:** log (n)

Definition: 1) The ship's record book or journal, containing entries of all the important happenings on board: weather, navigation data, watch keepers' names, sightings, and other information deemed important to the master. 2) A device for measuring the speed of the ship. (3) What stays in the water;)

## Boat for Sale or Trade!

In today's hectic world we all need a



Luckily member Jim Fletcher has his wonderful and comfortable 1978, 44 ft, Gulfstar Motor Cruiser available for you to purchase.

**Current price only \$134,900.** Roomy 14.5 ft beam, fuel efficient twin diesel engines, sleeps 6.

For more details and pictures go to [www.yachtworld.com](http://www.yachtworld.com) Listing # 76437-2245235

You can contact Jim at 703-360-7020

or via email: [jlfbsf@verizon.net](mailto:jlfbsf@verizon.net)





# June 2011





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Did you know??? June is National Rivers Month! Three Cheers for our own Potomac River!! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray!			1	2 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club	3 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	4
5	6 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm Social Cmte Mtg	7 9 am Yoga Class	8	9	10 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	11
12	13 AM Closed for Cleaning 7:30 pm MVYC Board Mtg	14 9 am Yoga Class	15	16 7:30 pm Coast Guard Auxiliary Mtg	17 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	18
19  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	20 AM Closed for Cleaning	21 9 am Yoga Class	22	23	24 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	25  6 pm MVYC 55th Anniversary Party
26	27 AM Closed for Cleaning	28 9 am Yoga Class	29	30		



# July 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	2
3	4 12 Noon 4th of July POOL PARTY! 	5 9 am Yoga Class	6	7 8:30 am Yacht Haven Garden Club	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	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	25 AM Closed for Cleaning	26 9 am Yoga Class	27	28	29 9 am Yoga Class 7:30 pm TGIF	30
31						



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

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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:

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