

OVERVIEW OF THE SEAFORD YACHT CLUB

The Seaford Yacht Club prides itself in having a membership who shares a common interest in boating. They are men and women who represent many interesting and diverse careers and fields of endeavor and an enormous amount of talent. This wide range of expertise greatly contributes to the success and growth of the Seaford Yacht Club; however, its members' greatest attributes are their friendliness, kindness and fun loving nature.

The purpose of the Seaford Yacht Club is to promote and practice yachting, boat sailing, navigation and seamanship; to provide fun, enjoyment and great times cruising, racing and socializing with an outstanding group of fellow boaters who gather together at one of the most beautiful sites in York County--- on the waterfront at Back Creek. The Club property includes a clubhouse, outbuildings and a dock with space for 52 slips.

CLUB ORGANIZATION

The Seaford Yacht Club is incorporated in compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and with the following elected officers: Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Rear-Commodore, Secretary and Treasurer. Additionally, six trustees are elected by the membership and serve with the Flag Officers on a Board of Trustees who meet at least once a month to conduct the business of the Club. A summary of the Board's business is published in the monthly newsletter. The Commodore presides over a general membership meeting and dinner held at the clubhouse the third Tuesday during ten months of the year. Special events are held throughout the year.

COMMITTEES

There are seven standing committees; namely, Race, House and Grounds, Dock, Entertainment, Boating Education, Membership, and Long Range Planning. In addition, there is a Fleet Captain Sail, a Fleet Captain Power, a Fishing Captain, a Communications Officer, and a Budget Officer, all appointed by the Commodore.

The RACE COMMITTEE directs and controls races sailed under the auspices of the Club. The Seaford Yacht Club is affiliated with The United States Sailing Association and the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA). It sponsors race participation in sanctioned races through these associations. The Seaford Yacht Club offers races at any level from highly competitive to strictly cruising class races.

The HOUSE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE manages and controls the clubhouse and grounds and enforces the rules relative to their use. To help with this task, the Committee, from time to time, calls upon the general membership,

utilizing their talents and labor to assist in special projects that enhance the beauty, neatness and safety of the Club. The Club belongs to its members and they are responsible for helping make it the best club possible.

The DOCK COMMITTEE manages the pier, docks and slips of the Club and makes rules relative to the use of these facilities. There are 52 slips of various capacities available. General slip policies, transient slip policies and slip applications are available from the Dockmaster, Seaford Yacht Club, Post Office Box 1885, Yorktown, VA 23692. It is the Club's policy that slip applications will be accepted and processed by the Dockmaster only after the Board of Trustees approves active membership.

The ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE sponsors and directs the entertainment activities of the Club. Currently there are dinner meetings and seasonal parties as well as other events that vary each year. In recent years these have included race parties, the Flag Raising Ceremony, the Oyster Roast, Christmas parties and Annual Business Meeting Dinner.

The BOATING EDUCATION COMMITTEE sponsors classes and programs specifically pertaining to boating, navigation and seamanship. One of its major projects is that of the Junior Sailing Program for young people and adults. These lessons are open to non-members as well as members as a service to the community. This program is a thoroughly enjoyable as well as a worthwhile learning experience for everyone involved. Another important duty of this Committee is managing the operation and maintenance of the small boat fleet owned by the Club.

The MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE receives and reviews prospective membership applications from the Secretary. After an application has been posted on the Club's official bulletin board for two weeks, this Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval of new members. It also sponsors events to acquaint prospective members with the Club.

The LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE is tasked with formulating ideas and goals for the long-range development of the Club.

Our FLEET CAPTAINS, POWER AND SAIL are responsible for planning and arranging numerous cruises each season. These cruises can be as close as nearby Mobjack Bay or can extend the length of the entire Chesapeake Bay. They also plan numerous mini-cruises, which are held at the Club's pier. Our Fleet Captains are the authority figures during any given cruise. They concern themselves with the welfare and safety of members and guests during these events. Prior to each cruise there is a skippers' meeting chaired by one or both of the Fleet Captains. Each cruise is well planned, thus making our cruises fun and memorable occasions.

CLUB HISTORY

The Seaford Yacht Club was launched on July 27, 1978, at an organizational meeting held on the dock at Mill's Marina. The stated purpose of the Club was to promote safe boating, general camaraderie and to have a successful but informal club. Within a matter of months the original fourteen families had doubled. Dues were ten dollars a month. After three years the club had outgrown meetings on the dock in Seaford and meetings were then generally held at Sammy and Nick's Restaurant in Yorktown. Membership had grown to forty-four families and a junior sailing program was begun from Dan Smoker's backyard.

In January 1983, the Club bought the present five-acre site along Back Creek. The old farmhouse on the property was renovated to the point where it could be used as the Clubhouse. Due to the limited size of this building, membership meetings and meals were held outside on the lawn from April through October without a meeting ever having to be cancelled on account of rain. During the winter months, meetings were still held at Sammy's and Nick's. The Club's first master plans for growth were drawn up and adopted by the membership in 1985. In 1986 the large meeting room was built onto the waterside of the Clubhouse. The members did all the work, from the laying of the foundation to the final coat of paint. At last the entire membership could sit down to a meal together. From 1987 through 1988 the kitchen was rebuilt from the foundation up, all within the original farmhouse walls. The roadway was enlarged, a parking lot was constructed and the back porch was rebuilt with modern windows and walls. A complete heating and cooling system was installed.

In September 1984, the original pier was extended from 57 feet to 232 feet. Once the pilings were set in place, the pier was constructed in one day by membership labor. In 1989, the water depth was dredged to a minimum depth of five feet and additional boat slips were added to make a total of 28 slips available to members. During the same period, the members also constructed the bathhouse with showers and a dump station. In 1996 an additional pier with 24 slips was built and the area dredged to a minimum depth of five feet. This work was contracted out due to the size of the project.

In July 2001, a major renovation/expansion project began which provided a doubling of the size of the club meeting room, new toilets, a new kitchen and a large deck. All the original building was renovated and new roofing and siding was provided throughout. The parking lot was expanded and many landscaping improvements were made. Approximately 1/3 of the work was accomplished by the volunteer labor of club members and the rest completed by the contractor. The project was completed in February 2002.

Initially, the Club membership was predominantly comprised of sail boaters and racing events. These events have continued to the present time. In 1979, the first New Year's Day Race and the Spring and Fall Series were begun and in 1980, the Summer Series races were initiated. In 1981, the Club received

CBYRA sanctioning. This same year the first Trans-Bay was held. In 1986, the Club hosted over 70 boats participating in the first annual CBYRA Southern Bay Race Week. Seaford Yacht Club Skippers have been and continue to be among the top-ranked racing sailors on the Bay.

Over the years, as more power boaters have joined the Club, many of the Club activities have been tailored towards the combined requirements of sail and power boaters. The local mini-cruises and the weekend cruises attract large numbers of both power boaters and sail boaters. It is not unusual to see raft-ups of from fifteen to twenty club boats, both power and sail on some cruises. Even the annual fishing tournament, which has heavy powerboat participation, also attracts a few sail boaters. In recent years as some club members have gone on extended cruises, the Club has joined the Yachting Club of America to gain reciprocity status with yacht clubs throughout the United States.

In September of 2003, Hurricane Isabel visited the Virginia peninsula with a vengeance. A five-foot or more storm surge lifted the inner portion of our East dock three feet above its norm, as well as destroying the east T-pier. The water covered all of the power pedestals, necessitating replacement of the electrical components. High winds and heavy rains uprooted the large locust tree just off the deck, and heavily damaged the deck canopy frame. At this writing, thanks to the good works of many club members, we have repaired the lion's share of the damage, with some continued repair of the docks underway.

As the Seaford Yacht Club continues to grow in the future, it will respond the needs and goals of its membership. It will prove to be a club of diversity and noteworthy accomplishment - a place where members and guests feel welcome.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

The membership is made up of individual or family units who are yacht owners (a yacht is defined as a boat eighteen feet or over in length). Twenty percent of the membership may be non-boat owners. There are two classifications of members, resident and nonresident. Prospective members must be sponsored by two members and should have attended several Club functions. An application form may be obtained from the Membership Chairperson. Two individual sponsors must sign it and appropriate fees must accompany the application. For more information, please contact the Seaford Yacht Club, Post Office Box 1885, Yorktown, VA 23692, Attention: Membership Chairperson.