

Western New York Catamaran Association

2015 Sailing Packet Information

Revised; January 1st, 2015

***Our Mission:** *Our club is dedicated to the pursuit of sailing for its own sake; to provide a safe, family environment for all to enjoy multihull beach craft; and to develop safe sailing skills in all of our members. Our club strives for continuous improvement in the sport and we recognize our obligations to our community. Though we participate in racing, we do so as a fun activity; we do it for the love of the outdoors, our members, and being in harmony with the sea.*

Club Officers:

- Commodore: Bill Wutz: 716-662-1336...email: wm.wutz1@verizon.net
- Director, Treasurer: Jon Scott; 716-627-7241... email: Jon2942@gmail.com
- Director and Secretary: Holly Mergenhagen... email: HMergenhagen@gmail.com
- Director, Legal Affairs: Joseph Marusak.... Email: jimarusak@gmail.com
- Administration: Bob Kaine (Wyatt) 716-432-7156... email: kainebob@msn.com
- Social Chairman: Becky Mergenhagen.... email: rpmergenhagen@verizon.net

Club Website: www.wnycatamaran.org, this is read-only. Write a note to Brad Shipston if you need to post a classified at: brad.l.shipston@us.hsbc.com

Beach Opening: Our Spring Orientation meeting will be at JP's Pub in Lakeview on Wednesday, May 6th, at 7 p.m. The Commodore will announce the date for members to meet and clear the grounds and set up our storage container.

Beach Closing: The absolute last day for boats to be removed is the first Saturday of October (**October 3rd**). Any boats not removed by that date will be dismasted and left in the parking lot.

Evangola State Park (see their website) Personnel:

Park Manager: Greg Brown

Asst. Manager: Bradley Mays

Evangola State Park: office number, 716-549-1802.

Because of the wet spring, it is possible that the boat storage area may have some water flooding and soggy soil, so make sure that you have received a notification (usually by email) from the Commodore. The park has asked us to not ruin the grounds by running vehicles or trailers when the ground is wet. If you see you are doing damage, leave the boat there and try another day.

Here are some tips for delivering your boat and storing your gear to Evangola State Park after Sunday, May 17th, 2015:

1. GET YOUR BOAT READY FOR THE BEACH: Check your trailer tires (pump them up!), license plate, bearings and lights. NYS Police monitors the Park and they do check cars coming into or leaving the park, so make sure your trailer is registered properly and you obey all speed limits. Fleet decals on your car help when you leave your car in the parking lot. (Available in the container).
2. Check all bolts and nuts that hold the boat together; ensure shackles open and close properly. Make sure the lines on your boat are in good shape and not fraying; it's a good idea to whip the ends and use a butane torch to sear the ends and seal them. Check your pig tails and all standing rigging since wire ropes tend to rot from the inside and you sometimes you cannot see a broken wire; any kinked or frayed wire should be replaced. All ring-dings should be taped so that nothing can catch on them. If you decide to not replace rigging with manufacturers' equipment, make sure any standing rigging is double swaged.
3. Prior to Memorial Day, you can bring your boat during the week at any time. If you decide to deliver your boat any time after Friday, May 15th, deliveries will be restricted to times before 10 a.m.
4. **To bring a boat into the storage site, park personnel must escort you to unlock the gate.** It's best to stop at the maintenance building and ask for someone to escort you to the storage site.
5. After Memorial Day, full-time employees will staff weekends, so you should have no problem getting someone to unlock the gate in the early morning. There will always be a manager working at the park on weekends throughout the summer months. The Park Ranger can let you in, if you can find him.
6. You can either step your mast in the parking lot using your car and then call the Park; or get someone to open the gate while you deliver the boat and hook up your trailer to our tractor to get the mast stepped. Return your car to the parking lot as quickly as possible. Either way is fine; just don't make the park personnel wait for you while you get the stick up. If the park employee trusts you with the lock unlatched, make sure you lock it before you leave; don't transfer your responsibility to another member.

Parking your boat:

1. Pick your **spot**. Beach workers get first choice.
2. Don't lock your trailer in case we have to move the boat. Have your name and phone number **written** on the trailer somewhere so someone can call you if they see a problem. It's a lot better to come to the beach prepared to fix a flat tire, than to be surprised at 10 a.m. in 90-degree weather when everyone already wants to be on the water. We do keep a fix-a-flat in the container, and there are a number of us that carry electric tire pumps; sometimes the tire seal just breaks in the sand.

3. The club has a lawn **mower** and you'll usually find it in the cat can. When you do cut the grass around your boat, please try to do some other areas at the same time. Use the red can of gasoline "marked lawnmower". Even though we're only cleaning up under our boats, do not the mow if you see any park maintenance people around since the park is maintained by State union employees and it could cause some management/worker friction.
4. **You need to have a trailer tongue jack.** They're only \$30, and they allow others to move your boat in case of a storm or spacing realignment.
5. We require boat **tie downs** on the trailer. In 1998 and 2007 we had some damage when winds came up and flipped over some boats; damaging other boats that were secure. For those of you with Trailex trailers you can still have a problem; we've seen the trailers go over with the boats in 40 knots. Please consider cabling/ratcheting down your trailer to it to prevent your boat from flying and damaging someone else's boat. **You'll be held responsible if it does any damage.**
6. It's recommended that you **lock your cat box** to protect your equipment. Some sailors use snap shackles to remove their mainsheets and blocks.
7. It's recommended that you not leave your sails raised **overnight.**

SAILING CONCERNS:

- There will be a **sign-in** board in the container for people who sail when no one is around or they expect to cruise somewhere. Use it so we can keep a handle on the current sailor status.
- A cell call to **911** will get you outside help if someone seems to be missing or if you see trouble on the water, but some cell phones cannot be used until you are near the Rte 5 entrance to the Park. The closest payphone is at the main building in the middle of the park, near the beach. If you have children, make sure they know where it is and how to use it. 911 calls are free.
- If you think you may be the only one out that day or you have intentions of going to spend the evening with friends at Sunset or Point Breeze, make sure you **lock the container** and do not leave the key in the tractor ignition; you know where to leave the key.
- Occasionally, we have some members who sail and spend an overnight somewhere else, or such as our Race to Cabado's Weekend Party. **If you decide to leave your car in the parking lot overnight you need to obtain a park permit,** please contact: Bill Wutz, Commodore and he will help make the arrangements for you. If you do not, you risk the chance of your car being towed out of the park. Make sure the tractor is put away and the container is locked.

- Our **VHF radios** are usually using Channel 69. The Coast Guard does monitor 16, so use 16 only as a hailing channel. As soon as you get a reply, go to another available channel. Remember that VHF radios only work on line-of-sight; if you can't see them; chances are you will not be able to reach them.
- Just a reminder that when you are **sailing alone (i.e. no other boats on the water with you)**, be prepared for bad weather or being becalmed: If you have a boat that you cannot right by yourself and your crew, make sure you have the righting lines, righting poles, shroud extenders or mast float that will allow you do so. Solo sailing is a dangerous practice if you do not have the proper safety equipment. We can see you and help if we're on the beach, but you are on your own if we're not there. A call to the Police or Coast Guard may bring help, but you can be sent a private towing agent which can cost as much as \$1,000 a tow. If someone offers you a tow or tries to raise your mast, always specify what you want and ask what the charges are. Safety tools that you can carry in your hulls: Towlines; GPS devices; flashlights; compasses; flares and safety kits; VHF radios and cell phones. The more experienced sailors always stuff extra warm clothes in their hulls or bags.
- Be **courteous** to the curious. Most of us bought boats because someone was nice enough to explain how the boats worked. Avoid showing park visitors the content of our sailing container and never let anyone see you put away the tractor key.

Our Storage Container:

- **Storage boxes should be stackable plastic totes**, they can be stored neatly, and stacked three high under the bottom shelves in the container.
- **Sails and booms** should be placed in your cat box or sail tube under your boat. There is a little room for a few sails in the container, but they will get crushed and probably stain with mildew. Absolutely no sails or spinnaker poles in the drying lines on the top of the roof.
- For tidiness sake, **no gear bags, large clothes bags**, etc.; they can't be stacked in an orderly manner. For us anal types, it drives us nuts; it's like leaving your socks on the living room rug. Please spend the \$8 for a stackable plastic tote.
- Bring your own **hangers** for your clothes, wet suits, and life jackets for the clothes racks. Short life jackets and spray smocks in front over the beach chairs. Longer wetsuits in back. Loose clothes and life jackets that are found dry, but hung over the drying lines or the clothes bars will be placed in a **lost and found** barrel in the back to keep our container neat. Nothing ever on the floor. Beach chairs in the racks only.
- We have a **tool kit** available in the container and don't even think about keeping any tool for the day; use what you need and put it back right away! Many of us keep our own parts kits in the container; please respect our property and do not go through them looking for repair parts.
- We have a **first aid kit** in the container. Don't be afraid to use it, but please only take what you need for the emergency, and then leave a note if you think we need anything special or if we're running out of anything. Better yet, just buy what we need and give the bill to Rick, Wyatt or Jon. You'll also find a **pink blanket in a plastic** case to help prevent Hypothermia (you can still get it on an eighty-five degree day if you are not dressed properly).
- Once in a while take a minute to sweep the sand off the floor.

Special Equipment: Cat Trax

The Fleet has two sets of Cat Trax (they have "119" on them), and you can usually find them on Sweet's or Kaine's 18s; or next to the container. Anyone can use them, but they must be returned at the end of the day. We've purchased them in case the tractor breaks down and we have to get the boats above the high water mark. Please watch the weight on them: someone put a catamaran on it with hulls full of water and bent the axle pretty badly. Many other owners just leave their cat trax on their trailers. Locking shouldn't be necessary, but the Fleet will not be responsible for any losses or damage to any boat, trailer or equipment.

Hulls full of water?

Do not use the cat trax: Get four people and drag the bows onto the sand, open the hull plugs and remove the port covers if you have them. Put logs under the bow and slowly work the boat forward/logs back as the hulls drain. Once the boat is empty, you can put it on a trailer or cat trax.

The Club Tractor; Kubota Model: L-3400D

1. **Diesel Fuel for the tractor** is stored in the container. Always check the tractor to ensure the tank has some fuel in it. If we're out of gas, take the can and fill it (**yellow can – Diesel Fuel only**); give the receipt to Rick Sweet for reimbursement.

"Only N.Y. State Drivers licensed operators are allowed to operate the club Tractor"

2. You'll find that the tractor travels well in either High Gear or Reverse at the third speed. Keep it in four wheel drive.
3. **Keep the speed down**; it saves wear and tear on the tractor.
4. **ALWAYS STOP THE TRACTOR** if there is a park user nearby. Make sure walkers see you and you know which way they are walking; don't assume that you will easily miss them.
5. Be careful backing the tractor/trailer; never fully turn the steering wheel.
6. Drive your boat to your parking area, then disconnect the trailer and **push it** back into your parking space.
7. For **safety** sakes, if you and one other boat are becalmed and out late, take the time to find their trailer and hook it up to the tractor and leave it on the beach for them (use the Velcro on the key fob). You'll appreciate the same courtesy when you come in last some day. If it's really dark, stay on the beach with a flashlight and try to signal them, or use a strobe light to bring them in. There are lights on the tractor, but you really should have the engine running so you don't discharge the battery.

THESE ARE THE RULES THAT WERE AGREED UPON WITH THE STATE PAEK MANAGER:

- a) We've chosen to store the boats on the grassy area (area 3B) at the end of the service road on the southwestern side of the park. You'll find it by asking for the Gazebo area. Use the restricted area and do not attempt to go too far away; we'll wind up moving it if the Park Director or Commodore Bill doesn't like the position. If it's moved, it has to stay in the new position.
- b) **We can only transport boats onto the beach by means of our tractor, which is to be "Driven BY BOAT OWNERS ONLY (no friends, no children) THAT POSSESS A VALID NY STATE DRIVERS LICENCE". All new members must be given training to use the tractor safely and properly.**
- c) You can leave the trailers on the beach, but you have to remember to park them **PERPENDICULAR** to the water's edge with room for the tractor to go around them. Make sure you park them close to each other so we can easily put 15 trailers on the beach at one time. Park them away from our "beach huddling" area where we normally put our beach chairs and blankets together.
- d) Watch for **weddings** at the Gazebo. **No tractor use is allowed during a wedding service. Quiet, please!**
- e) During non-boating hours, the tractor is to be stored in the container with the **key removed from the ignition**. If you are parking the tractor, make sure that no one sees you hiding the keys.
- f) Sailing at night is fun, but make sure someone knows (via note on car) where you are so no one is looking for you. If you intend to stay out late, make sure you know how to find the beach since there are no shore lights and returning is extremely difficult. You are required to use navigational lights (port, starboard and stern) on your boat to be on the water at night (or have a bright flashlight on the sails). We've been requested to provide a full listing of all members' vehicles to the Park Director so they save time in looking for park users at the end of a day. If you change your vehicle or contact information during the summer, please ask for another application so we have current data.
- g) The boat owners must keep the beach area free and clean of all debris, papers, rubbish, bottles, and other refuse. **NO BOTTLES IN THE PARK AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.** We're to be used as role models for other park users. You'll find plenty of trash barrels around. During Fleet barbeque events, please use the garbage barrel liners that will be found in the container to keep our site neat; it's a gross job trying to pick up 100 greasy dinner plates and chicken bones.

- h) **Keep your boats away from the swimming area.** Don't moor near the swimmers or sail through the swimming marks. If you want to go swimming, you have to go to the swimming area.
- i) **All boat owners agree to hold harmless the State of New York from any and all injuries sustained as a result of any of the boat owners' actions. Your application and your membership check are only accepted under the conditions that you agree to do so. If you see someone doing something reckless either on the water or on the tractor, bring it to his or her attention or take action and intervene; sometimes people don't know or they just need a reminder.**
- j) **DOGS:** To the people of the club who bring their dogs to the club; State Park rules are that the owners MUST have the dog on a leash; not to roam freely and finally, **NO DOGS ALLOWED ON THE BEACH!**

MOORING

The sand conditions look good and sand launching is usually easy, but for larger cats mooring may be the way to go:

- You need a fair rope, but not twenty feet; ten should be fine.
- If you're just running in for a minute to get something, using another person's pin is okay.
- Furl your jib; disconnect your main boom and release your downhaul; raise your rudders. Sloppy shrouds could be dangerous.
- The danforth/chain combination seems to work best. A small grappling hook for trips to Sunset, etc. is okay, but even with a small chain, it seems to drift when mooring.
- Hook the anchor line to the **windward** hull or make a bridle.
- Walk your trailer to the water's edge to put the boat back on. Watch the tractor's front tractor tires when you are backing up; there should be no need to fully turn the wheels. It's actually a lot easier to just push your trailer back to the water's edge, and winch your boat back on to it. If your boat is on a pin and you want to float it on to your trailer, don't try to put it on the trailer if you're by yourself or the wind is blowing; you'll ram your hulls into the trailer.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

During the sailing season our sailing club will host a number of picnics, races and longer distance cruises. We could use help and it would be nice if you offered to get involved and chair an event so that the same personnel do not always have to do all the work.

Most of our special events' announcements are done through email and the website. Please volunteer to chair an event. Contact: Becky Mergenhagen the Social Director.

WESTERN NEW YORK CATAMARAN ASSOCIATION

2015: Application for Membership and/or Beach Rights:

(n.b. This does not include the necessary Empire Passport that you'll need to get into the park.)

FEES: (includes all necessary State Taxes)

Evangola Beach Boat Permit: **\$500.00**

Less: Discount/Dividend

1. *2nd or more years Beach membership discount is: \$55. \$- _____

2. * Early filing Discount prior to June 16th of: \$25. \$- _____

Final Amount due: \$ _____

OR (circle one; you get it back in parties):

Family Membership fees without Beach rights (includes sales taxes)

(Covers your significant other at functions (ski, race, and party days): **\$75.00**

Single Membership fees without Beach rights: **\$45.00**

- **Make all checks payable to: "WNY Catamaran Assoc., Inc."**

Year, type, and length of Boat: _____

Hull/sail colors and numbers (be specific, "pretty" doesn't work): _____

(Please list spouse/and or crew's names)

name (s)	
Address	
City, ST., zip+4	

home phone		Car #1 Model/lic.	
car/cell phone		Car #2 Model/lic.	
Email		Car #3 Model/lic.	

Beach requirements: Tie down straps for the trailer; trailer tongue wheel; and name and phone number painted clearly on the trailer tongue. Each boat is required to carry property and liability insurance. If your boat damages another boat either because of high winds or poor driving, you and your insurance carrier will be held responsible for the damage to the other boat and trailer.

Signature required: Upon completion of this application I am stating that I do have the necessary insurance coverage for my boat and myself. I also agree to follow all New York State Park Rules; keep the tractor and the container shed locked; be responsible for any personal damage to either myself, my crew and passengers, or boat; and to follow safe seamanship and navigation rules as outlined by the U.S. Coast Guard.

DATE: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____

Mail to: Jon Scott, Treasurer, 6335 Old Lakeshore Rd., Lakeview, NY 14085-9524. Do not mail before May 20th. To be received by June 17th for early filing discount.