

# Perry Yacht Club

2008 Club Manual



Meriden, Kansas

## FOREWARD

Welcome to Perry Yacht Club. This manual has been put together to give you a better understanding of our club, whether you are a new or prospective member.

We are very proud of our organization and our facility. PYC is an organization of, by, and for members. As a member, you will have a voice in the operation of the club. There are no outside economic interests setting the agenda for us, one of the many things which distinguishes us from commercial marinas and other clubs.

PYC is off the beaten path, literally and figuratively. Many of us think of it as a home away from home and a complete departure from our mundane responsibilities. Misty summer mornings, flocks of white pelicans in the fall, and soaring bald eagles in the winter inspire a sense of awe and respect for the world we live in that is often lost in our everyday lives. And the sailing... Perry Lake has come to be known as the best place to sail in the area, and for very good reasons: lots of water, great wind, very few powerboats, and a great group of sailors. You'll find yourself looking forward to every weekend.

As a member you will also have the opportunity to participate directly in the management and maintenance of the club. We encourage everyone to get involved to the extent they can. Participation might mean you volunteer for a board position, help during our club opening and closing days, host a social event, or simply lend a hand when needed. There is little staff at PYC; members define the quality of the facility. We want you to have a sense of ownership at the club.

**Perry Yacht Club**  
**8368 Yacht Club Drive**  
**Meridan, KS 66512**  
**[www.perryyachtclub.com](http://www.perryyachtclub.com)**

# PERRY YACHT CLUB 2008 CLUB MANUAL

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### 2008 Flag Officers

Commodore	Mij Frierson
Vice Commodore	Scott Kessler
Rear Commodore	Matt Gatewood
Past Commodore	Jim Wilson
Treasurer	Rich Wells
Secretary	Chuck Johnson

### 2008 Governors

Harbormaster	Bruce Liese
Assistant Treasurer	Terri Tilford
Dockmaster	Paul Welcome
Director of Building and Grounds	Jeff Berke
Corps of Engineers Liaison	John Gall
Director of Sailing Education	Pat Allen
Social Chair	Shirley Cline
Newsletter Editor	Jean Dodd
Yearbook Editor	Don Shipman

# CLUB HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

## History

Perry Yacht Club was conceived in 1970 during a lunch conversation between three avid sailors. By the end of the year they had signed up over 170 members based on their concept of a club dedicated to sailing. Construction began on the clubhouse and docks in the spring of 1971. Members purchased their slips to raise capital to build docks and the club was born.

A storm destroyed most of the original docks in the early 1980s but insurance enabled the club to rebuild. The rock breakwater was built as a guard against future storms, and that, combined with the later-installed floating breakwater, make Branch Creek Harbor the safe haven it is today.

Another guard against mother nature was the new entrance road completed in 1994 which sits above the high-water mark and ensures that we have access to the club even when the Army Corps of Engineers shuts the dam, as they did during the great flood of 1993.

PYC also boasts the only honest-to-goodness lighthouse on Lake Perry. This rotating light acts as a range light to direct PYC sailors safely home from up to 5 miles away. The light guides sailors around the shoals that are located just south of the club.

In 1996, the club completed a major renovation of the docks, including a new anchoring system and new encapsulated flotation for all fingers. In 2004, we added a

second boat ramp to our facilities. This ramp is one of the most versatile on the lake, allowing the launch and retrieval of boats at a wide range of lake levels. In 2005 we paved the entry road. In 2006 we installed a new floating breakwater to replace the third (and final) version of the "Great Tire Breakwater" completed by members in 1997. Over this past winter, we have replaced all the anchors for the docks with lower profile anchors to help lessen restrictions in the harbor.

In short, we have a long history of members working to help improve the club, a function of our not-for-profit status.

## Organization

The bylaws and policies of the club describe the details of membership and governance. You will find a copy of the club bylaws in the annual yearbook.

The club is managed by volunteer officers and a board of governors. The officers and board of governors are elected by the membership at an annual meeting that typically occurs in October. The elected board presents a plan and budget for approval by the general membership at an open meeting typically occurring in February. Members are encouraged to participate in all aspects of this process, including running for board positions.

If you wish to contact any board member, their addresses and phone numbers may be found in the annual yearbook, or call Commodore Mij Frierson (913-485-7419).

## THE FACILITIES

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### Clubhouse and Grounds

The clubhouse is available for use by members and their guests. Facilities include a fully equipped kitchen, restrooms and showers, patio area, basketball court, playground, campfire ring, and barbecue grills.

It is expected that members using these facilities outside of scheduled events will clean up after themselves. Please check the social calendar before planning a private event that may cause a conflict.

The hill above the clubhouse provides plenty of space for camping, offering the best view of the lake. Electrical hookups are available at many of the sites on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ice is available in two freezers located on our clubhouse patio and at the top of the stairs leading to the docks. The freezer has a combination lock on it as well as a box for depositing ice tickets. Buy tickets from any board member for \$1 each. This is an honor system and we place our trust in each other to maintain this convenience.

### The Docks and Harbor

Slip assignments are provided by the dockmaster, Matt Gatewood. Every effort is made to assign members to the slips they want each year, but there are a number of factors that go into the final plan. Roughly a fifth of the slips are owned by their occupants. Large boats need the large slips, medium-sized boats need the medium-sized slips, etc. Typically, past year members get their first choice until April 1. After that, preferences are given to those who pay their dues early. Please note: Past members who pay late risk losing their choice of slip.

The PYC docks consist of 159 slips ranging from 10' × 20' to 16' × 34'. There is also deck space on Sunset Dock (see below) for club dinghies and courtesy docks adjacent to the boat ramps.

There are four main docks, commonly known as *Sunset Dock* (furthest to the West), *Party Dock*, *Boardwalk*, and *Rodeo Drive*. Party Dock and Boardwalk are much longer than the other two and are divided into three floating sections. The docks are held in place by cables attached to a system of winches that can be seen on the docks themselves and to large concrete anchors out in the harbor. These cables can be adjusted to compensate for fluctuations in the water level of the lake, which can vary dramatically over the course of a season. Please do not attempt to adjust these winches unless you have been trained to do so.

All slips have access to electrical service and water. Please do not make any adjustments to the electrical system or water supply without permission and approval from the harbormaster, Scott Kessler.

The club provides a fleet of dock carts for transporting gear between the parking lots and boats. Please be considerate and return the carts to the parking lots after use so they will be available to others.

For boats with built-in heads, the club owns a do-it-yourself sewage pump-out station fondly known as “Mr. Thirsty.” Mr. Thirsty lives on a float in the harbor. The hand pump is locked with a combination that will be provided to you with your membership kit. There is an adapter, either on the hose or on the top of the tank, in case you have a 1.25-inch fitting.

PYC owns a committee boat, work boat, and a rescue boat. The Club also owns a tractor. This equipment is to be used only by those who have been “checked out” by the harbormaster (or other appropriate club officers).

Trailers, if applicable, may be stored up on the hill where all the other ones are. Please contact the dockmaster for direction on where to store your boat for the winter, or for any extended stay out of the water, as with dry sailors.

The grounds are maintained primarily by the membership. Please pick up after yourself, and if you see something that needs to be done, take the initiative.

Each season we have both a club opening and a club closing day (look for dates and details on the social events calendar) during which members volunteer to take care of a number of small jobs. We encourage you to participate in these events. They’re fun and it is a great way to meet folks.

## Safety and Hazards

Beware of Grabber’s Island off the west shore, just south of the club. It is generally marked with buoys. Since the Corps of Engineers will not light this hazard at night, the PYC lighthouse also acts as a range light. Just line up the rotating beacon with a light on the shore and you should miss the outer-most buoy of Grabber’s Island. Ask

## THE LAKE

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Perry Lake is by far the largest sailing-oriented lake in the area. Other than a very few well-marked obstacles, the lake has deep water virtually everywhere south of the bridge in Ozawkie. The lake is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers which uses it,

someone with experience about the other shallow areas on the lake.

Enter the harbor at the opening between the rock breakwater and the floating breakwater. You can use the navigation lights at the harbor entrance to guide you (especially at night), with “red right returning.” Do not attempt to enter the harbor around the north end of the floating breakwater, as it is shallow.

Club members enjoy swimming and floating in the harbor but do so at their own risk. **Please be careful when swimming in the harbor!** When the lake water level is low there is increased exposure to dangerous obstructions on the bottom (including steel and other debris from old docks). This is especially true around Sunset Dock.. **Diving is prohibited in the harbor.** Also, don’t jump off the courtesy dock by the old boat ramp. An old steel piling is just below the surface.

Fire extinguishers can be found in the red cabinets located every 50 feet on the docks, in the clubhouse kitchen, and in the shed at the head of the stairs.

First aid kits are located in the clubhouse kitchen, the shed, and onboard the committee and rescue boats.

The nearest hospitals are St. Francis on W. 6th Street and Stormont Vail on W. 10th Street, both in Topeka.

along with several other reservoirs, to control the water level in the Missouri River. Consequently the water level in the lake will vary over the season depending on rainfall and snow-melt upstream. The docks are designed to adjust to these variations.

PYC leases property from the Corps. All modifications to the property, including any new construction, have to first be approved by the Corps. Environmental protection is a major concern of the Corps. Do not dispose

of oil or fuel on club property, or anywhere in or near the lake, except in approved disposal facilities. Pumping out sewage or bilges into the lake is strictly prohibited and deplored by most sailors.

## PYC PROGRAMS

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### Social Events

PYC is not just a sailing club - it is a social club as well. Throughout the season, from April through October, the club hosts a variety of social activities including potluck dinners, theme parties, hikes, catered events, musical jam sessions, overnight raft-ups, and hayrides.

We encourage everyone to get involved, as it is a great way to have some fun and get to know other members. Each year, at the annual membership meeting in February, the social chair, Shirley Cline, presents a schedule of the year's events and recruits members to host them. Hosting an event involves planning, purchasing supplies (for which you are reimbursed), running the event, and helping to clean up afterwards. You will always have lots of help, and your participation is much appreciated. The social calendar may be found in any issue of the club newsletter.

The highlight of the season is the annual awards banquet and dance in November. It is a dressy affair where new officers are installed, and awards for the racers are passed out. It is always a lot of fun.

### Racing

Racing is always fun, but some sailors take it more seriously than others. To accommodate our competitive racers, the club hosts two PHRF handicap series of races, scheduled approximately every two weeks from May through October. Trophies

are awarded on a point basis at the annual awards banquet and dance.

The club has installed a mast-stepping facility to support events over the season. We encourage every boat type and level of racer. Fleets are separated by PHRF rating. Additional fleets are possible when three or more boats of the same design are racing. Contact Rear Commodore John Booth for more information.

For the not-so-serious racer who requires more immediate gratification, the club organizes fun races on the holiday weekends and at various times throughout the season. Trophies are awarded with great fanfare at a party immediately following each race.

### Sailing Education Programs

**Adult Sailing Education** – PYC is in its eighth season as an American Sailing Association (ASA) training facility. ASA certification classes are coordinated and taught by **2003 and 2004 ASA Instructor of the Year** and a past PYC Commodore Bruce Liese. Our ASA classes are very popular, consistently selling out. We offer the full range of ASA courses, including Small Boat Sailing, Basic Keelboat Sailing, Basic Coastal Cruising, Intermediate Coastal Cruising (Bareboat Chartering), Coastal Navigation, and Advanced Coastal Cruising. Our small boat and keelboat classes are offered locally at Lake Perry throughout the sailing season. Our more advanced classes are offered on the West coast (in San Diego, California) on a regular basis.

In addition to the ASA education program described above, we offer three other one-day adult education activities: “Introduction to Sailing,” “Introduction to Spinnaker Handling,” and “Making Friends with Your Sailboat.”

**Youth Sailing Education Program** – The youth sailing program offers classes tailored to “juniors” aged 8 to 12 years old, and a more advanced class for teens. Special emphasis is placed on safety, courtesy, and having fun. Student sailors learn what makes

a sailboat go, different points of sail, how to rig and stow the boats, basic rules of the road, and capsize recovery. Both ASA and Red Cross certifications are available to junior sailors. In addition to the sailing classes, several youth regattas/events are planned each season including a parent/child Sunfish Regatta. The Youth season concludes with the Annual Bill Sanders Labor Day Youth Regatta & Family Picnic.

This year our Director of Sailing Education and Youth Sailing is Pat Allen.

## OTHER STUFF

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### The Yearbook

The club publishes a directory of all members each year called the “Windjammer.” Copies are usually printed by the end of May and made available to be picked up at the clubhouse.

### The Newsletter

PYC members receive the *Branch Creek Harbor News*, published monthly during the season. It includes club news, articles, social calendars, racing schedules, tips for sailors, classified ads, commercial advertising, and lots of other good things. The newsletter is the primary means of letting you know what is going on around the club. You will find yourself looking forward to it.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Fact, fiction, or poetry will do. Classified ads are free to members for personal items. Commercial advertising is reasonably priced. For more information or to make contributions, contact the Newsletter Editor, Jean Dodd.

### The Website

PYC’s website is [www.perryyachtclub.com](http://www.perryyachtclub.com). It provides links for club events, racing, sailing education, and history, as well as lake information and directions to the club.

### Rules of the Road/PYC Courtesy

Sailors by nature seem to have a natural distaste for rules of any sort, so we try to keep them to a minimum. The official rules are spelled out in the bylaws in the section entitled “General Regulations.” Most of the rules we learned as kids — be respectful of other folks and clean up after yourselves. A few items that may not seem so obvious follow:

- ✓ The facilities are for the use of members and their guests (when accompanied by a member) only.
- ✓ Adjust your dock lines so the bow of your boat does not protrude over the dock.
- ✓ 11:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. (2300 to 0800 for the nautical folks) are quiet hours in the harbor.
- ✓ Deposit your trash in the dumpsters located in the parking lot at the top level.

- ✓ Secure your halyards so they will not slap in the wind, especially at night.
- ✓ Pets are welcome, but please control **and clean up after** them.
- ✓ Review any plans for personal dock improvements (dock boxes, ladders, etc.) with the harbormaster or dockmaster before proceeding.
- ✓ Help out as you can. Contribute your energy and talents, and look for ways to make the club a more enjoyable place for everyone.

## Club Dues

Dues are voted on by the membership each year at the annual membership meeting in October, another good reason to attend. You will receive notification by mail regarding your balance and when to pay. Typically a deposit is due in February, and the remaining dues are to be paid in full to the assistant treasurer, Terri Tilford by March 31. Because of limited slip availability, it is important to meet these deadlines.

## Questions?

Visit us at [www.perryyachtclub.com](http://www.perryyachtclub.com) or contact Commodore Jim Frierson (913-485-7419).

