



NSC NEW MEMBER GUIDE

THE CLUB

What are Nepean Sailing Club's guiding principles?

Nepean Sailing Club exists solely to support the activities of its members, who work together to make it the best club anywhere. NSC does not make a profit on any activity; members volunteer their time to keep the facilities up to date and make the activities enjoyable. Everyone is welcome to join NSC; the diversity of our membership is one of our strengths and one of our assets. Programs such as Youth Sail Training for sailors under 16 and Able Sail for sailors with disabilities are important parts of the club's openness to anyone who wishes to join. Because the clubhouse is owned by the City of Ottawa, NSC makes a number of facilities (the lounge, the deck) and activities available to the public.

When and how did the club start?

In 1982 a group of sailing enthusiasts working with the former City of Nepean had a vision for a world-class sailing centre. They set up an old Atco trailer on land behind the existing clubhouse (which at that time would have been perched near Carling Ave. on the shoreline of the Ottawa River), and boats were moored in a small harbour in front of the trailer. Over time the harbour was dredged and enlarged, the clubhouse built and the docks and slips constructed. Landfill from the harbour dredging was used to create the yard. All of this was achieved through the work and passion of volunteers.

How is the club run?

NSC has a volunteer Board of Directors elected from and by the members; a number of volunteer committees support the directors. The board meets once a month and oversees the club's finances, entertainment, food services, the harbour, racing, communications and membership to name some responsibilities.

What about the staff?

The club employs managers, administrators, bartenders, and support staff who look after the club's day-to-day needs and help you enjoy your experience. Your main contact is through the office administrator, who sits at the desk closest to the lobby counter. As you spend time at the club you will get to know who does what.

How does the club communicate with members?

There are a few ways to keep in touch. The first is through the NSC website (www.nsc.ca), where you will find information about races, club policies, membership lists, social events, weather, and other items of interest. The second way is through the

club's electronic newsletter, which is sent weekly to your personal email to keep you up to date on what's happening. The third way is through posters in the clubhouse and by the gate to the slips. Generally, posters are about social events, races or restaurant offerings.

What are my member responsibilities?

Each member is required to familiarize themselves with all the Club policies and procedures as these are critical in the management of the Club and your, and other members, safety and wellbeing. The policies and procedures are wide ranging and include such things as; mooring allocation, financial management, environmental practices, membership, and many more. These policies are found on our website at nsc.ca/members/policies.

What are the club's affiliations?

NSC is a member of Ontario Sailing and Sail Canada. We also enjoy reciprocal rights with many other clubs in Canada, giving NSC members access when visiting other boating venues.

How do I use my membership card?

Your club card contains your photo, your membership number and a bar code and is given to you by the office administrator when you (and family members) become a member. It opens the gate beside the clubhouse, the gate to the docks, and the gate to the yard. It is also used in the members lounge to track your orders and entitles you to club discounts on meal prices on the Galley Restaurant's menu and permits you to run a tab at the bar.

How can I help?

NSC welcomes and encourages all members to contribute and volunteer their time to help run the club. Besides the board of directors, various committees and task groups look for people to help out during the year. Your commitment may be for one day, a continuing "seat" on a committee, or helping to manage an event. Whatever you do, we want you to feel comfortable about what you are doing and have a positive experience.

THE BOATS

What are my responsibilities?

As a boat owner you are responsible for the safe operation of your boat at all times, securing your boat properly in your slip or in the yard, and adhering to the direction and policies of the Harbourmaster. All members have a responsibility to report safety or



security issues to NSC staff so any problems can be resolved. Every boat has to be insured for the year, and Proof of Insurance is a condition of keeping a boat at the club.

How do I get a slip?

Once you become a member, a group of fellow sailors, the Mooring Allocation Committee (MAC), will consider your boat's length (maximum 36 feet), width and the draft of your keel (maximum 6.0 feet), and will assign you a spot in the harbour. This assignment may take a while depending on the availability of an appropriate-size slip, and you may be assigned a temporary slip or have to store your boat in the yard while waiting. As well, members get one point for each year of membership, which the MAC takes into consideration when assigning slips. Slips are reviewed each year and boat owners can be assigned a new slip.

Where are the docks and how do I find my slip?

Club volunteers designed and installed the current docking system over a number of years. The main docks are reached through a security gate to the west of the clubhouse. These docks are named A, B, C, D, E and X. A to E docks run alphabetically from east to west and are joined together by X dock. Another dock, called W dock, runs north to south along the eastern perimeter of the harbour and is accessed from the yard. Boats launched from a trailer are stored in "dry" slips near W dock.

Where can I service or work on my boat?

Four finger docks along the east side of the harbour near the clubhouse are for taking on fresh potable water, pumping out, and washing boats with river water. Demand can be high for these slips, so there are time limits on their use. Other fingers along this dock are for longer-term work and offer electrical outlets. These fingers are close to the garage (called the Annex), where there are power and hand tools available to each member. You'll find plenty of members who are more than willing to offer advice or help. If you are planning to leave your boat overnight at this dock, you will need a "tag" from the office to show you have permission. There are wagons and wheelbarrows stored under the west end of the deck to transport your heavier gear to your boat.

How can I launch and haul out my boat?

The club has two cranes (North and South) with a five-ton lift capacity, and a ramp to the west of the clubhouse to launch power boats and swing-keel sailboats from a trailer. To use the crane you must participate in a training course for insurance purposes or pay a service provider to help you launch or haul out. In the fall and spring, the club hires large commercial cranes to do a mass one-day launch or haul-out. This can involve 100 or more boats, and club members volunteer for teams that guide the boats in or out of the water.



Where can I store my boat?

During the summer, dinghies, small keelboats launched from trailers and keelboats under repair are stored in the yard to the east of the clubhouse. During the winter, boats (keelboats on cradles, dinghies and tenders) are stored in the yard. All other boats are to be taken off-site due to space restrictions. Storage on the "hard" gives boat owners the opportunity to work on their boat, subject to some restrictions.

What is the Ottawa River like?

Lac Deschenes and the Ottawa River between the Deschenes Rapids and Chats Falls are navigable, and have been charted and marked by Transport Canada with red and green marker buoys to aid in navigation. Because the river is dammed at Chats Falls, water levels can go up and down, so you need to pay careful attention to potential hazards such as shoals and rock shelves, which can damage keels and rudders when the river is low. Before you venture out on the river, ask other members for advice and guidance. You should have proper charts, knowledge of the wind and weather conditions (up-to-date information is available at www.nsc.ca), and emergency numbers for rescue purposes. The club does not provide any emergency service, but all boaters on the water have an obligation to help those in distress.

THE FUN

What facilities does the clubhouse offer?

The Members Lounge and bar are on the upper deck, along with the Galley Restaurant, which is a great place to meet fellow sailors. Adjacent to the Members Lounge is the Harbourview Hall for club functions and private parties. The outdoor deck, which has been expanded over time through the work of volunteers, completes this level of the clubhouse. No other place in Ottawa has the same ambience or view.

What social activities are there?

The club was founded not only to be a place to enjoy sailing but also to socialize with other sailors. There are events during the summer and the winter, including barbecues, dinners, music and parties. And we like to party!

When does the sailing season start and finish?

The season begins when the Harbourmaster declares the harbour open, followed by the club boat launch, usually the first weekend in May. In June, the "official" boating season kicks off with Sailpast, where members line up their craft on the river, then sail past the Commodore's boat and back to the clubhouse for a celebration and the presentation of club burgees (flags) to long-term members. The season winds down with the club haul-



out on the last weekend in October; the harbour closes shortly thereafter. Members then wait for spring and share their favourite sailing stories.

How do I get sail training?

The principal service provider for adults is Advantage Boating, a private company that offers courses at various skill levels and certification standards. Some boat owners organize sail days for members who want to improve their sailing skills. An enthusiastic core of volunteers and professional sailing instructors offer training for sailors with disabilities through the Able Sail program.

How do I go racing?

There are several "fleets" of boats that principally race in the evening (Monday to Thursday) during the sailing season. NSC and other clubs on the river also host multi-day regattas for local, provincial, national and even international events. Volunteers organize the races and run them under the leadership of a bosun. If you don't have your own boat, you can sign up with the NSC "crew bank" for an opportunity to race on a boat with a skipper.

How can I get my kids involved?

During the summer, CANSail offers various levels of sail training for boys and girls aged 7 to 16 out of NSC's sail training school (the white building on the north edge of the yard). Attendance can be arranged through the office in the clubhouse. The school also offers a sailboat racing program to develop racing skills after the completion of some prerequisite courses.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The many volunteers and passionate boaters who make up the membership of the Nepean Sailing Club welcome you as a new member. We want you to enjoy the benefits of the club and to be a member for many years to come.