



Royal Western Nova Scotia Yacht Club

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2017 season.

We would like to thank our members, new and old, for their support as we strive to rebuild the club and its spirit of promoting boating in the Annapolis Basin. We are hoping to see growth this year both in boating in the Annapolis Basin, and in the club membership. To do so we will need your help in encouraging others to visit the club, make them feel welcome, and get them out boating. We encourage you to work with the club and the executive, and we welcome any ideas you may have for promoting the club, and bringing it forward.

Marina

The marina was installed over the weekend of April 8th & 9th. A special thanks to all those who showed up to help, and to Harold Dugas and Colin Bondy for organizing the effort. Also, a big thank you goes out to Scott Moore and Moore Enterprises for providing the equipment to facilitate the installation, and to Shawn Everett whose crew built a pad for the marina storage and left a ramp at the old Iron Duke Property. Both those items made the dock removal and installation a much faster and easier endeavour.

We have had several inquiries about dockage, and already have a few additional boats at the marina this year, with more to come. I ask members to please accommodate any request by the Dockmaster to take a different berth than past years. Different boats may require some adjustments with our present depth issues.

Regarding water depth at the marina, we are in discussions with relevant departments and levels of government to secure funding for not only dredging, but also a boat launch suitable for all tide levels. We also envision partnering with other areas such as Bear River for guest moorings at the mouth of the river, plus a dock in the village, along with a tide gauge to assist visitors in not getting stranded. We would also like to see additional serviced guest moorings in both Digby and at Goat Island. We have broached the topic of a dingy landing area at the Habitation which in conjunction with solid guest moorings should encourage visitors both from within the area and from further afield. We will keep members apprised of our progress on these items.

Fishing Derby

Hand in hand with any success we hope to see with funding for marina improvements, basin access improvements and general boating amenities as mentioned earlier, we will strive to be inclusive of ALL boaters in the area, and encourage their participation. With an all tide level boat launch, the basin will be opened further to all the tailorable boats in the area and beyond. The ability to launch, enjoy boating in the basin and haul out again within a few hours will open a new era for the basin and the club. In that light and to lay the groundwork for our involvement and inclusiveness, I propose that the club organize and sponsor a fishing derby this season. Whether it be Striped Bass, Mackerel, Flounder or even Sculpin we make it something fun for those involved.

To further promote the local use of the basin I propose that the club consider complimentary dock space, Friday to Sunday, for any boat under 20' for residents of Digby and Annapolis County, for either Lobster Bash or Scallop Days.

Property

The yacht club building faired the winter well, despite a freezing incident early in the winter. As a result of that, pipes and fittings on the sprinkler system needed repair. That work should be finished up this week.

We also plan to replace the exterior staircase on the north side of the building this year.

There is an age-related leak from the bolts on the upper deck railing. That will be repaired this spring.

Restaurant

We are pleased with the success of the restaurant over the past season, and there is every indication that will continue this year. The tenants are making improvements to the spaces, which we welcome.

There will be a minor change to the club discount at the restaurant this year. The discount will be available to members and their immediate family. For clarity, immediate family will mean a member, spouse and their dependent children. In this light, all dependent children of a member with family membership, between the ages of 14 and 25 are entitled to a membership card. Let us know if any of your children requires a card.

Up-Spirits

We have a full slate of Up-Spirits this season starting June 2nd, 2017 at 6:00pm. To assist the restaurant in planning during special event weekends, it would be appreciated if members would advise their attendance during the following two event weekends

- Lobster Bash
- Scallop Days

We will not be having an Up-Spirits During Wharf Rat Rally.

Dinners

Our dinners are scheduled for the following dates

- June 30th Lobster Dinner
- July 14th Steak Dinner
- August 5th Sailabration Dinner & Auction
- September 16th Saint John to Digby Reception
- September 23rd Club Awards Dinner

Please remember options are available from the standard meal as listed.

The dinners will be held upstairs at the club and weather permitting on the deck. The times will be cocktails at 6:00pm and dinner at 7:00pm. Please note that we are prepared to adjust the dinner times.

We hope to have as many members as possible come out to the dinners, and to remind you that guests are more than welcome. It's a great chance to introduce new people to the club, and hopefully expand our membership.

Additional Club Events

We have been exploring the idea of a few more events to enjoy at or with the club membership. Here are a few new ideas and a revival of an old one that we will do our best to make happen this year are.

- Local Spirit, Beer and Wine tasting
- Commodores Picnic on Goat Island
- Trivia Night
- Potluck / Barbecue on Marina
- Off Season Group Ski Trip
- Chase the Ace Fundraiser

In closing we would like to again express our thanks to our members for their unwavering support. We look forward to a successful year and continued growth.

Best regards,

Keith Amirault

Keith Amirault
Commodore
Royal Western Nova Scotia Yacht Club