



March 1, 2023

www.bsboatclub.org

Boat Club Members,

The annual Berrien Springs Boat Club cleanup day and start of the 2023 boating season will be Sunday, April 23 , from 8:30am till 11am. We invite you to come and spend a little time cleaning up the property (shoveling out the ditch, raking the lawn, etc). Your 2022 key will fit the ramp lock until the cleanup day.

For membership renewal, your registration form must be **fully filled out (including state registration number and insurance information) in order to renew your membership**. Once again we are encouraging you to mail in your completed application, payment and previous year's key together, and if they are received at the Boat Club's Post Office box by Wednesday, April 19th, we will have your key and membership sticker in an envelope and ready for you to pick up at the Clubhouse on the 23rd from 8:30am to 11am. If you wish for your key to be mailed to you because you will not be picking it up in person on the 23rd, you may indicate that on the top of your application. Any membership packets not picked up on the 23rd will be mailed the next week. If you choose to not send in your application, we will have a drop point where you can drop off your completed application, dues and previous year's key (all in a sealed envelope please) on the 23rd and we will process those applications over the next few days and mail the key to you. We will process a limited amount of applications on site on the 23rd while you are cleaning up, but this is not the preferred renewal method and it may take some time.

Now the sad part of this letter, our corporate secretary, Ken Straw passed away suddenly in January. He served as secretary for the past four years, so we are looking for a corporate secretary. This volunteer position interacts with the 100-120 members, processing the applications, and issuing the keys and stickers. Also, keeping an electronic list of the members that we use to email out members. They would check the Berrien Springs Post Office box several times a week, during April – July and then one a week for Aug – Oct and then once in a while Nov- March. They would need to be present to issue memberships on Clean-up Day in April. They also take the minutes at officer's meetings. If you are interested and have been a member for a minimum of two years, please reply to this email as we would like to identify a new secretary to start training before Clean Up Day.

Additionally if you are interested in getting more involved with the Boat Club, there are four other officer positions besides the Secretary. There is a President (Chairman), Vice-President (Vice-Chair), Treasurer and Assistant Secretary (Sargent at Arms). If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, and have been a member for at least two years (president position must be an officer already), please reply to this email and let us know of your interest, as some of the present officers will be "retiring" in the near future. We will be electing officers this spring for the 2022-2026 term, so once we have a name(s) for the secretary position (and possibly other positions), we will be emailing out a ballot to submit your vote on Clean Up Day.

The officers of the club work strictly on a voluntary basis donating their time, so be considerate and don't assume that you can wait to renew your membership later at the "drop of a hat." The officers want to enjoy summer too and not be contacted because you forgot to renew in the spring and you think it is an emergency to get you on the lake. Also, there is a late fee starting on May 1st so again, please save yourself money and renew now. Tell your friends of the Clean Up Day on April 23rd and encourage them to go to our website to down load the current application. If someone is not receiving this email that was a member last year, please email the Boat Club at BSboatclub@gmail.com so we can check your email and get it right.

The Boat Club will continue to offer a non-motorized/non-trailerred (NM/NT) membership this summer for kayaks and canoes (already included if a regular member). This is a yearly membership, not a per launch basis and as

usual liability insurance will be required. If you know of someone interested, please encourage them to go to our website and choose the NM/NT application. We also have an agreement for the third summer with the Village of Berrien Springs to allow NM/NT users to launch from a seawall floating dock at the club property (with no use of the ramps, docks, picnic tables or restrooms) with no fee to the user. We would appreciate member feedback at BSBoatClub@gmail.com during the year on how this relationship has worked for you as a member.

Please print off the 2023 registration form, available on the boat club's website www.bsboatclub.org and mail it in for renewal. When mailing in your 2023 application with last year's key, please **do not** tape the key to the application, and **do not** put the key loose in the envelope, as it will tear through the envelope while being processed by the US Postal machines and be lost (and then you will need to pay the lost key fee). The best method we have found to work well is seal the key in a small coin envelope and enclose it in the envelope with your application and check. When mailing keys, the envelope must be marked on the outside "**NON MACHINABLE**" and then you will need to mail it in person at the Post Office, paying the higher postage rate for hand cancellation. Be sure your application is **COMPLETELY** filled out including the boat's **state registration number, and insurance information**, because if it is not, it will be returned to you before renewing. The mailing address is: **Berrien Springs Boat Club, PO Box 153, Berrien Springs, MI 49103**. We also have an email bsboatclub@gmail.com which we try and check weekly during the summer.

Please refer people to our website for information and an application to join. We wish all of you a wonderful, safe boating season with friends and family this new season.