



Update from Your Commodore

Hello to all members of AYC:

Please consider this message to be an update from the Commodore on our club's status regarding reopening, as I know you are all dying to get to work on your boats.

On a quick personal note, I have been mucking on boats every spring since I was eight – fifty-one years ago. I miss it as much as anyone and although I have access to the property, I have refrained from anything more than a circle check of beloved Citation. I view sailing as an almost Pagan ritual – we prep in the spring and pack up in the fall year after year. It is a sturdy signpost in our lives and this year, like last, it is missing. Indeed, of the last five seasons four have been beset by forces beyond our control: two seasons of flooding and two of pandemic. We are all clamouring to get back at it.

I have heard from many members over the last several weeks about this situation, as has the board. Many of you have offered your support and patience, and many have questioned why we are shut down while our neighbors are buffing away.

At the risk of repeating past announcements, I'd like to take this opportunity to recap our stance, and keep you apprised of our ongoing efforts to ensure that the board's decision-making in this regard is guided by the best information available. Specifically:

1. We are not the only club in the immediate area that is closed to members. Cathedral Bluffs is closed as is Queen City (to all but it's year-round live aboard members).
 2. As most of you know, the most recent lock down and stay-at-home order did not include the designation "boating clubs" in its exemptions. It did include to term "marinas." Previous announcements had "boating clubs and marinas" designated specifically. The most recent orders dropped "boating clubs" from the exemptions but retains "marinas." The most direct reading of this is that boating clubs are not included in the exemptions and must remain, like golf clubs, tennis facilities, archery ranges and other recreational facilities, closed to the membership and the public.
 3. Clubs like our neighbors' have decided, conveniently, that they are included under the marinas designation because they store and launch boats. Several clubs have said that the removal of "boating clubs" from the regulations was simply a sloppy oversight by the government and that marina covers boat clubs. There is no evidence that either of these stances are true beyond the fact that the clubs that have chosen to be open have not been charged by the province.
 4. It is unclear whether being open in such circumstances voids AYC's various insurance coverages. Were we to have an accident or a fire it would be easy enough for our insurer to void coverage based on the fact that members were in the yard in violation of provincial regulations I am not eager to test this.
 5. Your board of directors, and your commodore in particular, have a fiduciary duty to protect the club's two most valuable assets – its membership and its facility. This responsibility does not include making unproven assumptions that the most recent regulations were mistaken, or that suddenly we are covered as marinas. We must read the regulations as clearly written and follow them completely. That is our fiduciary duty to the club and to you, the membership.
 6. Launch on May 7 has been cancelled. Should we remain closed to the membership until the lock down order expires on May 19, then we will reschedule launch for June 4 or 11. Should we receive clarification that allows us to reopen before the 19th then we can move this date up to May 28. We will make sure that
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everyone has enough time to properly prepare their boats. And like last year, we will launch in shorts and short sleeve shirts, with the trees and bushes in full leaf.

In short, we are proceeding with necessary caution until the situation clarifies itself. I have contacted several government departments – including the office of the premier – with a specific request for clarification on the status of boating clubs, and we have requested that senior member Brian Iler conduct a legal review of the situation. Pending these results, we will remain at our current closed to the membership status.

I thank you for your ongoing patience. I know it is trying to see other clubs buffing and sanding away. Please be patient a little longer. This situation calls for it. Thank you.

Cheers & stay safe ----> Nick
