

The First Meeting

The First Mates will arrange an informal first meeting with their New Members. This is an important meeting to get New Members acquainted with the club's activities. It could take place at the boat club one evening for a shared dinner, or at the First Mates' home, or for a sail and discussion at CYC, etc.

The purpose of the First Meeting is to:

Give the New Member Family their clubhouse/bathroom keys, stickers for boat and car(s), new burgee, and packet of information (some of these may have already been provided by the Membership Chairpeople)

• Discuss:

sailing programs, such as the different Race Series, other sailing events including junior racing (if appropriate), Club Championship, etc.

sailing lesson programs for adults/juniors

volunteer hours and how to get them, including work parties, picnics, special projects

picnics — not just when they are, but how they run, what to bring, guest policies, etc.

social activities, such as the Commodore's Banquet; what are 'the fleets' in our club? and what are cruising fleet events?

Spring Fling (New Members' Night)
This is an important event for introducing new members

slip assignment — plan to show New Members their slip

resources for launching/taking out boat (e.g., Chattertons, other members)

CYC club issues (many are covered on our website at www.cycsail.org/ops.htm.) Discuss parking policies, trailer parking and summer/winter storage, where to find safety equipment, use of grill, floaties and chairs, locks and combinations, pet rules, guests, and important close-up procedures

Sign Up to Be a First Mate!

Please fill out the page
"We'd Like to Be First Mates" and send to

Susan Brier, First Mate Coordinator
104 Head O'Meadow Road
Newtown, CT 06470

or call 203.426.0490, or

email susan.brier@writedesigncompany.com

To Be a First Mate...

- You must be a member of CYC for at least three years
- You must be willing to make the time commitment needed to accomplish the responsibilities of the First Mate
- If you are unavailable for one or more of the responsibilities, you can either:
 - arrange for another CYC member to step in for you, or
 - contact the First Mate Coordinator to arrange an alternate First Mate to fill in.

Not all members who sign up to be First Mates will be matched with a New Member Family. Members not matched may be asked to fill in as an alternate First Mate when necessary.



What is the First Mate Program?



Candlewood Yacht Club would like to better integrate our new member families into our club's community. Beyond just imparting information, we hope the First Mate Program will help our New Members to:

- feel welcome in the club
- meet other members
- understand the workings of the club and
- get involved in the club's activities, becoming successful active members.

How will the First Mate Program Work?



The First Mate Coordinator will match up each New Member Family with a CYC member family which has signed up to be available as "First Mates."

Interests and characteristics of the prospective First Mates and the New Member Family — such as type of boat, desire to race, young family, etc. — will be matched as closely as possible.

The Membership Chairpeople will inform the New Member Family who their First Mates are and to expect a call from them.

The First Mates will have a number of responsibilities to help integrate the New Member Family into the club, starting with a First Meeting. (Other responsibilities are listed under the heading "What are the Responsibilities of the First Mates?")

In exchange, the First Mates will receive between 3-8 hours toward their volunteer total.

Please track your hours!

Some New Member Families may need (or want) more guidance than others.

Since this is the first year CYC will be giving volunteer hours for the mentorship program, it would be helpful for First Mates to track their hours and activities. This way, a set number of hours can be established for the future.

What are the Responsibilities of the First Mates?

- the First Meeting**
- Spring Fling's New Member Night**

The First Mates must arrange to meet the New Member Family at the Spring Fling. Arrange to come together to the event, make a reminder call, review any special items (such as bringing a dish, attire, etc., depending upon that year's theme and activities.)

- Picnics**

For (at least) the first picnic, First Mates should invite their New Member Family to the upcoming picnic, plan to share a table with them (and other members if possible) and introduce them to as many other members as possible. Maybe suggest volunteering to cook or set up together.



• Followup

- Part way through the season, call the New Member Family to ask if they have any questions or concerns about the club. Either help resolve concerns, or get appropriate board member involved. Ask about their involvement in the club so far.
- Encourage involvement. Discuss end-of-year volunteer hours possibilities (work parties, special projects, final picnics, etc.)

• Other Activities

- (Optional) **Go for a sail.** Take the New Member Family out on either their boat or the First Mates' boat. Show them around the lake, or help the New Member Family learn to sail their own boat, or maybe show the new captain how to start a race, (or whatever seems appropriate for that New Member Family.)



- (Optional) **Suggest a captain/crew day** in a race, possibly switching captains and crew for each of the two races.

- Newsletters and website.** Make sure New Member Family is getting communication.

- Commodore's Banquet.** Plan to sit together at this event; it can be intimidating if you don't know many people. Be inclusive!

