

Welcome to the Bloomington Yacht Club (BYC) where you are now official members. You make our current active member units swell to __ (__ of which are sailing units). We are limited to 40 sailing units. We hope you will have many years of happy sailing with us. Our treasurer will be sending you a request for dues which are paid quarterly, but may also be paid in full for the year. Currently dues are \$400 Basic for the year plus \$100 extra for a land berth (actually entitles you to up to three boats on land) and \$200 extra for one water berth (which has up to two land berths with it). I will shortly be preparing your stock certificate. The \$100 check you wrote with your application will go for the purchase of two (2) shares of BYC stock. Please keep your stock certificate in a safe place; should you ever leave the BYC, the stock shares can be redeemed at \$50 per share. Each member unit has two shares and two votes at General Meetings.

The Bloomington Yacht Club is a not-for-profit social club [501(C) 7] under IRS regulations. This means we do not pay taxes on our dues and other income, but we must obey the IRS restrictions which can be found on the IRS website. We are **not a 501 (C) 3** organization so dues and gifts to the Club are **not** tax-deductible. We do pay land taxes (about \$1600 per year) and we also pay a Lake Lemon Conservancy Fee (\$500). We have no mortgage, but own our land and clubhouse outright. We did pay what we called a mortgage (actually, loans from members) for twenty years. Our building and liability insurance prevents the Club from purchasing liquor although individuals may bring it to the Club. We assume members will continue year to year unless there is a resignation in writing or email to the secretary.

Keys to the Clubhouse, Gear Room, and Storage Barn (all same key) are available. The Rear Commodore for Facilities will give you a spot for your boat and a cubby in the Gear Room.

You are no doubt aware that the Clubhouse is closed in November after the annual Awards Banquet and re-opens in April. There are no meetings in December or January, but meetings are held at member homes in February and March. We re-open the Clubhouse in April in a Sat., A Clean-up Weekend in which all members take part. Duties are posted in the Clubhouse for check-off.

All our potlucks and general meetings take place the first Saturday of the month. Happy Half starts at 6:00 p.m. and the potluck usually starts at 6:30 p.m. with the General Meeting starting at around 7:15 p.m. Members bring their own table service, their own beverage, and one dish to pass for every two people to the potlucks. Sign up with the Social Officer to host an April-Nov potluck. The Host makes coffee or punch, arranges the foods members bring, puts out tablecloths on the deck tables, and , heads the clean-up (though everybody helps with these things). In July and November we have special celebrations (4th of July Cookout Fete often with the famed Pirates and Buccaneers Race, and in November, the Awards Banquet) so we usually have two sets of hosts for these occasions.

One of the first things you will want to do as new members is contact our webmaster so he can add you to the Google Groups list (<http://groups.google.com/group/bloomington-yacht-club?hl=en>). The Google Groups site is how the minutes, and the many member emails get delivered. The Google Groups site has a copy of the BYLAWS which govern the Club and set out the duties of the eleven member Board of

Governors. The nine regular Board Officers are elected for three year terms in October with one-third rotating off each year, while the other two members, the Secretary and the Treasurer have one year terms. The composition of the regular nine member Board usually sees changes from year to year, although the Secretary and the Treasurer are often re-elected for continuity's sake. The general membership elects the Board and the Board in turn elects its own officers in secret with the new officers only revealed at the end of the November Banquet. The off-going Commodore by tradition becomes the next year's Regatta Chair. Any member may attend Board meetings and participate in the discussions, especially on specific issues, but only Board members may make motions and vote at Board meetings.

We also have a web page: www.bloomingtonyachtclub.org

And a facebook page as well (type in Bloomington Yacht Club at the Facebook site).

Last year's Commodore will be the Regatta Chair for the Lake Lemon Regatta Sept. 24/25 which will be our 56th Lake Lemon Regatta. We typically have about 30 racers at the Regatta from our Club and from the surrounding states, many of whom have come to our Regatta for a number of years. The Lake Lemon Regatta is a regular part of the Y-Flyers circuit, and in recent years we have seen an explosion of Force Five boats. A number of our junior racers (under 18) own Force Fives.

There are supplies of coffee and tea, as well as extra dishes at the Clubhouse. We also have a stove, large refrigerator, icemaker, coffeemaker with automatic shut-off, microwave, a small refrigerator for beverages, and an outdoor gas grill. Please label any foods or beverages left in the refrigerator and remember the potlucks have priority. There is also a television at the Clubhouse, as well as books and games. Some members camp at the Clubhouse and have mini-vacations there.

All members are expected to help at the Opening of the Clubhouse, at the Closing after the Banquet, at the Annual Fall Regatta (usually held the third week of September) and at one ROD (if qualified) or AROD duty during the year. Members also volunteer to serve as hosts for one of the April-Nov meetings. When the racing is particularly active, qualified RODs may be asked to serve twice. As a cooperative club, we do the work ourselves for the most part and members volunteer for ad hoc committees when there is work to be done. Members who attend the Regatta pay the Regatta Registration fee if sailing and pay the breakfast, lunch, and dinner fees if eating.

All women in the Club are automatically members of the Sailing Sallies who meet on the 4th Thursday of the month for lunch at 11:45 p.m. Male guests can be invited. The Sallies take December and January off too, and use Google Groups to remind us of lunches.

Racing is an important part of the Club although not all members race. Club members sign up for ROD (Race of the Day) and AROD (Asst. Race Officer of the Day) so we can hold our weekly races from May through October. The weekly ARODs put out lemonade in our big punch bowl with salty snacks after the races, as well as cleaning the Clubhouse and assisting the RODs. The Club reimburses the ARODs for the snacks and lemonade (check the cupboards first) up to \$20. We have a good relationship with the IU

Sailing Club to our west and they will sometimes race with us on Sundays (though do not qualify for our awards).

The Social Chairman signs members up for hosting duties and also is the person to see if you wish to have a party or special event at the Clubhouse. We have had a wedding, a baptism, and a wake. Our rule is that members must always have access to the Gear Room and to be able to race even if another member has signed up for a social event. Members are responsible for their guest and must accompany them at the Club. Generally weekend parties mean that everyone in the Club is invited. People often swim off the dock, but swimmers at all times must stay out of the way of sailors. We have no lifeguard so close parental supervision is a must.

The Rear Commodore for Facilities will find a place for your boat. Please understand that the Club reserves the right to move your boat for special events and/or projects like the regrading of clubhouse grounds. I will give you hard copies of "on Being a Good Member (BYC Policies Part 1), Current Board of Governors List, a copy of the Membership List, BYC Integrated Calendar, BYC ROD and AROD duties, the BYLAWS, and "A Short History of the BYC." Normally you will get the minutes and other official documents through email or on Googlegroups.

Members should mow under their own boats. We have a hand mower and a tractor mower which is a little touchy as are all such things. The tractor needs a special kind of fuel. The Committee Boat is for racers, and, alas, cannot be used as a pleasure boat for members. (We occasionally bend that rule for very special occasions, like wakes: consult the Commodore.) "On Being a Good Member" provides other guidelines.

Please feel free to ask your sponsor, Board members, and the regular members as well if you have questions. We are a friendly and helpful bunch.

Happy Sailing.