

History of the Pine Beach Yacht Club 1916-1966

Charles Wheeler and W. L. Wilson were the organizers of the Yacht Club. They were also among the first homeowners and felt that a clubhouse was needed to supply their recreational needs and to provide fellowship among the residents. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Wilson were also active members of the Pine Beach Improvement Company.

March 1916:

A meeting was held in the Hale Building in Phila. by the P. B. Improvement Company. Plans were discussed to build a clubhouse and the Improvement Company agreed to give a piece of ground for the site. The group felt confident that a clubhouse could be erected by summer.

"The Club will be built on the Shore Front at the foot of Midland Avenue. It will be a one floor bungalow type - with wide piazzas and will be built for comfort, more than style, though appearances will not be sacrificed. It will be a big addition to the pleasures of summer life here to have some place to go and meet friends. A Yacht

Club will naturally mean more boats as it awakens interest in all things pertaining to the river and bay. *

March 1916:

A meeting of the newly organized Yacht Club was held and the elected officers were as follows:

W. L. Wilson, Pres.

Harry Kenty, Vice Pres.

Charles Wheeler, Sec'y + Treasurer.

Plans for incorporating were discussed.

Bids were put out for erecting the Clubhouse.

May 1, 1916:

A constitution and By-Laws were presented to the Yacht Club members by the ^{elected} Committee and were adopted with some changes. Pine Beach Yacht Club was then incorporated.

Sealed bids were opened and Le Roy Hutchins was awarded the contract. Members had been active with money-making projects and the Ways and Means Committee reported a

profit of \$160.00 on a benefit show at the South Broad Street Theatre on April 24, 1916. Dr. Earl Rice, a future Commodore of the Club, was a
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of the cast playing at the theatre. Plans were underway for an auction to be held May 25.

July 21, 1916

The concrete work on the Club was finished and the sides were also up. The Club expected to be completed by Aug. 5.

* "The plan called for a plain peaked roof which seemed so ugly that the plans were changed and dormer windows set in."

Through the cooperation of the Pine Beach Improvement Company the Club was supplied with electricity from the Hotel's dynamo so the Club was wired for electric lights. At that time the Hotel (now Farragut) had the only electric lights in Pine Beach. Ice was brought in by row-boat from Island Heights Aug 5, 1916.

At last the Club was finished except for the last coat of paint and it formed a meeting place for most of P. Beach residents. A concert was given on opening night with Mr. Rice in charge. A tentative schedule of events was announced. The ladies of the Club will have card parties on

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on Tuesday afternoons, ladies only, and also on Friday evenings for everyone. The Club was open every evening and a Victrola, loaned by Mrs. Roy Hutchinson, furnished music for impromptu dancing. Besides supplying electricity, the Pine Beach Inn (a Hotel) loaned rocking chairs and folding chairs until the Club could supply its own.

The guests at the Inn were frequent ~~visitors~~ visitors at the Club, attending the regular card parties.

Aug. 20, 1916:

The first of many society fairs was held at the Club and the profit of \$100.00 was shared by the Club and the Chapel.

The new Club soon became the social center of all Pine Beach, drawing all the residents together and creating a feeling of harmony and good fellowship.

Labor Day, 1916

The motor boat race at the Island Night Yacht Club was won by Commodore

Wilson of the Pine Beach Yacht Club.

"The beautiful entrance at ~~the~~ Pine Beach entices many motorists to come in. The motor road is bright with electric lights all the way to the riverfront. All kinds of gayly decorated boats were anchored along the dock of the Inn and the porches were ablaze with colored lanterns and electric light. Nearby the P.B. Yacht Club also was bright with lights."

Mr. John Mergenthaler, a very active member of the Club, was mainly responsible for bringing in electricity for the home owners in Pine Beach.

Labor Day 1916

a masked ball was given at the Yacht Club on Monday evening and was quite a success with a large turnout.

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May 25, 1917

The Dock at the Yacht Club was constructed by LeRoy Hutchinson.

The country was now at war, declared on April 6, 1917. Despite the war, Pine Beach had its share of people that year. The famous Morgan Cup Race was held at the Island Heights Club on June 20, 1917.

Aug. 31, 1917

The regular meeting of the PBYC was held and officers were elected. After the meeting, the room was turned over to the dancers.

Sept 1917.

A Country Fair, now an annual event, was ~~a~~ held and proved a great success. The Club was crowded and everyone enjoyed themselves. The Clubhouse was opened on Labor Day evening for an informal dance and watermelon party.

Aug. 1918

The summer of 1918 still finds our country at war. The Club continued to be a delightful social center. Groups from Money Island and Island Heights came over by boat to join in the fun. The Traco Theatre had "Mary Pickford in Daddy Long-Legs" - admission 10¢ and Ladies were selling at 16¢ a pound.

July 4, 1922

Members of the Club organized the first Fourth of July parade and games that followed. A flag raising was held at the Club and the Ladies Aid served luncheon to all. ^{yacht + The Homeowners}

Dances were held every Saturday evening with an orchestra and the card parties continued on Tuesdays & Fridays.

1922

A new road to Beechwood opened up and proved a big convenience to residents and also opened up a new section for lots.

1932.

The following schedule of activities ~~is~~ was announced by the P.B. & C. for July 1932

- July 1 Card Party
- 2 Dinner - Open
- 4 Band Concert
- 8 Card Party
- 9 Annual dinner
- 15 card party
- 22 Card party
- 23 Dance
- 29 Card Party
- 30 Pajama Dance - Prizes

Aug 27.

Annual Sauer Kraut Supper under the leadership of Mrs Christos.