

## **Shoreline and Bulkhead Boat Tie-up Report: December 1, 2008 Draft**

The purpose of this draft report is to review the Club's management of boat tie-ups to its shoreline and to recommend needed changes. It does not address Little John Marina, the small piers and the wire slips, which are managed under the Club's slip assignment procedures.

This draft has been reviewed by the Board of Directors and approved for submission to the membership for its review and comment. Please send your questions, comments and suggestions to the Boating Committee. These may be submitted by email to [sfclubboating@comcast.net](mailto:sfclubboating@comcast.net) or in writing to the Club Office. Please submit your comments by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Current Use**

#### Headwaters of Brewer Creek to Little John Marina

- Section 5.17 of the Sherwood Forest Rules and Regulations states that boats may not be tied to the shoreline in this area unless a member has received written permission from the Club Manager. In 2006, the Club approved requests from 5 members to continue tying their boats to the shoreline in this area. No boats remain since each of these approvals expired as those members were assigned to slips elsewhere.
- The small beach located on the eastern side of Pier 807 (located below cottage 600) is used to launch small boats. The use of this area does not create an environmental problem.
- Some members launch their small boats from other portions of this shoreline. In addition, some members store small boats between the road and the water even though this is not an approved boat storage area. Both of these actions damage the sea grasses and shoreline growth.

#### Little John Marina to Sharpe's Pier:

- A member ties a motorboat from a mooring ball to the bulkhead in front of his cottage.
- Another member ties a canoe to the bulkhead in front of his cottage.

#### Sharpe's Pier to Pier 811 (in front cottage 768)

- Members currently use 50 spaces for boat tie-up in this area.
- Nineteen of these spaces are used by members that do not have a Club assigned slip.
- Thirty-one of these spaces are used by members that also have a Club assigned slip.
- Four members tie multiple boats in this area. Three of these members also have a Club assigned slip.
- Most boats are tied from the bulkhead to a mooring ball. Four are tied from the bulkhead to a metal pipe driven into the bottom and thirteen are tied from the bulkhead to pilings that were installed by a member with Club permission. (In some cases the current user installed these pilings; in other cases a previous user did so.)
- Over the past few years the number of boats in this area has increased. In addition, there has been regular turnover in the boats tied in this area as well as in the members that use it.
- While it may be possible to squeeze in another boat or two by moving some boats around, this area is essentially full.

### Pier 811 to Robin Hood Beach:

- The water between Pier 811 and Robin Hood Beach is shallow and can be rough on weekends and in storms. While boats can be tied in this area, these conditions have limited the number of boats tied to the bulkhead.
- A guest ties a boat from the remains of Pier 812 to the bulkhead.
- A member ties a boat from a mooring ball to the bulkhead near his cottage.

### Robin Hood Beach to Brewer's Pond:

- Section 5.17 of the Sherwood Forest Rules and Regulations states that boats may not be tied to the shoreline in this area unless a member has received written permission from the Club Manager. No permission has been requested or granted.

### **Issues:**

1. Since the Club's rules do not address tying boats to the shoreline between Little John Marina and Robin Hood Beach and the Club doesn't assign spaces in this area, members have identified "open" spaces and placed their boats in them. Sometimes a member selects a space that appears to be empty but has been occupied by another member for many years. A dispute may then arise when the historical user of the space arrives to tie-up in "his" space.
2. The growth in the number of boats tied to the shoreline between the Sharpe's Pier and Pier 811 has impacted its appearance and the view of members owning cottages across Beach Road.
3. Boat tie-ups are likely to expand into the area between Little John Marina and Sharpe's Pier and also into the area between Pier 811 and Robin Hood Beach since these are the only remaining open areas that are not controlled by the Sherwood rules. This will create esthetic issues for the members living in these areas and impact the visual appearance of the waterfront.
4. Section 5.17 of the rules provides a mechanism to allow boats to be reintroduced along the shoreline.

### **Boating Committee Involvement:**

The committee's involvement has been limited. The committee occasionally inventories the boats tied to the shoreline. If a member asks for assistance in finding a space to tie his boat, the committee identifies possible open spaces. The member is then urged to contact the owners of the boats located on both sides of the open space to determine whether there is room for his boat and also to determine if another member has been using the space. This informal approach has helped to avoid some disputes. However, when disputes have come to the committee's attention, the committee has so far been able to successfully mediate them.

### **Recommendations:**

The committee's goal is to preserve and protect our shoreline by keeping boats docked in appropriate spaces that limit or eliminate damage to the environment. We recommend amending the Sherwood Forest Rules and Regulations to limit the tie-up of boats to the area between Sharpe's Pier and Pier 811.

**Recommendation 1: Amend the Sherwood rules to create a license program that controls the tying of boats to the bulkhead between Sharpe's Pier and Pier 811:**

- The number of boats permitted to tie-up in this area would be limited.
- Members would need to apply for a Club issued license to tie-up in this area.
- The Club would not identify specific spaces or assign members to a specific location.
- All current users would be issued licenses, even if they have a club assigned slip or have multiple boats in this area.
- Members would continue to tie-up in the same location that they used in the past.
- Two License Waiting Lists would be maintained after the maximum number of licenses has been issued. (These would be separate from the current Slip Waiting List.) The first would be for members that have not been assigned to a Club slip (this would include members on the Slip Waiting List). The second would be for members that already have been assigned to a Club slip.
- Priority would be given to those members without a Club assigned slip or a current license.
- After all current users were issued licenses; members would be limited to one license (unless there were no members on the License Waiting List).
- To receive a license, the member would have to satisfy the same boat ownership requirements that apply to being assigned to a slip (e.g., ownership, insurance, etc.)
- The maximum boat size would be 26' and boats with fly bridges would be prohibited.
- An annual license fee would initially be set at \$100.
- Licenses would expire when the licensee is no longer the principal user of the boat, when he no longer keeps a boat in this area, fails to pay the annual License fee, or fails to satisfy the boat ownership and derelict boat rules.
- Guests and Limited Members would not be permitted to tie to the bulkhead unless there were no members on the License Waiting List.

**Recommendation 2: Amend Section 5.17A to prohibit the tie-up of boats to the shoreline except between Sharpe's Pier and Pier 811.**

- This would eliminate the language in the rules that allows a member to apply for permission to tie to the shoreline in these areas.

**Recommendation 3: Grandfather the current users that tie to the bulkhead between Little John Marina and Sharpe's Pier and between Pier 811 and Robin Hood Beach**

- The committee recommends that the Club transition these two areas into open shoreline. The individuals that tied their boats in these areas in October 2008 should be allowed to continue to tie their boats to the bulkhead. However, no additional boats should be allowed. This is the approach that was used to remove boats from shoreline tie-ups between the headwaters of Brewer Creek and the marina (along the Baha Road).

**Recommendation 4: Amend Section 5.17 of the Sherwood rules to (a) specifically prohibit storing boats between the Baha Road and the water and (b) prohibit the launching of boats from the Baha Road shoreline except from Club owned docks or from the sandy area on the east side of Pier 807.**