

## The Minisceongo YC Clubhouse - A Brief History



The Old Clubhouse.

The end of WWII brought our young men home to a country, untouched by the ravages of war, and to plentiful jobs. Businesses that had learned to be nimble in wartime, were quickly switching over to peace time production. Looking for normalcy, these men sought inexpensive recreation such as camping, motorcycling, and boating. Many began to join up with Bill Sutherland and his fledgling group, building a lightning fleet on the shores of the Hudson River. With this newfound influx of members, it wasn't long until they had outgrown his workshop and needed a larger place for their meetings.

### Paraphrased from Bill's memoirs:

At one meeting a great event took place. Larry Ryan got up and told us that West Point, where he worked, had acquired a property with fifty-five buildings including a fairly new log cabin, but they were all to be auctioned off as one unit. After initial attempts to purchase it separately proved fruitless, the club members pursued some political connections and were finally able to get the building as a sole offering, but it would still be open to other bidders. They scraped up \$333.33, mostly Bill's own money, and placed their bid which they won by a mere \$33.33! Additionally, Larry Ryan used his house as \$1,000 collateral for a performance bond guaranteeing that the building be removed, and rubble cleaned up, no doubt within a time frame. This was accomplished without incident and Larry's bond was returned.

Club minutes and other records describe how the chestnut logs were numbered, placed on member Warren Woodmansee's flatbed truck, and delivered to the club grounds where member Elmer Jones built the foundation at cost. It was on this site that the building was reconstructed. What had been a porch was changed to picture windows with an arch supporting the open wall section. The long yellow pine flooring was re-laid, and a fireplace was added.

The first meeting was held on 10 December 1948, the only heat being from the new fireplace. The newly formed Ladies Auxiliary raised the money for a heating system and galley equipment. They also served as the social committee during these early years as well.

Through the following seventy plus years, members have maintained, repaired, and remodeled this building, always with the care and attention to detail that they would put into the boats they have so proudly owned. The MYC clubhouse has been shown and written about in numerous yachting publications and served as a landmark to river travelers. It has welcomed boating associations and the Coast Guard Auxiliary as a meeting place, hosted sailing events, and fed a hungry crew during workdays.

The stars must have aligned for this bunch of guys who, somehow, were able to get the Federal government to break it's established protocol, suddenly take on and quickly complete a major construction project, and pay for it all on a shoestring budget.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Basley, MYC Historian

### The New Clubhouse - Planning to Completion Timeline

Over the years our historic clubhouse has served us well. Plans have been discussed to repair, renovate, expand, extend, and finally replace. In the meanwhile, the house has received "Tender Loving Care" from our members. Here are some highlights.

1948 - The log cabin was acquired and brought to MYC

1950 - First of MANY repairs planned and executed

1955 - 58 - Extensive upgrades completed including sliding windows, new toilets, handrail, fans and more - often with funds donated by the Ladies Auxiliary

1967 - Long range plan for Clubhouse extension

1972 - Expansion to the East discussed in detail

1987 - New Clubhouse discussed, but Travel Lift was purchased at that time, repairs continued

1991-92 - Plan for Pavilion and to close in the clubhouse porch

1996-97 - Plan to coordinate major renovations and repairs - accomplished over a few years.

2005 - Decaying logs inspected, followed by repairs

2008 - Renovation and major addition proposed

2009-14 - New Clubhouse researched and planned. In-depth feasibility study and design

2015 - Current clubhouse committee formed

2019 - Construction begins!

### Planning for a New Clubhouse

During the years 2009-2014 the New Clubhouse Committee met regularly and reported to the membership. Discussions included technical construction details, materials and equipment, function and predicted use patterns, aesthetics both exterior and interior and financial feasibility.

### Clubhouse Committee Members:

Dave Tonneson, Chairman

Tom Austin

Keira Burtch

Dominick Ferrara

Gurran Kane

Tony Schweiker

Joe Senacherib

Roger Wieland

**Location:** After a final vote by the membership in the fall of 2013, the site chosen was the existing clubhouse location.

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## The New Clubhouse



They met with the surveyor and architect to be sure the size/height and shape of the building met all set-back and River front requirements.

**Exterior Design:** The committee selected a design by member Tom Austin. Construction materials and techniques were researched. Balance and symmetry, views from the interior, exterior space usage and the view from the river, were important features in the decision process.

**Interior Layout:** The interior was discussed at length with input from members. Amenities and functionality, space and aesthetics were all considered.

**Cost Estimates:** After much deliberation, the membership decided on a more modest and less costly clubhouse design.

### **New Clubhouse Committee Formed**

In 2015, Ed Gutierrez was asked to chair a new Clubhouse Committee. Members include Rich Brienza, Keira Burtch, Bob Tamagny and Chris Vicidomini.

**Design and Planning:** The group began with the financial limits set by the members and decided to get professional help to select a site and get architectural drawings. The committee researched, interviewed 3 architects, and chose Jan Degenshein, Architects of Nyack, NY. As a boater Mr. Degenshein has an appreciation and understanding of Yacht Clubs, boating, and Hudson River architecture. He made recommendations for site selection and worked with the committee on interior space and exterior design.

**Site:** The site selected and ultimately approved by the members is centrally located west of the old clubhouse and opposite the picnic pavilion. The view from the spacious porch across the basin and up the river will draw members to relax and enjoy the River and the camaraderie of our

club. Visitors can easily see the new clubhouse when approaching via our dredged deep-water channel from the River. The next step was to get all permits and town approvals. Committee Chairman Ed Gutierrez acted as point man, working with the town, architect surveyor and engineering firm to make all the preparations.

**Contractor:** The committee obtained bids from local contractors and a club member who has a well-established contracting business. The Club voted and approved Keith Yodice Enterprises proposal. He said from the beginning that as a club member he wanted to build something to be proud of for many years to come.

**Construction:** Finally, in March 2019 ground was broken by Mr. Yodice's excavation team. After laying the foundation and plumbing/wiring layout, the slab was poured. Our Security committee headed by Peter Alfieri with the help of members Shawn Foran and Seth Gannon laid out a modern security, IT, and media plan. April and May saw the dramatic rise of the framing that gave the first real sense of the spacious new clubhouse. Under the creative eye of Keith Yodice, the clubhouse took shape. Ed Gutierrez kept things running smoothly throughout the process. By summer the roof, deck and interior partitions were completed. During the fall the exterior siding, windows, doors, and stonework were installed. Over the winter the mechanicals, flooring tile, walls, trim and architectural details were completed. Unfortunately, this spring COVID 19 delayed our final touches.

We hope to be able to open the new building very soon and will have ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate when possible. Sadly, we will need to say a fond farewell to the old iconic log cabin structure and return the area to a green space. In memory of the first clubhouse, we will be salvaging some of the chestnut logs to incorporate into the décor of the new clubhouse.

**Virtual Tour:** When entering the club grounds, a slight turn to the left will bring you to the driveway that allows for drop off under the Port-Cochere. The entry opens on the center hall with cathedral ceiling and skylights and a compass rose inlaid in the tile floor. Follow the corridor to the left for a small business office, storage closets and bathrooms. The next left finds the full galley with pantry area and mechanicals. To the right is the main meeting hall. There are 4 areas: Service bar to the west, large seating area with view north up the River, cozy fireplace and seating on the opposite side for winter gatherings, and on the East end a meeting area. If you continue through the center hall you will exit onto the porch with the center section under a protecting roof, open deck to the right and patio to the left, all with full River view.

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