



WEEKAPAUG YACHT CLUB

March 14, 2022

Dear WYC Members,

Over the last few years we have made many improvements to the club's sailing program, Kids Camp and social events, and it has been great to see record increases in membership and class enrollment. This gives us encouragement that we are on the right path. We hope to continue this trend this season with additional improvements to our website and sailing programs as well as with increased staffing. But by far the biggest change this year will be the opening of our new clubhouse, which will be a watershed event in our long history that will bring exciting new possibilities for the club and our members.

Clubhouse Update

It may be difficult to envision the new clubhouse today given that at the moment, it consists of concrete pilings supporting an elevated main floor, with the first walls offering hints of the club's eventual structure. But it is not too early to envision the enhanced experiences that lie ahead for our members. The main floor will be ten feet higher than the floor of our old clubhouse and the views will be spectacular as you will now be able to see over the dunes to Block Island as well as way down the pond and Inn beach. Large sliding floor to ceiling windows on the north and east sides will connect the two decks with the L-shaped event room and the addition of HVAC will make possible extending our season into spring and fall. Two decks on the top floor and one on the ground floor will be conducive to small informal get togethers as well as larger events. There will be an indoor locker area with 40 lockers large enough to store not only your boat gear, but beach chairs, too. There will be a well-appointed kitchen, and thanks to the ADA, our new clubhouse will be accessible to all with two enlarged,

modern bathrooms and an elevator. Finally, we hope to preserve the old clubhouse's rustic charm and informal ambience, including reusing the inscribed beams from the old clubhouse with the names of the hundreds of kids that participated in our programs over many decades.

While we have been running behind on our construction schedule, our general contractor tells us they should have the structure up and closed in by the end of March or early April and they continue to insist that they will not miss the target completion date of late June. In our favor is that almost all construction materials have been purchased and are available to us as soon as they are needed. That said, as with any construction project, it's always the final details that seem to take forever but are necessary to get a certificate of occupancy. Given that we are building in an extraordinarily challenging environment with labor shortages, supply chain disruption, inflation, Covid, and some difficult weather, we would not be surprised by additional delays. We are crossing our fingers, but are developing contingency plans to ensure we can run all our programs and social events even if the clubhouse is not fully ready.

Financial Update

I am pleased to report that our new clubhouse project remains very close to budget, and it is especially heartwarming to see that we have already received over \$3 million in member donations that cover over 95% of the projected total cost. This is a testament to the strong support the club enjoys from members and from the community. We do not need a lot more to meet our goal of paying for the clubhouse without incurring any debt or dipping into our reserves, so if you haven't made a donation, we would be grateful for your support. Any amount will be a very much appreciated.

Regarding club operations, we do anticipate an increase in expenses this season, partly due to inflation but also due to additional staffing, as we have been operating with a very lean staff the past several years despite our growth in membership and programs. The new clubhouse will also result in meaningful increases in property taxes and insurance costs. This has required that we increase dues levels across most categories to ensure we do not have an operating deficit. Sailing program and mooring fees will remain at last year's levels and the use of club kayaks and paddleboards will now be free to all members, including Social members. No one

likes dues increases, but based on a review of dues at other clubs, we believe our 2022 dues remain very reasonable and competitive, especially given the quality of our programs and the many amenities that will come with our new clubhouse.

Pandemic Response

While COVID 19 may always be with us, we appear to be out of the pandemic and its related restrictions. We remain cautious and will continue to monitor developments, but we are hopeful that this year we will see a return to normal operations. Of course, should the need arise, safety precautions will be re-instituted and you will be advised accordingly.

Club Website

You may notice some changes to our website. We are in the process of migrating our website to a new hosting company, Clubspot, which specializes in yacht clubs. We will be accomplishing this in stages this spring, but once fully implemented, you will be able to register easily for membership, enroll your kids in junior sailing or kids camp, check the club calendar, sign up for social events, purchase club branded gear, make payments to the club and more.

Parking Rules:

We plan to continue with the parking rules we instituted last summer pursuant to the club's agreement with the Weekapaug Fire District (WFD). This is necessary to maximize the availability of parking for WFD residents in our increasingly crowded parking lot, and to make sure there is available parking for the club's non-WFD members. While we hope to see a return to pre-pandemic traffic patterns at the Inn Beach lot, we must do what we can to improve congestion.

We continue to encourage members to walk, bike, or car pool to the club if feasible. WFD residents with a WFD parking sticker may park wherever they like in the WFD parking lot *except* for the parking spaces to the east of the boat ramp which are reserved for club use. The parking area on club property and the parking area to the east of the boat ramp are reserved for

non-WFD resident members such as those from Haversham, Quonochontaug, Shelter Harbor and Shady Harbor. These members will receive a WYC sticker allowing them to park in the WYC designated parking area. Shady Harbor and Shelter Harbor members also have the option of parking in their respective lots further down the sand trail. Your continued patience and cooperation with these rules will be much appreciated by all!

Member Registration

Our membership categories remain unchanged from 2021 but we have more clearly listed the various member privileges associated with each membership type and dues level. Please review this information which appears on the Membership page of our website to ensure you have the type of membership that best suits you.

New members will be able to register for membership starting March 17. If you were a member last year, your membership will be automatically renewed and you will be invoiced based on the same membership category you were in. All members, new or old, will be invoiced on April 1. If you're a new member, your application will be reviewed to ensure you meet the criteria for membership, including residency requirements.

Sailing & Water Sports

Junior Sailing Program Update

Last year, the club had 120 juniors in our sailing program, perhaps the highest number we have ever had. We are looking forward to building on the last few years' improvements and there is good news to report. Art Ellis will return as Director of Junior Sailing and we are working with former WYC instructor Craig Monk in New Zealand, to hire a high level sailor to head our sailing program under Art's guidance. We will also have returning instructors Alex Haidar, Cece Haase, Henry Seidenberg, and Brooke Barry, and are working on adding two or three additional instructors to our team.

Junior Sailing Program Enrollment

Online enrollment in our sailing program for your children or grandchildren will also start March 16 for both new and prior members, so if you're a new member, you will be able to register for membership and enroll in our programs on the same day. The junior sailing program is available to children 8 and up although occasional exceptions are made for 7 year olds. These exceptions are at the discretion of the Sailing Program staff.

The Junior Sailing Schedule:

The schedule this season will follow last year's cadence starting the week of June 27 and continuing through the week of August 15 as follows:

Beginner Optis: Monday to Friday 9 am to 12 noon

Beginner 420's: Monday to Friday 9 am to 12 noon

Intermediate and Advanced Optis: Monday to Friday 1 pm to 4 pm

Intermediate and Advanced 420's: Monday to Friday 1 pm to 4 pm

Of course, we understand that there will be afternoon tennis conflicts which is why we moved from offering the class three days a week to five days per week a couple of summers ago. This allows kids to participate as their schedule permits. However, when we increased the program to five afternoons, we kept the cost roughly the same, so if your child is only able to make it three afternoons per week, do not worry.

If you have a child in the Opti program, you may want to consider buying a used Optimist since the club has a limited number of rental Optis available. If you are looking for one, we may be able to match you with someone looking to sell one. Alternatively, used Optis for sale can often be found online.

Team Racing

We are exploring bringing back team racing which would likely take place on Mondays. We will let you know as soon as we have confirmation.

Racing Schedule

The racing schedule will be similar to last year's and all races and schedule changes will appear on the club calendar on our web site. Here are a few highlights:

Weekend 420's : 2 pm Saturdays starting June 25.

Thursday Junior Program 420's : 2 pm starting June 27.

Friday Optimists : 2pm starting June 28.

Beetles: 2 pm Sundays starting June 26 (Saturday on July 23 and August 20)

Labor Day Beetle Regatta: Sunday, September 4

Regattas

We will again host the Nat Earle Opti Regatta and Mary Raftery Girl Power 420 Regatta.

Nat Earle Opti Regatta: Tuesday, July 12

Mary Raftery Girl Power 420 Regatta: Tuesday, August 2

ECSA Regattas

For those junior sailors interested in racing "off-pond" this summer, please check out the ECSA events at <https://ecsa.net/about/regattas-events/>. These local regattas are a lot of fun and provide junior sailors with the opportunity to sail in larger fleets, a very important skill for any sailor looking to improve.

Water sports / Rental Boats

The full WYC sailboat fleet (Beetles, Sunfish, Hobie Cat and RS Quests) will be available for member rentals at the start of the season. This year we will be implementing a maintenance program to ensure our fleet is in good shape and fully operational throughout the season. As stated earlier, WYC kayaks and paddleboards will be available free to all members this season. Lucas Pagliarulo will return as our water sport steward to help get you out on the water.

Kids Camp

Kids Camp Update

Rayleen LaRue is returning and has been working on further improving the kids camp curriculum. This course has a weekly theme and ranges from safety on the water, learning about the pond and the many creatures in it, basic knots, the names of boat parts and more. Swim lessons will again be included as part of Kids Camp. Private swim lessons can be booked by contacting Rayleen directly.

Kids Camp Enrollment & Schedule

Enrollment in Kids Camp will also begin on March 17 for both old and new members.

Junior Crew: Our oldest campers (6-7 years old) should expect to be out on the water every day (on paddleboards, in kayaks, out on one of the club powerboats or sailing in one of the club Beetles), weather permitting, and sailing at least two days a week. This program is offered either three days a week (MWF) or five days a week from 9 am to 12 pm.

Little Mariners: This program is for 4-5 year olds and will be held 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays or three days a week (MWF).

Social Events

Erin Feirstein and Susan Kohn are taking the reins in planning a fun filled summer of social activity at the club with the help of the events committee. Please check out the updated calendar posted on the website (thank you , Christina Earle!) where you will see lots of new events planned, the most important of which is the July 30 WYC Fundraiser! We have not had a fundraiser since 2018 so we hope you will come celebrate the new clubhouse, pay tribute to the old clubhouse and help us raise some money to upgrade our fleet of sailboats.

We are also very happy to announce that Lauren Rodrigues has joined the club in the new position of Assistant Manager. Lauren comes to us with a wealth of event management experience. Her primary role will be working with the social committee managing all aspects of

the club's social events. Secondly, she will also be in charge of our social media presence and, as time permits, assisting Kate Scott.

The sailing and social event calendar is available on our website soon, but key dates are listed at the end of my letter.

Moorings, Docks & Lockers

Moorings

Whether you plan to renew your mooring rental from last year or wish to obtain a mooring for the first time, please review Harbormaster Charlie Anthony's letter which appears nearby regarding mooring availability and assignments as well as information on maximum boat size in our harbor and other information. If you have any questions, you should contact Charlie directly. There are revised mooring policies for members who donated their moorings to the club and have Legacy Rights. You should have received a letter from Charlie outlining these changes.

Docks

Maintenance and dock repairs will be made this spring and our floating docks should be in the water by Memorial Day weekend. Fresh water hoses at the dock and boat ramp will be turned on as soon as our new plumbing system is completed.

Lockers

We will have a very handy and convenient indoor locker area in the new clubhouse. Lockers will be 24 inches (beach chair) deep by 16 inches wide and will come in two heights; full size (approximately 6 feet high) and half size. We expect to have 40 lockers in total. When completed, the locker area will be accessible before and after club hours via a door with a combination lock on the south side (parking lot side) of the clubhouse. We will not be assigning any lockers at this time but will let members know about fees and availability as soon as the lockers are ready for use.

Boat Racks and Beach Logistics

As you may know, last season we added boat racks on the beach to provide for more efficient storage of kayaks and paddleboards, alleviate overcrowding, and ensure the safety of our junior sailors. We may add more racks this year to further improve ease of access and allow for some growth. Please remember that all boats stored on the beach must be registered with the club and be assigned a location for your boat. Upon registering, your boat, you will receive a sticker which must be displayed on your boat. Please see Kate Scott to register your boat.

Don't Forget...

Summer will be here before you know it and our junior programs may fill up quickly. We suggest you sign up soon. If you need a mooring, please get in touch with Charlie Anthony soon. Lastly, please consider making a donation to the Clubhouse fund!

We look forward to seeing you all soon in our new clubhouse for another great summer on the pond.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Delamater". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Chuck Delamater
Commodore



WYC 2022 Season Key Dates

Saturday June 18: *WYC opens for the season*

Monday June 20: *Kids camp begins*

Monday June 27: *July Sailing classes begin*

Friday July 1: *Kick Off to Summer Party*

Saturday July 2: *Nat Earle Walk Run*

Sunday July 3: *Blessing of the Fleet*

Saturday July 9: *Family Pizza Truck Night*

July 12: *Nat Earle Opti Regatta*

Saturday July 16: Oyster Roast

Saturday July 23: *July awards Night*

Saturday July 30: *WYC FUNDRAISER*

Tuesday Aug 2: *Mary Raftery 420 Girl Power Regatta*

Saturday Aug 6: *Family BBQ Night*

Saturday Aug 13: *Margarita Night*

Saturday Aug 20: *August Sailing Awards*

Sunday Aug 21: *Boat pack up*

Friday, Aug 27: *Drinks on the Dock*

Friday Sept 2: *Farewell to Summer Cocktails*

Sunday, Sept 4: *Beetle Labor Day Regatta*