*****Full Ahead – SLOW***

Nobody really knows what will happen over the next several weeks regarding what the Governors’ plans are in reopening NC. He has already indicated that the Phase 2 reopening plan is being extended to a least July 17th. What happens after July 17th is anybody’s guess. Will it be a 2A plan or Phase 3 loosening additional restrictions?

It has been awhile since we have been able to hold some of those great events we all enjoy. While we are not yet able to set the throttle to full speed ahead, we do feel we that we are getting closer to being able to offer some smaller organized group events for those who feel comfortable participating. (And kudos go to those who have enjoyed the use of our Club and grounds during the past weeks - don’t stop now.)

We do realize that even though restrictions are likely to be loosened up in a couple of weeks, not everyone’s comfort level will be a the same point venturing back out and participating at the level you did prior to the onset of COVID 19.

We take seriously the need to be good stewards in supporting safe activities when it comes to all of our member’s health, as well as that of your non-member friends, family, and neighbors you interact with. We have and will continue to limit ourselves to activities which can operate within the CDC’s and NC’s guidelines and recommendations. We recognize that with a club our size, concern about the COVID-19 virus risk varies; some will feel comfortable socializing while others are seriously concerned about their own and/or other’s risk. We also recognize that our Yacht Club family fulfills a significant part of our social lives, and I am sure we all miss it.

We will try to balance these needs in developing practical approaches to some smaller social opportunities that will, hopefully, be of interest. We understand that your personal risk tolerance may be higher or lower than those of some of your fellow Club members. The Governor’s current guidelines are requiring the use of masks in public or in group gatherings. We know that not everyone feels the need to wear a mask and it is your personal choice of whether to do so or not. However, we are asking all members to wear a mask at activities inside the club in consideration of your fellow members concerns who may feel at heightened risks if they are in a gathering where not everyone is wearing a mask.

Based on the guidance we have received and good common sense, our current temporary plans include some previously announced as well as some new strictures:

* Our primary concern is safety. With that in mind we do encourage those at greater risk to hold off participating in Club events if you are not comfortable. If you have questions or concerns about your situation and risk, those are best addressed by your personal physician.
* As with all other businesses, if you have been exposed to a person testing positive for COVID-19, have a fever or a cough, or other symptoms, please contact your physician and do not attend an event until cleared to do so.
* We ask that you respect others and maintain social distance inside and outside the clubhouse.
* We ask that all folks wear a mask while in the clubhouse *except while eating meals*. We also want to acknowledge that some folks will feel more comfortable wearing masks while in group gatherings outside, and if so, we encourage you to do so.
* We have disposable masks available for a $1 donation for those who forget to bring one from home.
* We have outlined for you previously our new cleaning and disinfecting practices. If you don’t remember our Vice Commodore’s email, they are posted within the clubhouse.
* Hand sanitizer is now available at each entrance for your use.
* We are suspending shared snack offerings and suggest you bring your own goodies.
* Our social events with meals will be “boxed meals”. Sorry, none of those great self-serve or pot luck affairs for now.
* Under Phase 2, we are limited to gatherings of 10 people inside the Clubhouse and 25 people outside. We do not know at this time what the limitations on gatherings for indoor and outdoor events will be during Phase 3, once its implemented. Depending on what the limitations are for gatherings under Phase 3, it may be necessary to limit participation. If so, to be accordance with whatever the guidelines state, it might become necessary to have **advance signups for all activities meetings and events** to ensure we don’t exceed capacity. We will also be keeping those lists for contact tracing purposes for 30 days should we, unfortunately, have a participant later test positive for the virus.
* Once we have begun meetings, invited speakers and presenters will be asked to wear a mask while in the Club. They will be allowed remove or lower their mask while speaking **from the front of the room** to help make their presentation and comments clearer, but they will need to be put back on upon before returning to their chair after completion of their presentation.
* We are attempting to take all reasonable steps to provide a safe social environment for our members and visitors. However, we cannot completely eliminate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 during our events. By attending an event, you are personally assuming the risk that you may be exposed to COVID-19 and such exposure could result in personal injury, illness, disability, or death.

We appreciate your understanding and patience with all of this. I know we all can’t wait until these restrictions and limitations are behind us. I hope that many of you look forward to and will participate (as appropriate) in some of the activities you will hear about shortly. The boating season is off to a great start with the (delayed) shakedown cruise and a flash cruise to Oriental. Plans are being made for some outside activities, including a concert on the lawn. And if you come up with an idea for an additional event(s), contact Mike Ott (cruises) or Sarah Kerner (social), I know they would love to hear from you!



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(*special thanks to Sam Bidwell in helping draft the above guidelines to keep our membership safe!)*