



April 7, 2020

Dear All

As we move through this pandemic, your Board and management will continue to update you on a weekly basis. If there is any change to NS Health regulations that affect our Squadron, we will communicate with you as soon as possible.

We continue to have our members' and our club's best interests at heart as we endeavor to manage both the spirit and rule of the ongoing provincial state of emergency. Your Board and management have no interest in circumventing the rules or interpreting them to our advantage but rather seek to follow them to ensure the safety of all as recommended by the province. We are in near-daily contact with other yacht clubs, Canadian and provincial sailing authorities and we monitor recreational boating news wherever available. We follow and discuss developments affecting boating in other jurisdictions, even internationally. We know that our friends in the U.S. have seen wholesale closures of waterways that don't permit boating of any kind. The state legislatures have taken these steps as warming weather has seen an increase in activity. As Canada is still thawing out, the measures in place are not as defined at present, but expectations are that we could see more prescriptive regulations imposed if the current guidance is ignored and/or the COVID-19 situation worsens.

We wish to provide members with clear direction regarding access to and activity on the property. To confirm, your club is currently closed to all but essential access. As per previous communications, we are not launching any boats or performing any marina activity. Members are further advised that we are not able to permit any work to be done or any significant time to be spent on or around boats at this time. As frustrating as this is, especially with some warmth and sun, the provincial direction is very clear. Everyone is to "stay the blazes home" and only venture out for groceries or essential services. While you won't find it specifically mentioned in provincial directions, we don't believe recreational maintenance or activity in a club boatyard is in keeping with current advice and as such we cannot endorse it.

The member FAQ in our weekly email contains some updated information regarding access to the boatyard as does the General Manager's operational update. For ease of reference however we have included the relevant section of the FAQ below.

Our much-reduced staff continues to function from home and within the boatyard. Staff working in the boatyard are adhering to NS Health guidelines for the workplace. We ask again that should you wish to visit the property please do so quickly and be respectful of social distancing guidelines.

Our club has survived many challenges over many years and will survive this one too. Maritimers are built of strong stuff, sailors are built of strong stuff...so who knows what Maritime sailors are made of! We do not wish to sound negative and keep issuing rules to follow, far from it, however these are serious times that require a serious response and we wish to provide you with clear direction.

Please know, that through all of this, we are preparing for a full boating season. Like many of you, we can't wait to get out there once we are safely & confidently able to do so.

Standing by

Sean McDermott & Scott King

UPDATED PROPERTY ACCESS FAQ

Can I access the Squadron property?

- Yes, however the main gate will be closed Thursday 9th April at 9am. From that time the South Gate will be open from 9am – 5pm ONLY, seven days a week. The main gate is to be closed in the interests of security.

I have a card for the main gate that was issued some years back, will that work?

- No, the gate is not operational at this time.

Can I visit the boatyard to check on my boat?

- If you have a boat on the Squadron property and need to check it for security purposes, then please do, but do this as infrequently as possible. If a friend is already checking their boat, have them check yours or reach out to Boatyard staff to check for you. If you don't have a boat stored on the property, please refrain from visiting the Squadron until NS Health regulations are relaxed sometime in the future. While checking your boat, please refrain from talking to staff and use e-mail or phone instead. Practice social distancing.

Can I work on my boat in the Squadron yard?

- We cannot permit any overt activity in the boatyard, and this would include painting, tarp and/or shrink wrap removal or similar. If you have work projects for your boat, then take a few extra moments during a security check to remove whatever item requires work and take it home with you.

Can I walk the Squadron property?

- No, please follow the provincial guidelines about remaining at home unless you have an essential reason to be out.

When will the marina be ready for use?

- The marina will be assembled in stages as soon as provincial guidelines permit.

Can I launch my dinghy/trailerable boat down the ramp?

- No, the ramp is closed except for emergency use by authorities.

Is the Squadron property secure?

- Without getting into details, we have staff on site during the day, security personnel at night as well as alarms and camera monitoring. Our main gate will be closed 24 hours a day commencing Thursday 9th at 9am, with members able to access via the South Gate between the hours of 9am to 5pm ONLY, seven days a week.