

Gator Bytes

www.watergatelyachtclub.org

Watergate Yacht Club Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1
February 2010

Greetings Watergators!

As I begin this newsletter, it's hard to believe that good weather is "just around the corner".

A big "Thank You" to all of the WYC members and to your WYC Board for the support and hard work, which made 2009 a successful year for your club.

Membership for 2009 ended with 65 members - up from 63 in 2008. Our highest membership was achieved in 2007 with 72 members. Hopefully, we can beat those numbers in 2010.

Thank you

During this past year, the following four Board members tendered their resignations:

- Freeman Brooks
- Jim Hillman
- Michelle Olson
- Chris Schmitz

We thank these individuals for their skills, positive contributions and hours of dedicated service to your club over the past years.

At the Nov. 2009 meeting, the Board elected to combine the individual titles of Commodore and President into one position as Commodore/President. At the December meeting, Diane Pilant (J-11, It's A Keeper) accepted Board membership, in addition to her Web site duties. Also elected to the board was Mark Johnson (I-4, On The Mark). Congratulations to Diane and Mark. We look forward to working with both of you on the Board.

Please contact anyone on the Board if you have an interest in becoming a future Board member.

The Board did not convene in the months of January and February 2010, but prior to that had finalized the 2010 calendar of events schedule. Dave Ruzicka's column will detail the upcoming events.

Board member, Teresa Moon, has been surveying WYC members to determine what additional "wearables" they would be interested in purchasing. Teresa's research continues and updates will be made available regarding additional items that may be purchased. If interested in learning more, please contact Teresa.

Membership fees are still \$25.00 annually (5/15/10 to 5/14/11) and those who pay their dues by June 1, 2010 will again receive a free WYC T-shirt. We'll have a new color, so be sure to get your dues in early.

WYC participates in the Dept. of Natural Resources "Adopt-A-River Program" and we encourage members to become involved. Our commitment is to clean up the riverbanks near the marina, ½ mile on each side of the river. Some WYC members also volunteer to work at the DNR Adopt-a-River booth at the State Fair each year. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out, either with the clean-up or the State Fair activity.

WYC Board Members

- Virg Amsden, Commodore/President (Manhattan Madnes, E-18)
- Dave Ruzicka, Vice President (Jordaliya, K-5)
- Jim Gaul, Treasurer (SeaGaul 7, H-13)
- Deb Distad, Secretary (Temptation, J-8)
- Kathy Mohn, Social Chair (Lady Kate, K-1)
- Tom Dinsmore, Building & Grounds (Dr. Jekyll, K-16)
- Larry Martin, Safety Chair (WyLaWay, D-11)
- Gretel Keene, Safety Co-chair (LaVedette, C-10)
- Teresa Moon, Social Co-chair (Crystal Moon, H-14)
- Diane Pilant, Web site & Social Co-chair (It's A Keeper, J-11)
- Dan Dickinson (Magnolia Blossom)
- Mark Johnson (On the Mark, I-4)

In Nov. 2009 we revised our Mission Statement to more clearly define the mission of our club, with emphasis on education and safety issues. As a result of that change, we've formed a Safety Committee to include 3 Board members and 2 individuals from the general membership. Board members Larry Martin and Gretel Keene have agreed to Chair and Co-chair the committee, with a 3rd Board member to be named. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Virg or Dave. Coast Guard Auxiliary members, Tom & Gretel Keene, Burt Bigelow and Neil McMillin, are available to do vessel safety inspections on your boat. Please check for the sign-up sheet in the ship store.

Please check the dock information boxes often for any information on events and marina news. Schedule your spring maintenance early with JP Lindrud, Marina Service Manager. And as always, we welcome your ideas and suggestions for your Yacht Club. Think Summer!!

Sincerely,
Virg Amsden, Commodore/President

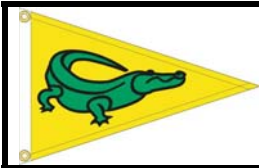
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Watergate Yacht Club is to promote, educate and advocate for safe boating practices. As a non-profit organization, the club will organize and provide social and civic activities.

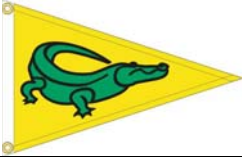


2010 Calendar of Events

A note to our new WYC members: **Welcome Aboard!**

It always seems we no more get our boats in the water, when it's time to schedule a date for haul out. Oh well! The WYC Board of Directors has once again put together a fun-filled summer of events for 2010. This year we have a few new board members, and therefore, some new ideas. By now most of our WYC members know what the events are and how they work, but for those that do not, each event is listed below, with a brief description. I would like to thank not only the people who plan and organize these events, but also all the volunteers who help out before, during and after each event. Without this extra help we would not have such a great club.

WYC Event	Brief Description
Boating Safety Class March 27th	This popular DNR class is offered to Watergate and area boaters. It covers rules and regulations and is structured to boating safely on the river. This is a good class for new boaters and a good refresher for seasoned boaters. Lots of great information! Space is limited, so sign up early. For more information contact Virg Amsden at 651-699-3429.
Pool and Yacht Club Lunch April 17th (Date may change due to river conditions)	This is a new location for 2010, at the Pool and Yacht Club in Lilydale. In past years we have had this lunch at River Boat Grill and the Mississippi Pub. On this Beautiful, Sunny Saturday, we get together on several boats and head down river to the restaurant. You can pilot your own boat or ride with others on their boat. If traveling by boat won't fit your schedule or the weather conditions, we welcome anyone who makes the trip by land! This is a great way to get to know your fellow boaters. We always have a great turnout. For more information contact Kathy Mohn 952-210-7593.
Adopt-A-River Clean Up May 8th	In cooperation with the MN DNR, WYC has adopted one mile of river (½ mile on each side). We walk the river shoreline to pick up trash and debris that does harm to the river and the environment. This makes the river a better place to boat and shows the efforts of your Yacht Club to improve our boating area. This is a great way to get out in the spring to enjoy new and old friends. For more information contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.
General Membership Meeting May 21st	As in past years, we are planning to have our spring WYC General Membership meeting aboard the Magnolia Blossom. This is a great time to renew your WYC membership, if you have not already done so. "Good deal at only \$25.00!" If you're a new boater to the marina, you are invited to join us to find out more about the Yacht Club and meet fellow boaters. Snacks and cash bar are available. For more information contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.
Nautical Flea Market June 5th	We have this event every other year - and this is the year to have it! It is just that - <u>NAUTICAL</u> . We would like to have boaters bring in their unwanted boating items to sell: dock lines, fenders, anchors, radios, tools and other boating items. We do not want to see lawn mowers, snow shovels, car tires, etc. "One man's trash is another man's treasure." There is no charge for anyone who wants to sell product; your sale is your profit. And if you are looking for a nautical treasure, this may be the place for you to find it. If it is nautical or boating related, bring it in to sell – hopefully a buyer will find it. Good time for all. For more information contact Dave Ruzicka at 763-286-3251.
Progressive Dock Party June 26th	Last year was the best dock party <u>ever!</u> Have you ever seen boats decorated like Christmas trees in June? We had Elvis in the house not only once but twice! And – to top it off – we had a surprise appearance by Tina Turner "Rollin' on the River". For those who have not attended before, this is how it works: each dock (ABC, DE, FG, HI, J, KL) chooses a party theme and serves a beverage and hors d'oeuvres to go with their theme. We spend 30 minutes at each dock before moving on to the next dock. There is a great prize given to the winner of the Poker Run, which is also part of this event. For more information contact Dave Ruzicka at 763-286-3251 or Kathy Mohn at 952-210-7593.
Summer Fun Fest July 17th	If you enjoy barbeque, then this event is for you. With this delicious barbeque and our famous fixings, no one goes away hungry. We will have games for the kids and grandkids. There will be lots of fun and food for everyone. For more information contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.
Trek to Treasure Island Aug. 14th	This is really a fun event and an especially good trip for those who are new to the river, because boaters can travel together. Navigating through Lock #2 at Hastings is a new experience for many of our club members. This can be a fun and exciting experience and is much easier and safer with the company of other boaters who have made this trip in the past. The trip normally takes from four to seven hours, depending on the wait time at the lock and the speed of your boat. Saturday evening we have a potluck and lots of prizes to give away. We are limited to a block of 20 slips at TI, so if you want to go, be sure to sign up early. Contact Virg Amsden at 651-699-3429.



2010 Calendar of Events (Continued)

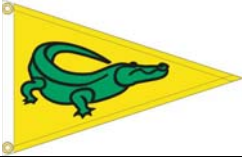
WYC Event	Brief Description
Chili Cook Off Sep. 18th	Cook up your favorite chili recipe and enter it in our annual Chili Contest. You may be a prize winner! Or perhaps you'd rather be on the panel of judges. Either way, come join the fun and have a great meal with fellow boaters. For more information contact Virg Amsden at 651-699-3429 or Teresa Moon at 651-270-5247.
General Meeting / Fall Finale Oct 10th	As the boating season comes to an end, we incorporate the fall WYC General Meeting with a fun and scenic boat ride on the Magnolia Blossom. Once again we have a multitude of great food and great friends to enjoy. For more information contact Virg Amsden 651-699-3429.

As you can see, we have a busy boating season. If you have any ideas or suggestions about a current event or a new event, we would like to hear about it.

HAPPY BOATING
Dave Ruzicka, Vice President, WYC

	<h3>Notes From Watergate Marina</h3>
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<p>On behalf of the Watergate Marina service department and its great staff, we would like to thank all of you for a truly great year. It has been a pleasure working with you and for you. Our winter lay-up went amazingly smooth this year and that is due to your cooperation. We are looking forward to the 2010 boating season and certainly warmer weather than all this fun white stuff.</p> <p>As we move into the 2010 season, we are going paperless as much as we can, so if we do not have a current e-mail address, please provide us with one. This will allow us to get estimates, work orders, invoices and statements to you faster and timelier, while helping us reduce our carbon footprint.</p> <p>Marina mechanics, Eric Mondry and Paul Bergquist, are attending Mercury and Mercruiser training this winter. I also hope to get them to Kohler and/or Westerbeke generator training to serve you more efficiently.</p> <p>We are continuing to make changes in and around the marina and our buildings. Over the last year, we have reclaimed our gray storage building, cleared the clutter and organized it to better utilize the space. We have spent</p>	<p>countless hours cleaning up the equipment compound area and making some changes to our equipment to increase our efficiency in servicing and handling your vessels. We are now working on our parts department, which is near completion. In addition, our shop has been cleaned, painted and is undergoing a complete reorganization.</p> <p>Thank you again for an outstanding year. We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming boating season.</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p> <p>JP Lindrud, Service Manager Watergate Marina 2500 Crosby Farm Road St. Paul, MN 55116 Phone: 651-695-3780 Fax: 651-695-3785 jp@watergatemarina.net www.watergatemarina.net</p>
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2010 General Meeting and
WYC Membership Application

REMINDER

GENERAL MEETING
May 21, 2010 Aboard the
Magnolia Blossom



We'd love to hear what events you enjoy and what you would like to see added to the calendar. Please fill in your address and phone numbers so we can keep you informed of any/all matters of interest to you and all boaters at Watergate.

Membership fees will remain the same at \$25.00 annually (May 15, 2010 to May 14, 2011), and those who pay their dues by June 1, 2010 will again receive a free WYC T-shirt. We'll have a new color - so be sure to get your dues in early.

Please send your completed form to:

- Watergate Yacht Club
c/o Watergate Marina
2500 Crosby Farm Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116

OR

Give it to any of the board members along with \$25.00 for dues for the 2010 boating season.



Membership Application

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone(s)

e-mail

Dock / Slip #

Boat name

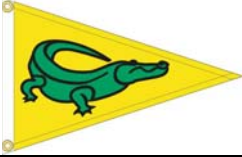
WYC Membership Dues: \$25.00 _____

WYC T-shirt \$ 8.00 _____

Size _____

Burgee \$20.00 _____

Please list any suggested events you would like to see included in future WYC calendar of events:



Vessel Safety Check Program

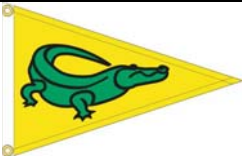
Boating is fun. Safe boating is even more fun. WYC promotes safe boating through the Vessel Safety Check program. Coast Guard Auxiliary members, Tom & Gretel Keene, Burt Bigelow and Neil McMillin, are available to conduct vessel safety inspections on your boat and offer valued guidance to ensure equipment safety that could save your – or someone you love's – life.

The Vessel Safety Check is a complementary check of your boat (vessel), confirming that it meets both Federal and State requirements for safety. These individuals will make recommendations and discuss safety issues that will help you become a safer boater. A copy of the evaluation will be given to you. No citations will be given – this is a helpful resource – not a boarding or a law enforcement issue.

An example of some of the items checked include: Life Jackets, Registration and Numbering, Navigation Lights, Ventilation, Fire Extinguishers, Distress Signals, Battery Cover and Connections.

To register for a Vessel Safety Check, complete the sign-up sheet at Watergate Marina's ship store or contact Gretel Keene at 612-387-0112.

For more information go to <http://www.safetyseal.net/>



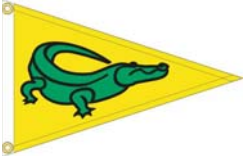
Watergate Yacht Club Web Site

<http://www.watergateyachtclub.org/>

Don't forget to check out our Watergate Yacht Club (WYC) Web site – your online resource for:

- WYC Mission Statement and Board Member Contact Information
- WYC Scheduled Events Information
- Links to Helpful Boating Resources and Local Parks and Environmental Information
- News from WYC Members
- Photo Gallery of WYC Events
- Bulletin Board for WYC "Classifieds"

This Web site is about and for our members – and we welcome your suggestions and contributions. If you would like to submit Web site information (i.e., photos, "News from our Members" or "Bulletin Board" entries, suggestions for additional Web site information or pages), please contact Diane Pilant at 612-432-2714.



Watergate Yacht Club
At Watergate Marina
2500 Crosby Farm Road
St. Paul, MN 55116