



## **WEEKAPAUG YACHT CLUB**

To: WYC Members

From: WYC Harbormaster

Date: March 15, 2022

I wanted to begin my spring letter with some important background regarding our mooring field as it is helpful to understand some of the changes we will be making to our mooring fees and mooring assignment process this season. The mooring field is a precious asset for our club and many of you have moored a boat in our cove for decades. However, as you may know, in 2019, the Town of Westerly implemented a Harbor Management Plan that required that all moorings be registered directly with the Town and become subject to Town regulations. This posed an existential risk to our club as over half of our moorings were owned directly by members and would become the responsibility of the Town. Without a mooring field for our members' Beetles, Whalers and club boats, the club would lose the life blood of its programs and potentially its long-term viability as a yacht club.

Thankfully, all but one member with a private mooring, 33 in all, agreed to donate their moorings to the club pursuant to a Mooring Agreement with the club, bringing the total number of moorings managed by the club to 66, close to our historical number. The club also agreed to cede to the Town three other moorings it managed for use by Town residents. The club is most appreciative to those members that donated their moorings as it ensured the club could retain its mooring field for the benefit of its members and the club's sailing and boating programs for years to come.

It is important to understand that under the terms of the Mooring Agreements, members donated their mooring and ground tackle to the club, which became responsible for the registration and long-term servicing and maintenance of the moorings. In return, the member retained the right (the “Legacy Rights”) to continue to rent that mooring, in its original location, as long as they remained a full member of the club and as long as they paid the reasonable expenses incurred by the club to register and maintain the mooring.

## **2022 Mooring Rental Policies**

With that as background, the club is revising its mooring rental policies and fees as set forth below. Our goal has been to honor the Legacy Rights of members who generously donated their moorings while ensuring there is a fair and transparent process for members to obtain a mooring assignment each year, and to maximize use of our mooring field.

1. Renewal Priority – If you rented a mooring in 2021, you are being offered to rent the same mooring for the 2022 season subject to remaining a Full Family or Full Individual member of the club and paying the indicated mooring fee (Social, Junior, or Patron memberships are not entitled to mooring privileges). Please complete the attached mooring application and send it to the indicated address by April 15 to confirm that you will be using the mooring you were assigned last year. If I have not heard from you, I will release your mooring into the available pool for other members.
2. New Mooring Assignments – If you did not rent a mooring in 2021 and are interested in a mooring for the 2022 season, please complete the attached mooring application and send it to me as soon as possible. Please note that there is limited availability of moorings, and especially of moorings for larger boats (14 feet and above). New mooring assignments will be made on a first-come first-served basis subject to availability and will be confirmed no later than May 15. If there are no available moorings for your desired boat size, I will put you on a waiting list.
3. Rental of Moorings With Legacy Rights – Members with Legacy Rights can elect not to use their mooring but can retain their Legacy Rights as long as they pay the indicated

fees and remain full members of the club. Open Legacy Rights moorings will be available for rent by other members. If you are one of the nine members that rented open moorings subject to Legacy Rights last year, I will call or email you so you know who you are. It is important to note that the rental of an open Legacy Rights mooring will be on a year to year basis given the member with Legacy Rights will have the right to reclaim their mooring the following year.

4. Discount for Rental of Open Legacy Rights Moorings - Due to the uncertainty of subsequent renewal, open moorings subject to Legacy Rights will be offered at a discounted fee. Members whose open Legacy Rights mooring is rented to another member will also receive a partial rebate of their mooring fee. If you rented an open Legacy Rights mooring last year and would like to transfer to a mooring without Legacy Rights, please email me. If you own a larger boat, it is likely I will need to put you on a waiting list as all moorings for Medium and Large boats were rented last summer.
5. Usage Requirement – To ensure all moorings are utilized, beginning this season, all members renting a mooring must have their boat on their mooring for a minimum of 30 days during our May through September season. Members who rent a mooring and do not use it will be subject to losing their mooring assignment for the following season.
6. Changing Boats/Size Limitations – If you rented a mooring in 2021 and are renewing for 2022, you may change the boat you had on the mooring as long as it is not larger. However, you must notify the Harbormaster and receive approval before switching out your boat. So *please*, do not purchase a larger boat and assume we will be able to find a suitable mooring for it. If you request a change to a larger boat, it is possible there may not be enough swing space. In the unlikely event there is enough swing space, it is possible your mooring may not be heavy enough to accommodate a larger boat which would require the mooring to be upsized. In such circumstances, which may be rare, you will be required to pay for the cost of the mooring upgrade.
7. Grandfathering of Large Boats – There are a number of boats in the cove that are well over 20 feet long. Moving forward, we would like to limit boats to a maximum length of

19 feet as there is not a lot of room in our cove, the cove is shallow, and large boats can create issues for smaller boats in a blow. If you moored a boat last summer that is larger than 19 feet, you will be allowed to continue to moor your boat on that mooring under a grandfather provision. You will also be allowed to replace your boat with one exceeding 19 feet as long as it is no larger than your current boat. Members with large boats are encouraged to consider the Weekapaug Marina.

8. Transfers/Swaps – Pursuant to the Mooring Agreement, members with Legacy Rights are permitted to transfer their mooring with Legacy Rights to a family member as long the family member is also a full member of the club and the transfer is promptly reported to the Harbormaster. Otherwise, members may not lend, sublet, or transfer their mooring assignment to another member. Members may request to swap mooring assignments with another member with prior Harbormaster approval.

### **2022 Mooring Fees**

Mooring fees for 2022 are shown on the attached mooring application form. Mooring fees are unchanged from last year except that members with Legacy Rights must pay a minimum fee if they elect not to use their mooring and want the club to try to rent it out. We have also added a discounted fee for those renting an open mooring subject to Legacy Rights and offered a rebate to the member with Legacy Rights if an open Legacy Rights mooring is successfully rented.

### **Storage of Dinghies, Kayaks and Paddleboards**

Full members of the club may store dinghies, kayaks, or paddleboards in designated areas along the shore, on Sunfish/Opti Beach, and on the club's storage racks. All dinghies, kayaks or paddleboards need to be registered with the club and display a numbered registration sticker which you can obtain from our club office. This helps us contact you in case of an emergency and help us avoid overcrowding. Unregistered dinghies, kayaks and paddleboards will be removed after a reasonable grace period and attempts to contact the owner.

Social members may bring their own kayaks and paddleboards to the club and launch them from the beach, however, they must take their kayaks and paddleboards home with them after use. Please note that this season, Social members will have free use of WYC kayaks and paddleboards, so we look forward to seeing a lot more of our members enjoying our beautiful Quonnie Pond this summer.

### **Use of Boat Ramp/Storage of Trailers**

The boat ramp was upgraded two years ago and is much more user friendly for launching and hauling boats. The boat ramp is reserved for full members of the club and is secured with a combination lock so members have access at all times during the season. The new combination for the ramp will be **2021** (the last year of our old clubhouse). The new combination will be effective on June 12. Until then, please use last year's combination which is **6410**. After using the ramp, please remember to spin the numbers after you open the lock and relock the ramp after you are finished. If you do not spin the numbers, you will not be able to lock the gate and nonmembers will have access to the combination. Because of limited parking, no trailers can be stored in the corral or parking area. Please take your trailers home with you.

### **Storm Preparedness**

Last summer's arrival of Hugo tested our club's and our membership's storm preparedness plans. I am happy to say we passed with flying colors. Members with boats on moorings, or with dinghies, kayaks, and paddleboards stored at the club, were given early warning of the storm's arrival and eventually were asked to pull their boats and safeguard their property. Through a heroic team effort, the cove was emptied and the club rode out the storm without any injuries or property damage.

So please remember these important points. It is your responsibility to ensure your moored boats and other watercraft stored at the club are properly secured, and it is your responsibility to remove them on fairly short notice if asked by the Harbormaster due to approaching severe weather (even though in the WYC spirit, staff and other members will surely lend a hand). Please anticipate the need to have your boat servicing company pull your boat as they get

overwhelmed with requests and may not be able to get to your boat before the storm's arrival. In the event of strong wind events short of a tropical storm, I may also ask that you lash down your kayaks, dinghies and paddleboards and remove canvas and/or sails from your moored boats. Hopefully, we will not have too many such events this summer!

### **Mooring Application Form**

As mentioned earlier, please complete the attached mooring application form and mail it with a check for the appropriate fee. You can also drop the check in the mail and scan the completed form and email it to me, Charlie Anthony, [Harbormaster@weekapaugyachtclub.com](mailto:Harbormaster@weekapaugyachtclub.com) with a copy to our club manager, Kate Scott at [info@weekapaugyachtclub.com](mailto:info@weekapaugyachtclub.com). Please let me know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to another fun summer at the WYC!



**WEEKAPAUG YACHT CLUB**  
**2022 Mooring Application**

**Contact Information:**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact (name and telephone #) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mooring Assignment Information**

Did you rent a mooring in 2021? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have a mooring With Legacy Rights? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, do you plan to use your mooring this summer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, do you want the club to try to rent your mooring? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, do you want to give up your Legacy Rights? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat Information:**

Make and Model \_\_\_\_\_  
Length \_\_\_\_\_  
Is this a change from last year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected launch date \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected haul out date \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration # if applicable \_\_\_\_\_  
Insurance information (company and policy #) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mooring Fees:**

2022 Mooring Fee based on the table below: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: Weekapaug Yacht Club

Please mail check and form to: Weekapaug Yacht Club, 23 Spray Rock Road, Weekapaug, RI 02891

Or mail check and email form to: Charlie Anthony, Harbormaster@weekapaugyachtclub.com and to our club office at [info@weekapaugyachtclub.com](mailto:info@weekapaugyachtclub.com)

Mailing deadline is March 31, 2022

**2022 Mooring Fees**

Boat Size	Legacy and WYC Mooring*	Unused Legacy Mooring **	Year-to Year Legacy Mooring***	Unused Legacy Mooring Rebate****
Large (18' and over)	\$850	\$650	\$725	\$200
Medium (13'1" to 17'11")	\$725	\$650	\$625	\$200
Small (13' and under)	\$650	\$650	\$575	\$200

\* Mooring fees for members with or without Legacy Rights that will be using their mooring.

\*\* Mooring fee for members with Legacy Rights electing not to use their mooring.

\*\*\* Discounted mooring fee for members renting an open mooring subject to Legacy Rights.

\*\*\*\*Rebate to member with open Legacy Mooring if mooring is rented.

**Compliance with Club Regulations:**

*I acknowledge that I am/will be a Full Individual or Full Family Member of the WYC for 2022 and that I will comply with all WYC regulations regarding use of my assigned mooring, including that I have the boat listed above on my mooring for at least 30 days during the season. I further acknowledge that if I am renting an open mooring subject to Legacy Rights, that I am renting it on a year to year basis and am not assured of being able to rent that mooring in subsequent years.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_