

THE MADISON BEACH CLUB

Welcome to the Madison Beach Club (MBC or “The Club”)! This booklet is designed primarily for new members as a guide to MBC’s facilities, programs, rules and customs. Use this as a supplement to the annually updated Yearbook, which contains bylaws, rules and regulations, as well as membership contact information. Additionally, the Club publishes *Sound Waves*, an e-newsletter, with timely items. The website (www.madisonbeachclub.com) is also a great source of information. The website user name is “follies” and the password is “fever”.

HISTORY

The Club, founded in 1910 as the Madison Realty Club, was originally located on Middle Beach Road just east of Park Avenue. At that time, members enjoyed beach, tennis and golf. The golf course, with nine narrow rocky golf holes, ran parallel to Middle Beach Road about 200 yards to the north toward East Wharf Road. By 1931, the golf facilities had been moved to its present location on West Wharf Road and later incorporated separately. The beach and tennis facilities were moved to its present location on Island Avenue and the Club was renamed as the Madison Beach Yacht Club. During the Great Depression in 1933, the Club went into bankruptcy and continued to operate in receivership. In 1936,

the Club reorganized as the Madison Beach Club, a stock organization, with stockholders putting up the money needed to get the Club restarted. *

Today, this stockholder system remains in place with all new members required to join as stockholders. Those who have historically remained seasonal members are strongly urged to change their membership to stockholder status. Stockholders elect the Board of Governors (the directors of the Club), approve major assessments and projects, and generally manage affairs as the directors of any corporation do.

*For those interested in the Club's history, *The Madison Beach Club: The First Forty Years, 1936-1976*, by Douglas M. Compton, printed in 1976, is well worth reading. Copies of this book may be available at the Front Desk.

SPECIAL EVENTS

There are many events for all interests and ages during the Club's season. Many of these events change year to year driven by member interest. Others, long standing and well loved traditions, are looked forward to annually. These include:

The Governors' Cocktail Party is considered to be the official kick off to the summer season. This event takes place on the first Sunday after the Club officially opens in June. The Club's Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) host this complimentary event and welcome all adult members in a receiving line. The Governors wear carnations to identify themselves and new members are given name tags to encourage introductions and a warm welcome. One of the most beloved Club ceremonies takes place during this event starring a children's flag detail that assists with the official raising of the U.S. Flag and Club Burgee. The entire membership sings the National Anthem, and – like a ball game – the season begins.

(Note: Jacket and Tie are required for this semi-formal event.)

A family dinner follows the party enabling children to join their parents. Reservations and tickets are needed for the dinner.

The Fourth of July Weekend offers an action packed and celebratory calendar of events.

There is a Children's Bicycle Parade, usually on the Saturday or Sunday morning before or during the holiday weekend. The parade starts at MBC and concludes at East Wharf Beach with a speech by "Uncle Sam" and refreshments provided by MBC.

For sport enthusiasts, the Club holds a tennis tournament for players of all levels along with sailing races for those who prefer to be on the water.

A casual Fourth of July Holiday Cook Out on Saturday night and a Sunday luncheon on the Main Porch offer another set of options for members.

Fireworks (underwritten by a group of generous Madison residents) are launched from a barge in the Sound and are easily observed from the MBC beach following a lobster dinner on the lawn.

The Follies, a musical review produced and performed by members, dates back to the 1930's. This favorite annual event, featuring a different theme every year, highlights membership talents through songs, dance and skits for the enjoyment of all.

The Follies Committee places its emphasis on teen participation either as a part of the cast or stage crew. It is a team building experience and a creative way to keep our young folks engaged and busy. It is also a wonderful opportunity to develop life long friends and memories. From mid-July until the first week in August, anyone visiting the Club, day or night, during the week, will see, or at least hear, Follies rehearsals taking place in the Ballroom. A portion of the Follies proceeds is donated to The Madison Foundation to support organizations serving the Madison Community.

The Follies take place on the first Friday and Saturday in August, with the Friday night performance open to the public, and the Saturday night dinner and performance reserved for members and their guests. Sign up to participate in the Follies begins in early July for performers (14 years of age and older) and stage crew (12 years of age and older).

The Annual Stockholders Meeting takes place on the Sunday eight days before Labor Day. At that meeting, open to stockholders, the annual class of Governors is elected, Club operations are reviewed, Committee Chairs report on the season, members asks questions of the Officers, and major projects are discussed. Following the meeting, the Governors convene and elect the Officers for the coming year.

Labor Day Weekend is the last weekend of the Club's official season. The final **tennis championships** and **sailing events** are followed by award presentations, often with large crowds in attendance. On Saturday night, the summer's last black tie dinner dance is a favorite of many.

To round out the weekend, there is a **Children's Fair** held on Sunday afternoon, which is followed by the **September Party**. This family focused and casual event includes cocktails and an informal family cookout served by the Governors. The cookout is preceded by a flag ceremony with a color guard of young members to assist with the lowering of the flags until next year.

The Club officially closes at sunset on Labor Day.

COMMUNICATIONS

There are a number of ways to keep track of all of the Club's activities. In February you will receive, along with your dues bill, a list of all pre-season events as well as the in-season Saturday night dinner schedule.

The Yearbook, issued in June, offers updated bylaws, rules and regulations, as well as a membership list. In addition, a calendar of social and sports events can be found on the website. You can opt to pick up a

hard copy of the Yearbook and the calendars at the Front Desk when they become available at the end of June or access an electronic PDF version through the website.

The event calendars are supplemented by *Sound Waves*, an e-newsletter issued periodically over the spring and summer. *Sound Waves* can be accessed through the website and is also emailed directly to those who have provided an email address. Additionally, look for *This Week at MBC* a weekly email bulletin sent out during the active season listing all the upcoming week's activities. *This Week at MBC* will alert you to additions and changes to the calendar. Finally, for last minute announcements and the promotion of important events, you will see posters and other announcements (on bulletin boards at the snack bar, bar porch and beach entry, as well as in your luncheon menu) with timely information.

FACILITIES

As one approaches the Club moving south on Island Avenue, you will pass the Tennis Complex on the left. It consists of ten Har-Tru courts, a backboard and the Tennis House, where courts may be reserved when all players are present and where the pro shop is located. Continuing south, just past Middle Beach Road West, the parking lot is on the right.

The main entrance brings you into the Club's Lobby. Immediately, inside the front door, on the left is a guest register that State Law requires must be signed by any member bringing a guest onto the grounds. The Front Desk, which serves as the Club's office, is on the left as well. Continuing left, as one emerges onto the porch, you will find the restrooms, the Bar, and Bar Porch. Beyond the Bar, out on the stone pier, is the Dock House, which is the center of the Sailing Program.

To the right of the lobby is the Ballroom, where large events are held. As you bear right, emerging onto the porch, you will find yourself on the Main Porch, a center for much activity including luncheons and an extension of the ballroom for well- attended events. There is an Upper Porch reachable by two sets of stairs, which is available for special events and private parties.

Beyond the Main Porch to the west is the Snack Bar, which is the main center of food service during the day, particularly for those in bathing suits or other athletic attire. Above the west wing and Snack Bar are six guest rooms that may be rented by members. Entering the Club from the ramp located on the southeast corner of the parking lot will bring you to the Beach Hut and the Bath House. Members must sign in their guests here. The Bath House offers

lockers and dressing rooms to rent on a seasonal basis. Beyond the Bath House is the Snack Bar and access to the beach. The Life Guards are pleased to set up umbrellas and chairs for you as available and weather permitting.

THE FRONT DESK

The Front Desk serves as the Club's main office and is located in the Main Lobby. This is the place to make dinner or lunch reservations, pick up tickets, buy a "Sand Dollar" debit card, pay bills, and ask any questions you may have regarding private functions, guest privileges, membership applications, etc. You may also leave a message here for the Manager (the Manager's Office is located directly off the Main Lobby as well), or any of the Club's Officers.

Reservations for dinner at the Saturday Night Dinner Dance, Wine Tasting/Gourmet Dinners, Wednesday Harbor Dinner Nights and Thursday Grill Nights will be accepted in the order of application. Reservations for the Saturday Dinner Dances can be made two weeks prior to the event in accordance with House Rule Twenty-five. Reservations for Saturday Dinner Dances are confirmed only when the Front Desk has been informed of the entrée choices for you and your guests. You may prefer to sit at the "Club Table", which provides a wonderful opportunity to get to

know fellow members. The Desk can assist you with this as well.

All dining reservations can be made by phone (203-245-2714) or at the Front Desk.

Tickets to the Saturday night Follies performance are sold at a separate desk set up for that purpose in the main lobby by the Follies Committee. The Front Desk is available to handle all other requests for that evening.

Guest Rooms and other rooms can be reserved at the Front Desk during the season. Stockholders may make reservations up to one year in advance.

The Club accepts credit cards, debit cards and MBC "Sand Dollar" debit cards, as well as checks and cash. The use of "Sand Dollars" is strongly encouraged as it significantly reduces lines in the Bar, at the Front Desk and in the Snack Bar. The "Sand Dollar" debit cards can be purchased and replenished at the Front Desk throughout the season.

THE BAR

The Bar is where members congregate to enjoy a libation during the day and cocktails before dinner. You will see many Bridge and Mahjong games here as well as Adult Bingo and Trivia Nights. In accordance with State Law, children are not permitted in the bar area, including on the Bar Porch. All members must sign in their guests in the guest book located in the lobby or in the bar.

During the day, athletic attire is permitted until 8:00 pm, after which casual attire, as defined in the dress code, is acceptable. Saturday nights are exceptions to this rule when that evening's specific dress code applies to all areas of the Club between 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, after which it reverts back to casual attire. Please consult the calendar for specific guidance.

THE BALLROOM

The Ballroom is the heart of the Club's indoor activity. The Follies are performed here as well as large buffet dinners, Saturday night events, large luncheons and private parties. During the pre- and post-seasons, it is rare for the Ballroom not to be used for wedding receptions and other private events.

The Saturday Night Dinner Dance is an old tradition at the Club. There are two black tie dinner dances held during the season. The dress code for the remaining Saturday evening events vary and can be found in your event notices and calendar.

MBC takes its dress code seriously and it is strictly enforced. During exceptionally warm evenings, the President or, in his or her absence, the most senior officer present may exercise the discretion to waive the dress code and permit jackets to be removed.

When there is an unintended breach of the dress code, such as a person dancing in bare feet, or removing a jacket (even to lend to a chilly date), the Manager is charged with reminding the member of the dress code. To avoid embarrassment, members should be familiar with these rules.

THE MAIN PORCH AND UPPER PORCH

When weather permits, the Main Porch is the center of social activity. Lunch and dinner are served here and, when not in use, members often congregate during the day for visiting, reading or playing cards. Above the Main Porch is the Upper Porch, which is a quiet place to read during the day. It is also frequently used for wine tastings, private member parties and the New Member Orientation. Please consult the Manager to reserve this popular space for private events.

DINING

The Club offers a variety of options for dining.

The Snack Bar is open every day as well as Monday and Tuesday evenings for those choosing a beach-friendly, casual setting. In addition, luncheon is served on the Main Porch every day except Monday. Porch dining also includes brunch and dinner on Sundays. Reservations are strongly recommended for all dining on the porch.

Friday nights, a membership favorite, offer The Raw Bar, Music on the Porch, a Beachside Bar and Cook Out. Reservations are not required. Menu choices and tickets are available at the Front Desk.

Saturday nights offer a variety of events all of which require reservations.

Reservations are strongly encouraged for Lunch on the Main Porch, Sunday Beachside Brunch, Sunday Suppers, Wednesday Harbor Nights and Thursday Grill Nights. Reservations are required for Saturday Dinner Dances.

All reservations must be honored in a timely manner. The staff schedules table assignments strictly in the

order in which the reservations were placed. For the more popular evenings, the House Committee may place limits on how far in advance reservations can be made, and one should consult the Yearbook and *Sound Waves* for current restrictions.

There is a NO TIPPING policy at MBC that is strictly enforced. At the end of the season, the staff, other than the Manager, is compensated through the Employee Gratuity Fund. We strongly encourage all members to contribute generously to this fund. Please do not place the staff in a precarious or awkward position by offering tips.

THE SNACK BAR

The Snack Bar provides a continental breakfast and lunch every day. A full breakfast is available on Saturday and Sunday. The Snack Bar hours are extended on Mondays and Tuesdays to include dinner. There is a full range of food that includes hamburgers, French fries, hot dogs, sandwiches and many healthy options. The Snack Bar also offers milk shakes, ice cream and other cool temptations for a hot summer day.

GUEST ROOMS

Above the west wing and Snack Bar, there are six guest rooms that can be reserved by Stockholders as much as a year in advance, and for seasonal members as early as January of the current year. The Yearbook lists the rates for these rooms. Each room is air-conditioned and has a private bath, mini refrigerator, coffee maker and housekeeping services. There is no room service so meals must be taken in the Snack Bar or in the venues providing meal service for that given day. When renting these rooms for non-members, one should consult the rules with respect to guest privileges for those staying at the Club. Inquiries can be made at the Front Desk during the season or to the Membership Secretary during the off-season.

THE BEACH

Members planning to use the beach should enter the Club via the Bath House ramp. The Lifeguards on duty will verify that all persons are members, or will arrange for guest privileges to be extended. There is a nominal guest fee for access to the beach and all guests must sign in upon entering.

The Lifeguards are pleased to assist members with locating a place on the beach and in the set up of chairs and umbrellas as available. Families with

children are to use the “Lower Beach,” which includes the area farthest west as well as below the sea wall. The “Upper Beach” is reserved for adults, 21 years of age or older. Please be respectful to others and do not place items on a chair in order to reserve it without intending to use it immediately.

The Bath House has restrooms and showers. Those in wet bathing suits are asked to use these facilities rather than those in the main Club House. State Law does not permit people to enter a bar in bare feet or without a shirt. If you are wearing a dry beach cover up and shoes you may freely access all areas of the Club during the day. There are no such limitations in the Snack Bar affording many to purchase food and enjoy it on the beach. All members are asked to be conscientious in disposing trash in the proper receptacles placed nearby. No glass of any kind is permitted on the beach.

The beach is a very active place. There is a raft that anchors the floats that delineate the swimming area from the parts of the water where boats pose a risk to swimmers. All swimmers must remain in this designated roped off area, which is monitored by lifeguards when the beach is open. Swimming lessons are available and you may sign up for them at the Beach Hut. All children under the age of 14 must pass a lifeguard supervised raft test in order to access the raft without an adult. During the week you

will see a busy Optimist sailing program on the west end of the beach.

The Lifeguards are in charge and will provide instructions during hazardous conditions. This might include asking members to take umbrellas down during high winds or removing bathers during lightening conditions. All members and their guests are expected to obey the Lifeguards without question.

THE SAILING PROGRAM

MBC has a long sailing heritage anchored by instructional classes and racing for all ages. The Sailing Committee, led by the MBC Commodore, offers a wide variety of activities and programs for everyone including adult and junior sailing lessons, racing, social harbor nights and boat rentals. All members are encouraged to take lessons and enjoy MBC's beautiful waterfront. The Club employs friendly, qualified sailing instructors who lead classes throughout the summer. The Club's sailing facilities include the stone pier, which extends out from the east end of the property and is home to the Dock House. Pier storage is available for smaller sail and powerboats, and there are two cranes available to launch vessels. These are to be handled only by persons who have been qualified to do so.

Extending out from the end of the pier, parallel to the beach, are an inner dock and floating outer dock. The inner dock provides access to the Club launch, which will ferry members to boats moored directly off the beach. Club members privately own these moorings and MBC takes no responsibility for boats moored in the harbor.

The Club's Sailing Center is located within a white fenced area between the beach and parking lot. Boats used for Junior Sailing instruction as well as adult racing are stored here and launched from the beach during classes and weekend racing. There is limited storage available for member kayaks and paddleboards. Storage fees are provided in the Club yearbook.

A Junior Sailing instruction room for weekday sailing classes is located behind the Snack Bar, opposite the entrance to the beach lockers.

TUXIS ISLAND

Tuxis Island, owned by the Club since 1958, lies directly off the beach. In the past, the island has been the site of a private residence, a Y.M.C.A. camp, a launch site for Fourth of July fireworks as well as a picnic destination. It is now maintained as a bird sanctuary boasting a newly erected Osprey nest. Members are strongly discouraged from going

ashore as it will disturb the birds. For bird watchers, it is very encouraging to notice the growing number of species that are making Tuxis Island their home.

Tuxis does remain the destination for the annual Tuxis Island Swim Race and proudly displays an American Flag erected in the memory of a former MBC President.

THE TENNIS PROGRAM

The Tennis Complex, located on Island Avenue, is the hub of the MBC tennis program, and offers ten Har-Tru courts as well as the Tennis House. One can sign up for adult and junior tennis lessons, reserve a court, sign up for a tournament, purchase tennis equipment and have rackets restrung. You can reserve a court through the website as well.

Court reservations can also be made online through "Yourcourts". To do so, you must first register online <https://www.yourcourts.com/yourcourts/security/register/6443>

The Tennis Pro and Assistant Pros, along with the very active Tennis Committee, plan a full range of exciting tennis programs for players of all ages and skill levels. Junior members are kept busy all summer long with a full schedule of tennis clinics, camps and tournaments.

All white attire (10% color trim permitted) is the tennis court's dress code during the season.

The Sailing, Tennis and Beach Committees coordinate each of their activities to ensure that every member, particularly Junior Members, may participate in all activities without conflict.

OUR VOLUNTEER CULTURE

As you can see, there are many activities taking place before, during and after the official season. While we have a strong and talented staff, the Club's needs are much greater than they alone can handle. This is why the Club relies on its "Volunteer Culture" to ensure success. Members are expected to volunteer and can do so by joining one of a variety of active committees or simply signing up to assist with an event or participate in ongoing needs such as watering and weeding our beautiful pots and gardens. This tradition not only keeps the Club running smoothly, it also helps to foster new friendships and a true sense of pride and ownership in our very special club. We look forward to and welcome your involvement.

June 2022