



Lorain Harbor Boat Club

Newsletter July, 2020



Robert Coffman, Commodore

Fellow club members:

First I would like to thank everyone that participated in the cleanup of the clubhouse and marina area Saturday June 13th. The turnout was amazing and I feel that we accomplished a lot for the day.

There are a lot of things going on and I would like to apologize for the lack of communication within the organization. It is not meant to intentionally keep the members in the dark; it has just been an extremely difficult spring with everything that has been going on. I hope to work on the communication and dissemination of information to the membership. If you are not aware yet, unfortunately, due to personal, health or family priorities, we have suffered the loss of Commodore Peter and Vice Commodore Brunk as they have both had to resign their respective positions on the board. Ultimately putting me in the position of Commodore at this time, and I will hold the position through the 2021 season, and Ryan Pinter has been put into the position of Vice Commodore. I would like to thank them for their time that they have put into the club and Ryan for stepping in to help continue to keep things moving. We will be holding nominations and election of a rear commodore at a later time and the membership will be notified of any special election.

Unfortunately, for financial reasons, we were forced to make the tough decision of laying off the club manager, Bobby Rhodes. Bobby still holds the lease to the fuel dock and will continue to be a face around the club, just not in the capacity that he was. I would also like to thank Bobby for the years of service that he dedicated to the club.

An update to the progress of the facilities, the bar has been completed and liquor control is in the final stage of permit approval. I will get the last document from the City Of Lorain and hand deliver it to Columbus. The build out of the fuel dock building is moving forward and the rough inspection of electrical has been done and we are moving forward with the drywall. The travel lift, after waiting for parts delays and Corona/Governor delays, has had some much needed repair and maintenance done in order to continue to launch and haul boats. This is VITAL piece of equipment that had been neglected for years, but is now running and operational. Thank you to the members that also put forth some of their time and effort to help making that happen.

I have also been in contact with Prestige Flag as well as Falls flag in order to get the club burgees for any member interested in them. I have been told they will need 2-3 weeks to complete the order and I was going to place the initial order of 30-40. I will pay for them myself so anyone interested in getting one can contact me and I will get them to you at cost.

I know there has been a lot of frustration regarding the launch of the boats this year. I would like to remind everyone that there are procedures that we are supposed to follow as a club, and those have not always been followed completely, which has caused tension in other areas.

1. In order to maintain your current dock, you must have a completed and signed contract by November 1st. Otherwise you risk losing it.
2. Boats are not to be launched unless the contract is paid in full prior to launch.

Although sometimes we have to deviate from the rules for one reason or another, if you have not followed the rules, you should not condemn the club and/or board for the subsequent outcome. We will work to try to make you happy if possible, but it is impossible to make 100% of the people happy 100% of the time.

For next season I will try to implement a procedure for scheduling to launch boats. Once you request a launch date and time, it will be scheduled and that schedule will be followed as completely as humanly possible. With the “hard” scheduling on a calendar, it will hopefully prevent the assumption that one boat was launched out of turn as a punishment to any specific member. Everyone works the best they can to insure boats go in the water in the order requested if possible. One thing that will NOT be tolerated is a complete lack of respect and belligerent juvenile behavior on club property. This is a social club and a family friendly environment. I know tensions can get high, but we ALL need to keep in mind that there may be children in the area and the adults need to behave like adults.

This is a great club, facility and organization that has suffered some growing pains but I know that we will come out on the other side stronger and more successful. I am asking for patience from the membership as well as your help and support going forward. I look forward to getting some functions going in the not so distant future.

I hope everyone has a safe a happy boating season!!



Joe Spainhourd, Editor and Past Commodore

2020. Suppose to be synonymous with clear vision, as in ‘hindsight is 2020’.

This year: not so much. My driver’s license says I had a birthday back in January. Was there cake? Probably not. Did my daughter call? Probably. It seems so long ago, I just can’t recall.

With hindsight so foggy, foresight is even worse. We knew the Lake level was going to continue to set high level records. But foresee a mild but never ending winter? I had an inch of snow at my house May 10th. Of course we can’t forget the pandemic and all the complications that ensued. No wonder everything was delayed. Even the annual invasion of Canadian Soldiers has not come to pass as of this writing. Usually, the pesky but harmless little, critters have come and gone by now. Maybe they are being replaced by Murder Hornets.

Regardless of the above, we are in this together. We are a 501c7 nonprofit club, not a for profit enterprise. If you dine at a restaurant, and something isn’t going right, you complain to the manager. If you are dining at a fund raiser at the Elks club and you are a member, you pitch in and help when things are not running smoothly. Everyone is asked to pitch in and help in any way they can. Cook, sell tickets, wash the dishes, serve tables, at some point everyone needs to contribute as best they can to best of their abilities.

I do recall more vividly the winter of 2019. At that time we were merging LSYC and WYC. Jon Peter, Tim Brunk, Kevin Welch and myself, and later Ken Klein, worked many

hours on merging and writing the By-Laws and Ground Rules. Jon did the lion's share of doing the actual writing and research. We had to negotiate with the City of Lorain to modify our Lease. There is more to contributing as a member than fixing docks and sweeping up flotsam and jetsam.

There is some good news. Dock leases are up. To date we have leased 6 more docks than at this point last year. The last inspection for our D4 liquor license has been past and we only awaiting the paperwork. We even have a good supply of toilet paper. Overall things are looking up.

July 4th

The Club picnic will be Saturday July 4th starting at 6. Burgers and Brats are free. Members are to supply their own side dishes but not to share due to Covid guidelines. Parking passes are available. See Ryan. Lorain Port Authority is doing fireworks off of the Mile long pier starting at dusk. Bring lawn chairs or sit on your own boat for the best viewing in town.