



St. Paul Yacht Club

St Paul Yacht Club
Board Of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 7pm ~ 8pm
Google Meet: See SPYC Calendar

PLEASE JOIN US! A SUNDAE BAR WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS TO ENJOY FROM 6PM TO 7PM PROIR TO THE MEETING.

General Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Open Comments from the Floor

- We ask that comments be limited to 2 minutes.

4. Flag Officer Reports

- Commodore - Bill Tschohl (report attached)
- Vice-Commodore - Nathan Schumann
- Treasurer - Tom Surprenant
- Secretary - Troy Janisch (No Report)

5. Marina Manager Report Kristina Cummings

6. Committee Reports

- Amenities - Nathan Schumann
- Finance Tom Surprenant
- Marketing & Membership - Troy Janisch

1. 'Shanties on the Shore' – Sing-Along at Sunset

June 30, 7pm, Great Stairs seating located on the shore of the Mississippi River near the large shelter. Attendees (open to the public) are invited to lead a tune, join the chorus, or simply sit back and enjoy an evening of humble performances and heartfelt harmonies. Kudos to Bonnie Jean MacKay!

2. SPYC River Adventure Guide

Draft complete. Seeking additional tips from members. Summer 'River Adventures' member photo contest will be announced in June. It will begin in July. Kudos to Nate Schuman for suggesting the Guide.



3. Little Free Library

Weatherproofing is being completed. Installation will be in June. Kudos to Victoria Fritz, our volunteer librarian.

- Operations - Andy Ristrom
- Social Committee - Andrea Johnson
- Strategic Planning - Bill Tschohl
- Commodore's Ball 6/28

7. Old Business

- Dredging

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

The Boating Season is Here!

Commodore's Report – June 10, 2025

We have a great boating season here right now! If you've had a chance to get out you've likely seen some great wildlife, beavers, bald eagles, herons, turtles and fish. Heck, if you've even been on the dock cleaning your boat or prepping for the season you've likely seen all that wildlife right here in the marina.

We've spent over a century as a club sharing the camaraderie of like minded boaters getting out on the water and enjoying so much adventure and nature within reach of downtown St. Paul and beyond. Trips to local destinations, while far more common than a trip to the gulf aren't the only adventures ahead for all of us.

Sometimes those adventures are regulatory in nature. In 2010 the SPYC started requesting every boat have a USCG safety inspection. Sometime after that we implemented a refundable inspection fee that was increased to \$200 for its last few years. That was helpful for many boaters to literally have a second set of eyes take a look at their boat and equipment to avoid costly or even dangerous oversights. While the SPYC has retired the refundable safety inspection fee for 2025, it's still highly recommended and you can reach out to anyone on the Coast Guard Auxiliary to schedule time for them to visit your boat. This link will take you to their page where you can schedule a visit. <https://cgaux.org/vsc/>

Another regulatory change that occurred was Sophia's Law which was implemented by the State of Minnesota in 2017 and requires all boats with a cabin enclosure to have operating CO detectors and warning stickers attached. Information on Sophia's law can be found here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/sophias-law.html>

Those changes were all focused on the boats we use and protecting us and our guests from unexpected dangers. Starting in July of this year we have a new regulation that the state is using to improve operator safety. Starting July 1, 2025 all boat operators for a multitude of boat types and across a wide range of ages as well as situations will need a watercraft operators permit. I would suggest everyone should read the requirements and even obtain a watercraft operators permit. There are some twists that might not be obvious.

An example I found, while most people born after 1987 will not need a watercraft operators permit, there could be situation where you must have one. While operating a boat alone or with guests that are all born before 1987 you'll be just fine. However, if you are out boating and hand off the helm to a guest that was born after 1987 and does not have a watercraft operators permit, then you must have one. A good example is for those of us with kids. In the current situation I only have to be in reach of the controls when my 14 year old son is at the helm of our boat. After July 1st though I MUST have a watercraft operators permit as well as being in reach of the controls when my son is at the helm.

Do read up, whether you get a operators permit is up to you of course, but I'd highly suggest it as the coursework is very in-depth and informative as well

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>

Safe boating is part of our culture, motto and mission here at the St Paul Yacht Club. If you

eer have any questions do feel free to reach out to anyone on the board or your neighbors. We don't have all the answers, but maybe we can help find answers from knowledgeable people when we don't know ourselves.

I'm going to close this report as I have previously, this just can't be repeated enough.

My theme for the year is simple, but powerful: "**We Can Do It!**" I truly believe that spirit lives in every one of our members. Whether you're interested in lending a hand, learning about operations, or shaping our club's direction, I encourage you to get involved. Join us at a committee meeting, attend a board session, or just reach out with ideas. You'll find all the upcoming events and meetings listed on the [St. Paul Yacht Club Calendar](#).

With each slip that gets filled and each project tackled, we're building more than just a boating season—we're building a legacy.

Here's to shared success,

Bill Tschohl
Commodore
St. Paul Yacht Club
651-335-1719

You can email the entire board at this single address: board@stpaulyachtclub.org