



PENTWATER YACHT CLUB

established 1935

Dear PYC Member

What a beautiful November day in Pentwater!

I would like to thank each of you for allowing me to serve Pentwater Yacht Club during the last three years as Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore, and Commodore. It has been an amazing experience. I am humbled and honored.

I have met so many wonderful, creative, generous, and helpful Pentwater Yacht Club members over the three years. Thank you.

I am proud of the many upgrades that we have accomplished over the past three years. Not only have many of the amenities of the club been upgraded, but many new events have been introduced and met with much enthusiasm. Most of these new events will be continued for years to come.

The PYC sign has been rebuilt.

We have acquired a new walk in cooler.

Three kayak racks have been added and 21 kayaks are now stored on PYC grounds

A kayak launch dock has been added.

Social events for kayakers have been added to our calendar.

New furniture for the deck has been purchased.

The front deck has been raised and leveled.

The louvers on the kitchen exhaust fan have been replaced.

TV has been mounted along with a DVD showing historical PYC pictures.

Our router has been upgraded for better Wi-Fi access for members.

The apparel room has been upgraded with a new door and sign.

Cushions on the wicker furniture have been replaced with new cushions.

Broken window shades in the bar have been replaced and upgraded.

Name tags are displayed on most members while at the club.

There have been many upgrades in the kitchen. Painted, deep cleaned, new water heater, safety splash shields on deep fryer, new overhead lighting.

The website has been refreshed and now includes an up to date event schedule, member alerts, pictures, and menus.

New deli prep table has been acquired for the kitchen.

New classes have been offered i.e. line splicing techniques.

Fire extinguishers have been installed on the front deck.

A crew development class has been created and has graduated 10 new crew members.

We took a leap of faith this past year and budgeted more money for wages and salaries for our staff. By hiring professional chefs, and dining room manager, our food sales went up, and food costs were down 20%. More importantly, complaints in the dining room were down.....way down!

You are fortunate to have a great staff of Flag Officers to carry on next year. I'm confident that the Club will be well managed by Commodore Russ Murphy, Vice Commodore Larry Conroy, Rear Commodore Jim Hieftje, Treasurer Aleksy Urick, and Secretary Barb Siok.

While the Club is in good financial condition today, we face many challenges in the near future. Most imminent is the rebuilding and reconfiguring of our existing docks. We continue to throw money at the existing docks to come up with temporary fixes to get through each season. Metals frames on the docks need weld repairs before the docks are installed in the spring. Much of the wood on the docks has become "punky" and no longer holds screws securely. Hand rails continually need to be tightened. Each season a number of floats need to be replaced. We have tremendous volunteers who do as much work as they can on the existing docks, but a lot of the work needs to be contracted out. It is costly to hire out the work on the existing docks, but it is unrealistic to believe that our volunteers can continue to do the heavy lifting. It is past time that we bite the bullet and rebuild the docks to insure a safe, enjoyable experience at Pentwater Yacht Club. There is a very active dock committee in place. Al Burmester and Frode Maaseidvaag come up with a plan to expand the docks and also install wave attenuators to protect the new docks (and member's boats) well into the future. The committee has already had a preapproval meeting with the DEQ and the Army Corps of Engineers, and the results of the meeting were very positive. The committee is currently working on filling out the 22 page request for a Marina Permit.

As you all know, we lost our deck cover this summer in a storm. The Board of Directors believes that this is an opportune time to construct a permanent cover over the deck. Dave Peterhans has come up with some wonderful drawings. Dave and Lisa Baker, along with Russ Murphy are researching structural issues, helical pilings and other requirements to build a hard cover.

You should all also be aware of the interest in a redesigned bar area. The drawings I have seen show an exciting, modern, vibrant bar area. Reconfiguring the bar area will require electrical work, plumbing, drains, carpenters, etc.

Our antiquated POS system needs replacement. Research has been done to find a state of the art "club management system" that better lends itself to integration of our dining room and bar charges with our accounting system, inventories, and invoicing. The goal is better efficiencies and accuracy through less redundancy.

There is also preliminary work being done on improving the air circulation not only in the dining room, but also in the bar area and in the kitchen.

As you can see, the vision of the Board of Directors is continuous improvement of Pentwater Club, creating a warm, exciting, friendly place to congregate, bring friends and family, and enjoy time on the water. That being said, all of the above upgrades are big ticket items. We understand that all of these items cannot be accomplished in a year. However, we have to plan now in order to be able to afford these wonderful improvements.

While some of these improvements can be planned over several years, the dock improvements need to be addressed now. The docks are becoming a serious liability, and we cannot afford to have the Club be at risk in the future. Unfortunately, the dock improvements are the most expensive on the list. The new dock configuration can be accomplished in phases, but the first phase (the wave attenuators) will probably be the most costly, and this part needs to be started as soon as a Marina Permit is in hand.

In order to be financially prepared to move forward on the dock project as soon as possible, and some of the other projects down the road, the Board of Directors feels it is prudent to raise dues and fees to help finance impending costs.

Pentwater Yacht Club has for years enjoyed having the lowest dues and fees of any yacht club on Lake Michigan with similar amenities. It is important that we plan financially for continuing improvements, and Pentwater Yacht Club can continue to be the jewel we all love.

I am including 2017 dues and fees schedule as a separate attachment.

Respectfully,

Doug Nelson
Commodore 2016