



To: WYC Members

From: Charlie Anthony, Harbormaster

Date: April 17, 2021

We are looking forward to another fun and safe boating season at the Weekapaug Yacht Club. Thankfully, we had an uneventful 2020 season, with only one hurricane scare and an almost full mooring field despite a number of members not launching their boats due to the pandemic.

Over the winter, Bill Boll and I inspected our docks and noted that some were in need of repairs. You should notice fresh hardware, replaced planking, and new rub rails on the docks this summer which should help keep your boats in great shape. We also engaged Ninigret Landing Marina to service our moorings starting last fall. Ninigret Landing is local, experienced with the maintenance of moorings in our salt ponds, and we look forward to working with them for years to come. The moorings and docks should be ready to go by mid-May.

Mooring Assignments

With the vaccine rollout in full swing, we are hoping for a more normal season and expect high demand for moorings. Our goal is a full mooring field, so it is more important than ever to let me know as soon as possible if you plan to have your boat on your mooring this summer. For members with legacy rights, we must hear from you no later than May 15. Otherwise, we will offer your mooring to other WYC members. So if you have not already done so, please email or call me if you plan to have a boat in the harbor this summer. You can reach me at the address and numbers below.

The same applies if you want to try to switch to a larger or smaller boat. Because of limited space in the harbor, we have very few moorings that can handle larger boats, so please take that into consideration before purchasing a larger boat as there may not be a spot for you. As an alternative, the Weekapaug Fire District marina is a convenient place to dock boats of over 20 feet.

Pennant Requirements

Please remember that the Town of Westerly, which now regulates harbors in the area including ours, requires the following minimums for bow lines or pennants:

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

If you removed your pennant when you took your boat out, please bring it back and leave it on the mooring. In order for the mooring to be certified, it has to have a pennant! Next spring, our moorings will have to be recertified by Ninigret Landing Marina. If the mooring does not have a pennant, the club will have to supply one at \$50 or more.

As a reminder, the end of the pennant that connects to the mooring ball should be attached with a stainless snap hook, or a thimble and shackle, and the pennant should not be longer than 1.5 times the vertical distance from the deck, or bow eye, to the mooring ball. This will help prevent boats from breaking away from their moorings in a storm. The harbor is very tight so pennants need to be short in order for the boats to swing properly.

Safety

Speaking of boats breaking away in a storm, we expect all boaters to monitor weather conditions and be prepared to safeguard their boats, dinghies, and gear before an approaching storm. We will do our best to send out alerts and advice on whether boats should be pulled or battened down. In the WYC spirit, fellow members and staff may be able to help you secure your boat when a storm is imminent, but ultimately we are counting on you to make sure your boat, and other watercraft that may be on racks or the beach, are secured. As we observed last summer, removing boat covers and sails can significantly reduce wind resistance and the risk of having boats swing into each other in heavy winds.

Storage

As noted in Brooke's Commodore's letter, we plan to add more racks to store kayaks and paddleboards and make more room on the beach for dinghies and smaller sailboats. It is important that members register their dinghies, kayaks, and other watercraft and receive a numbered sticker. This allows us to make sure only members are accessing the

club's property and helps us contact you if there is an emergency. After an initial grace period, we will be removing boats without 2021 registration stickers. Also, please remember to remove your boats by Thanksgiving or they will be considered abandoned.

Boat Ramp and Trailers

Because of limited parking, no trailers or unused boats can be stored in the corral or in the Inn beach parking area. Please take your trailers home as soon as possible after launching your boat.

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

Contact Information:

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