

# Annapolis Yacht Club

is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the country and is internationally recognized by its long history of sailboat racing and world-class events since it was founded in 1886.

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*Open the door  
to the many benefits  
and opportunities  
available only to  
the members of  
Annapolis Yacht Club.*

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Dear Prospective Member,

Thank you for your interest in Annapolis Yacht Club.

This brochure will give you a brief introduction to AYC and its many programs and events that celebrate the yachting lifestyle.

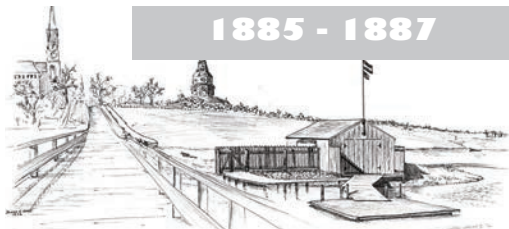
Our facilities are located in Annapolis between Spa Creek and the Annapolis Harbor — well situated to enjoy historic Annapolis at its finest, and just steps away from the United States Naval Academy.

Our members include a diverse group of boating enthusiasts, from Olympic and professional racing sailors to new and experienced yachtsmen. While many members hail from the Annapolis area, they also live in Virginia, D.C., along the Atlantic, and across the country.

Thank you for considering membership at AYC. We hope you will join us and over 2,000 other members who enjoy the benefits of our programs and facilities that will enhance your yachting lifestyle.

Sincerely,

Timothy Cusack, Commodore, Annapolis Yacht Club



**1885 - 1887**



**1887-1897**



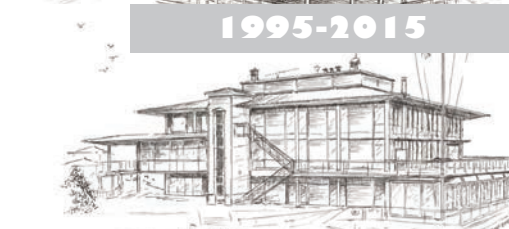
**1897 - 1938**



**1939 - 1962**



**1962 - 1995**



**1995-2015**



**2016 - 2018**



**2018**

## History

In April 1774, the 65-foot British brigantine Peggy Stewart sailed into Annapolis from England, less than a year after the infamous Boston Tea Party. Anti-British sentiment was running high by this time, and Annapolis residents were quick to show their displeasure of British rule. The ship and its captain were seized and forced to sail back into the harbor, where the ship set on fire.

But the winds shifted and she drifted back, grounded, and burned...on the site of what is now Annapolis Yacht Club. It was a dramatic start for a piece of land that would become home to some of the finest sailors in the world.

In 1883, the Severn Boat Club was formed, laying the foundation for AYC. A couple years later, the Club had a small, one-story shack built on an oyster pile at the foot of Duke of Gloucester Street. Five years later, the humble boat club was incorporated and expanded to 30 members, gathering on land rented from St. Mary's Church.

Early regattas were uncomplicated affairs—usually held on Memorial Day and Labor Day—that consisted of several single and double shells, and canoes that raced on Spa Creek. Senior members teamed with junior members, and cups were awarded for the race results. Later, races included classes for canoes, four-oared shells, even distance swimming. Crew coaches from the U.S. Naval Academy assisted the Club by teaching rowing and boat handling. To encourage local recreational boating, the academy eventually presented the Club with an eight-oared shell.

By 1910, a growing number of members had acquired small sailboats, and interest in racing began to grow. While this growth was slow at the outset, it did suggest the expansive thinking that was beginning to take root.

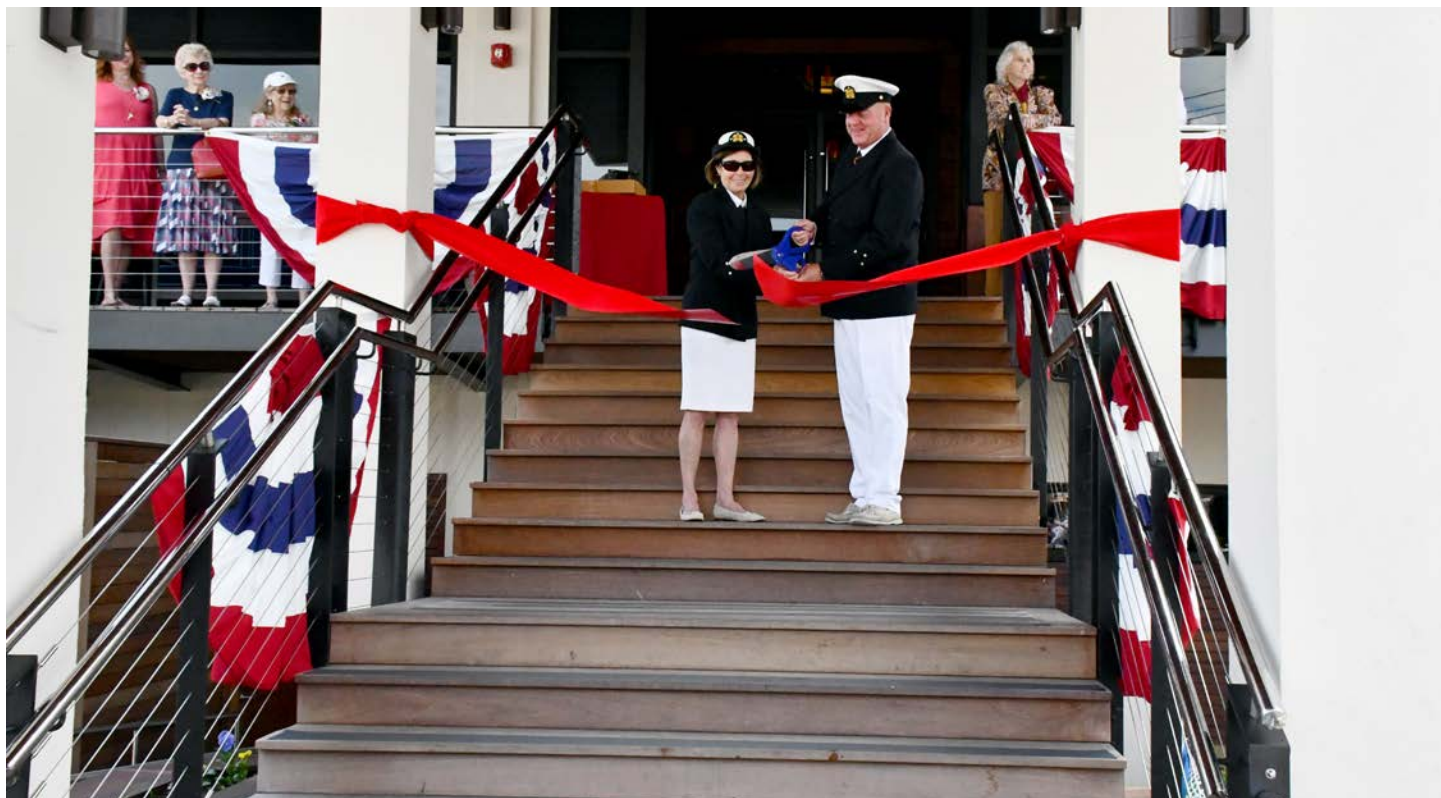
The property slowly expanded as the shack was replaced with a two-story building and eventually a wharf constructed for use by motorboats and other vessels. As the country was recovering from the Great Depression in the 1930s, interest in sailing and racing was on the rise. A change began to take shape: Members transitioned from canoes and small boats to yachting and ocean racing. In fact, in 1934, AYC began calling itself a "yacht club," and the following year, it officially became known as "The Severn Yacht Club of the City of Annapolis, Maryland." And in 1937, the name was again changed, this time to the familiar "Annapolis Yacht Club."

Membership into the early 1940s was limited to 100 members, and it was difficult to keep that roster full. Yachting had not caught on quite yet. Then, the U.S. Power Squadron established an Annapolis Squadron in March 1941 with 32 charter members. With this, membership in the Club increased. In early 1942, the Coast Guard Auxiliary established a security patrol zone to protect Baltimore during WWII.

Eventually the auxiliary expanded beyond Baltimore and began teaching boating safety in the Annapolis area. Yachting was gathering momentum. In 1946, a comprehensive racing program was organized, including the AYC's first spring series, which grew in very short order to include six classes of sailboats. The AYC spring series was officially sanctioned by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (CBYRA) in 1952.

The idea for an Annapolis to Newport Race began as a casual discussion between commodores and members of the New York Yacht Club and AYC in 1941. However, the war intervened and it was not until 1947 when the first race took place. It has been on the calendar ever since, alternating years with the Bermuda Race.





During the '60s and '70s, AYC continued to grow its racing programs, competing in an expanding range of events that now include Southern Ocean Racing Conference, Admiral's Cup, North American Championships, One Ton Racing, Mallory, and Sears Cups.

Today, we host Star Western Hemisphere Championships, NOOD regattas, Junior Olympics, several One-Design regattas, CBYRA Race Week, and many other local and Chesapeake Bay events.

AYC has come a long way in the last 125-plus years. Today, the Club encourages and promotes a wide range of boating activities on and off the water. Our Club is world class in its vision of sailing and racing crafts of all sizes, and our members can be found racing internationally with great success.

The organization's facilities have kept pace with that success; members enjoy a quality experience whenever they are at the Club for its many events and functions. AYC's current stature is a tribute to its numerous outstanding leaders and thinkers over the years, who have led us to become one of the most respected yacht clubs in the country. In fact, AYC is now a member of the prestigious International Council of Yacht Clubs.

Over the years, the Club's leadership has frequently explored the idea of significantly expanding our facilities beyond the current clubhouse. In 2012, the most recent expansion plan was initiated, and the current long-range plan for constructing two new buildings in Eastport was approved by the membership in 2013. These efforts developed into finished plans for a Family Center, complete with pool and dining facilities, and a dedicated Sailing Center with accommodations for administrative staff and all levels of sailing instruction, management, and maintenance. With excitement and anticipation, the Club broke ground on its new Eastport properties, and construction was under way.

Then, disaster struck. On the afternoon of December 12, 2015, the main clubhouse caught fire. Though the blaze was contained by the early evening, extensive damage rendered the facility a complete loss.

AYC's flag officers and management sprang into action. Within a month, a new temporary clubhouse at 12 Dock Street was open to members while rebuilding plans were developed.

During the second half of 2018, the Annapolis Yacht Club opened its contemporary Main Clubhouse. In early 2019, the Sailing Center opened, followed by the Activity Center in the summer of that year—which both provide outstanding utility for our members and programs for many decades to come. These modern properties are significant as we continue to expand services, programs, and events for our members and participating yacht clubs with the full support of a fabulous staff and volunteer membership.

We hope you will embrace the Club's history, and we welcome you to become part of its future. There has never been a better time to be a member of Annapolis Yacht Club.



### **Over 130 years** of sailing history and tradition in Annapolis

- Host to some of the biggest national and international regattas
- Reciprocity with top yacht clubs across the country
- AYC membership includes some of the best sailors in the world, local business owners and leaders, and some of Annapolis' most influential citizens

### **Well appointed clubhouse** for social functions and dining

- One of the top restaurants in Annapolis featuring several dining areas with views of Annapolis Harbor
- Active social scene including our Cruising Fleet, annual black tie parties, educational lectures, a card room, and family entertainment

### **Family-friendly Activity Center** for members to spend time with friends and family, or even some R&R on your own

- State-of-the-art fitness center with a variety of equipment
- Resort-style pool, snack bar, and tiki bar
- Adult flex-fitness studio/youth clubroom
- Spa Creek Galley restaurant with an open-kitchen design

### **Top level waterfront facilities** for racing, cruising, and sailing including boat slips and a working sailing center

- Private club atmosphere for sailing, dining, and socializing
- Active fleets of racing dinghies and keelboats
- Nationally recognized Junior Sailing Program
- Year-round sailing and racing opportunities
- Recreational activities including sailing lessons and kayak rentals

### **Membership is available** for those over 16 who show a genuine interest in yachting

- Choose from Junior, Intermediate, and Regular membership options
- For more details on how to join Annapolis Yacht Club, visit the Club website: [annapolisyc.org](http://annapolisyc.org)





## A Tradition of Racing

Our Race Committee boasts some of the most numerous qualified race officers in the nation and a reputation that speaks for itself. AYC hosts a number of local, national, and international sailing events each year drawing competitors from all over the world. Examples include the Annapolis to Newport Race, Rolex Farr 40 North American Championship, the National Offshore One Design Regatta, the J/24 World Championships, and the Etchells North American Championship, to name a few.



## An Active Cruising Fleet

Over 400 members are active with our Cruising Fleet which meets both on water and land throughout the year. Destinations include quiet anchorages, big city marinas, AYC members' homes on the waterfront, and further destinations along the Atlantic Coast.



## Annapolis Yacht Club's Junior Sailing

Our coaches provide a safe, fun, and educational program for youth interested in sailing and boating. Our Junior Program imparts a love of sailing and boating as a lifetime sport while providing the fundamental skills necessary for participants to advance in the sport as far as their desire, skill, and hard work may take them.



## A Tradition of Racing

AYC's racing programs offer a varied number of sailing opportunities throughout the year whether you're a weekend warrior or prefer an afternoon or evening competition. Our regatta calendar includes 'round the buoys and distance races for one-design and handicap classes as well as an Interclub Race program for team, match, and fleet racing. Membership brings you face-to-face with many of this country's top sailors who compete on a regular basis with fellow club members.

The Club is committed to maintaining the highest level of competition in races that bring yachtsmen from around the world to compete.

Today, AYC offers a variety of racing events including Wednesday Night Races, Frostbite Series, Team Race practice, distance races to Oxford and Solomons Island, as well as AYC's Annual Regatta and Fall Series.

Every other year, AYC hosts the Annapolis to Newport Race and regional, national, and world championships can also be found on the calendar.

AYC's roster of certified race officials positions the Club as one of the top yacht clubs in the country for officials certified. Of the Club's certified officials, our National Race Officials (NRO) represent 21% of the NROs in the country and AYC's International Judges represent 18% of the International Judges in the country. Annapolis Yacht Club provides opportunities for new officials to train every year.





## **An Active Cruising Fleet**

Annapolis Yacht Club has a very active Cruising Committee comprised of over 400 members with roughly 1/3 sailing vessels and 2/3 power, all of whom enjoy cruising the Chesapeake and distant waters. There are inshore cruises to local points of interest within the Chesapeake Bay, as well as long-range offshore cruises ranging from a weekend to several weeks.

Other than membership in AYC, there are no requirements to join the Cruising Fleet. Simply show up at one of the many social events held year round to be heartily welcomed and introduced to a group who love to cruise and socialize with like-minded yachtsmen and women.







## Annapolis Yacht Club's Junior Sailing

Experienced coaches with a passion for this lifetime sport lead a highly successful Junior Sailing Program that teaches safe and fun boating and instills confidence and skills on the water. It is the goal of our program to ensure the future of sailing.

Annapolis Yacht Club's Junior Fleet has evolved into one of the foremost junior sailing programs in the country. Our Juniors are on the water more than 250 days of the year during all seasons.

Along with a 420 program, the Junior Fleet maintains an Optimist program, which is recognized as one of the strongest teams in the country. Many of AYC's Junior Sailors have been accepted to some of the best universities in the country.

The Junior Fleet takes part in many international regattas, traveling all over the world to places like England, Belgium, the Netherlands, South America, and New Zealand.

Our annual summer Junior Sailing Program is just like summer camp on the water. This program offers experience with boats to children ranging from ages 5 to 18.

In the fall and spring, the Junior Fleet provides coaching for local high school sailing programs. Practice takes place during the week to prepare for regattas on the weekends.

During the winter, the teams head to Florida for regattas and to enjoy the sunshine and warm weather.



**The Main Bar**



**The Second Deck**



**The Bridge**



**The Commodore's Room**



**The Skipjack**



## A Second Home

Our Clubhouse provides members with the premier dining destination in Annapolis. Members may choose from formal, gourmet dining in the Commodore's Room or the Bridge, while casual dining is available in the Main Bar or Second Deck. Enjoy our weekly food and beverage features, happy hours, special holiday meals and brunches - and have great fun exploring our extensive wine list!

**The Main Bar** is the perfect place to get together with friends, family, and fellow members to watch the game on our flat-screen TVs. Friday night happy hour at the Main Bar is a Club tradition and a great way to start the weekend!

**The Second Deck** is comprised of both indoor and outdoor dining. The indoor space showcases a sushi and raw bar, culinary offerings that are prepared to the freshest standard in the industry. The outdoor space is the hidden gem within the Club, with scenic views of Eastport and the Naval Academy.

**The Bridge** is an elegant dining venue. You will have a front seat to picturesque views of Spa Creek, the Sailing Center, Severn River, and the Naval Academy, with culinary offerings that will engage the foodie in everyone. An additional highlight is **the Binnacle Lounge**. The lounge offers a respite from the busy Club, where the view of the Academy is breathtaking.

**The Commodore's Room** provides a great setting for private meals that also offers terrific views of the Severn River. Celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion? The Commodore's Room is the perfect, intimate place to mark the occasion with family and friends.

**The Skipjack** is geared towards private and member events. The spacious room overlooks Spa Creek, complete with outdoor seating in the adjacent Terrace. The Skipjack is decorated with soft nautical notes to keep the heritage of the Club in mind.



## An Active Social Scene

Annapolis Yacht Club offers a large variety of social activities to its members. The Commodore's Reception in the spring and the Commodore's Eggnog Party during the holidays are extraordinary parties and present opportunities to socialize with many members. In the fall and winter, there are educational lectures, cooking classes, family and children's events, wine tastings, happy hours, and dances.

The Clubhouse provides the opportunity for viewing such local activities as the Blue Angels Exhibition, Fourth of July Fireworks, and the Holiday Lights Parade.

For every holiday, there is something happening at the Club.





**Spa Creek Galley**



**Burgee Bar**



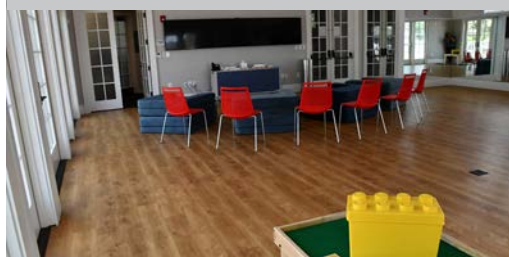
**Fitness Center**



**Pool & Snack Bar**



**Adult Flex-Fitness Studio/  
Youth Clubroom**



## Activity Center

The Activity Center is a great place for families, young and old, to enjoy AYC in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. While enjoying views of Spa Creek, members can enjoy an open-kitchen experience. The Activity Center features a pool, fire pit, outdoor bar, snack bar, fitness center, and activities room for kids.

**The Spa Creek Galley** is a casual dining restaurant. While enjoying the relaxed views of Spa Creek, St Mary's, and watching the boat traffic awaiting the next bridge opening, members can enjoy an open-kitchen experience. A highlight is the wood-fired pizza oven that adds to the casual atmosphere.

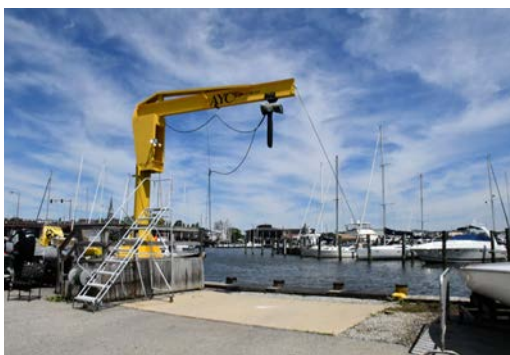
**The Burgee Bar** is a highlight of the Activity Center, with stunning views over Annapolis at night. Feel the breeze from Spa Creek as you sip on a cool drink and enjoy the view from our tiki-inspired outdoor bar.

**The Fitness Center** is open 7 days a week and is outfitted with state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment to allow members to work out at their leisure.

**The Swimming Pool & Snack Bar** provide a wonderful family-friendly gathering place for members and their guests. Take advantage of our outdoor Snack Bar, offering an array of delicious menu options to munch on by the pool throughout the day, or relax and enjoy the harbor views with friends and family around the fire pit.

**The Adult Flex-Fitness Studio/Youth Clubroom** is a versatile space that supports a wide range of activities. In the morning, the Adult Flex-Fitness Studio is available for fitness activities such as yoga, pilates, stretching, and group classes. Later in the afternoon, the space becomes our Youth Clubroom, where kids can hang out and enjoy video games, movies, board games, and other kid-friendly activities.





## Sailing Center

The Sailing Center is our main hub for running regular and special sailing races and regattas.

It is also where we support our varied junior sailing programs, with sufficient space for dry storage of our fleets of boats. The building incorporates conference areas for meetings and education, and houses the AYC administrative offices.

