

Notes:



**2023**

*By-Laws*

***Mid-Florida Lakes  
Boat Club***

***Established 1972 - 51Years***

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## MFL BOAT CLUB OFFICER FLAGS

### COMMODORE



Blue background with white stars and anchor

### VICE COMMODORE



Red background with white stars and anchor

### REAR COMMODORE



White background with red stars and anchor

### SECRETARY



Blue background with white feathers

### TREASURER



Blue background with white acorn

## **THE BOAT CLUB PLEDGE**

**I HEREBY DO SOLEMNLY PLEDGE MY ALLE-  
GIANCE TO THE MID-FLORIDA LAKES BOAT CLUB  
AND DO PROMISE:**

*To be cheerfully governed by the By-Laws.*

*To be in faithful attendance.*

*To be loyal in service, willing to serve in any capacity. To be  
generous of my praise, my time and myself.*

## **PREAMBLE**

*The purpose of the Mid-Florida Lakes Boat Club shall be  
to develop and maintain safe, enjoyable boating, and to  
provide social activities that promote camaraderie among  
the members.*



## **MID FLORIDA LAKES BOAT CLUB BY-LAWS 2023**

### **Section 1 – NAME**

The name of the club is **MID-FLORIDA LAKES BOAT CLUB.**

### **Section 2 – PURPOSE**

The specific and primary purpose of this club, hereinafter referred to as “The Boat Club”, is to develop and maintain safe, enjoyable boating and to provide social activities that promote camaraderie among the members.

### **Section 3 – PENNANT**

The pennant of this club shall be the version as approved by the Board of Directors of The Boat Club.

**A.** The Boat Club pennant is to be used and flown only on members' boats.

**B.** The Club pennant shall be flown only when boat is in operation otherwise it should be stowed out of the weather or covered.

**C.** The pennant should be discarded when faded and/or torn.

### **Section 4 – HOME PORT**

The home port of The Boat Club will be at the Melody Lakes Club House.

### **Section 5 – MEMBERSHIP**

**A.** An MFL resident who would like to become a member of the Boat Club must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Must be a resident of Mid Florida Lakes.
- 2) Must have an on-site powerboat that is titled and registered in the applicant's or spouse's name.
- 3) Complete a membership form, pay initiation fees and membership dues.
- 4) Live in the household of a person who has complied with items 1, 2, and 3.

- B. The new member will be sworn in at the first general meeting they attend.
- C. Persons meeting all requirements of membership are immediately members of The Boat Club and thus are entitled to attend all club functions.
- D. Boat-owning members who sell or dispose of their boats after a period of five years as a member of The Boat Club, shall be allowed to remain as a regular member of The Boat Club, with all the rights and privileges of a boat-owning member; if they remain a resident living in Mid-Florida Lakes only, and remain current on dues. A disability or health circumstance prior to a five-year period as a boat-owning member will be cause for a review by the Board of Directors.
- E. Life Membership may be granted to a member of the
  - 1. Boat Club by the Board of Directors.
    - 1) The individual must have completed at least thirty (30) years of continuous, paid membership.
  - 2. Entitlements:
    - (a) No Dues for Life.
    - (b) No charge for the Change of Watch or the Christmas party.
- F. In addition to Boat Club members, the following people will be considered bona fide guests and be allowed to attend a Boat Club activity:
  - 1) Non-Mid-Florida Lakes residents who are bona fide guests of members may attend two activities per year (a guest will only be considered as bona fide if visiting a member on a temporary basis and staying at a member's residence or at a temporary lodging - e.g. hotel or motel).
  - 2) A guest of an unmarried member.
  - 3) Prior to joining, prospective members may attend one on-water and one off-water activity when invited by a boat club member.

- 9. All local, State and Federal "Rules of the Road" will be observed.
- 10. You must attend a BAC to win a BAC raffle or prize and one ticket per person is to be used.
- 11. Boat Club shirts and name tags should be worn while on a BAC.



### **Original Boat Club Roster-1972**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Aaberg, Bill & Peggy       | Heinzelman, Howard & Reba                 |
| Barnes, Ralph              | Keller, Elmo & Edna                       |
| Bender, Ray & Becky        | King, Hi & Olive                          |
| Boardman, Howard & Loraine | Lavender, Ena & Alleen                    |
| Brown, Clara               | Levy, Sam & Maria                         |
| Cooper, Loren & Maxine     | Morgan, Calvin                            |
| Crawford, Don & Tilly      | Overend, & Wives                          |
| Dormeyer, Ted & Edna       | Pipp, Harold, <b><u>1st Commodore</u></b> |
| Fisher, Harry & Betty      | Richardson, Lowell & Irene                |
| Frank, Stan & Anne         | Rockhill, Bob & Mickey                    |
| Freeze, Earl & Helene      | Saxon, Julius & Evelyn                    |
| Hahn, Bill & Trudy         | Schaeffer, Roy & Mickey                   |
| Hawkins, Tom & Mildred     | Thompson, Phil & Angie                    |

2. At the Captain's briefing the route for the day must be announced and suggestions and alternatives should be offered. Deciding at a later time in the procession that you have a better route is not an option.
3. The lead boat must be followed unless a safety issue exists. Said issue must be communicated, by radio, to the entire flotilla. A vessel having a mechanical problem or a person on board with a medical problem should do two things:
  - a. Communicate by radio the situation so that all may hear.
  - b. Pull out of line (to port or starboard) to visually signal a problem.
4. Before leaving the dock and commencing the Boat-A-Cade (BAC), a radio check from the lead boat to all boats must be accomplished. Any boat that cannot communicate with the lead boat cannot participate in the BAC. This, again, must be determined before leaving the dock so other arrangements for the passengers of that non-communicative boat can be arranged.
5. The minimum proper distance between all boats shall be 3-4 boat lengths. All boat operators should avoid straggling (more than 10 boat lengths). Obviously, the speed of the BAC will be dependent on the slowest boat in the procession. This should be determined BEFORE the boat-a-cade commences and the lead boat must take that slow speed into consideration during the entire BAC.
6. The rearmost boat, usually the Safety Officer's, is responsible for the safety and well-being of the boats in front of it. That boat should have a cell phone on board to call emergency services, if needed.
7. The rearmost boat will clearly indicate its position to the lead boat, by radio, when sea state or rules change (speed up/slow down). The lead boat must acknowledge these communications.
8. All standing rules must be followed, understanding that they are in place for the safety of the BAC.

4) Mid-Florida-Lakes employees, when approved by the board.

5) Any person may attend any activity that has been declared an 'open activity' by the governing board.

**G.** In all cases, with the exception as stated in Section 5.F.5, guests must be accompanied by a member and all tickets must be purchased by the member.

**H.** Members are encouraged to wear a Club shirt for boat-a-cades and club meetings. Social attire will be as stated per event advertising at ticket sales. MFL Boat Club name tags must be worn for all events. There will be a \$1.00 fine payable to the "Sheriff" for missing name tags. Fines collected will be raffled off each year at the Christmas party to one lucky paid member. Fines will not be enforced for the Christmas party or Change of Watch.

#### **Section 6 — INITIATION FEE—DUES**

- A.** The initiation fee will be as currently in force at the time of application. (2020 fee is \$20 per person)
- B.** Dues shall be as currently in force per person, per year and are prorated at six (6) months. (2020 fee is \$15 per person)
- C.** Dues shall be due and payable for the next calendar year, effective November 1 thru January 1. A thirty-day grace period shall exist.
- D.** A member shall stand suspended without the action of the Board of Directors when dues are thirty days in arrears. The Membership Chairperson shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the delinquent member during the 30-day grace period. Any member who does not respond on or before the end of the 30-day grace period shall be suspended from the membership roll and lose voting privileges.
- E.** All membership dues collected for the succeeding year shall be held in escrow for the new administration's disposal and deleted from the year-end report.

- F. Suspended members who decide to renew their membership can do so without penalty of an additional initiation fee within one year of January 1.

### **Section 7 – OFFICERS and ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The elected officers of The Boat Club shall be:
- \*Commodore
  - \*Vice Commodore
  - \*Rear Commodore
  - \*Secretary
  - \*Treasurer
- B. To be eligible for office the individual must be a member of the club in good standing.
- C. In the prolonged absence of any officer, except the Commodore, said absence duly justified by illness, absence from the community or death; the Commodore may nominate a replacement for that officer, with full rights, to be approved by the Board of Directors.
- D. A Board member can be dismissed for cause based on a motion, resulting in a vote, using a paper ballot, from the general membership.

### **Section 8 – DUTIES of the COMMODORE**

- A. When possible, the Commodore will preside at all meetings of the club.
- B. Enforce all rules and regulations as specified in the By-Laws and as required.
- C. Oversee the function of each department.
- D. Appoint a By-Laws chairperson.
- E. Appoint a Publicity chairperson.
- F. Appoint a Membership chairperson.
- G. Appoint a Sunshine chairperson.
- H. Appoint special chairpersons and committees as necessary.
- I. Appoint an Education and Safety Officer.

water and rain. Wiring must be in good condition with no exposed, bare wires. Batteries must be secured, and terminals covered to prevent shorting and sparking and arcing. Portable fuel tanks (7 gallons or less) must be constructed on non-breakable material and free of corrosion and leaks. All vents must be capable of being closed. The tank must be secured and have a vapor-tight, leak-proof cap. Each permanent fuel-tank must be properly ventilation.

1. A working VHF/FM marine radio.
2. A de-watering device (bilge pump) and a backup

### **Recommended Safety Items but not required by Federal Regulations (not required for the decal)**

- (bucket, hand pump, etc.)
3. Mounted fire extinguishers (accessibility and movement prevention).
  4. Anchor and line for the area (a minimum of 25' of anchor line for our lakes area).
  5. First aid kit.
  6. Inland Visual Distress signals (Flares, Distress flag).
  7. Capacity Plate/Certificate of compliance plate.
  8. Accident reporting education, survival tips, fuel management, float plan for long trips, knowledge of weather and sea conditions, insurance considerations, boating safety check list, safe boating classes.

### **Boat-A-Cade Courtesies**

Maintaining a neat flotilla instills pride in seamanship and a sense of belonging to the group. It also provides a measure of safety for all, as it becomes very evident if one of the boats has personnel, mechanical or physical problem. Courtesy and safety are the watchwords for the following reminders.

1. The lead boat does not have to be the Fleet Captain of the day. Rather, that boat should be experienced in leading the

6. Ventilation. Boats with gasoline engines in closed compartments must have a working, powered ventilation system. Boats with closed fuel tank compartments must meet requirements by displaying a "certificate of compliance."
7. Backfire Flame Arrester. All gasoline powered stern drive (I/O) or inboard motorboats must be equipped with an approved backfire flame control device. This device must be clean and free of flame producing materials (oil, grease, etc.).
8. Sound Producing Device. All boats must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren, etc.) capable of a 4 second blast suitable for 1/2 mile. Boats larger than 39.4 feet must also have a bell.
9. Navigation lights. All boats must be able to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility (fog, haze, smoke, etc.). Boats 16 feet in length or more must have properly installed, working navigation lights and an all-around anchor light capable of being lit independently from the red/green/white "running" navigation lights.
10. Boats 26' and over with a machinery compartment must display an oily waste "pollution" placard.
11. MARPOL Trash Placard. Boats 26' and over in length must display a "MARPOL" trash placard.
12. Marine Sanitation Device. Any installed toilet (not a porta potty) must be a USCG approved device. Overboard discharge outlets must be capable of being sealed.
13. Navigation rules. Boats 39.4 feet in length and over must carry a copy of the Navigation Rules.
14. State and Local Requirements. A boat must meet the requirements of the state in which it is being examined.
15. Overall Boat Condition. Decks must be free of hazards (fire, tripping, slipping, etc.) and any under-deck compartment must be clean and free from oily materials. The use of automobile parts on boat engines is strictly prohibited. The engine horsepower must not exceed that shown on the capacity plate. The electrical system must be protected by fuses or circuit breakers and fuse panel/breaker panels must be shielded from

- J. Appoint an Equipment and Communications Officer.
- K. Recommend for confirmation to the Board of Directors a replacement for any vacated position that was elected by the members.
- L. Have authority to sign checks on the Club checking account.
- M. Present a summary report at the annual meeting.
- N. Set the course for the year.
- O. The Commodore shall have the authority to commit Boat Club funds if an emergency occurs and there is not sufficient time to call a special Board meeting. As soon as possible after committing such funds, the Commodore will obtain Board approval.

### **Section 9 - DUTIES of the VICE COMMODORE**

- A. Assist the Commodore as needed.
- B. In the absence of the Commodore, perform the duties of the Commodore.
- C. Co-ordinate all Boat-A-Cades.
- D. Obtain "Fleet Captains" for each Boat-A-Cade and will assist them as necessary to ensure successful 'on-water' activities.
- E. Oversee all boating activities, if needed.
- F. Has authority to sign checks on the Club checking account.



## **Section 10 — DUTIES of the REAR COMMODORE**

- A.** Assist the Commodore as needed.
- B.** In the temporary absence of the Commodore and the Vice Commodore, perform the duties of the Commodore.
- C.** Appoint Refreshment Committee Chairpersons.
- D.** Appoint a Ticket Committee Chairperson.
- E.** Arrange all social functions of the club.
- F.** Assist the Commodore as needed.

## **Section 11 — DUTIES of the SECRETARY**

- A.** Keep minutes of all meetings in Club books provided for that purpose.
- B.** Answer Club Correspondence and other functions, incidents to the office of Secretary, including absentee ballot requests.
- C.** Report minutes of previous general meeting at the regularly scheduled meetings, and Board minutes at Board meetings.
- D.** Report motions of Board meeting at regularly scheduled Meetings.



## **FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A USCG VESSEL SAFETY CHECK DECAL**

1. Numbering: The boat's registration number must be prominently attached to each side of the forward half of the boat. They must be plain, vertical, block characters, not less than 3 inches high in a contrasting color to the background. A space or a hyphen must separate the letters from the numbers. The state decal must be in accordance with the state rules.
2. Registration/documentation. Current and legal state registration documents must be on board the boat.
3. Personal Flotation Devices (Life Jackets). They must be USCG approved (label), in acceptable condition and correct size for each person on the boat. Wearable devices must be "readily accessible" and throwable devices must be "immediately accessible." PFDs shall NOT be stored in unopened plastic packaging. There shall be a minimum of two PFDs aboard the boat at all times. Boats 16 feet and longer must have one type IV (throwable) PFD aboard. ((NOTE: There is no requirement for the throwable to have a line attached. If the throwable does have a line attached, the line MUST NOT be attached to the boat (in the event of a sinking the PFD will go down with the boat).
4. Visual Distress signals. Boats operating on inland waters (such as our lakes) should have some means of making a suitable day and night distress signal. The number and type of signal is best judged by considering the conditions which the boat will be operating. Alternatives to unexpired flares are NIGHT: Strobe light, Flashlight, lantern. DAY: Signal mirror, red or orange flags, proper hand signals.
5. Fire extinguishers. Every power boat requires a minimum of one Coast Guard approved "B-1" extinguisher. Only row boats and sailboats less than 16' with NO mechanical propulsion are exempt. Fire extinguishers must be readily accessible and verified as serviceable. Boats over 26' and less than 40' require either two "B-1" extinguishers or one "B-2" extinguisher aboard.



## **Section 18 – CRUISING RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A.** While cruising the Fleet Captain or the designated Cruise master will be in command of the fleet.
- B.** Safe, courteous boating rules and routines shall be observed by all craft, at all times.
- C.** Each boat must have the Florida or home state registration number and current year registration decal.
- D.** To participate in a Boat Club sponsored on-the-water activity, the boat must be equipped with a fully operable marine radio.
- E.** The communication channel shall be chosen by the Fleet Captain with the approval of the Commodore.

## **Section 19 – CHANGES TO BY-LAWS**

- A.** These By-Laws shall be reviewed and amended, as needed every three (3) years to become effective January 1 of the following year, (Example January 1, 2021, 2024) except in the case of an emergency. An emergency can be declared by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present at a quorum sanctioned meeting.
- B.** In the event of a declared emergency, these By-Laws may be amended by vote, at any regular meeting of the Club, by two thirds (2/3) of those present, provided such proposed amendments shall have been read at one regular meeting, prior to the meeting at which such action is to be taken.

## **Section 20 – VIOLATIONS OF THE BY-LAWS**

Any member who violates these rules or the Boat Club pledge may be brought before the Board of Directors, at a special closed meeting, to discuss the circumstances of the violation. The Board, at its discretion can verbally reprimand, suspend for a specific period of time, or expel the violator depending on the seriousness of such violations.

## **Section 12 — DUTIES of the TREASURER**

- A.** Receive all moneys paid into the Club.
- B.** Keep a just and regular account of such moneys.
- C.** Make or cause to be made a financial report at each regularly scheduled meeting.
- D.** Deliver a final report at the annual (December) general membership meeting.  
be a member of the club in good standing.
- E.** Have authority to sign checks on the Club checking account.
- F.** See the dues money is handles per **Section 6, Paragraph E**. The Treasurer has the right to delay payment Of any expenditure pending approval by the Board.
- G.** Purchases made during the calendar year, must be submitted with appropriate receipts and finalized by December 31, of that year will be considered invalid. Extensions are at the discretion of the Board when advised prior to the deadline.

## **Section 13 – OFFICERS**

All elected officers, or their appointed replacements, to the Board of Directors of the Mid-Florida Lakes Boat Club, shall have sole voting powers on all Board decisions. All Board decisions are subject to challenge by the general membership. Any membership vote on challenged Board decisions will be conducted by written ballot.

## **Section 14 — BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall consist of all the elected officers.

## **Section 15 — DUTIES of the BOARD of DIRECTORS**

- A.** The Board of Directors shall:
  - (1) Direct and control the affairs of the Club,
  - (2) Act on, as recommended by the Commodore, any permanently vacated office for the remainder of its term.
  - (3) Hold at least one (1) Board meeting no more than seven (7) days prior to each regular Club meeting,

- (4) Act as appropriate, on violations of the By-Laws.
- B. The Board of Directors shall act on Club business only at regular or special meeting when a quorum is present.
- C. A quorum shall consist of three (3) elected board members.
- D. The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee (per Section 17, Paragraph B) during September of each year to prepare a slate of one (1) or more names for each elective office of the Club.

#### **Section 16 — MEETINGS**

- A. The annual meeting of this Club shall be held in December of each year. A notice of said meeting, shall be posted on the Club bulletin board at least one (1) week in advance thereof.
- B. The regular meeting of this Club shall be as currently in force, unless as otherwise arranged for by the Board of Directors and by a majority vote of the membership present.
- C. Special Board meetings may be called by the Commodore as deemed necessary for a specific reason.
- D. No club business can be acted upon unless a quorum is in attendance.
- E. Fifteen percent (15%) of the current roster of bona fide members plus three (3) elected officers shall constitute a quorum.
- F. Board meetings require a quorum of three elected official in attendance.
- G. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the authority for all questions of procedure and debate except as herein otherwise provided.

#### **Section 17 — ELECTIONS — NOMINATIONS — VOTING**

- A. The officers, as designated in Section 7, Paragraph A, shall be elected by the membership once each year at the annual December meeting.

- B. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors during September of each year, composed of three (3) members of the Club, to select one or more candidates for each office for the following year (refer to Section 15, Paragraph D).
- C. The Nominating Committee shall submit its list of candidates to the Board of Directors at the November meeting.
- D. The Secretary must post this list of candidates on the Club bulletin board as soon as it is received. Instructions regarding eligibility for nominations from the membership will be posted at the same time.
- E. The Nominating Committee shall submit its slate of candidates to the membership at the regular November Club meeting.
- F. Nominations from the membership shall be accepted from the floor at the November meeting.
- G. The candidates must meet eligibility requirements and have agreed to serve that office, if elected.
- H. Following the presentation of all nominations at the November membership meeting this phase of the election procedure shall be closed.
- I. A majority vote, of the voting members present at the annual December meeting, plus any absentee ballots filed with the Secretary; shall constitute the election of that member for the office designated.
- J. The Secretary shall be authorized to cast one vote for any unopposed nominee.
- K. The Annual Change of Watch, being the formal induction into office, will be conducted at the earliest possible date, following the election of new officers for the ensuing year. New officers will assume office on January 1 of the new year.

