

Perry Yacht Club

2011 Club Manual



Perry Lake
Meriden, Kansas

Foreword

Welcome to Perry Yacht Club. This manual has been assembled to give you a better understanding of our club, particularly if you are a new or prospective member. PYC is an organization of, by and for its members and we're proud of it. As a member, you will have a voice in the operation of the club. No outside economic interests set our agenda, which is just one of the many things that distinguish 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 everyday cares and responsibilities. Misty summer mornings, flocks of white pelicans and soaring bald eagles inspire a sense of awe and respect for our world, a sense too easy to lose in our hectic world. And the sailing! Perry Lake has come to be known as the best place to sail in the area and for good reasons: lots of water, great wind, few powerboats and a great group of sailors. You'll find yourself looking forward to every weekend.

As a member, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to the management and maintenance of the club. You're encouraged to get involved to the extent you can. Perhaps you'll volunteer to help during our club opening and closing work days, or host a social event, or join the Board of Governors, or simply lend a hand when needed. PYC has only a small, part-time paid staff. Members define the character and quality of the club. In fact, members *are* the club.

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2011 Flag Officers

Commodore: Monroe Dodd
Vice Commodore: Jeff Brinkmeyer
Rear Commodore: Matt Gatewood
Treasurer: Rich Wells
Secretary: Terri Tilford
Past Commodore: Bruce S. Liese

2011 Governors

Harbormaster: John Anderson
Director of Building and Grounds: Penny Morgan
Assistant Treasurer: Doug McCall
Dockmaster: Lee Cline
Director of Sail Education: Jim North
Social Chair: Sue Clegg
Communications Chair: Nathan Anderson
Yearbook Editor: Jean Dodd
Corps of Engineers Liaison: Ron Finney
Public Affairs Liaison: Joe Popper

About the club

History

Perry Yacht Club was conceived in 1970 in a lunch conversation among three avid sailors. By the end of the year they had signed up scores of members. Members purchased their slips to raise capital and the club was born. Construction began on the docks and grounds in spring 1971.

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.

The entrance road built in 1994 and repaved in 2005 sits above the high-water mark of Perry Lake and ensures that we have access to the club even when the Army Corps of Engineers shuts the dam, as it did during the great Midwest floods of 1993.

PYC 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 also guides sailors around the shoals 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, a second boat ramp was built. It's one of the most versatile on the lake, allowing the launch and haulout of boats at a wide range of lake levels. In 2006 the club bought and member volunteers installed the floating breakwater. Over the years, we have replaced all the anchors for the docks with lower profile anchors to help lessen restrictions in the harbor.

We have a long history of members working to help improve the club and the work contributes greatly to our cohesiveness.

Organization

The bylaws and policies of the club describe the details of membership and governance. They're published in full each year in *The Windjammer* yearbook.

Perry Yacht 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 usually occurs in October. The elected board presents a plan and budget for approval by the general membership at an open meeting that usually occurs 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 yearbook, on the PYC website at <http://www.perryyachtclub.com/pages/boardofgovernors.html> or call Commodore Monroe Dodd (913) 631-2043.

Facilities

Clubhouse and grounds

In 2011, Perry Yacht Club will open its new permanent clubhouse, which replaces the clubhouse that burned in late 2009 as a result of at least one lightning strike.

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

Members who use these facilities outside of scheduled events are expected to 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 freezers on our clubhouse patio and at the top of the stairs leading to the docks. Each freezer has a combination lock 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.

Docks and Harbor

Slip assignments are provided by the dockmaster, Lee Cline. 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 10 percent of slips are owned by their occupants. Large boats are assigned to large slips, medium-sized boats are assigned to medium-sized slips and so on. Typically, past year members get their first choice until April 1. After that, preference goes 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 150 slips ranging from 10 feet by 20 feet to 16 feet by 34 feet. There is also dock space on Sunset Dock for club dinghies and courtesy docks adjacent to the boat ramps.

There are four main docks. From east to west, they are Rodeo Drive, Boardwalk, Party Dock and Sunset. 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 winches on the docks themselves and to large concrete anchors in the harbor. These cables can be adjusted to compensate for fluctuations in the 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, John Anderson.

The club provides 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 is installing a new pump-out station this season thanks to a grant funded by the federal Clean Vessel Act.

PYC owns a race-committee boat and a work 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 officer.

Members' boat trailers may be stored on the hill with other. Please contact any board member for direction on where to store your boat for the winter, or for any extended time out of the water.

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 work 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 a great way to meet folks.

Safety and hazards

Beware of Grabber's Rocks just south of the club. It is generally marked with buoys. This hazard is not lighted, but the PYC lighthouse acts as a range light. Line up the beacon with a light on the shore and you should miss the outermost buoy of Grabber's. Ask someone with experience about 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 at night. Remember: red right returning. Do not attempt to enter the harbor around the north end of the floating breakwater; it's shallow there.

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 mounted 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 aboard the committee and rescue boats.

The nearest hospitals are in Topeka -- St. Francis on West Sixth Street and Stormont Vail on West 10th Street.

Perry Lake

Ours is by far the largest sailing-oriented lake in the region. Other than a very few well-marked obstacles, the lake has deep water virtually everywhere south of the bridge that links Ozawkie to Oskaloose at the north end. The lake is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which uses it and several other reservoirs, to control the level of the Kansas and Missouri rivers. The water level in the lake will vary over the season depending on rainfall and snowmelt upstream. The docks are designed to adjust to these variations.

PYC leases its property from the Corps of Engineers. All modifications to the property, including any new construction, have to 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.

Programs

Social events

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

We encourage every member to get involved. PYC's social events are great ways to have fun and get to know other members. At the annual membership meeting in February, Social Chair Sue Clegg 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 on the website, perryvachtclub.com.

The highlight of the season is the annual awards dinner and dance in November. It is a dressy affair where new officers are installed and racing awards are handed out. There's a band, too. It's always a lot of fun.

Racing

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 dinner 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 Matt Gatewood for more information.

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

Sail education programs

Adult sail education – PYC is in its 12th season as an American Sailing Association training facility. ASA certification classes are coordinated and organized by Past Commodore Bruce Liese, an ASA instructor of the year. Our ASA classes consistently sell 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. Small boat and keelboat classes are offered locally at Perry Lake throughout the sailing season. Advanced classes are offered in San Diego, California, during the off-season.

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

Youth sail education program – The youth sailing program offers classes tailored to children 8 to 12 years old, and a more advanced class for teenagers. 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 capsized 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.

Director of Sail Education is Jim North.

Other stuff

The Windjammer

The club publishes a directory of all members each year. Copies of *The Windjammer* yearbook are printed by the end of May and made available to be picked up at the clubhouse. For more information or to make contributions, contact the yearbook editor, Jean Dodd.

The Branch Creek Harbor News

PYC members receive the newsletter monthly during the sailing season. *The Branch Creek Harbor News* 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. The newsletter appears on the club's website, www.perryyachtclub.com as a downloadable file.

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 communications director, Nathan Anderson.

The Website

PYC's website is www.perryyachtclub.com. It provides updates on club events, racing, sailing education, and history, as well as lake information, directions to the club and photos. For more information or to make contributions, contact Communications Director Nathan Anderson.

Rules of the road/PYC courtesy

Sailors by nature seem to have a natural distaste for rules, 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 p.m. to 8 a.m. (2300 to 0800 for the nautical folks) are quiet hours in the harbor and on the grounds.
- Deposit your trash in the dumpsters 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.
- Dock modifications such as corners, dock box supports and so on are not allowed because of new U.S. Army Corps of Engineer regulations. We are working with the Corps to clarify the implications of these rules.
- Help out as you can. Contribute your energy and talents, and look for ways to make the club a more enjoyable place for everyone.

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 by March 1. The assistant treasurer, Doug McCall, does the collecting. Because dues are the primary revenue for the club, it is important to meet these deadlines.

Questions?

Visit us at www.perryyachtclub.com or contact Commodore Monroe Dodd at (913) 631-2043.