

January 2024

THE PORTHOLE NEWS



The monthly newsletter of the Lake Forest Yacht Club



COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

Frank Gutowski, Commodore

Welcome to 2024 and I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. We had an excellent year at the club in 2023 having accomplished many projects and having many fun social events. We expect similar success in 2024 with the new board. For those that missed the 2023 Annual Meeting, full meeting minutes of those accomplishments and activities are in this Porthole.

With the start of 2024, three board members, Chrissy Gilligan, Kristen Brown and Bryan Hyland, have exited the board and we have new trustees, Dmitry Bohdan,

Peter Moreland and Joe O'Donnell, starting their 2 year term. We'll have our first trustee meeting on January 11th, where club management tasks will be assigned. I look forward to working with our new board members.

January will be a quiet month at the club as there are no social events planned. February will be very active starting with our first big event, the popular Italian Cuisine / Comedy Night on February 3rd. The event is almost sold out with one open table remaining. That is followed by our annual Super Bowl Party on February 11th and Winterfest on February 17th.

March kicks off with a special event on Friday March 1st when, for one night only, the Lake Forest Yacht Club becomes "The Lake Forest Night Club"! The Treble band will be on stage and there will be plenty of dancing at the clubhouse for a Friday Night out. On March 9th, we have the annual Left, Right, Center (LRC) and Texas Hold'em Tournament at the club. Details on all social activities can be found on pages 5-7 in this Porthole.

I also want to remind members of our club policy that any vehicle parked on our club property must have a current member parking tag or a Member Guest Day Parking pass. We want to keep our property secure from trespassers using our property or accessing the lake and vehicles not exhibiting parking passes may be towed. See page 4 for more details.

On a sad note, we lost two long time members of our community last month. Fred Barden, a member since 1984, passed away in mid-December. Whether boating or with family and friends at the beach, Fred enjoyed the amenities at our club. In late December Cyndi Platoni, a former member who was in our community since the early 1990's, passed away. A memorial service for Cyndi will be held at Our Lady of the Sea on January 22nd at 6PM. On behalf of club membership, our condolences to the Barden and Platoni families on their loss.

I hope everyone who converted to natural gas this summer is seeing lower heating bills during these cold winter months. I know the club is saving money having lower heating cost at our clubhouse. I wish everyone well this month staying warm and look forward to seeing you at Comedy Night on February 3rd.

Club Contact Information

Office Manager: Linda Sobieski – Notary Public

Mailing Address: Lake Forest Yacht Club PO Box 217

Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849

Office Phone: 973-663-0158 Office Email: office@lfyc.org

Physical Address: Lake Forest Yacht Club 35 Yacht Club Drive Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849

Website: www.lfyc.org

Office Hours:

Wednesday 12 p.m. – 7 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees (officers and responsibilities)

Frank Gutowski – Commodore – Responsibilities: Docks, Scholarship, Clubhouse

Phone: 201-679-5837 Email: commodore@lfyc.org

Pat Brennan - Treasurer - Responsibilities: Financials, Budget, Grounds

Phone: 201-924-6709 Email: treasurer@lfyc.org

Peter Malenda - Trustee - Responsibilities: Security, Tennis, Wakeoff

Phone: 551-580-0726 Email: trustee1@lfyc.org

Keith Moran - Trustee - Responsibilities: Maintenance, Nominating, Boat Course, Swim Team

Phone: 973-722-1080 Email: trustee2@lfyc.org

Dmitry Bohdan – Trustee – Responsibilities: TBD

Phone: 862-432-8122

Peter Moreland – Trustee – Responsibilities: TBD

Phone: 973-479-3104

Joe O'Donnell - Trustee - Responsibilities: TBD

Phone: 908-400-2666

Additional Contacts

Swim Team: Kristen Brown – Lake Forest Vikings President

Phone: 973-768-6958 Email: kristenbrown@gmail.com

Dockmaster: Frank Gutowski

Phone: 201-679-5837 Email: f.gutowski@optonline.net

The \$2500.00 Lake Forest Yacht Club Scholarship

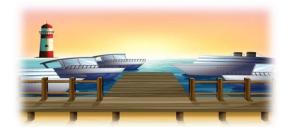


Established 2007

This will be our 18th year awarding the Lake Forest Yacht Club Scholarship. In 2023, Elise Gilligan was the recipient of the Scholarship. We look forward to awarding another scholarship this year to a 2024 graduating LFYC member.

The scholarship will award up to \$2,500 to help an applicant's higher education endeavor. This scholarship is awarded \$1,000 after 1st semester completed, as well as \$500 after year two, three and four of college. The candidate must be a Lake Forest Yacht Club member in good standing as well as a 2024 graduating high school senior. Complete details and criteria will be found on the LFYC Scholarship Application available on March 1st on our website.

Scholarship applications should be addressed to the LFYC Scholarship Committee and e-mailed to the LFYC office no later than April 15th 2024. The five members of the 2024 LFYC Scholarship Committee will evaluate all applications and make a decision on who will be the recipient of this year's LFYC Scholarship. The recipient will be notified on or before May 1st, 2024.



2024 Season Dock Rental Information

Members of the Lake Forest Yacht Club have always valued the benefits we have in club membership, especially with the eighty-five dock slips we operate at our facility. Our dock slips continue to be one of the greatest assets to our club as dock rentals at any of the local marinas cost anywhere from \$2,500 and up for the season. For the 2024 season, the member rental fee for a dock slip will be \$700.00.

In early January, the club office will mail invoices and dock slip rental agreements to all members who rented dock slips in 2023 for the opportunity to renew their dock slip for the 2024 season. If you plan on renewing for the upcoming season, please return the completed and signed rental agreement along with a copy of your current boat registration and payment by March 15th, 2024.

Please be advised that the office will not accept incomplete applications or applications without copy of the current boat registration. Also, please indicate if there is any repair issue that you feel needs to be tended to regarding your slip. If you have no intention to renew your dock slip for the 2024 season, please notify the club office.

As is club policy, dock slips will only be rented to members whose: financial obligations to the club are current, have completed a signed rental agreement and provide a copy of the boat registration indicating member ownership of the boat. All of the above criteria will be required before LFYC approval of dock slip rental or renewal.

If you'd like to rent a dock slip for the upcoming season, please contact the club office at 973-663-0158. Dock Slip Rental Agreements are also available for download at our website www.lfyc.org. Actual slip assignments for new renters will be determined starting March 18th, after member dock renewals are confirmed.

Member Guest Parking at the Club

During the off season, we often find trespassers parking at our facility to do various activities including launching fishing boats, hunting, ice fishing and other activities. To maintain security and privacy of our member only club, we are enforcing our private property policy which may include towing of unauthorized vehicles. Members should have a parking tag in their vehicle for club management to identify authorized vehicles.

For members who have non Lake Forest resident guests parking at our club, we need their vehicle to have a 1 day parking pass, as seen in the image attached, on the vehicle dashboard. Information needed so that we may confirm they are a current member's guest and not have the vehicle towed.

If you have a guest parking in our lot, please have the parking pass visible on the dashboard. The 1 day guest pass is available anytime at the club office outdoor bulletin board or can be downloaded from our website under "Forms".

This is required year round to help us manage our property and to avoid towing a member's guest vehicle.



NO PARKING

HOLIDAY HOMEDECORATION CONTEST



Congratulations to our Winners!

1st Place: 1 Crescent Drive 2nd Place: 91 Yacht Club Drive 3rd Place: 19 Yacht Club Drive

Upcoming Social Events

FEBRUARY 2024

February 3rd

Italian Cuisine/ Comedy Night

February 11th

Super Bowl Party



February 17th



Italian Cuisine/Comedy Night Saturday, February 3rd 2024 6:30pm



Doors Open at 5:30 PM, Dinner Service begins promptly at 6:30 PM

Reservations open early for LFYC Members Only: November 18th to 30th 2023



Starting December 1st: Members may add their non-resident guests and reserve a table of 10.

Payment for reservations must be made within 5 days of reservation or be subject to cancellation



Reserve early, only 150 seats available.

A six course family style Italian Dinner will be served by The Brownstone starting at 6:30 pm.

Cuisine Being Served Family Style:

1. Cold Antipasto Platter,

2. Appetizers: Aborrio Rice Balls, Eggplant Rollatine, Stuffed Mushrooms 3. Pasta: Al Ceppo Broccoli Rabe & Sausage , Gluten Free Imported Penne Pasta, Rigatoni Pasta

4. Salad: Caesar Salad
5. Entrees: Braised Short Ribs, Chicken Francaise, Shrimp Beeps
Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Warm Rolls and Foccacia
6. Dessert: Miniature Pastry Trays: Cannoli, Sfogliatelli, Cream Puff, Pasticotti,
Éclair, Coffee, Decaf and Tea

A bottle of Chianti will be on each table. Beer and Wine also included.

Table Competition. Prizes for Top 3 Tables: "Creative Italian Themed Centerpiece"

Entertainment will follow at 9 PM with (2) Comedians.



Megan Hanley & Richie Byrne Members: \$80 per person Member Guest: \$90 per person

Prepaid RSVP required on all seats at the Lake Forest Yacht Club Office



MARCH 2024

March 1st

"Lake Forest Night Club"



The Lake Forest Yacht Club will become "Lake Forest Night Club"

Shake off the winter blues for a fun night socializing and listening to the band **Threads** at our club.

Friday, March 1st, 2024,

8 PM to 12 AM

Treble will be rocking our clubhouse with their 10 piece band playing classic rock music for all to enjoy. Their horn section really adds to their sound especially on songs by Chicago and similar covers.

Beer, Wine, Seltzers and Soft Drinks included in this evening nightclub event. Chips and Pretzels will be complimentary as well.

Have dinner before you come down to the Lake Forest Night Club and enjoy the Friday evening party.

\$20 for Members / \$25 for Member Guests

Doors Open at 7PM

Get your Wristbands for the event at the club office.

Treble Band Website: http://www.trebleband.com/

March 9TH LRC and Texas Hold'em



Entry to 3 rounds of LRC
or to
Texas Hold'em
Select which Tournament you want to play in at time of purchase
(Can't play in both events)

Sandwiches, beverages & pizza included.

This is a Lake Forest Community Event where All Lake Forest residents, club members & their guest are welcome to attend.

Deadline for tournament entry is March 1st

Event Agenda:

6:15 doors open – Sandwiches, Beverages, tables established.
7:00 - Tournament starts
8:30 - Pizza Break
10:00 +/- Final tables for both games established
10:45 – 11:00PM - Winners announced

Any questions please call / text Glenn DeSantis 201-294-5003

Social Committee Needs You!!

Did you know that volunteers plan and run all of our social events?

Social events are not possible without volunteers! We need your help. In order to keep having great events, we need more volunteers. Please sign up for the event/events you would like to help plan. If you have any questions, please contact Kristen Brown at 973-768-6958.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A9AF29A4F58-upcoming1

Community Advertising

Would you like to advertise in our monthly newsletter?

Please contact the office for pricing which begins at \$20 per month. Our website averages 14 hits per day

Regina Ashworth

Sales Representative

Cell: 973-229-6935

Office: 973-584-2300

E-mail: chillypita@aol.com





Electronic Billing & Payment

We are continuing to offer billing of master lease & membership dues via email, with optional online payment. Please email or call the office to set this up.

2024 Member Badge Stickers Are In!

2024 Member Badge Stickers are in and can be picked up at the club office. Only members whose 2024 dues are paid in full may pick up 2024 season badge stickers.

Share Important News!

Send us your other important news like births, birthdays, anniversaries so they can be included in the next porthole! Email the office at office@lfyc.org to have your message included by the 20th of the month.

Order Forms

Click <u>here</u> to print a Lake Forest Apparel order form.

Click <u>here</u> to print a Personalized Patio Stone form.

<u>Membership Badges – Car Tags –</u> <u>Gate Keys</u>

It's important to have the hang tag in your car and your badge with you and visible while on the property.

Guests should have guest passes (available at the office, even when closed) visible on car dashboards and guests must be accompanied by a member while on club property. Gate keys are not to be provided to any non-members for their use without the owner of the key being present. Boat trailers are not to be parked overnight in any of the club lots without prior permission from office, and must be as far as possible from the boat ramp. Thank you for your attention.

Babysitters List

Would you like to be added to this list? We can also add services like Dog Walking to this section, so reach out to the office if you are interested!

- Elise Gilligan* 973-440-7166
- Maddie Luke* 973-800-5541

Lost Badge Fee:

There will be a \$25 per badge fee for replacement of lost badges. There is no fee for updating badges with pictures or name changes, etc.

Lake Forest Apparel

Stop on down to the office to purchase your Lake Forest Apparel. Currently available at the office for purchase are size medium, large, and x-large t-shirts. Order forms are also available to customize your apparel purchase needs. Please see pricing and style options below



^{*}Indicates Red Cross Certification

LFYC Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 12-1-23

Attendees: 31 members

Called to Order: 8:10pm

Adjourned: 9:48pm

Reading of previous minutes- Brian Richardson motion to waive reading of previous minutes, and Donna Fenske

second, all in favor- yes

Treasurer Fiscal Report- Pat Brennan (Treasurer)

- We brought in net profit of \$20,694 (Old Master Lease & Boat Races)
- Brian Richardson asked if we are on track for loan repayment status? Answer is yes and loan principal payments of \$19,425 have been completed
- Capital improvements completed within budget are Clubhouse exterior painting & repairs, natural gas conversion, dock repairs, and basketball court replacement
- Security services came in \$6,000 less than budgeted
- Sales tax is added only to our membership dues, no other items including boat slips. Other lake communities tax policies were compared to ours
- Master Lease increase coming in 2025 per our bylaws
- Dues and dock slips were raised this year to cover expenses but less than inflation rate
- Club rentals were not increased due to decrease in number of rentals
- Credit card surcharges will be increased to cover actual costs the credit card company charges us, this was not the case in the past
- Social budget increased by \$3,000
- Loan is \$300,000- We've paid off \$100,000 of loan and in 2024 we will refinance the loan. Loan payment will be about the same. Goal is to have the loan paid off in 5 years before balloon payment structure takes effect
- Chuck Emery is still our accountant/finance consultant and continues to work with Linda on our finances. Chuck has told the Board that "Books look good, and Linda is doing a great job keeping them clean"

- All accounts reconciled. By-Law procedures are being followed
- Club brings in enough money to cover day-to-day operations plus some capital improvements and we have enough money in CDs to cover bonds
- Money is properly being escrowed monthly for capital reserves
- Accounts Receivable on a downward trend over the last three years \$70K -> \$53K, meaning old past due accounts are being collected
- No past due bills to pay

Frank Gutowski- Commodore

- All 85 Dock Slips Rented, sold out again this year.
 \$675 Member / \$2,000 Non-Member. 74 Member
 Renewals, 3 New Member Rentals, 3 Members 2nd
 Slip, 5 non-member rentals. Revenue: \$64,000. 2024
 Season Plan is to raise rentals to \$700 Member /
 \$2,100 Non-Member and \$10K Budgeted for B & C
 Repairs 5 Fingers 2 Pilings
- Rental Fee: \$25 / \$35 per season with \$685 rental revenue allocated to repair/replace racks. Last year James Davitt did a great job fixing up the existing racks
- Repairs completed this past year: clubhouse facade, natural gas conversion, storage room cleanout, clubhouse table repairs, kegerator repairs, new TV donated by member, new LED lighting in clubhouse. April project day also had office flag pole replaced, octagon table repaired, picnic tables repaired, trash can area near B&C dock renovated, and backboard and poles of basketball courts repaired. All projects done by member volunteers
- 2024 plans for repairs: exterior painting and scraping of clubhouse and beach galley. Professionals will be brought in for this job. Clubhouse pocket doors to be cleaned up and repaired. Water spigot to be installed on far side of clubhouse and entry display case renovation
- Shade sails installed this past year to replace beach umbrellas. New Lifetime plastic picnic tables purchased as well. Materials and tables already purchased to finish the remaining island at beach to put more shade sails and NEW picnic tables

- Other projects completed: yellow slide for water installed with sand bags stabilizing it. Kids really enjoyed it. Big blue slide tower still a problem. Slide was installed incorrectly and we can't find manufacturer. We have a few members that want to try to fix this slide, otherwise we will remove it. Nighttime illumination of Dive Tower Flagpole has been installed, glare shields in parking lot installed, and water access hand rail for members installed
- New wall ball court boards installed. Cost about \$750 to fix this. To be stained in 2024
- Playground slide project- big slide has broken and board approved to replace it. Playground is 25 years old. Frank contacted original manufacturer and they had original blue prints. Total cost \$11,600 to replace slide. Funding for the repair will be from Carol Bradley's \$5000 donation for the playground and the boat races rental fee of \$6000. Installation cost is about \$4000 but may save that amount if we have members help with installation.
- Lake Forest works- small projects that need to be done and members can sign up and do at their own time. Villamarin's took on scraping, repairing, and painting the wall in the playground
- Dmitry Bohdan asked the Board do the slide parts cost \$11,000? Frank said yes. Bryan Hyland said to replace the entire playground about \$90,000
- Are there any plans to clean up the boat ramp? Yes

Chrissy Gilligan- Secretary

- Thank you to Linda for all her hard work this past year
- Porthole publication: sent via email blast and hard copies available in office
- Website: Thank you to Tony D'Alauro for his work to maintain this site
- Community Communications Web server email blast upgrade to Outlook email blast

Pat Brennan-Treasurer

 Special project on Dredging- hole to be dug deeper on high dive area. Machine will be brought for this job. With the spoils, we will put them at the south end of the beach. We will scrap up rocks in that area and put spoils to fill area to make this part of the beach more usable. Some additional sand will be purchased for this area as well. We are also looking at boat ramp quotes to repair ramp. While we don't have the money today to extend the ramp. Pat asked, does anyone have an issue falling off the ramp with their truck and boat because ramp is too short? Brian Richardson said he has seen people have this issue. We are looking to take rocks and fill gap area in ramp, make it level

Keith Moran- Maintenance

- Maintenance recap- Spring clean-up good turnout but End of Season clean-up not a great turn out.
 Because of the drawn down, the dock removal had to be booked on a separate date. Thank you to Frank and Greg Struble for their help with the dock removals
- Boating Safety Course: scheduled for March 16th
 2024
- Boat Races: Sept 9th & 10th this past year, they were able to race both days and rental income was \$6000.
 Date being secured for 2024
- Swim Team: Kristen is now Swim Team President.
 Swim Team raised \$1500 at their Cornhole fundraiser
- Special Projects completed this year: basketball court resurfacing cost was \$10,800 and goose remediation with grass removal with river rock \$4500 and we saw reduction in goose issue
- Brian Richardson asked how we came to \$6000 for boat races fee? Can we add in field repairs? Boat race fix field each year as part of contract. We raised cost to this rental this past year. It won't be less than \$6000. We want rate to be fair for us but encourage race teams to continue to come back
- Dmitry Bohdan asked if camping affects the price of boat race rental? No camping permit was allowed by town so it does not affect the price

Kristen Brown- Social

- Beach operations- good summer and operations ran smoothly, we had many issues with non-members coming onto beach and club property but we were able to easily get them to leave. Scott Davis is still beach director and Michela Schultz was head lifeguard. Deep water swim test with wrist bands incorporated this past year and will continue next year
- Social Events- Lots of events this past year. During the summer, we had crafts on the beach and ice

cream socials. Thank you to Jessica Skalecky for running the craft on the beach. Thank you to Andy Egan for donating ice cream for one of our ice cream socials. Camp out on the beach was well attended this year. Thank you to Terri Costigan and Carly Nagy for planning and running Pirates and Mermaids Day. Thank you to Vinny Gowers for planning all of the bands on the beach

- Thank you to Mike Malakuskie for running the annual Cornhole tournament. Closing day Luau was a huge success. DJ Earl and Rizzo's reptiles provided entertainment. The food was catered by American BBQ company. Thank you to Dave Cobb and Mike Espinoza for cooking the pig
- The Nerds played on September 17th. It was another well attended/great event
- Trunk or Treat event on Sunday October 29th had strong turnout. Activities were both indoors and outdoors at our club. Thank you to Desirae Nigro
- Upcoming events; Breakfast for Santa even 12/2, Italian cuisine Comedy Night is booked, Superbowl Party booked, adult game night and Winterfest, LRC/Texas Holdem booked, and new member welcome event
- We do two events open to all LF community nonmembers. One is community day and one is LRC event. Volunteers needed for all events. Events will be canceled if no volunteers
- Holiday decorating contest will be done
- Beach Concessions- Snack Shack- group of Moms got together and planned menu. This service is supposed to be a convenience to community. Low priced items. Took in about \$1500. Thank you to Ashley Hendricksen, Desirae Nigro, Dana Critchlaw, Jessica Skalecky, and Marya Wilpert for their help with the concession stand this summer
- Exercise classes to be booked again this summer

Peter Malenda- (Frank presented)

- Frank reviewed Peter's responsibilities and recap as Peter was not able to join due to a death in the family
- Wakeoff- another great event and revenue of \$1400.
 We control Beer tent and proceeds from this event and any leftover beer is for band on beach the next day. Next band is booked 8/10/24

- Security Services- Discussion last year about poor security services so Peter found a new company with successful summer results with minimal issues at a lower cost
- New cameras being added and replaced. New camera on basketball court
- Gas Conversion- Cost came to under \$4000, much less than previous board budgeted. Great job done.
 Same time period spends over \$1000 on propane and natural gas about \$400 need a full year to see financial impact
- Nano-bubbler- had company remove it since it was not working. We will find a bubbler on our own to aerate the water this coming summer.
- Tennis Court- Thank you to Tom Preston for sealing the cracks again. This court will continue to need maintenance as it's too expensive to completely replace it

Bryan Hyland- Insurance, Legal

- Bryan came on to replace James Davitt who had to leave due to work commitment. Insurance pricing from Selective came in at a good price this past year.
 We are the only lake community Selective still writes for. We will shop around to see pricing in market.
 The dive board is a large liability to insure our community
- Bi-laws couple things we wanted to change but decided to leave alone and instead made a few rules changes
- Legal- no issues this past year

2024 Committee Selections

- Scholarship Committee- Volunteers for 2024 are Donna Fenske, Beth Pries, Jessica Skalecky, Nicole Lewis, and Jeff Dannhardt
- Nominating Committee- Volunteers for 2024 are Brian Richardson, Kim Good, Paul Fenske

Voting for 2024 open Board positions-

- Volunteers to count votes: 2 from Board- Kristen and Bryan and 2 from community- Brian Richardson and Beth Pries
- Intro of candidates: Dmitry Bohdan, Jeff Dannhardt,
 Peter Moreland, Joseph O'Donnell
- We are voting for 3 trustees and we have four candidates

 Votes in and new Board members are Dmitry Bohdan, Peter Moreland, and Joseph O'Donnell-Congratulations!

New Business:

- No new business from the community.
- Frank recognized and thanked leaving Trustees Chrissy, Kristen, and Bryan
- Jessica Skalecky commented on commending the new security service as they were so nice and kind to her son as he went cat fishing each night
- Bryan Hyland motion to end meeting Jessica Skalecky second, all in favor- yes