

The Cortlandt Yacht Club

cortlandtyachtclub.com

The Cortlandt Yacht Club is managed by appropriate officers and 6 trustee's Commodore, Finance, Manpower, Marina Operations, Rear Commodore, Fleet Captain, Secretary Treasurer, Financial Secretary

John H. Vargo, Publisher

I have spent my entire life living in and around Buchanan, Montrose, and Verplanck, N. Y. It was a fairy tale life that involved all that the area had to offer.

The Hudson River was my first love, second was my wife Maryellen! I met my wife after coming ashore on White Beach, in Verplanck, and buying a hotdog from this beautiful Catholic Girl. She asked me "Who was the lunatic water skiing behind that seaplane?", I replied, "that was me!"

This took place in September of 1956, at Christmas, I married her while being in the Army only 6 months.

With thanks to Gerry DiCola, Charles Bartnik and Bob Stofko For their contributions to this story.

The property that is now called the Cortlandt Yacht Club is one of the most prominent recollections of my life. When I was very young, 16, 17, (early 50's I duck hunted off the island directly in front of the marina in the Fall in what was to become the Cortlandt Yacht Club. At the time the cove was full of Canvas Back ducks, the most delicious of all wild ducks).

What a wonderful life I have had...and still do.

The Property is almost perfectly situated for a yacht club. It sits on a relatively high bank on the east side of the Hudson River protected from southern storms by Montrose Point and the 50 acre Kolping-On-Hudson, in front by a large island that breaks the winds from the West. Northerly winds are practically non existent! Storms from the east are hardly felt at all.

The earliest mention of a club here is roughly 1961 when The property was known as Camp Hygienolgy Summer Camp.

The manager was Dr. Anderson. The pond that now has the floating golf green in it was their swimming hole. Rumor had it that this was a nudist camp, but as hard as I tried we never caught anyone swimming nude there. All of the property was part of the Pearlman Estate. The property then was sold to the Virgil Family. After that the Selanti Family, who lived on the southern end of the 6 acre property, built a steel swimming pool. It was built by a contractor named Dave Plotkin. (This pool still exists and is in excellent shape.) The pool had rows of cabana's on both the East and West side of the pool, as well as at the south end there was a restaurant.

Gerry DiCola, one of the original, long time members of the Cortlandt Yacht Club, actually worked at the club when he was 14 years old, the year was 1961.

In 1965 Paul Carrera and Jerome Wohlstein bought the property from the Virgil Family! These two men sold the property to Con Edison in 1968. That was the owner whom the 100 founding members of the Cortlandt Yacht Club, each



One of the four Segmented Operation Centers
This includes a cafe and a Swimming Pool. It is offered on a lease basis to an outside contractor who reports to a club officer who is in charge.



The Pool and Cafe open Memorial Day Weekend and close on the First week in September or when school begins. Many local residents use the Pool and Snack Bar during the summer months under a lease arrangement to the private contractor

putting up \$2,500, became the actual owners of the property in 1981. (One of the main reasons that the original members were able to buy the property was the fact that Members Donald Gelfer, Charie Bartnik, and past members Fran Lough and Shep Ellenberg met with the Con Edison real estate vice president on 14th St. in New York City, on several occasions to further negotiations for purchase of the property to the Moncor Development Corporation, AKA Cortlandt Yacht Club).



The Clubhouse. The top floor of the Clubhouse is used by the members for their meetings. The main floor and the kitchen are leased out to outsiders for weddings, showers, and other events. This operation is controlled by a member who is responsible for the entire operation.

The most interesting, wild, crazy time period from 1961 to 1981 are some of my fondest memories. You see in the 60's long before boat registrations, rules, and more regulations, this location was a "hot time in the old town tonight"! On Friday nights you could expect at least ten sometimes 20 yachts to arrive from New York City. The fun would begin the moment the boats arrived, and never stop until late Sunday afternoon when the whole group left for New York City.

In 1968 Con Edison bought the property in the hope of putting two more nuclear generating stations on this 6 acres, plus the 50 or so acres of the Adjacent property called, Kolping-On-Hudson. (The Kolping Society purchased the property in the early 50's to be used as a summer rest area for its members.)

This rare, 50 acre jewel on the Hudson River, has been untouched for at least 150 years, and today, is very much as it was originally.

When Con Edison's plans for their property become known to its members a huge legal fight pitted Con Edison against Kolping-On-Hudson trying to save their property. It took years of legal infighting before Con Edison backed away from this lawsuit. Kolping-On-Hudson won the right to keep their property, and today the land is just as pristine as it always has been. It is a fitting compliment to the Cortlandt Yacht Club!

Since Con Edison could not acquire all of the property needed for two more Nuclear plants a golden opportunity present itself to the original members of the Montrose Yacht and Social Club. A number of the original members were instrumental in negotiating with Con Edison to purchase the property. Don Martire played a significant role as did other members. The acquisition of the property by this group each putting up \$2,500 dollars was sealed in 1981.

From the time that Moncor Development AKA Cortlandt Yacht Club, and its 100 founding members purchased the property to this day, the concept of segmenting various portions of the Cortlandt Yacht Club operations, and have it run by officers is the concept that has made it so successful!

The Clubhouse built in 1990 to 1995. During this period, There were four Commodores: E. Manzella, J. Brooke, J. Icardi and J. Marcario

Pool and Cafe built in 1992

The Boat Slips and Winter Storage

Financial and Membership The longest running Treasurer was R. Seidel, 1998 -2007

In 2000 brand new Sullivan built docks replaced the old docks. This took place during the 1990's

These four segments were always well run and reported to the general membership on a regular basis.

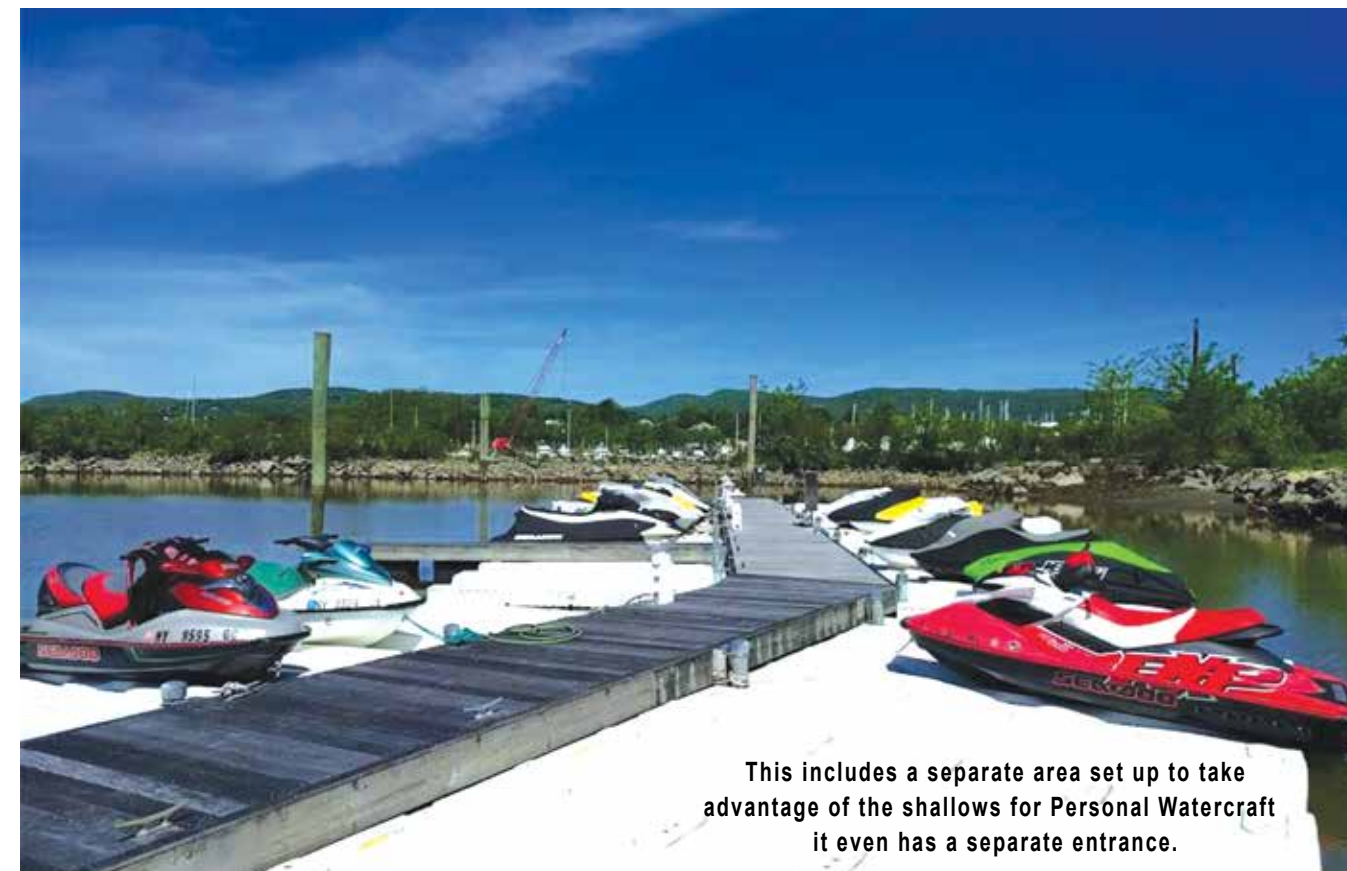
The Cortlandt Yacht Club membership original shares have grown significantly since 1981 when the Moncor Development Company, AKA Cortlandt Yacht Club was first created.

Long live this wonderful group!



Boat Slips and Winter Storage Segment

This area is the most important segment managed by a member as it is the obvious reason the club exists to enjoy boating!



This includes a separate area set up to take advantage of the shallows for Personal Watercraft it even has a separate entrance.