



April 1, 2020

Dear Weekapaug Yacht Club Boat Owners,

Welcome to another, we hope, summer at the Weekapaug Yacht Club. The Covid-19 virus is proving to be a difficult item to plan around. Let's hope everybody stays safe and healthy.

Key Changes for the 2020 Season

This season will bring major changes to the way the yacht club will manage its moorings although in the end, boat owners will continue to have access to their moorings as they have in the past. The most significant change is that pursuant to the Town of Westerly's Harbor Management Plan, the yacht club is now directly responsible for the maintenance, assignment, and rental of all moorings in the harbor with the exception of 3 moorings that will be assigned and rented by the Town to Westerly residents. I would like to thank all of you who transferred your moorings to the club. That one act has made it possible for the club to operate our mooring field as a marina for the benefit of our members, and allowed us to continue our sailing program which is at the heart of the yacht club's mission.

A second major change is the retirement of Mike Roy, who serviced our moorings for more than a decade and did a great job for the club and for members who owned their moorings directly. I am pleased to report that Ocean House Marina will take over our mooring servicing going forward. Ocean House Marina is based next door in Charlestown, is approved by the Town as a licensed servicer, and has a lot of experience servicing moorings fields in the local salt ponds. Although this should be a relatively seamless transition, we currently do not expect the moorings to be ready until around June 1.

Mooring Assignments

All boat owners who need a mooring this summer need to let me know their plans by emailing me at harbormaster@weekapaugyachtclub.com as soon as possible. Members who owned a mooring and transferred it to the club (a.k.a. "Legacy owners") need to let me know by May 15 if you are not going to be using your mooring. In that case, I can make your mooring available for rent by other members. Please note that Legacy owners must still pay their dues and remain members of the club even if they decide not to use their mooring.

Please remember that we are requiring the following minimums for bow lines or pendants:

- Boats under 15 feet: 3/8" line
- Boats 15 feet to 20 feet: 1/2" line
- Boats over 20 feet: 5/8" line

The end that connects to the buoy should be attached with a stainless snap hook or a thimble and shackle and should not be longer than 1 ½ times the length from the deck to the mooring ball. This will prevent boats from breaking away from their moorings in a storm. The harbor is very small, so pendants need to be short in order for the boats to maneuver around. If you don't have a proper pendant, please contact the club to learn where you can purchase one.

2020 Mooring Fees

This summer we are introducing a streamlined mooring fee framework based on three boat size categories. The mooring fees have been set to make sure the club can recover the new annual fees charged by the Town of Westerly of \$250/mooring, Ocean House Marina's mooring servicing fees, the cost of maintaining and repairing the mooring hardware, and finally some net income for the club to support its sailing program.

Mooring Category	Boat Requirements	Mooring Fee
Small	12' 6" and Under (e.g. Beetles)	\$630
Medium	12' 7" to 17' 6" (e.g. 17 ft. Whalers)	\$780
Large	17' 7" and above (larger power boats)	\$850

In recognition of the donation of their mooring hardware to the club, Legacy owners will receive a one-time discount from the above mooring fees of \$90, \$100, or \$110 for small, medium or large moorings respectively. The club may also have a few moorings available for rent on a shorter term basis subject to availability.

Registration Stickers and Use of Boat Ramp

Please contact the club to get a registration sticker if you keep a boat on the beach (Optis, rowboats, kayaks, etc.), and have not received a sticker. It is important to have a sticker if we need to contact you in case of an emergency, and we will assume that boats without stickers are not owned by club members and will remove them. Also, please remember to remove your boats by Thanksgiving or they will be considered abandoned.

Contact me if you need the combination for the boat ramp. Please remember to spin the numbers after you open the lock and relock the ramp after you are finished. If you don't spin the numbers, you won't be able to lock the gate and non-members will have access to the combination. Also, because of our limited parking, no trailers or unused boats may be stored in the corral or at the club. Please take your trailers home with you.

I hope everybody has a safe, productive, and fun-filled summer.

Respectfully,

Charlie Anthony, Harbormaster
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