

Port Tacks

The Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Village Marina, Watkins Glen, NY

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Please send any comments, questions or corrections to:
editor@flyc.us

Commodore's Comments

by Howard Cabezas

SV Ruthie

Word search for boat names!
 To play you will need to log on to our web site (www.FLYC.US) and look up the membership list to find all the boat names. Tom will post the solution to the puzzle on April 15th, the same day the boating season begins!! Enjoy the word search and see you soon at the docks!



S N P T S X M J M E I R X W O S O I G P J C P V E
 A E E S E A O O I S E I I R E M E D E R R E V R C
 N T M H Y P C H O V P N N Z N O I S S E S B O S A
 D I I E M A T R I N D R E A M C A T C H E R E Q R
 R H T S M U W R E F L E E F R E E B I R D N S E G
 A W Y K R R N A A B R I F S T H S P I R I T S I G
 L T T E Y O B L T B L B G U Q L S C Q O C L N R N
 E A I E O F L S E E F E O H H U F I R V U U A T I
 E E L L G A T L E D G S U V T H E M F P L T W O Z
 T R A N Q U I L E B R E E Z E L O I M T S L M M A
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 A E Q E Q E K A W H S I R I E H T D H L S C S O A
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 A K A E J V V N E D C D T W A R I A L B O K I L R
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 E A M Q O H O H M B Y E M R R C O I A I O H E B L
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 H K A R E N S D R E A M Y T T O S T S E E E Z E C
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 T G R P O S E V Q C S F Y A E E P O P L L I I S L
 S V H O Y S C E T E R E A L G L L I N M I P W T I
 B L U E O Y S T E R Y B N N A A T K K W T A B E A
 M Q P M U I Z Z K L E H F Y C E H F K F D C S R S

Happy Sails, Howard

-Howard

Rear Commodore's Comments

by Steve Howard



Well, there hasn't been much racing taking place on Seneca Lake over the past couple of months, so this month's column will be brief. (No applause necessary.)

The Summer Series will start with a brief (again, no applause) Skippers' Meeting on May 19th to discuss the schedule, ratings, scoring and any questions that might come up. If you plan on racing this year, please plan on attending this meeting.

The following Saturday (5/26) will be the Rig Tuning Race. No score. This is just a practice race, designed to help get the boat and crew into racing trim.

June 9th will start the series. I may not be able to attend this race due to a work conflict, but I am sure that things will be ably handled by other member(s) of the RC.

In the meantime, SailingScuttlebutt.com and the folks at Quantum Sails up in Rochester have given us permission to republish (in full or in part) articles from their publications and/or from pieces in the various sailing magazines. These will be scattered throughout the season's issues of *Port Tacks*.

And Now For Something Completely Different

Interested in adding something different to the style of sailing and racing that we have?

Up on Oneida Lake, Hobie Fleet 204 is a very active Fleet. Every year they run their Madcatter Regatta in May (this year #42, 5/19-20). This year as a lead-in to the Madcatter (they are very proud of the Madcatter) they'll be hosting the Hobie 14 North American Championships on May 15-18, making for a VERY full week of racing.

If you've never been a cat' sailor (having sailed since college, I've never even sat on a trampoline while on the beach, "How has that even happened?"), but would like to see what it's like, Fleet 204 starts their "Newbie Tuesdays" in early June. Getting folks out onto Hobies is what it's all about. Whether you're a complete landlubber or have always sailed with a ton of lead keeping you upright, you're welcome to join them.

If you start suffering from the cat' bug and want even more, the Fleet races every Thursday evening, starting in mid-May.

For more information, you can go to fleet204.com or call Boatworks Ltd in East Syracuse (315-438-8915) and speak with Rob Jerry.

Port Tacks

Published six times a year by the Finger Lakes Yacht Club. The opinions expressed in **Port Tacks** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Finger Lakes Yacht Club, its officers, directors, or members.

Club Web Site <http://www.flyc.us>

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I'm hoping to add this to my summer.

- Steve

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Editors Note: FLYC members are invited to attend a talk given by Susan Korzeniewski near Rochester on April 14th. Susan is one of the top sailors from the Hobie 16 Fleet 204 that Steve

mentioned earlier and holds seven national championship titles. Her talk is entitled, "Racing and Cruising from Oneida Lake to Lake Ontario and the High Seas". If you are interested, please contact Tom Alley (editor@flyc.us) for details. USPS members have free admission. Non-members will be charged \$5.

-Editor

Secretary's Column

by Sue Morris



Another few more weeks to April showers coming with sunshine!! Winds of March have been unreal. Thanks to all who have sent the renewal or new membership for FLYC!! It has been a great response with the application coming in the dock dues! Greatly appreciated! We're already up to 22 member families!

Can't wait to see everyone when we start getting the boats ready for the water. Until then stay warm and healthy!

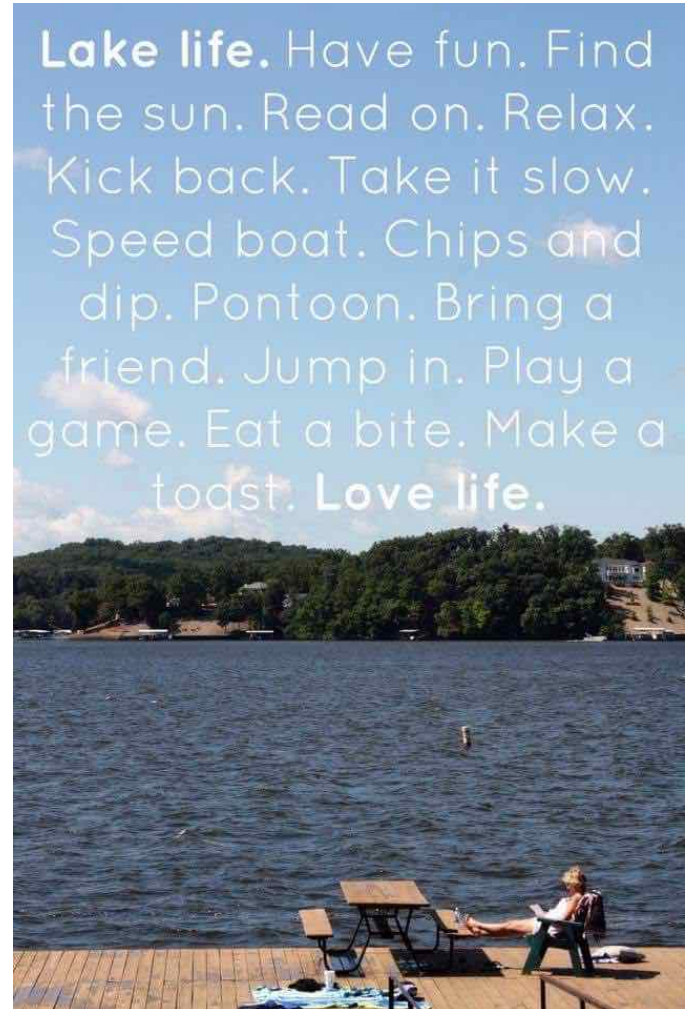
Mail membership forms to following address:

Sue Morris
FLYC Secretary
PO Box 14
Pine valley NY 14872

Hugs to all!

- Sue, FLYC Secretary

SV Sails Call



From the Treasurer



by Denis Kingsley

SV Tark

Membership renewal checks are coming in and are being deposited. There have been few expenses during the winter, other than the fee for the Watkins Glen post office box.

- Denis, still cooking the books.

Socially Speaking

by Maggie Martin & Lynne McGinnis

SV Sacre Bleu & SV Brewster

The final social calendar is set and we are looking forward to seeing new members and old around the docks and at our events. As always, feel free to bring guests. A \$5 donation per guest will be in effect at the picnics. Don't forget to sign up at the bulletin board in advance if possible.



The Saturday morning coffee klatch will be under the awning on dock 5 Saturday mornings at 9am if anyone is interested in participating. Bring your own beverage and an item to share.

We hope that you all are getting through the winter in good shape and getting ready to put in your boats this spring! Sailing season will be here soon!

- Maggie & Lynne

E-mail: Maggie social@flyc.us or 607-621-7247
Lynne social2@flyc.us or 607-426-7914

We have a date for a nautical swap morning in June, so save your boating items and check out everyone else's stuff! We will set up in the Marina.

One Last Race Rule Article – For Now

By Tom Alley

SV Tomfoolery

In the first article in this series I mentioned that the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) are updated every four years following the Summer Olympics. The current set of rules were released in January of 2017 and will remain in effect until after the games in 2020. So, what has changed since the 2013 version of the rules?

What's New in the 2017-2020 Racing Rules?

The good news is that the changes and corrections to the rules in 2017 were relatively few and deal with situations we don't often see on Seneca Lake.

In prior versions of the rules, only infractions by competitors could result in penalties to participating yachts. In 2017, however, some changes were made to the rules that allowed the race committee to apply penalties for infractions committed by *support personnel* of competing yachts, particularly if a racing boat received an advantage because of the support person's breach.

Corrections to the rules include a change to the definition of *proper course* in the case of windsurfers and corrections to

diagrams in the section on standard sailing instructions where the start/finish line had been drawn incorrectly.

Any Questions?

We're just scratching the surface of the Racing Rules of Sailing, so I'm sure many of you have questions, so please send me an e-mail and I'll address them in future articles. If there is sufficient interest, maybe we can organize a pre-season gathering to talk about racing, racing rules, and various strategies and tactics that can help you be competitive.

Drop me a note: tom@flyc.us

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Tom had his first taste of racing sailboats while he was in high school and has enjoyed the sport ever since, participating in racing on the Great Lakes as well as offshore. Aside from racing his own boats, he also served as a handicapper and measurer for PHRF-Lake Ontario and as a scorer for the Youngstown Yacht Club for many years. Since joining the Finger Lakes Yacht Club in 2001, he has been an active participant in the club's racing and cruising programs.

First Sail of the Season: Racing Checklist

By Keith Church

Quantum Sails

Shaking off the cobwebs of cold weather and short days, sailors return to their crafts ready and eager to start the new season. The first sail of the season is one of the best. However, before you head out on to the water and into a full-fledged season of racing, run through this checklist to make sure you've covered all of your bases. (Don't hesitate to call your local Quantum Sails loft if you need any help).

Pick up your sails

If you dropped your sails off at your local loft, this should be your first stop in order to get your boat re-rigged. If you didn't drop off your sails for a check-up when you finished last season, there might still be time. If you can't squeeze it in now, make a note to do it as soon as you're finished sailing this season. It's important that your sails get regular maintenance, you'll prevent small problems from becoming large, expensive ones, and you can protect the lifespan of your sails.

It's extra helpful to provide your sailmaker with photos of your sails so they can identify any potential issues that you might not see, such as sail shape.

Start from the Bottom

If you have \$10 to spend on boat maintenance, spend \$8 on the bottom of the boat (wouldn't that budget be nice?). Make sure the entire hull is symmetrical and buff out any issues and blemishes to create a smooth, hard finish. Consider repainting the underside if you have the time (*note from the RC: there are new paints that offer the capability of even burnishing the surface to leave a super-smooth and slick finish*). Inspect the keel and rudder to make sure there are no external issues and inspect any joints and hydraulics to make sure they are running fair and smooth. If you have a center-line speed unit, make sure it is clear and in good working order. Make sure the trailing edge of the hull is properly shaped. If you're not sure what should look like, walk the yard for some comparisons or consult an expert. If your boat lives in the water all season, this is the easiest time to make these important adjustments.

Clean it Out

Check the deck and down below for dead weight, then get rid of it. Consider what non-essentials are onboard and if they're vital to carry all season or if you can bring them aboard only when necessary. A light boat is a fast boat, so don't get slowed down by unimportant, heavy objects on board.

Inventory and Calibrate

Now that you've gotten rid of the excess weight, you have room for the necessary tools, including safety equipment, a hand-bearing compass, handheld VHF, navigation aids (including paper back-up), a starting countdown device (like Pro-Start), and a Wet Notes pad to remember important information. If you use apps on the water, make sure you're set up with navigation, weather, and any other pocket tech you plan to use during the

season. Chances are you won't have time to log in or update an app on the way to the course, so sort that out now.

Tune your Rig

When you re-rig your boat, start in a neutral rigging position and adjust from there. Set the mast rake to 1%, set the diagonal shrouds accordingly, and head out in a medium breeze. Most one-design boats provide a standard tuning guide, but it can't hurt to get to know your boat again and make one of your own. You can do this by starting with a neutral rig and adjusting tensions for every 2 knots of wind speed and marking the position of the headstay, lower shrouds, and any upper shrouds. Take note of the halyard position for each wind speed, and mark the position of backstay, vang, inhaul, leads and the traveler, as needed. By recording each variable based on wind speed, you'll be able to create your own tuning guide and make easy adjustments on the fly. You'll also be able to use the base parameters to adjust within a wind speed zone if you find yourself needing more or less power.

Mark the Moving Parts

Once your rig is properly tuned, you can start marking your sheets and lines and making notes where needed through maneuvers. With the spinnaker, jib and main halyards, mark on the line with permanent marker, indicating when the halyard is made. This will take the guesswork out of future hoists and trimming (it's important to do this every season to account for both new lines and stretching). In addition to the rigging mentioned above, also mark the boom vang, outhaul, Cunningham, spinnaker sheets, spinnaker guys, jib / genoa tracks, main tracks, sheets and spinnaker pole uphaul and downhaul, as well as any other adjustable lines.

Starting your racing season out on the right foot is essential to success. By spending extra time in the early days preparing, you'll avoid unpleasant surprises during racing days. A prepared skipper and boat will always perform better than one who has not cared for his boat, gear and crew.

- Keith

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Pre-Season Checklist

- 1) Pick up sails from the sailmaker
- 2) Start from the bottom
 - a) Repaint bottom
 - b) Inspect keel and rudder
 - c) Inspect all joints and hydraulics
 - d) Inspect speed unit
 - e) Inspect trailing edge for proper shape
- 3) Inventory and clean out excess items to reduce weight
- 4) Tune your rig
 - a) Set rig to neutral position / 1% mast rake
 - b) Head out in medium breeze to create a tuning guide

- c) Adjust rig for every 2 knots of wind speed
 - d) Note headstay position
 - e) Note upper shroud position
 - f) Note lower shroud position
 - g) Note position of backstay, vang, leads and the traveler, as needed.
- 5) Mark the moving parts
- a) Halyard
 - b) Boom Vang
 - c) Outhaul
 - d) Cunningham
 - e) Spinnaker sheets
 - f) Spinnaker guys
 - g) Jib / Genoa tracks
 - h) Main tracks
 - i) Sheets
 - j) Spinnaker pole uphaul and downhaul
 - k) Any other adjustable lines

- 6) Inventory
 - a) All necessary safety equipment
 - b) Hand-bearing compass
 - c) Hand-held VHF
 - d) Navigation aids
 - e) Navigation aids, paper back-up
 - f) Starting countdown device
 - g) Wet Notes pad
- 7) Update phone apps
 - a) Weather
 - b) Navigation
 - c) US Sailing RRS app
- 8) Finalize Season Schedule
- 9) Finalize Team

--Many thanks to the folks at *Quantum Sails*.

Editor's Corner

by Tom Alley



Not long ago the first boating catalog arrived in my mail, soon to be followed by sales flyers from various chandleries. Then we had a snow storm, but it was followed by some nice weather where I could start a few of the spring commissioning projects in my garage before the next snowstorm arrived. A few more pre-season tasks got ticked off of the to-do list during the next intermission before yet another cold spell settled in our area. Yes, spring is coming, but it sure seems like it's taking its sweet time. Let's all hope that this frustrating cold snap means that we'll be rewarded with a nice summer for sailing.

One advantage I'll concede to the cold weather, since I find myself in the "back lot" end of the boatyard, you know, the unpaved section, is that the mud remains frozen and you track

SV Tomfoolery

far less crud onto your boat when working on it. Other than that, this sailor is ready for warmer weather to get here so he can start thinking about various projects that involve fiberglass, epoxy, paint, and other substances that are as intolerant of cold weather as the boat owner.

Speaking of projects, tell me about yours! I'd love to share your various boat projects in articles in our newsletter. What are some things you've done to your boat to create more storage space? Or make the cabin a bit more comfortable? Or make your cockpit more efficient? What are some tricks you've learned over the years to take some of the drudgery out of spring commissioning to get yourself into the water faster and with less effort? On the other side of the coin, is there something you wish you hadn't done? Or do you have a "project from hell" that, after the fact, makes for a good story? Do tell!

Until then, see you in the boatyard!

- Tom

Boat Show/Event Calendar

A listing of boat shows, seminars, and regattas (in locations with non-solidified water) to get you through the off-season! Compiled by Steve Howard.

Obersheimer's Boating Seminars

The Obersheimer's Sailor Supply Seminar Series is held on the first Wednesday of the winter months at the store, loft and rigging shop at 1884 Niagara St. in Buffalo. The talks start at 7pm and tend to run a couple of hours or so. This season's schedule is made up of the following topics:

April

04 Become Better at Racing Part 1

May

02 Become Better at Racing Part 2
Season Starting Spring BBQ

For more information, you can call Eric or Dale Tanski at 716-877-8221.

Events & Boat Shows

April

6-8 Clayton Boat Show, Clayton, NY

August

01-03 USPS District 6 Rendezvous in Clayton, NY

04 Antique Boat Show & Auction, Clayton, NY

Road Trip Regatta Calendar

April

12-15 Charleston Race Week

20-23 Sperry Charleston Race Week, Charleston, SC

29-30 Lightning Spring Champs, Columbia, SC

May

5-7 NOODs in Annapolis, MD

15-18 Hobie Cat 14 North American Championships, Oneida Lake, NY

19-20 Madcatter 42 Regatta, Oneida Lake, NY

28 Port Weller Race, NOLSC / YYC

June

2-3 Susan Hood Race, PCYC

3 LOSHRS Race 1, PCYC

3-4 Cedar Point One Design, CPYC

9-10 Chicago NOODS, Chicago YC

9-11 NOODs, Chicago, IL

10 Niagara Hospice Regatta, YYC / NOLSC

15 Newport to Bermuda Race (start date), Newport, RI

16-18 Cleveland Race Week 1-Design, EYC

17-18 LOSHRS to YYC and Return, PCYC / YYC

22-25 Cleveland Race Week Offshore, EYC

22-24 Scotch Bonnet Light Race, GYC

24-25 Thistle Great Lakes Championship, EYC

24-25 Toronto Hospice Regatta, PCYC

24-25 J70 Canadian Championship, PCYC

July

13-14 Lake Ontario 300 Challenge, PCYC

21 Chicago to Mackinac Race (start date)

21-22 J Fest Great Lakes in Toronto

27-29 CanAm Challenge, YYC

27-30 NOODs in Marblehead, MA

30-8/5 LYRA in Rochester, NY

Key

CPYC Cedar Point Yacht Club

EYE Edgewater Yacht Club

GYC Genesee Yacht Club

NOLSC Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club

PCYC Port Credit Yacht Club

YYC Youngstown Yacht Club

2018 FLYC Calendar

This is the club calendar as discussed at the Board meeting in early February. Some dates are subject to change as plans firm up and get finalized. Please check the club web site (<http://www.FLYC.US>) to see the most current information.

Regular/Repeating Events

Saturday Morning Kaffee Klatch. Every Saturday at 0900 from Memorial Day Weekend through mid-September under the awning on Dock 5 at the Marina Bar & Grill.

Post-Mortem Racing Social. After every club race at 1700 on the lawn by the marina flagpole. BYOB/Snack to share. Open to racers and non-racers alike.

February

- 03 **Planning Meeting.** Board of Directors.
- 07 **February Newsletter Publication Date.**

March

- 20 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

April

- 01 **April Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 15 **Earliest possible launch date.**

May

- 19 **Pre-Season Skippers' Meeting.** Review of season racing rules and conventions. *Watkins Glen Village Marina* (1300)
- 20 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**
- 26 **Seneca Junior Sailing Dockside Orientation. (1030)*
- 26 **Rust Removal Race.** Practice race. (1300)
- 27 **Memorial Day Picnic.** (1700)

June

- 01 **June Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 02 **Nautical Swap Meet.** (0930)
- 09 **Summer Series Race #1.** (1300)
- 15-16 **Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival*
- 17 **Sunday Fathers' Day Brunch.** (1100)
- 23 **Summer Series Race #2.** (1300)

July

- 04 **All American Picnic.** (1700)
- 07 **Summer Series Race #3.** (1300)
- 14 **Summer Series Race #4.** (1300)
- 20 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**
- 21 **Commodore's Cup Race.** (1000)
- 21 **Commodore's Cup Dinner.** (1700)
- 28 **FLYC Cruise #1: Lake Ontario.** Departure date.

August

- 01 **August Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 01-03 **USPS D/6 Rendezvous, Clayton, NY.*
- 02-05 **NASCAR at the Glen*
- 04 **Hawaiian Beach Party & Luau.** (1700)
- 10-12 **Watkins Glen Italian Festival*
- 11 **Lake Ontario Cruise.** Anticipated return date.
- 18 **Summer Series Race #5.** (1300)
- 25 **Summer Series Race #6.** (1300)
- 25 **FLYC "Sailgate" Party.** (1700)

September

- 01 **Summer Series Race #7.** (1300)
- 02 **Labor Day Picnic.** (1700)
- 07-09 **Glenora Wine Cellars Vintage Grand Prix.*
- 08 **FLYC Cruise #2: Geneva.** Fleet departure.
- 08 **Seneca Yacht Club Barge Race, Geneva, NY*
- 09 **Cock of the Walk Competition.** Special skipper's competition during the return trip from Geneva.
- 15 **Summer Series Race #8.** (1300)
- 21 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**
- 22 **Make-Up Race.** (1300)
- 29 **Grape Harvest Race.** (1300) Special scoring. Details to be announced.
- 29 **Grape Harvest Festival.** (1700)

October

- 01 **October Newsletter Publication Date.**
- 04-08 **Annapolis Sailboat Show*
- 07 **Soup/Chili/Chocolate Festival.** (1700)
- 13 **Gear Buster Race.** (1300) Special scoring.
- 31 **Marina Haulout Deadline** (per slip contract).

November

- 16 **Deadline for newsletter articles.**
- TBA **Member Banquet & Annual Meeting.**

December

- 01 **December Newsletter Publication Date.**
- TBD **Miles Winery Race/Cruise/Wine Tasting & Food Pairing.**

** Non-FLYC events.*

Finger Lakes Yacht Club

Membership Application

Membership renewals are due by May 1st. **Annual dues are \$45.**
Please send this form and a check to:

Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Inc.
c/o Sue Morris, Secretary
P. O. Box 14
Pine Valley, NY 14872

Are you also a member of the
U.S. Power Squadron? If so,
please check this box.

Application: New member Renewal

Important: Please be sure to include the names of all of your "dependent" family members.
This will ensure that membership privileges are awarded properly.

Name(s): _____

Please indicate which areas interest you:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racing | <input type="checkbox"/> Web site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cruising | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Address: _____

Phone: Home: (____) _____ Work (____) _____
Cell: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Boat Name _____ Type: Sail Power

Make/Model _____ Length _____

Boat Year _____ Location/Slip# _____

By this application, I/we promise to uphold the By-laws of the Finger Lakes Yacht Club, Inc.
and to comply with its rules and regulations.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____