



Under the Rock

Spring 2021

The Newsletter of the Marblehead Yacht Club

Commodore's Comments

So, who is ready for boating season? With just one month to go before the Club opens for the 2021 season, the MYC officers, staff and Board continue to work hard to have the Club ready for the season. Vice Commodore Jane Clayton and the Waterfront Committee have spent the off season updating our waterfront COVID protocols to make things run even smoother than last year. Rear Commodore David Williams and the House Committee have been working with Diamond Catering to ensure the galley will be operational and with EnviroCare, our cleaning vendor, to make sure the clubhouse is kept shipshape all season. Bill Kilham, our Dockmaster and Club Manager extraordinaire, has spent the winter performing a litany of tasks, many of which go unnoticed to most people, but which are essential to a safe and problem free season. The weather is getting warmer and the COVID news is slowly improving daily. It's time to get that cover off your boat and take care of the annual to do list. As I have said previously, 2021 is going to be a fantastic season! I can't wait to chat with you on the deck or launch soon.

Until then, please stay safe and healthy.

Bill Keyes

Commodore

Manager's Minit March 2021

I could start this piece by revisiting so much, but instead let's just say, "Hopefully things are looking up!"

The only big task of this past winter was the rebuilding of the Flagmast base structure. I'm sure the membership saw the mast down this winter via the webcam (doesn't everyone view that site daily?). Just me? Oh well.

Looking forward, it appears that we will start the season in very much the same manner as we left in the fall. The Launch Schedule is posted on the website and we will start with a 10 person max capacity per trip. The BOD and Flag Officers continue to explore ways to bring "normalcy" back as much, and as soon, as possible, while still keeping us all safe and secure. Please check the email notices for upcoming (and welcome) changes to Club operations.

There is a new wrinkle this summer regarding parking in the lot by the Club. Both the MYC and Trading Company rent our spaces from the Town of Marblehead. As part of our leases, we are each granted 3 assigned parking spaces. Ours comprise the dumpster, the kayak trailer and the Dockmaster space (listed in order of importance!). The boatyard has never before claimed their 3 spots, leaving them for MYC use, as they can usually park their vehicles around the crane once hauling/launching is done. Because Parkers Boatyard no longer hosts the M'head Sailing Center, the MSC now drysails out of the yard next door.

Long story short: the boatyard will be using their 3 assigned spots this summer. There will be signage on these spots and I would ask that, in the spirit of good neighbors, we respect this change.

Perhaps the loss of a couple parking spots will be the worst thing to experience this season. That might just be okay after all.

See you on the Deck and Docks,

Bill

Spring Work Parties April 3rd and 10th

As a volunteer Club, work parties are an essential component of our Club's maintenance. Work parties are held each April before the Club opens for the season. Volunteer help is needed to get the Club ready for opening day. Jobs typically include dusting, cleaning floors, windows, tables & chairs, sanding and painting or varnishing, launch painting, maintenance of dock, deck, dollies, dinghies, and gangway, pulling out deck furniture, and whatever else needs doing.

Again this year the work parties will reflect concerns about the Coronavirus. Work party volunteers will be spread around the Club with appropriate social distancing working under the direction of Bill Killham, Club Manager. Please contact Bill at marbleheadyc@gmail.com or click [here to schedule](#) a time in April that works for you.

MYC Waterfront

The Waterfront will open with the first day of launch service scheduled for May 8th. The full launch schedule is posted on the website and can be [downloaded here](#). The pandemic is still with us but we will be able to operate with protocols relaxed a bit from last year:

- Masks are mandatory at all times on the launches and at the clubhouse (except while eating).
- A tracking log will be maintained.
- Launch capacity is limited to 10 max.
- Launch cleaning will take place twice a day.
- Hand sanitizing dispensers will be maintained at various locations.
- As always, social distancing will be encouraged.
- Signs will be posted with the Covid guidelines.
- We are waiting for further input from the Harbormaster and monitoring town, state and federal guidelines as they are updated.

Jane Clayton, Vice Commodore

MYC House Update

While we are all hoping for more access to the Clubhouse this season, until the Commonwealth relaxes restrictions on indoor gatherings, we anticipate that the same procedures followed at the end of last season will continue for at least the beginning of the 2021 season. That means a limit of 10 people in the Lavender Room and limited seating in the Galley and dining areas on the deck. We hope that we may be able to open the Cliff Room for limited use (again 10 people only) but that is a “work in progress” since we need that open space to store the tables and chairs not used from the Galley Dining areas. We are also reviewing the Traffic Flow Pattern established last Spring to see if some aspects can be relaxed, but Sign-in at the gate will remain (for contact tracing) and masks and physical distancing will continue to be mandatory on Club property.

Galley Service will once again be provided by Diamond Catering. Galley Service will commence on Friday June 5 and run through Monday September 6, 2021 using the usual hours (Friday 4PM–9PM, Saturday 8AM–9PM, Sunday 8AM–8PM. Thursday service (4PM–8PM) will commence on June 17, 2021 and run through September 2, 2021.

Thankfully, Elaine Greer, Becky Parry and Judy Rawding have agreed to plant and maintain the deck flower boxes this year as they have in previous years.

Current House Committee members are: David Williams (Chair), Bill Keyes (ex Officio), Al Doherty, David Graham, Gary Siden, Alan Petersen, Elaine Greer, Becky Parry, Phil Axten and Bill Killham. We are always looking for more members to join our Committee.

David Williams, Rear Commodore

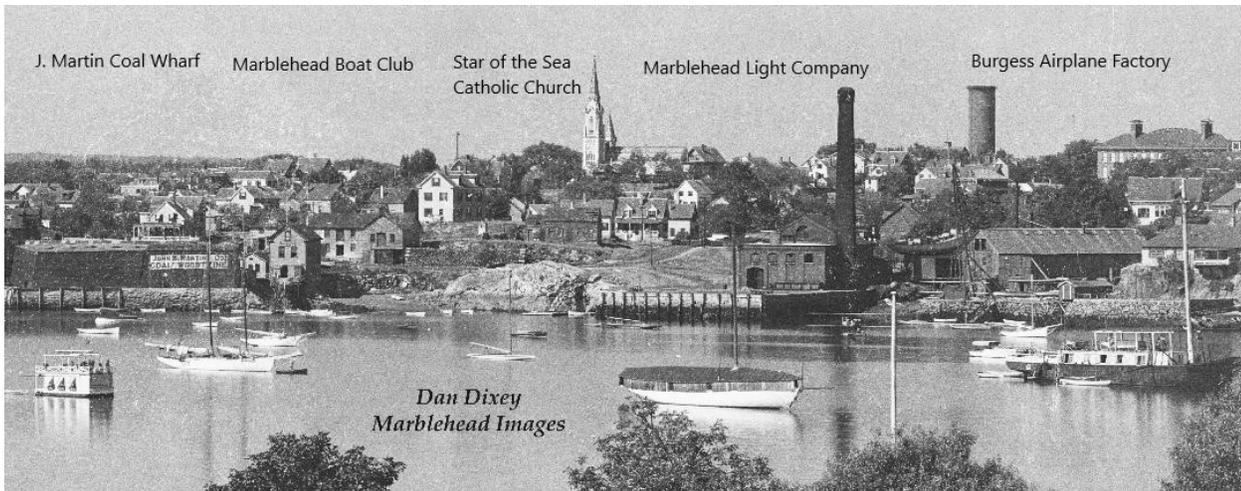
MYC History Committee

MYC History Committee Update

By John Murray

The MYC History Committee has continued to research the Club's founding and history and has already written about 100 pages of interesting history with dozens of maps and photos. We continue to research the building and its members, especially how MYC fits into the history of Marblehead's boating community and the shipyard neighborhood. We have done the deed research on the property and plan to place a Historical Plaque on the clubhouse later this year. If you have any old photos or stories, please let me know. Our goal is to have a book completed by later this year or early next year.

Did you know that the Marblehead Yacht Club was founded on May 1, 1878 as the Marblehead Boat Club (MBC)? A group of young Irish men who lived in Marblehead's shipyard neighborhood raised funds and purchased and raced two 35 foot 4-seat racing shells, each man pulling one oar (like the boats in the Head of the Charles). In the 1880's, there were more rowing (boat) clubs than yacht clubs in the area, and rowing was the most popular sport in the country. MBC members usually raced in Marblehead, Salem and Lynn where there were about 10 local boat clubs, and traveled to Essex, Andover, Lowell, and Maine to compete. Winning boats won cash prizes and spectators bet among themselves adding to the excitement of the races. Eventually rowing races became less popular as widespread betting led to cheating and distrust. As most of the other rowing clubs disbanded, the MBC shifted to dory rowing then to dory sailing. Members adopted the Town Class sailboat and changed the Club's name to the Marblehead Yacht Club in 1935 when it incorporated. To learn more, you will need to wait for the book!



The photo above (circa 1915) shows the Marblehead Boat Club to the right of the John Martin Coal & Lumber wharf (where MH Trading and parking lot is now), the Star of Sea Catholic church (on Gregory Street before it burned), and the Burgess Airplane factory which was where Parkers Boat yard is now.

Boat Photos & Stories Wanted for MYC Book!

The MYC History Committee is planning to publish the MYC history book. We will include a section with current members' boat photos. The cost per boat picture is \$20 and will help offset the cost of publishing the MYC History book. We want the MYC History book to include a snap-shot of 2021 MYC boats!



We are also looking for your favorite MYC Story

Email your photo and/or short story to jmurray97@yahoo.com and include member name, boat name and boat type. Call John Murray with any questions or stories at 781-632-8828.

For boat pictures mail the \$20 check payable to 'Marblehead Yacht Club' to the MYC, PO Box 943, Marblehead, MA 01945
