

OYC Traditions and Notes on Culture

This document is meant to help people who are new to moorage life assimilate more quickly, and to help current residents remember why we love living on the river.

Introduction

The Oregon Yacht Club moorage has been in existence for over a century. The rules, guidelines, bylaws, house styles, etc. have all changed and evolved dramatically during our existence. One consistent thing we can say about present day life here is that all the residents acknowledge how fortunate we are to live among such beauty, wildlife, and people who value the sense of community we have developed.

The information below was compiled by several members and encapsulates some of the traditions and norms that have evolved here, and that make our moorage such a wonderful place to live.

Civility

Civility, *one's regard for their neighbors*, is at the heart of every thriving, healthy community. We enjoy a tight knit community, socializing with each other as well as participating in local events to promote keeping the river clean and good stewardship of our property and the surrounding area. We enjoy communicating via our community-wide WhatsApp channel where we share OYC news, wildlife sightings, a 'cup of sugar', and friendly banter about local goings on. We seek out opportunities to be of service to our neighbors and, thus, they become friends.

Also at times, a healthy community experiences conflict. Conflict is natural and is best approached by broaching a subject directly with your neighbor, listening well, and displaying a willingness to compromise. Do this over a cup of tea, while leaning on a mailbox, watering your plants, or the like.

Miscellaneous Useful Information

- Know the location of and how to turn off or disconnect your utilities.
- When you see packages at the top of the ramp, consider taking them to the resident to whom they belong if you have the time.
- When you have guests staying the night or longer, whether their vehicles is parked inside or outside the gate, it is helpful to have them use our [guest parking permit](#) so we know they are here intentionally.

Respect for wildlife

We do *not* feed wild animals. While it can be tempting to indulge the duck who comes quacking up to your door, etc., feeding wild animals creates a dependence on food from humans, will likely reduce the animal's natural fear of humans, reduces the need for the young to learn how to forage for food in their wild habitat, and is probably not the best diet for their health (e.g.,

bread for ducks). Please enjoy watching the wildlife from your deck or Fleet Street (the walkway) and do not feed them.

You will want to be careful not to leave garbage or any food item untended on Fleet Street or on your deck due to curious raccoons who boldly venture out in daylight for a chance at garbage!

Cart Usage and Storage

It is a huge convenience to have the carts we use to transport groceries and other items up and down Fleet Street. Carts are purchased by the moorage (Shareholder group) and, thus, owned by all. While one Shareholder is typically responsible for upkeep, we are all called upon to keep the carts clean and available for all residents to use. If you plan to use a cart imminently (within a day), feel free to bring it onto your float; that's our reservation system. Otherwise, please return carts to the bank side of Fleet Street (not on top of grating) or to the top of the ramp.

If you use a cart to transport soil or anything else dirty, please hose out the cart so it's clean for the next person.

If you discover a cart in need of repair, place it on its end in front of floating home #7 (Eric and Kyle) who are currently in charge of keeping carts in good working order.

From time to time, carts will bunch up along Fleet Street or at the bottom of the ramp. When you notice such a cart gathering, please move a cart or two to a spot on Fleet Street that is absent of them. Likewise, when there are no carts at the top of the ramp and your schedule allows, please move a cart or two up.

Please let your contractors know not to use carts that are marked 'not for contractor use'. Shareholders are responsible for damage done to carts by contractors or others working for you.

Keys

Floating homes take regular care and maintenance. If/when pipes freeze or other challenges take place, it is sometimes necessary to get into each other's houses. It would behoove you to hide a door key and let a neighbor know where it is. (Same for combination lock: let someone know the code.)

Preventing OYC Water Pipes from Freezing in Cold Weather

Because our pipes are not buried underground like pipes are in traditional houses, there is a tendency for them to freeze when the air temp drops below 32 degrees if water is not moving through them. This will, of course, be a problem for you as an individual, but it could also present a problem for others on the moorage. Keep an eye on weather forecasts in the cold months and run a faucet overnight on freezing nights, also consider opening the cabinet door under faucets left open. The cost of running water is less than \$1/night, far more cost effective

to run water for the ~3-10 nights per year that we experience a freeze rather than the cost of fixing frozen pipes. (It is also wise to put foam insulation over exposed spigots.)

Flag-Flying

Background

For more than 300 years, watercraft all over the world, have worn their national ensign (flag) to identify the ship's nation of registry. Since all of OYC's floating homes are registered with the Oregon State Marine Board, every floating home's nation of registry is the United States. While the purpose of wearing an ensign is just for identification of home waters, landlubbers may mistakenly assume it is intended to show patriotism, or to endorse a particular trend in national politics.

OYC

Beginning in the early 1900's, OYC required residents to fly the American Flag starting on Memorial Day and ending on Veterans Day, but shortened the term in later years to end on Labor Day. "Rule 4.0. No houseboat shall pass annual inspection if an American Flag is not displayed." In 2004, the Board dropped the requirement, making flag flying a *suggested* practice. "Rule 4.1. All houseboats are encouraged to fly a United States flag during flag flying season, beginning on Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day. The flag shall be at least 24"x 48" and in good condition at all times."

Nautically speaking, OYC embraces the long-lived tradition of *wearing* the United States National Ensign on our floating homes. Our tradition of flying the flag honors OYC's century-old heritage of yachting activity and is optional.

Some reasons for OYC residents to fly the flag (not in any order):

1. Remembers and honors our nation's military personnel (dead and living).
2. Is a significant part of OYC's legacy dating back to the early 1900's.
3. Our history and traditions are preserved by continuing to celebrate them.
4. Flying the U.S. flag provides an attractive, aesthetic display for the moorage and the community to enjoy.
5. The tradition of flying our national flag is a model for others and helps enhance our reputation as a historic moorage and Portland landmark.