

Nov 2008

Caretakers Corner

Hello again. I want to welcome everyone to Caretakers Corner. I hope everyone is having a great day!

Here's what's been happening around the club.

As most of you know, Harbor Days went off very well. The Club served over 800 meals! There are several people who should be thanked for their help with this event, and since I don't want to forget anyone, I'm going to say "**Thank You Very Much**" we REALLY couldn't have done it without you all. The work that our volunteers did provided our club with \$3400 to help out with projects in and around our Club.

Changes

There will be some changes around the club for next year. Our board has ordered the manufacture of a new E dock that will be installed over the winter. The big change is that it will no longer be E dock; it will be an extended D dock. We have started to remove the old E dock piece by piece. We are bringing the dock pieces over to our boat ramp and taking it apart. We are hoping to salvage whatever we can to be re-used. There is still plenty of work left to do, so if you have the time, please stop in to help out. When the dock is complete, the members currently on E dock will have a new slip on the new extended D dock.

For those of you who haven't had any time to spend around the club, there have been several other changes made this year that include:

- Putting in a handicapped ramp at the back door of the Clubhouse.
- Putting up new hand rails on said ramp.
- Putting up handicapped hand rails in the bathrooms nearest to the Clubhouse.
- Repaired and finished all of our roads around the Club and property.
- Put in posts and ropes along the drives leading around the property.
- Filled, landscaped, and put in horseshoe pits on the back side of the harbor.
- Removed the old E-dock.

Work time

For those of you who really want work time, there are plenty of things to do around here. Just stop in at the Clubhouse to check on what needs to be done. Please keep in mind that a lot of the maintenance around the Club needs to be done on a weekly basis and will not wait.

PLEASE SIGN IN FOR ALL WORK HOURS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE YOUR TIME IS ENTERED INTO THE WORK TIME BOOK. YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR TIME WORKED IF THIS IS NOT DONE.

Concerns

Over the past to year, I have been receiving complaints about stray current in the water, damaging boats/motors and other medals in the water around the Club. This stray current can only be coming from some of our boathouses and/or houseboats. Members who own a boathouse or houseboat need to check and make sure that their property is properly grounded. For boathouse owners, there should not be any ground wires going into the water. Also, for members who have steel hulled houseboats, your power should not be grounded to the hull. All of the boathouses will be inspected, and if your boathouse is in violation you will be required to correct the violation.

This other concern that I'm going to bring up has bothered me for several years. It also could ultimately be a very expensive problem, not to mention the danger involved. The problem is with the houseboats and some of our members trying to put these boats into the water and take them out themselves without the proper equipment and in some cases without the proper knowledge of how to safely perform this task.

A short time ago I was a witness to a boat removal that went wrong. Several of our members thought they had the proper equipment and skills to do the job, so they worked on pulling out a 32 foot boat. First of all, they damaged the front of the boat by chaining the boat to the trailer in the wrong location. Secondly, they did not load the boat on the trailer far enough forward. Then they pulled the boat out using two trucks. As the boat and trailer reached the top of the ramp, the trailer broke loose from the hitch on the trucks and both boat and trailer went flying back down the ramp. The only luck involved is that it did miss the gas dock and no one was hurt or killed as this boat's weight is somewhere around 5 tons.

My point is this: for a small fee a professional can be hired who is licensed and insured. It is my opinion that we should be requiring that this work be done by a professional and that the owners of these larger boats not be allowed to put these boats in or take them out of the water with inadequate equipment. Members should not be allowed to perform this unsafe practice without presenting the Club with an insurance certificate that covers against damages to Club property with a waiver signed by said member indicating that they will accept responsibility for all damages and injuries (or death) involved. I have had to pull several trucks and two tractors along with their boats out when people have tried taking their much too large boats out of the water without the proper equipment. Please get in touch with your board members, or send me an e-mail to let them know that this unsafe practice needs to stop before club property is damaged or someone is hurt or killed.

Events

We will be installing the new docks during late January or early February so keep an eye on the web-site for up-dates. www.mcboatharborllc.com

The Club will be open on super-bowl weekend, February 1st and 2nd for the Super-bowl. Plus Rocky Volkman and Mike Steffes will be holding their ice fishing tournaments.

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I'm not sure how it happened but the year has gone by so fast it's unbelievable. It seems like I just got everything up and running, and now it's almost time to close up for the winter. That means it's time for me to get ready for wood cutting season, and to buy a new tube of Ben-gay.

The Club and surrounding area looks better than it ever has, and I'm looking forward to what's to come in the future.

As all of us are aware, the economic world has changed and some of you are looking for a place to take your family that's nearby and affordable. The club and surrounding area is a great place for family outings. It is also a great area for all types of boating, fishing and hunting (please remember: no-shooting is ever allowed on club property).

For me personally, I've really enjoyed this year. I have learned that I don't need to stay in the club 24/7. I can go out and do some of the things I really enjoy, like fishing and riding my Harley.

I'm going to try and get another newsletter out this winter with updated events like ice fishing tournaments, etc. on the web-site. If you have anything you would like mentioned or listed (an upcoming event, etc.) on the web-site, please let me know and I will see that it's taken care of.

Again the web-site address is: www.mcboatharborllc.com

Board Members

Doug Block	President
Rocky Volkman	V- President
Jim Hansen	Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Lozenski	
Mark Walters	
Ron Schneider	
Travis Buxengard	

The Board holds a meeting on the second Tuesday of every month, (during the boating season) at 7 P.M. They are hoping that you as members will attend, since this is your club and without your input they can only act on their own knowledge and thought's. Please, if you have Club business, come to a meeting and bring it up, as it takes the board as a whole to make a decision on Club business, not just one member of the board.

The Club address is; Minnesota City Boat Club
P.O. Box 101
Minnesota City 55959

Thank You.

Bob R. Schei
(507-273-4511)