

Wabamun Sailing Club Overview

The Wabamun Sailing Club is a sailing facility operated on approximately two acres of lakefront property on the north shore of Lake Wabamun. The club is incorporated and is operated on a volunteer and not-for-profit basis. As with any organization dependent upon the donated time and efforts of its members, it must remain sensitive to the wants and needs of those same members.

Throughout its 40 year history, the Wabamun Sailing Club (WSC) has continued to grow and prosper because it has retained this sensitivity.

Since its inception, the club has developed into one of the most active sailing clubs in the province. In so doing, and through the continuing commitment of its membership, the club has become well-equipped to meet its goals. A large two-storey heated club house complete with washrooms, showers, and kitchen facilities provides shelter and comfort throughout the sailing season. It boasts Albert's most complete inventory of racing equipment including marks, anchors, flags, computer scoring, and a Race Committee barge. The safety of members is and will remain a high priority. The club has three radio- equipped power boats for rescue and a continuing requirement that each member participate in a safety program.

The types of boats sailed at the club are, for the most part, dinghies, catamarans, and sailboards. Most boats used by members are removed daily from the water and stored on the lawn or in boat or board racks after sailing. The boats sailed by current members show their preference for several of the more popular classes common in North America including Laser, Laser II, Fireball, 505, Enterprise, Byte, Osprey, Taser, CL 16, Tornado, Sea Spray, Unicorn, and Hobie Cat. There are also a variety of other classes at the club but in very small numbers. There are presently over 85 boats and boards in the club.

The club welcomes both non-racing and racing sailors. A significant part of the membership is made up of non-racers. It is interesting to note that the majority of the club's members started out as non-racers and gradually became racers as their skills improved.

The WSC is committed to the sport of sailing and is therefore an active member of both Alberta's and Canada's sailing community. The club's facilities are regularly donated for teaching and racing clinics and the club frequently hosts national and international regattas. As requested by the membership, various junior and student training courses are organized from year to year depending on the demand. The club owns five Optimist dinghies which are used for the training of young sailors.

The club facilities are available for use every day from the May 24 weekend until the Thanksgiving weekend. The club is busiest on weekends as formal racing and training programs are organized every Saturday and Sunday throughout the sailing season.

Presently on the club property there are 27 reserved camping stalls. These spots are able to accommodate any type of RV: trailer, tent trailer, motor home, camper, etc. and are supplied with power. They are rented to members for the season according to a priority list.

The priority is set by the date on which a member formally applies in writing for a spot. There is usually a waiting list for these spots as they are popular. With the usual turnover in membership in the club, it typically takes two or three years to qualify for a camping spot. To satisfy the overflow demand, there are free RV camping spots available on a first-come first-served basis. These spots are almost always available, except during major regattas. These spots are not equipped with power and must be vacated when going home unless the unit will be used overnight on the following weekend. (You can't just park an RV in them all summer.)

There is also lots of room for tents, as the grounds have a considerable amount of grass. The club kitchen is available for use by the membership at any time except during major regattas. Major regattas occur about 4 weekends a year. The kitchen is equipped with two stoves, a fridge, a microwave and a freezer.

The largest percentage of the club members are classified as Active Members, a category which includes spouse and children, and it is often said that the WSC is a family club. The grounds and facilities are shared and enjoyed by some 90 families. On a typical summer weekend, there will be a dozen boats racing around a course on the lake with half a dozen non-racing boats cruising the lake, while on shore there may be a dozen kids sun tanning or swimming and another half dozen on the swings and playground equipment. It is an atmosphere that is popular with all ages.

Any individual or family considering membership in the WSC should be aware that members are expected to help with such things as the annual Spring Clean-Up, wet suit parties (for launching the club's power boats), and Officer of the Day duties. All membership categories, including crewing and student members must be prepared to help out as the facilities and sailing programs can only be run through their efforts.

In summary, if you are keen to have fun by sailing at a high-quality facility and wish to meet other sailors with similar interests, Wabamun is the sailing club for you.

Procedure for Membership Application

If at this stage you are interested in joining the Wabamun Sailing Club, you should be aware of the different membership categories. There are seven categories of membership in the club of which three normally are applicable for new members. They are as follows:

Active

This category includes families and single adults aged 18 years or older. The spouse and children under the age of 19 of persons in this category are covered by the adult's annual membership fee. This category allows a member to rent a boat stall and sail a boat at the club. This type of member is the only type eligible to rent an annual camping stall. This membership category is allowed one vote at any club general meeting. Active members shall be required to pay the entrance fee.

Crewing

This category is for members who do not keep a boat at the club premises and who sail with other members on their boats. This type of member is welcome at club general meetings but cannot vote. Crewing members are not required to pay the entrance fee.

Student

There are two types of student members:

A) Those whose parents are **not** Active Members and who are in full time attendance at school, until and including the membership year in which they cease attending school or the membership year in which they turn 29, whichever is earlier.

B) Those whose parents are Active Members and who have reached the age of 19 years before March 1 of the membership year and who are in full time attendance in school, until and including the membership year in which they cease attending school or the membership year in which they turn 29, whichever is earlier.

Student Members are not required to pay the entrance fee. Student Members shall be entitled to the following:

1. Use of the club facilities.
2. A reduction on boat stalls and rack rental fees.
3. A reduced entrance fee if the Student Member becomes an Active Member in the year immediately following the last year of the Student Membership. The entrance fee will be reduced by 10% per year for each year of Student membership to a maximum of 50% entrance reduction.

Boat Insurance Requirements

As a condition of membership, the Wabamun Sailing Club requires all members to carry adequate third party liability insurance in case of property damage or bodily injury claims resulting from the ownership or operation of sailboats from the club. In addition to some coverage on the boat itself, the following is an article which was in the April/May 1992 issue of "The Island Mariner" which you may find helpful.

There are many misunderstandings about insuring sailboats. I'd like to dispel some of these misunderstandings and provide readers with several additional points to consider when placing coverage on a boat.

Basically, the types of sailboats used on inland lakes can be insured either through a rider on your home insurance policy, or on a separate policy.

If you insure your boat as a rider to your home insurance, you typically will have more restrictive coverage, which might be o.k. If the boat is lower in value, or used strictly for recreational sailing, the method of loss payment is usually based on the actual cash value of the boat, while partial losses are subject to depreciation. You should also look for certain exclusion which may be incorporated into the wording, such as a racing exclusion, exclusions pertaining to spinnakers and so on.

For most homeowners, policies extend automatically to the ownership or use of watercraft up to 26 feet in length or 30 hp. The liability coverage normally do not exclude sailboat racing. In summary, the liability extended from your home insurance is likely acceptable, but, depending on the value and use of the boat, the physical damage coverage may be lacking.

Specific sailboat insurance policies address many of the shortfalls in a boat rider or extension of your home insurance. The method of loss settlement usually is replacement cost for partial losses and the declared value for total losses. In addition, specific coverage for instrumentation and electronics and various marine-related causes of damage, such as loss caused by zebra mussels, will be addressed.

Normally, a specific sailboat insurance policy will also provide protection and indemnity coverage, which is marine liability and protection. This coverage is tailored to address such things as salvage costs, abandonment and other provisions of the Marine Insurance Act and the international regulations for the prevention of collisions at sea.

This may sound rather fancy for your San Juan 21 on Lake Wabamun, but many of us can remember the Edel keelboat that sank on Lake Wabamun and had to be salvaged at great expense. Similarly, the city of Calgary would certainly demand the removal of a boat from Glenmore reservoir. It should be noted that the personal liability coverage from your home insurance policy would be available in excess of the protection and indemnity coverage.

Sailors who travel with their boats should also look at the navigable area specified in the policy. Does it restrict the coverage to lakes only, or allow coverage for coastal waters? Is coverage provided for the United States or Canada only?

Filling Out the Forms

Once you have decided which type of membership category applies to you, refer to the attached application forms. The New Member Application form is the formal application to join the club.

Note: At the bottom of the form there are two sponsors required to nominate you as a proposed new member.

These sponsors must be Active members of the club. Typically, they are members at the club you first meet and talk to about joining the club. If you don't know any Active club members, contact the Membership Chairman for names of members of the club who sail the same type of boat that you plan to sail. They are usually keen to see new members with the same class of boat and will usually be willing to sponsor you. The second attached form is the Schedule of Dues and Assessments. This form must be filled out in full with the appropriate fees indicated. Note: It is mandatory that you carry correct insurance, comply with the Ministry of Transport Safety Regulations and abide by the club by-laws. Your signature is required indicating that you agree to these terms.

For Active Membership, there is an Entrance Fee of \$300.00 which must be paid at the start of the second year of membership. This allows a new member to "try out" the club before paying any part of the entrance fee.

If an Active Member joins after August 1 the annual Dues will be reduced by 50% for that year. The full rental rates for boat stall etc. will still apply.

The Entrance Fee is due in it's entirety if a member joins with a discount.

Additional information such as the Bylaws, Year Book and membership forms can be found here:

<http://www.wabamunsailingclub.ab.ca/index.php?Page=602.0>

Please send your cheque and the two forms, signed, to the Membership Chairman for processing. The address is:

Peter van Muyden

Membership Chair

P.O. Box 1702, Main P.O.
Edmonton, AB T5J 2P1 CANADA

Please don't hesitate to call me at home: 780 963 0214

