

Bergy Bits & Growlers

Kenai Fjords Yacht Club

PO Box 2505 • Seward, Alaska 99664
www.kfyc.org

October 2009

Time to renew your club membership for 2009. Please use form on page 3.

- 2009 Officers -

Commodore
Phil Kaluza, 224-7206
Commodore@kfyc.org

Vice Commodore
Liz Leech, 491-0090

Treasurer
Iris Johnson, 224-3675

Secretary
Bill Ennis, 345-5633
secretary@kfyc.org

Members At-Large
Paul Ruppel
Malcolm Rogers, 398-2185

The 2009 boating season is coming to a final, rainy, close. Walking the docks at this time of the year allows one to view a different harbor than just a month earlier. Canvaswork is gone, replaced by winter covers of differing potency, and people are few. It's obvious that this is a harbor in hibernation. Your KFYC officers wish you and yours a safe, trouble-free winter season. Stay warm and don't forget that Spring is on the way!

Kenai Fjords Yacht Club

Winter Meeting

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Potluck at 6:00 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.

Breeze Inn Lounge

Due to the enormous response to our last meeting, we have scheduled this meeting for a Saturday. Please plan to attend!

Guests are always welcome at all KFYC meetings & events!

Club memberships expire Dec. 31. Use form on page 3 to renew.

News from the October Meeting

The KFYC had its October meeting on Oct. 10, with 18 members (including two new members: welcome!) in attendance. Commodore Phil Kaluza presided at this very productive meeting. Here are the highlights.

Harbormaster Releases Maintenance Plans: At an August Port and Harbor Advisory Board worksession, Seward Harbormaster Kari Anderson reviewed the preliminary harbor maintenance policy. Although many details need to be completed, the general form is now clear. Even though the policy is incomplete, two guiding principles have already been clearly announced:

1. The water quality of the harbor will be maintained at all costs.
2. Deliberate damage to harbor facilities is not acceptable.

Although specific restrictions that had been in place have been rescinded, every maintenance procedure that boat owners practice must be accomplished with no pollution to the harbor waters. As an example, the restriction against doing work on one's boat from a dinghy has been repealed, but the work must not result in materials, such as varnish, polluting the harbor waters. If sanding wood aboard a boat, a vacuum must be used to catch all sawdust. Varnishing brightwork from a dock finger or dinghy is permissible, but some sort of catchment system must be in use to eliminate all harbor water pollution.

In addition to the new formulation of harbor maintenance policy, Ms. Anderson recommends implementing a fine system to provide disincentives for harbor water pollution or damage to harbor facilities. Other disincentives are being discussed.

During the August meeting, Ms. Anderson emphasized that her policy relied on the boat owner's "reasonable" response to the need to keep harbor water clean. Ms. Anderson warned, however, that more severe limitations were not off the table for the future. Whittier Harbormaster Mr. Ed Barrett buttressed her statements about future maintenance constraints and added

that his career in harbor work, including many years as harbormaster in harbors in the Lower 48, led him to believe that the Clean Water Act would radically alter harbors as we have known them. Only our great distance from Washington DC provided this calm before the regulation storm.

The exchange revealed that we are witnessing the beginning of a huge change in how we interact with our harbor. Since the Clean Water Act was enacted in 1977, there is little that we, as boat owners, can do other than help direct the harbor's response.

As information becomes available, we will pass it to you. Commodore Phil Kaluza is drafting a response for the club. Your club leadership has been working closely with the William H. Seward Yacht Club since these issues affect us all. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website:
<http://kfyc.org>

Harbor Fees to Increase: In a politically charged issue, the city of Seward is planning to increase most harbor usage fees. Commodore Phil Kaluza attended several worksessions in Seward and was able to report on the progress of the city's effort to increase the costs of harbor fees. Included in this would be higher slip fees, higher electric fees, and higher taxes on fuel that surely will be passed on to the consumers/boaters.

Rationales for these increased fees include funding replacement work on D float and constructing a larger water tank for watering cruise ships. Launching ramps, both north and south, are also in need of replacement.

Harbor slip fee increases are said to be 4%/year for five years plus "cost of living" increases (generally in the 2-3% range) that could result in a 30% increase over five years. Parking fees will also increase: 2009-\$50, 2010-\$100, 1011-\$150, a staggering 200% increase in two years. The harbor is also requesting an unexplained "Service Fee" increase of \$100,000. The harbor is requesting that 50% of the tax on fish that is collected by the city be returned to the harbor. (Continued on page 4)

KENAI FJORDS YACHT CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Annual dues are **\$20 *per person***. Membership year is January 1st – December 31st. Please submit information as you want it to appear in the club records. Mail completed application and dues to: Kenai Fjords Yacht Club, PO Box 2505, Seward AK 99664.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ No. of members _____ For year 20 _____

Name(s): _____

Mail address: _____

Ph: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail _____

Boat name: F/V M/V S/V _____ Location _____

Would you prefer to receive your KFYZ newsletter on paper, or informed of its on-line availability?

[Place a checkmark] Yes, notify me when I can download it. Yes, send me a paper newsletter.

Additional information / suggestions / comments: _____

Complete the following **only** if you want another member in good standing to vote in your stead at General Membership meetings that you do not attend during the year for which this application is submitted. (A member in good standing is one who has paid his or her Club dues for that year.) You may rescind your proxy at any time by writing to the Club, or in person at a Club meeting.

▶ ◀ ▶ ◀ ▶ ◀ KENAI FJORDS YACHT CLUB PROXY VOTE ▶ ◀ ▶ ◀ ▶ ◀

I hereby affirm that I am a member in good standing of the Kenai Fjords Yacht Club in Seward, Alaska, for the year 20____ and am therefore eligible to vote for Club officers and on other matters brought up for vote at General Membership meetings. I hereby designate _____, also a member in good standing, to vote in my absence at General Membership meetings in the year 20____.

Signature Printed Name Date

Signature Printed Name Date

Harbor Fees to Increase: (continued from page 2) As information is forthcoming, we shall inform the members. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website: <http://kfyc.org>

Club Finances: Treasurer Iris Johnson provided information on our club finances. She told the members that we have \$479.93 in our checking and \$534.55 in our saving account. The \$869.42 reduction in our checking account underscores the reason for our dues increase.

Merchandise for Sale: Treasurer Iris told the group that we have ample stocks of shirts in three styles, and most sizes. Our lovely tote bags and burgees are also available. Order forms are available on our website.

Cart Lock Combination/Winter Storage: It was decided to remove most of the club's dock carts for winter storage at Iris's house. Cart lock combinations will remain the same for the upcoming year.

Bylaws: At the incorporation of our club, the founders created a set of bylaws that defined our purpose and all of our operations. Through the years, these have been overlooked as the proper source for many of our club processes. In order to allow everyone with an interest to read the seven-page document, it has been posted on our website in the Members Only section. Contact any official for the password.

Dues Increase: Don't forget that the club dues will increase in 2010! Our dues have not increased since the club's inception in 1988, although prices certainly have. The March attendees approved an increase in KFYC annual dues to \$20/person for the 2010 year.

KFYC Hats Have Arrived!: Very attractive KFYC-logo hats have arrived and are for sale. Treasurer Iris Johnson has assigned a price of \$10 for each, a price reduction of \$5! . She will accept orders from the website, by mail, or by phoning her at 907 224-3675.

Our Newsletter is on our website: If you'd rather receive your newsletter via our website, <http://kfyc.org>, let us know. Notify our treasurer that you'd prefer the electronic version and we'll send you email to notify you when the newsletters are available. In addition, all newsletters for the past few years are always available on the site. It'll save the club the postage, and storage space at your house. Also, we need your current e-mail address so that we can notify all club members of any breaking news. Please send e-mail address changes to treasurer@kfyc.org

Website: Remember that we have a website that can address issues that are more immediate than those we can address in a twice-a-year newsletter. To learn about upcoming events, contact your club officials, and interact with the club in other ways, point your browser to <http://kfyc.org>. It always pays to stay informed!

New Burgees: Our peripatetic member, Sue Kaanta, has brought us two more club burgees, and Treasurer Iris Johnson received a burgee from a visiting member of the Saltaire Yacht Club on Fire Island, New York. Sue's two burgee contributions were from Bellingham Yacht Club and the Prince William Rowing and Yacht Club. Thanks, Sue and Iris!