



Rebuilding the Fun!

News from the Medford Boat Club May 2011

To All of Our Members,

The countdown has begun! Summer of 2011 is just around the corner and so is Opening Day at the Medford Boat Club. As we continue in our planning for the upcoming season, I thought it would be a good time to let you know about some of the changes to the Club that are in the works!

This past winter brought the Mystic Lakes Dam restoration project onto the Club property and it has certainly been an exciting process! In continuing its widening and strengthening of the earthen dam upon which the Club sits, the State Department of Conservation and Recreation and its contractor, CRC, have rebuilt the main spillway, installed new crest gates to manage consistent water levels in the lake system, rebuilt the bridge over the river, installed proper curbing and a real parking lot on the Medford side, and totally refaced the Upper Mystic Lake face of the Medford Boat Club.

The changes to the Club are remarkable (!) and will give us a number of wonderful new vistas from which to watch our sailors and kayakers on the Upper Lake. We gained an additional access point for our Upper Lake boaters as well by separating the crane area from the kayak staircase...each boating group now has less impact on the other when it comes to safely launching vessels.

And speaking of kayaks, yes the rumors you may have been hearing are true. You will notice a big change in kayak storage at the MBC this summer. Please understand - due to the construction on the Upper Mystic lake side of the Club, we have lost *all* free-standing dry rack storage along the upper lake waterline. Our only remaining dry storage space is under the main deck; dam safety regulations will not allow us to rebuild a similar structure on the former rack site. That rack held almost 70 vessels!

Facing the loss of strategic storage space, and understanding the importance of treating all members as fairly as possible, the Executive Committee (EC) voted to eliminate ALL personal kayak storage at the Medford Boat Club for the Summer of 2011. In exchange, the EC also voted to spend a significant sum to purchase a number of new kayaks and paddles for member use by members this summer.

So yes, there will still be kayaking at the Club this summer however, it will be strictly in Club kayaks. While the final details of the program are yet to be worked out, each member may purchase a family kayak pass for the season at the cost of \$25 per family. The Club will keep a record of kayak program registrations and will require each family member of the kayak program to have a signed water safety waiver on file prior to vessel use. The Harbormaster will be coordinating this program, but might appreciate a member or two to help manage this initiative. If you would like to be involved in growing our club kayak program, please contact him at harbormaster@medfordboatclub.org. Again, there will be no storage of personal kayaks on the Club property this summer so please plan accordingly.

As far as the Club opening is concerned, here is what we are anticipating. For Memorial Day weekend, only MBC sanctioned/scheduled work parties will have access to the Club for the purpose of returning the Club to usable condition prior to Opening Day. We will strictly enforce a "no recreation/no children" policy that weekend, though members who show up ready and willing to work will be enthusiastically welcomed. We might even break out the grill later in the day.

The Club will remain closed during the weeks leading up to our June 18th Opening Day, except for work parties. We anticipate a sunny, glorious Opening Day, with our traditional Welcome Back Wine and Cheese that Saturday evening and a Father's Day Barbeque on Sunday. We are committed to a full season of activities this year, with weekend only access from Labor Day through the Columbus Day weekend.

Please know that your 2011 Executive Committee has worked tirelessly this winter trying to plan for a Club that will be, at least physically, markedly different. We ask you to go with the flow this summer...bring your positive attitude, your sense of humor, your understanding that some of these changes were not of our doing. Some changes were a long time in coming; we seized any opportunity to improve on what we already had in place.

Watch the website for further information on work parties coming soon. We still have a lot of work to do (and money to spend) to make this Club beautiful again. In the twenty plus years since the big fire, we've grown to be a wonderful family place and will, with your support and continued volunteering, continue to work together to rebuild the fun at the Medford Boat Club.

Sincerely,

Karen Zoeller, Commodore

**Only available Kayak Storage will
be used for Club kayaks.**

