

Using Our Reciprocal

As the weather improves and we begin the cruising season, we encourage everyone to use our reciprocals. They are one of our greatest membership benefits. PTYC has reciprocal agreements with 134 yacht clubs along the West Coast that offer us free or significantly reduced moorage in exchange for the same when their members are visiting Port Townsend.

The bulk of the clubs are in our cruising area from Nanaimo Yacht Club on Vancouver Island where many boats cross the Strait of Georgia to Olympia Yacht Club in our state capital. It is possible to spend two weeks on Lake Washington just visiting clubs and not spending anything on moorage, or a week in Vancouver, BC. Those of you with trailerable boats will want to look over the out of area list. Portland, Walla Walla, Yakima all beckon.

Key to a good reciprocal experience – be flexible -

Unfortunately, no guide is ever 100% correct. It is difficult to keep all the information up to date. Almost all of our agreements are “until revoked”, so it is possible that we will not get an updated letter each year. When you head into a moorage, expect to find things a little different or tweaked from before.

Each club has its way of doing things. Some have specific slips in the marina such as Oak Harbor or Kingston Cove. For many, you contact the harbormaster via phone or VHF and get a slip assignment. Ours is that way at Boat Haven. When the club owns its marina, you often get assigned a slip of a member who is away. A couple of clubs have you pay, and then reimburse you for some or all of your moorage. Very, very few take reservations. Since most are first come first serve, your best chance to catch a reciprocal slip is to head in midday when people are departing.

Where to find the reciprocal list –

Our current reciprocal list is printed each year in the new Roster. The reciprocals are grouped by location so that you can look to see what is around in the area you are cruising. It gives the marina and the city.

Almost all of our reciprocal clubs are listed on the website <http://yachtdestinations.org>. The website is kept current with revised reciprocal arrangements as well as local facilities. You can access the site without joining it, but if you do join (for free) you can get a tailored list showing just the clubs with whom we have agreements. When you click on any club, you can see a location map, detailed descriptions of the area and facilities and exactly what they expect of a reciprocal boater.

A couple of reminders –

- Members of the Port Townsend Yacht Club may not use our own reciprocal moorage. It is only for visiting boaters.
- Some clubs like Roche Harbor Yacht Club don't have moorage at their home marina, but instead have made arrangements for another location, in this case, Bremerton Marina.
- Always fly your burgee and carry your PTYC membership card. You will usually be asked for your card.

- Moorage is usually free but you often have to pay for power. Sometimes, you need to pay a refundable deposit to get a key to the gate and/or bathrooms.
- A number of clubs have restaurants or weekly events that visiting boaters can take advantage of. Everyone enjoys dinner at the Seattle Yacht Club!

Remember: Be flexible: Plan to use some reciprocals this summer. Develop your favorites and send a note about them to the *Baggywrinkle* for publication!

updated February 2017