

Peekskill Yacht Club

by Thom Johnson and Pete Goodale

Members Share a Long History of Teamwork, Social Life and Community Service

The nearly 130 members of Peekskill Yacht Club (PYC) are justifiably proud of their accomplishments during more than 100 years at Travis Point on the Hudson. One of the oldest clubs on the Hudson, we are in many ways a model for many other clubs.

As a working club, members have their hands in every aspect of the operation. With a spacious and full-service clubhouse, basin with 84 slips and 8-10 PWC ports, a large storage yard and members-only gas dock, there's always plenty of work for everyone.

We build and repair our docks and bulkhead; cook meals and tend bar for meetings and social events; clean the clubhouse; cut the grass; operate the Travelift to launch and pull boats; maintain all electrical, security and plumbing systems; operate the gas dock; archive club history; publish a club newsletter; and even support a club band for entertainment.

A working club brings members of many different backgrounds together for their shared interest of being on the water. And by closely working together to maintain the club and its facilities, special bonds of friendship grow to enhance the value and rewards of club membership.

To remain in good standing, each member is responsible for a set number of work hours each year. At PYC we have a diverse group of members, from first responders and educators to businessmen and political leaders. When new members join, we get to know them and direct them to tasks that fit their skills and support club operations. For example, a new member with carpentry skills would likely find himself building docks while someone without specific trade skills might help with clubhouse cleanup, painting, event management, yard work or other general maintenance. Those with musical talents might chose to join The Work Hours, the club band.



This summer members took advantage of the COVID-19 closure of the clubhouse for all social activities to paint its entire interior, refurbish utilities, and replace all carpeting that had been in place since the building opened in 2000. Masked members spent many hours completing the project.

Members who know their way around a kitchen are always welcome. Prior to monthly meetings the galley crew serves up a meal that can't be beat: salad, main course, drink and desert for just \$5. Breakfast and lunch are often served at no charge during major work parties. And great meals are served at modest cost for families and friends during holiday events throughout the year and seasonal Tiki Bar happy hours on the dock.

We are also proud to have hosted Sea Scout Ship 30 for many years. The scouts use our clubhouse for meetings where they learn skills needed to safely navigate the Hudson. They participate with club members in our annual Commissioning Day and have taken the safe boating class when offered.

Club members are often first responders when there are emergencies on the river. During the boating season club members keep a marine radio tuned to Ch. 16 so that when a distress call comes in we are able to respond and provide aid.

PYC has always supported the City of Peekskill activities. As early as 1909, we were part of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration on the 300th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of the Hudson River. Throughout the years, the club has been part of many city parades and celebrations. We help with the care and use of the city docks both at the Riverfront Green and boat launch. The city police boat is kept at our yard and about a dozen transient boats are stored there each winter. And the US Coast Guard Auxiliary meets in our clubhouse, as does the city Garden Club.

PYC's archives show that our history dates to 1903 when interested parties came together to start the club. Chartered in 1908, the club in 1915 moved to its location at Travis Point. Since then we have been fortunate to be located at one of the many beautiful spots on the Hudson. From our clubhouse the view is northwest across the Hudson to the South Gate of the Highlands, Dunderberg Mt. and Anthony's Nose.

As members of Peekskill Yacht Club, we work together to care for the site, teach safe boating, preserve our history and enjoy a robust social calendar. New members are welcome. To learn more about the club or to inquire about membership, go to the club's website, www.peakskillclub.com



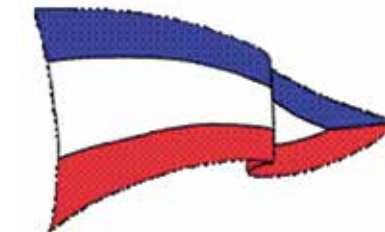
Clockwise from top:
Members work together to build new dock.

The club's "float" is an attraction in Peekskill's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

PYC kitchen crew ready to serve members and guests.

Barge Clubhouse: The club's original clubhouse – an old railroad construction barge – served the club until 1998.

Ship 30 Sea Scouts on Bannerman's Island for a service project.



Opposite page:
Members use work boat to flat dock into position.

PYC Clubhouse: PYC's new clubhouse was built by the members and commissioned in 2000.

