May 15, 2020

Dear Fleet Member and Friend,

As we all start to see glimmers of hope, begin dreaming of getting out on the water and planning our travels to MDI and our beloved Fleet, I want to share what we have been developing as Fleet policies for this unique upcoming season. I also want to share with you some considerations to keep in mind as you get ready for your move to MDI this summer.

In our collective enthusiasm for the upcoming season, we should be aware of the expectations of our local communities. All the towns here are struggling to balance and adjust to the social and economic impacts of this pandemic on their lives and their community. Understandably, some residents have been a bit standoff-ish as “summer folk” begin to arrive - yet all anticipate that State guidelines will be followed in the interest of safety.

The keys to a smooth and respectful transition are to comply with the 14-day quarantine as currently directed by our Governor Janet Mills; to wear a face covering and maintain 6’ social distancing in public places; and to follow the guidelines in place for specific facilities. I do hear from many friends that they understand that our Island hospital is small, the medical staff and facilities are limited, and that food shelves in our stores are not overly stocked. This awareness and perspective are truly welcomed and appreciated. So, before you depart for MDI, I respectfully ask that you please plan ahead: bring enough food with you for 2 weeks, honor the quarantine, and ease softly into the local fabric thereafter.

You will be happy to learn that the docks are floating at the Fleet and Clifton Dock. However, there will be a number of changes this season as we too adjust to the requirements of the State and the need to put safety foremost. Reluctantly, for example, we must cancel the traditional July 4th picnic. We are revamping our normal Sailing School activities to meet State guidelines as well. With these changes brings opportunity, an opportunity to focus on family, sailing, and fun on the water. There will be additional changes and additions to the summer calendars, as well

“Rough seas make stronger sailors. Tough times build greater people.”
– Robin Sharma, Canadian author
as updates to our policies should State guidelines change, so please stay connected and check our website - NEHFleet.org - often to keep up to date.

Below you will find links to the Northeast Harbor Fleet’s Summer 2020 Covid-19 Guidelines and Policies. These documents have been developed by your Flag Officers, Summer 2020 Management Committee, Fleet staff and our Fleet counsel. All of us, in unison, urge you to read and take to heart all that is being expected of our membership and their guests this summer.

We are requiring that all members, guest and crew sign our online Covid-19 Waiver before using the Fleet or Clifton facilities. By signing the waiver, you affirm that you have read and understood these Policies and will comply with them throughout the summer. This is an extra burden to be sure but is one I am confident you understand and respect in the turbulent seas of this season.

“The art of the sailor is to leave nothing to chance.”
– Annie Van De Wiele, Belgian navigator

All of us at the Fleet are anxiously looking forward to seeing our friends, family, and members grace the Fleet grounds and Clifton Dock. The summer will surely weave together the joy, sun and comradery that make the Fleet special and that we all are craving.

Fair winds and following seas.

Respectfully,

Mia
your Vice Commodore

Links to Waiver Form and 2020 Summer Fleet Member Policies:

Fleet COVID-19 Waiver Form
Fleet Policies for Members

“With adversity brings opportunity.”
-- Ben Benjamin Franklin