

Mohican Sailing Club
New Member Orientation
July 2020

Welcome to Mohican Sailing Club.

General Information

A good place to start for general information is the club website at www.mohicansailingclub.org. A principal page on the website is the calendar of events for the current year.

The club was founded to promote the sport of sailing in general, and the sport of sailboat racing in particular, as currently seen with the club's fleets of Interlakes, Jet 14s, Thistles, and Sunfish. We recommend that new members try out the types of boats actively sailed at the club before buying a "bargain" boat. The class boats have active class associations that include classified ads that provide a secondary market for used boats. The "bargain" boats are a bargain for a reason – they are generally orphans. Orphan boats can be great recreational boats, but they generally aren't competitive for racing and will have limited resale value.

The club is incorporated as an Ohio not for profit corporation. It is NOT a 501©3 tax exempt organization. The club operates as a cooperative organization, with no paid staff.

New this year on the website is a history page with highlights of the club's history. We call 1945 our founding year, based 1945 being the year that construction started on the current clubhouse. Thus, in 2020, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our club.

Governance.

The club is governed by a constitution available on the website and distributed to each new member.

Membership Meetings. The constitution calls for two meetings each year – one in the spring, usually associated with "dock day" and another in the fall associated with "undock day."

Officers. The club has four officers elected each year by the membership at the fall membership meeting.

Commodore – provides overall leadership for the club, including the calendar of events and a periodic newsletter.

Vice Commodore – responsible for house and grounds, including lawn mowing and dinner committees.

Rear Commodore – responsible for club owned boats and the waterfront (docks and hoist)

Secretary/Treasurer – responsible for collecting dues, paying bills and keeping the records of the club. Since the club does not receive mail at its physical location, the treasurer’s address is the club’s address of record.

Board of Trustees. Five members are elected to serve staggered three-year terms as trustees. The four officers and the past commodore also serve a one-year term on the board.

Member Responsibilities

As a cooperative organization with no paid staff, the club relies on its members to fund its activities through the payment of dues as established by the board and to serve on committees and at workdays as requested by the officers and board. Members are expected to abide by the rules of the club as adopted by the board.

Guests

Guests of members are welcome to participate in all Club activities. Frequent guests who are not members of their host’s family may wish to consider a membership. Hosts are responsible for the behavior of their guests; in all other ways, guests of a member should be considered guests of the Club.

Operating Procedures

Following is information on a number of practical issues associated with use of the club.

Security

Front Gate. The combination to the front gate is 2075. Once you open the lock and release the chain, please close the lock and spin the combination dials. If you leave the lock open, the combination is visible to anyone who might walk by.

Clubhouse. A key is required to open the entrance door on the lower level patio. Each member receives a key upon joining. Once inside, the second door to the lower level can be opened from the inside to promote air flow. There are two locked rooms on the lower level of the clubhouse – a pantry that contains supplies such as plates and utensils for use by the membership, and a utility room that contains cleaning supplies. The combination to both combination locks is 2020. Upstairs in the ballroom, windows and doors can be opened from the inside. It is essential that the clubhouse be locked by the last person leaving. This includes the pantry, the utility room, the ballroom, and both doors to the outside on the lower level. If in doubt regarding whether you are the last to leave or not, please lock up. If someone is still out on the water, they can let themselves back in.

Cars and Boats. It is recommended that you lock your car when parked at the club. If you park a boat at the club, we recommend that you don’t leave any removable valuables on your boat.

Boat and Car Parking

The north side of the main, upper level parking lot is reserved for car parking, along with the first three spots on the south side of the lot. The rest of the south side of the lot is reserved for parking boats on trailers.

The west side of the parking lot, next to the dumpster, is reserved for parking boats on trailers during the summer. Come fall, all boats must be removed from this area so that the docks and club pontoon boats can be stored for the winter.

Boat parking. There are no reserved spots for boats. It is first come, first served for current members. In addition to membership, a MWCD decal is required for any boat parked in the lot. It is also recommended that trailers have a current license plate for identification purposes.

Boat storage. Members are allowed to store their boats at the club for the winter in return for a fee that covers the winter only. If the member does not rejoin in the spring, the boat must be removed from the club. Boats left at the club are subject to disposal by the club.

Boathouse (garage).

The combination to the boathouse lock is also 2020. The gas cans for the club owned boats and lawn mower/tractor are stored in this building, along with other club items.

The tractor can be used to move smaller, lighter boats on trailers around the club and down to the hoist. The tractor is not strong enough to use on the ramp, so please don't try.

The only member items that can be stored in the boathouse are rolled sails that can be kept in the sail locker hanging from the ceiling.

Club-owned Boats. Members are welcome to use any club-owned boat. Users of the pontoon boats should become with the user guide found elsewhere in this document. Ideally, an initial "check out" ride should be taken with an experienced member to ensure competency. Gas cans for the pontoon boats are kept in the boathouse. Keys are left in the ignition on both boats. Some lifejackets are kept on each of the pontoon boats. Additional club-owned lifejackets are available in the clubhouse locker room (aka the Focsle).

Clubhouse

The main entry to the clubhouse is from the lower level porch door to the right of the fireplace. Each member is issued a key to the door. Once inside, other doors and windows can be opened from the inside. However, please keep in mind that anything that you open will need to be closed and secured at the end of the day. See "Security" above for closing procedures.

Porch - Chair cushions are stored in the wooden chest to the right of the main entry door. Please put the cushions back when done so that they don't get wet.

Grill - The grill's main use is for Sunday potluck dinners during the summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Extra propane in the boathouse.

Fireplace. The lower level fireplace can be used inside or outside. Firewood pile is on the north side of the clubhouse at the edge of the woods.

Galley (kitchen). The galley is stocked with most items found in a regular kitchen to facilitate our potluck gatherings and regattas. Items left in the galley refrigerator are generally assumed to be for member use – e.g. side dishes for a potluck. If you have personal items that you don't want to disappear, please keep them in a cooler. The kitchen includes plates that members are encouraged to use, as long as they are washed, dried and put away after use. This saves us from generating excess paper trash.

Pantry. The pantry is stocked with basic items to facilitate our potluck gatherings and regattas. For potlucks, we have regular silverware available to avoid the generation of plastic trash. Paper plates and plastic silverware are mainly for backup and regattas.

Pantry fridge. The club stocks the pantry fridge with water, pop and some beer. Members are asked to contribute \$1.00 per item taken (there is a collection container in the fridge) or to contribute beverages of their choice that can be shared. The fact that there is often money and beer in the fridge requires that we keep the pantry locked when members aren't around.

Events

The board of trustees adopts a calendar of events in the spring of each year. The calendar is maintained on the club website and usually includes the following types of events:

Dock Day. Usually the last Sunday in April. A crew of 6-8 works on getting the docks in, assembled and anchored starting at 8:00 a.m. and finishing before lunch. Other members are asked to come at 9:00 to work on projects identified by the officers to get the club ready to open. Lunch is provided by the club and is followed by the spring membership meeting.

Sunday Races

The Race Chair shall provide and promulgate a schedule for Sunday afternoon races including the assignment of one member to serve as Judge. Sunday races will normally start at 1:30 pm. When three boats of the same class are present, the race will be on a one-design basis. When fewer than three are present, the Judge shall endeavor to keep time and apply the Portsmouth Rating to determine standings. The Judge shall write up the results of the race and report them to the Race Chair and to the Editor of the Scuttlebutt.

Regattas

When a sailing organization, most likely a one design class active at the club, invites the Club to host a regatta, the Club shall give full consideration to such a request provided it does not interfere with scheduled Club activities or does not demand more Club resources than are

available. The following regattas are anticipated on an annual basis: Jet-14 Chief's (May/June), The Brown Jug (July/August), Interlake Haphazard (September), and the Jet-14 Halloween Classic (October).

Non-racing sailors and other boaters are asked to avoid the start/finish line and marks of the racecourse when races are being held. In the event that you must be on the course, normal right of way rules apply.

Sailing Lessons. Lessons are scheduled by mutual agreement between members and volunteer instructors.

Potluck Dinners. Potluck dinners are normally held on Sunday late afternoons following club racing. A "dinner committee" is responsible for facilitating the potluck. Dinner Committee instructions are below in this document.

Holidays. Activities are scheduled depending on the interests of members and the board. Past activities have included a water slide on the club hill and fun races for boats of all types.

Member special events. The clubhouse can be reserved by members for private events such as family or work gatherings. During these events, other members are still permitted to use the outside restrooms and the waterfront. It is anticipated that for some uses a contribution, cash or in kind, will be offered.

Undock Day. Undock day is normally held on the last or second to last Sunday in October. As in the spring, the dock crew starts at 8 a.m. to disassemble the docks and move them to storage. All boats need to be cleared from the west end of the upper parking lot before undock day so that the dock storage space is ready.

Workdays. Normally, a work day is scheduled on a Saturday in the spring ahead of dock day and in the fall ahead of undock day if the volume of projects requires extra time.

Pontoon Boat User Guide.

Introduction

MSC maintains two pontoon boats. The "Committee Boat" is 24 ft long and is fitted with a 25-hp, 2-stroke outboard. Its primary use is to serve as a committee boat for races. The "Safety Boat" is 20 ft long and has a 10-hp, 4-stroke engine. It is fitted with a trash pump to aid in the rescue of capsized sailboats. The primary use of the Safety Boat to provide on-the-water safety for racing, for lessons, as a "lifeguard" for inexperienced sailors, etc. The pump is sometimes used to wash down the docks and ramp.

The pontoon boats get used for other purposes including setting and maintaining docks and buoys and, on occasion, when club activities such as racing are not scheduled, pleasure touring

of the lake. Note: the lake has a 10-hp limit. The MWCD grants us a variance for the 25-hp engine so that we can have a larger engine for rescue purposes.

Very Important

As noted, the Committee Boat has a 25-hp, 2-stroke engine which requires 50:1 mixed fuel. The Safety Boat has a 4-stroke engine which takes straight gasoline. Unfortunately, the cans are interchangeable. For the past 4 years or more, we have been lucky—no one has mixed them up. Always be aware of the potential to ruin either engine by attaching the wrong fuel tank.

Regulations

The MWCD enforces the rules established by Ohio Division of Watercraft. Important to our pontoon boats are these:

There must be one life jacket for each person on board plus one “throwable PFD.” The deck boxes contain a life ring for throwing and usually one or two life jackets. The fine for life jackets can be steep.

Children less than 10 years of age must wear a life jacket at all times.

An anchor, a distress flag, a powered horn (such as an air horn), must be carried.

Our boats are not required to carry a fire extinguisher (under 26 ft, outboard engine, “open construction”).

Persons born after January 1, 1982, must be “certificated” by an approved training program to operate power boats greater than 10 hp.

Lights are required after dusk. Battery operated bow and stern lights are kept in the focsle (locker room).

The MWCD Rangers have also issued warnings to the Club for these:

Riding forward of the rail on the forward part of the deck. This can be quite dangerous.

Swimming off the pontoon boats (and sailboats too, for that matter). An area in the northwest corner of the basin has buoys designating an area for swimming from a boat.

Operating any boats within the buoys off the swim beach.

Creating a wake in a no-wake zone outlined by buoys.

Not having lights on the boat after dusk.

Operation

Before starting the engine and getting underway, look the boat over. Check for safety equipment and make certain there is a life jacket for each person on board. Make certain you have the right fuel and a sufficient amount.

Lower the engine. Attach the fuel line and pump the bulb several times until resistance is felt. The keys should be found in place. Place the engine in neutral.

The 10-hp engine has an electric starter and an electric choke. To choke, push the key further into the ignition switch as you crank.

The 25-hp engine has a rope start and a manual choke. The key operates a kill switch and must be turned to run to operate. Pull the choke full open until the engine starts. The engines will be slow to start if they have not been properly stowed. Check to see that coolant water is being discharged from the upper unit before operating.

Allow the engine to warm slightly and try forward and reverse before casting off. Make certain mooring lines are not in the water where they might foul the propeller. If you are not familiar with these boats, practice by approaching the docks or a buoy.

Safety

Do not trust the propeller to stop turning when the engine is in neutral. If you approach a capsized sailboat or a person in the water, shut the engine off. Each boat is equipped with an aluminum ladder for taking people from the water to the boat. They are stored in the deck boxes, and they attach at a door in the side railing. Use caution when a person is working forward of the forward rail.

Docking and Securing

Approach the dock slowly at a 30-45-degree angle. By securing the bow line first and steering the boat away from the pier, the stern will be drawn into the dock. Secure the stern mooring line.

Tie proper cleat hitches, coil extra mooring lines on the dock.

Shut off the engine by pulling the fuel line and allowing it to run out of fuel.

Once the engine is stopped, place the shift in forward and raise the engine from the water (to prevent aquatic growth from clogging the cooling lines).

Leave the key in place.

Coil the anchor line (clockwise) and lay the anchor on top.

Remove extra chairs, life jackets, and personal items. Make certain the boat is well secured and clean.

Cover the console on the Safety Boat.

Return the fuel cans to the boathouse.

Dinner Committee Instructions

Dinner Committee is usually one family per Sunday. The Vice Commodore is responsible for scheduling dinner committees for the season in the spring. The schedule is posted with the club calendar on the website.

All members (including the dinner committee) participating in the potluck are responsible for bringing their own main dish (meat or otherwise) and a dish for the potluck (side or dessert).

All members:

1. To keep the food supply even with the crowd at our delicious Sunday Dinners, bring one dish for every two people in your party. Each dish should serve six.
2. Give the committee a hand cleaning up. Many hands make light and short work.

Committee Responsibilities

Ring the Bell:

1. First Bell. Cooking. Ring the outside bell by the flagpole after all sailboats and the committee and safety boats are at the dock and the propane and/or charcoal grill is ready to cook.
2. Second Bell. Eating. Ring the outside bell by the flagpole when the food is setup to serve.

Tasks before, during and after dinner:

1. Light the propane grill 15 minutes before ringing the cooking bell. Additional propane tanks are kept in the boathouse. If you want to use a charcoal grill, bring one bag per grill (we have two charcoal grills). Fire starting supplies are in the boiler room.
2. Cover picnic tables with red checkered tablecloths.
3. Put salt and pepper on tables (salt and pepper stored on tray in galley cabinet)
4. Set up back counter behind stove with paper plates, silverware, napkins, ketchup, and mustard. Paper products and silverware are stored in the pantry.
5. Set up dessert table in focsle.
6. Set trash cans lined with plastic bags on porch. Set out metal containers with soapy water for silverware.
7. Make coffee and cold drink (usually lemonade). Coffee and lemonade mix are provided in the galley. Use an orange drink cooler from the pantry for the lemonade. Coffee instructions are on the coffee maker in the galley.
8. Clean up. Sweep porch and galley. Put all garbage in dumpster in parking lot. Clean up galley. Wash silverware and return to pantry.
9. Lock pantry.
10. Wash kitchen towels and washcloths and return by the following Sunday. Check tablecloths... if dirty, please clean and return by the following Sunday.

Supplies:

If the pantry or galley are low on supplies, call the Vice Commodore to let him or her know what needs to be purchased for the next event.