



## **EYC Cruising Fleet - Minutes**

February 22, 2017

The first meeting of the EYC Cruising Fleet 2017 season was held at 6:30 PM at the Erie Yacht Club on February 22, 2017. There were approximately 40 people in attendance and everyone was excited about the upcoming boating season.

The meeting was co-chaired by Bob Cunningham, and Brad and Karen Carns. Karen thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the start of a new boating season.

### CRUISING FLEET STRUCTURE:

Brad Carns started off the business of the meeting by explaining that we had discussions over the winter to discuss the possibility of putting a more organized/formal structure in place for the Fleet and also possibly charging a small "participation fee." The structure would include officers to be elected each year or every other year and a budget so we could show our income from T-shirt sales, participation fees, 50-50 raffles etc. and our expenses such as parties, snacks, food and beverage for various trips.

Bob Cunningham explained that idea is that if we can put officers in place we would have a good chance of maintaining the longevity and continuity of the Fleet rather than having just a couple of people do it for a few years and then get tired or have their circumstances change and be unable to continue. Also, once we get a formalized structure, we could float the idea to the EYC Board of becoming a "Standing Committee" which would ensure the Fleet continues. The concept of the budget is so that we have a more formal accounting our income and perhaps as the Fleet grows we can ask the Club for some financial support similar to what they give the Race Fleet.

The benefit to the Club to do this would be increasing members' usage of the Club food and beverage. It would also strengthen members' connection to the Club, give members another way to meet their fellow Club members and also would provide an appeal for new powerboating members.

The support of the Club and becoming a Standing Committee are a future possibility and not guaranteed but in order to be in a position to ask we do need to have a formalized structure.

After general discussion, it was generally agreed that this is a good idea. Karen Carns asked that if anyone is interested in serving to please let them know and also suggested that we will try to put a slate together at the next meeting.

### PARTICIPATION FEE:

The concept of the participation fee was then discussed in detail. Bob explained the purpose of it would be so that we would have some funds with which to work so that when we were having a picnic or a trip or a cocktail party there would be some money available to use to provide refreshments, a rum party, a case of beer or wine, snacks and/or to offset the costs of events. It was suggested that we should keep the participation fee nominal and then still have a "pay-as-you-go" concept for things such as picnics etc. to make sure that all costs are covered. There was general discussion and a participation fee ranging anywhere from \$25 to \$100 per boat was considered.

It was the consensus of the group that a \$50 participation fee would be a good starting point. This would give us enough money based on approximately 40 boats to have \$2,000 to work with. A vote was taken and it was unanimously passed that the Fleet will assess a \$50 participation fee in 2017. This can be payable at our next meeting and should be paid by Memorial Day.

#### POWER SQUADRON SAFETY INSPECTIONS:

Vinnie Cifelli stated that he had contacted the Power Squadron about performing safety inspections for power and sail boats at the EYC for the 2017 season. This had been the past practice of the Power Squadron. Their membership is not as robust as it once was so they do not have the manpower to have a complete day of inspections but instead suggested that they would provide sign-up sheets where boaters will be able to sign up to make an appointment to have an inspection of their boat at the Club. Vinnie will coordinate with more information to follow.

#### SAFETY BOATS FOR REGATTAS:

Karen Carns mentioned that she had been approached by the Racing Fleet to see if there was any interest in having members of the EYC Cruising Fleet assist as volunteers in the summer for several regattas as operators of safety/chase boats. Some of the duties which would be required would be to set and remove the race mark tetrahedrons and also to be on standby in the case assistance was needed. The Club has purchased several small boats for the Junior Sailing School and these will be the boats that would be used not our own personal larger boats. There was interest from several members and so we will invite the Racing Fleet to come to our next meeting and discuss what may be needed.

#### 2017 DESTINATIONS:

Possible destinations for extended and shorter trips was discussed. P/C Kerry Schwab joined the meeting and discussed the fact that he had been looking into the Erie Canal but decided that perhaps there was more to do out in the western end of the lake in *Put in Bay and Kelly's Island*. He mentioned The Crow's Nest in Put in Bay as a great destination.

Gary Miller said he felt there was a lot to do in the Erie Canal and was asked if he would provide a potential itinerary for the Fleet.

Jim Thomas volunteered to work with Kerry Schwab to design a western Lake Erie itinerary.

*Other destinations* that were discussed for short trips were Conneaut, OH, North East PA, Dunkirk NY and Geneva, OH.

*Conneaut* could be a day trip and Michalee Curtze talked about organizing a Bike, Boat and Barbecue trip. Her idea is that anyone interested could bike to Conneaut. The boats would cruise to Conneaut and we would meet at the Conneaut Marina to have lunch at the barbecue. Then the bikers could either bike home or put their bikes on the boats and cruise back to Erie.

The *North East* trip is another day trip that is interesting because there will be a new restaurant called Noosa in at the North East Marina this year operated by 1201 Kitchen. In addition, the Marina is now being operated by Bob Mazza who owns the Mazza and South Shore wineries. Dockage and draft will be issues. Pam Davis volunteered to investigate and report back.

*Geneva, OH* was discussed. Geneva is a little longer trip and would probably be an overnight but there is lots to do in Geneva on the Lake, both fine dining and funky fun bars. There's a hillside winery and some golf courses. Kathy Wagner volunteered to investigate that location.

Other locations of interest were Dunkirk NY and Barcelona, NY for short overnight or day trips. There is interest in going to Dover again this year but we did have issues with dockage. So, if this trip happens, we will most likely have to limit it to just a few boats in a first come, first served basis.

PICNIC: It was decided that our first event of the season would be a picnic in early-mid May. Karen Carns will check with the Catering Manager about dates either at the Lighthouse, weather permitting, or on the Clubhouse Deck. Another option would be the Picnic Shelter.

RAFT OFF: There was interest in a raft-off over Memorial Day weekend. It was decided that the raft off should be planned for Sunday, May 28, which was the same day it was held last season. More details to follow closer to the date.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is set for March 29, a Wednesday night, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Carns, EYC Secretary-Treasurer