

History of the Club

The Greater Wildwood Yacht Club resides on Forget Me Not Road in Wildwood Crest overlooking beautiful Sunset Lake. It was the summer 1938 when the Yacht Club was founded.

For years the residents that lived on the lake were talking about starting a yacht club. Finally after years of talking the plans were made. Charles Englefield, Doc Lukens and Ed Flood held the first meeting on Palmer Ways' yacht and became the Commodore, Vice Commodore and Rear Commodore. The yacht was the floating clubhouse.

The following summer, Ward and Cooper Bright generously donated their homestead and it became the first home of the GWYC. The house was moved to a lot on Wisteria and the bay. It was a good beginning. Thirty nine members joined the first year. During World War II, most members were called to serve their country. While the fathers were at war, their children were busy winning trophies on weekends at the regattas held at the club. Hot sailors of that time were John Martin, Ed Flood, Tommy Sorensen, Dick and Dave McGrath.

In 1945 under the helm of Commodore E.G. Monville plans were formulated for a new clubhouse. The old site was quickly sold and a new clubhouse was built on Forget Me Not Road. Construction began in late March of the following year and was completed by the 10 minute gun of the 9th annual Regatta in August 1946 when Dr. R.C. Kell was Commodore.

Under Commodore Bert Parker there was smooth sailing in 1948. Little Joe McGrath won the Jr. Moth Series and young Asa Colson, along with sister Jane, won the mid-week Comet series. A good start for the first 10 years of the GWYC. With the increasing popularity of the sport of sailing, the South Jersey Yacht Racing Association (YRA) was formed. Five clubs participated in weekend regattas, each one taking turns as host. On these weekends, over 100 youngsters throughout the area would compete in sailing races.

In 1970, the GWYC held the International Moth-Class World Championship. Burgees from France, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand flew from the clubhouse yardarms. At that time, dignitaries were honored from New Zealand and the United Kingdom. One of the highlights of the visit was the bonfire held at Higbees beach in Lower Township.

While sailing was the main attraction at the club, the members turned it into more of a social destination as the years went by. On Saturdays, there would be a full course dinner served to members and guests and Fridays were casual meals. Membership increased to include both sailing and social members. The yacht club continues today to be a place where families enjoy new friends and beautiful sunsets for which the lake is named.

While the sunsets have remained the same, a few things have changed today at the yacht club. The Sunfish, Laser and Optimist fleets have replaced the Moths and Comets of years gone by. A larger, Mid Atlantic Yacht Racing Association was formed from the old South Jersey YRA. Today, water sport activities have expanded to include powerboats, personal watercrafts, kayaks and windsurfers as well as sailing.

Contact GWYC

Write Us:

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Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260

Call Us:

GWYC Club Phone: (609) 522-0969

Email Us:

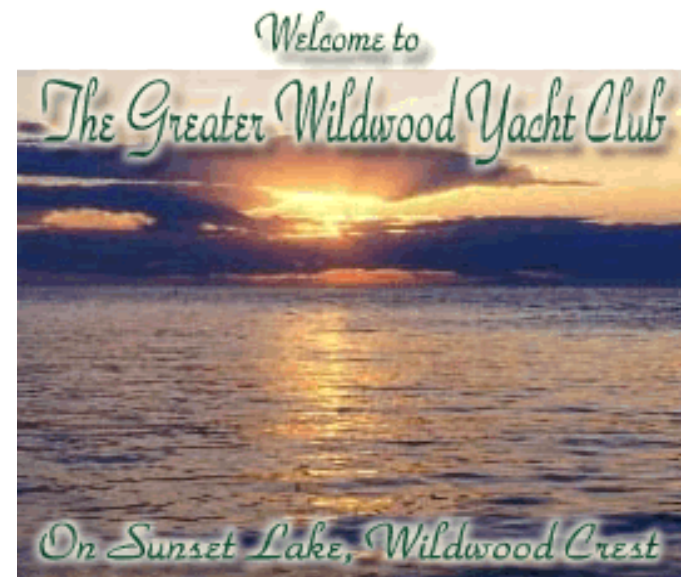
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Summer Camp:
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Hall Rentals:
rentals@greaterwildwoodyachtclub.org

Boat/PWC Slip Rentals:
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***New members are always
welcome. Arrange a visit to start
your summer memories of a
lifetime!***



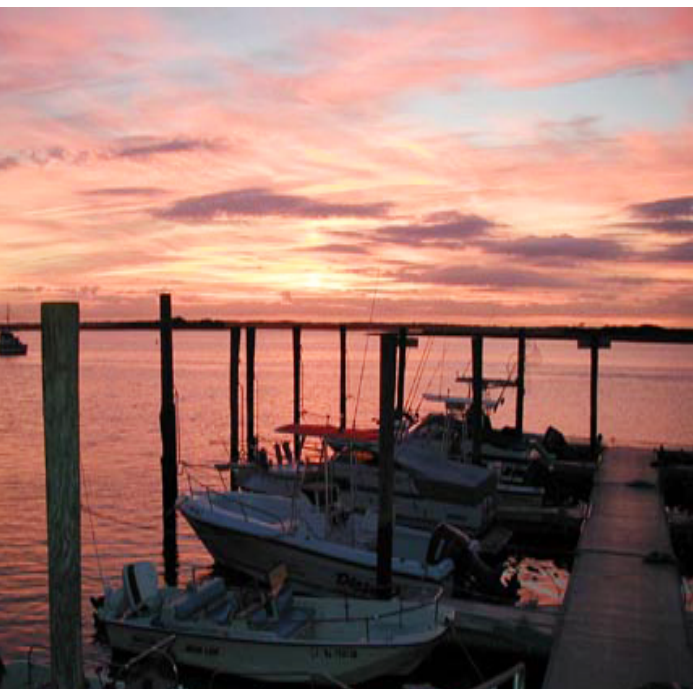
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Membership

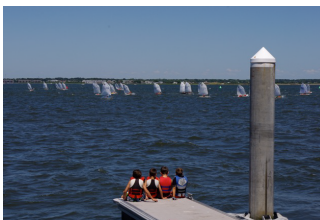
The Greater Wildwood Yacht Club (GWYC) is a sailing and boating club with weekly social and dining events throughout the spring, summer, and fall months. Dinner is served both Friday and Saturday nights with frequent mid-week activities hosted by club members. Music and dancing with themed dining on most Saturday nights. Family Fun Nights with supervised youth activities are available on Friday nights.



While interest in water sports is not a requirement for membership, GWYC does offer 20 in-water slips for powerboats and sailboats up to 24-feet. EZ Port 3 personal watercraft ramps are available on a limited basis. Reservations are required for all slip rentals. The sailing yard offers a launching ramp and winch for small watercraft with easy access to Sunset Lake and the Intercoastal Waterway. Lockers and racks are available for storage.

New members are always welcome.

Call us at (609) 522-0969 to arrange a visit or ask us about joining.



Summer Camp

GWYC offers a summer camp for children ages 8 to 15. The summer camp operates Monday through Friday 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. typically starting the end of June and continuing to mid-August (visit our website for exact dates as they change each year). Activities include sailing instruction, racing, swimming, kayaking, and crafts.

Sailing is a major part of the GWYC summer camp and as a member of the Mid Atlantic Yacht Racing Association (MAYRA) campers may opt to participate in weekly regattas at GWYC and neighboring yacht clubs.

Our sailing instructors are trained and certified by the US Sailing Association. Tuition discounts are available for additional children from the same family.



Hall Rental

Imagine hosting your next special event with waterfront views of the bay and the spectacular sunsets on Sunset Lake. You reserve the entire club - no need to share your venue with anyone other than your invited guests. We can accommodate your party with a large bar area, spacious dining room, commercial kitchen, room for dancing, and a covered deck overlooking the lake and bay. We provide tables and chairs for both indoor and outdoor dining, dinnerware and glassware at the bar. Weddings, reunions, banquets, birthdays, or meetings - whatever your event - holding it at the Greater Wildwood Yacht Club will make it even more memorable. Reasonable rates with discount pricing available for members.

