



2025 SPYC Annual Report

Commodore's Report - Bill Tschohl

Greetings Fellow Boaters,

Thank you all for making 2025 another incredible year for the St. Paul Yacht Club (SPYC). Your contributions, whether as members, volunteers, or staff, form the backbone of our vibrant community. Together, we achieved remarkable milestones despite facing recurring challenges. The best of course is what there is to look forward to in 2026 and beyond.

During my decade as a member of the

2025 Recap:

- **Flooding Challenges:** The Mississippi River flood of 2024 (ranked 8th in 122 years) left more residual silt across our harbors. This impacted the timing, volume, and capacity of dredging that occurred in 2025. The flooding caused our upper harbor mouth to become even more silted in while also distributing silt across areas that had been dredged previously in both the Upper and Lower Harbors. The mild flooding we had in 2025 delayed the start of both our contracted dredging as well as our self-managed dredging opportunities. Despite these conditions, our management team adapted, managed harbor logistics and prevented operations cost escalations all while delivering an exceptional year of boating for us.
- **Infrastructure Developments:** Neighborhood improvements near Harriet Island are all just completed finally. The disruptions to roads, sewers, water and other infrastructure should be a thing of the past for the near future, but warrants additional planning as much of the areas we historically moved boats to in severe flood situations are now unusable.
- **Key Achievements:**
 - Structurally improved our management team by bringing on an Executive Director to help guide us forward with processes, vision and strategy for the club along with affording our team to focus on becoming great.
 - Accrued no new long or short-term debt while maintaining a balance between current and future needs in our budgeting.

- Hosted a series of dynamic social events, thanks to our innovative Social Committee.
- Made significant new changes to our harbor maintenance, particularly with the purchase of 2 Smalley amphibious backhoe dredges along with support equipment.
- Collaborated with the MN DNR to reposition the new eagle camera. Though our resident eagles will probably continue keeping us guessing with their nesting choices.

As we approach 2026, I would continue to encourage our members to envision SPYC as the premier marina on this stretch of the Mississippi. To achieve this, we must focus on:

1. Expanding membership and filling more slips.
2. Enhancing infrastructure, including docks as well as continuing work for a Lilydale boat ramp dock and planning replacements of the club office and shop.
3. Aligning with evolving electrical codes to ensure safety and compliance.

Let's embrace the "messy middle" of transformative growth and continue building a stronger future together.

2025 Highlights and Looking Ahead to 2026

- **Slip Usage:** In 2025, 129 of 189 slips were filled. For 2026, the Upper Harbor is likely to stay near capacity, while the Lower Harbor and Dahlgren Docks offer ample opportunities for new members.
 - Contact us at (651) 292-8964 or office@stpaulyachtclub.org to inquire about available slips.
- **Dredging Success:**
 - The Lower Harbor dredging in 2022 and 2023 enhanced depth and has allowed us some breathing room, but we will need to work with our legislative leaders to help the Corps of Engineers get continued funding for recurring, legislation demanded dredging to occur on a regular basis.
 - Upper Harbor dredging removed 3,000+ cubic yards of sediment from the harbor entrance and under the clubhouse in 2025 utilizing a contractor for that work.
 - The Mudcat dredge was not used in 2025 due to the unusual high water that remained well into the year making it unlikely that we could get it setup and operating effectively or safely. (The Mudcat's cutter head can reach down about 12 feet, but when the river is already at 8-10' the angle on the cutter head is such that we're more likely to break the equipment.)
 - Due to an interesting opportunity, the club purchased a pair of Smalley amphibious dredges in 2025. With an initial expense for the purchase and some initial repairs of around \$95,000 we bought a path to truly own our future maintenance dredging from both the scheduling and operations side. We had one of these dredges operating nearly all summer and accomplished another 2,500 cubic yards of silt movement, clearing multiple slips out as well as removing all

the land bridges between the docks and shore between slips 60 to 98.2024, ensuring navigability and preparing for further improvements in 2025.

- **Fuel Dock Operations:** Our self-service, 24-hour fuel dock sold 13,000 gallons in 2025. Despite spring flooding, the new fuel pump performed effectively, and we expect similar or better services and sales in 2026.

Thanks for a great year!

Bill Tschohl

Commodore, St. Paul Yacht Club

Treasurer's Report - incomplete at this time as our new Treasurer has been learning the systems.

Secretary's Report – Troy Janisch

The Saint Paul Yacht Club (SPYC) completed significant actions in 2025. Chiefly among these was the hiring of Executive Director, Mike Shimshock, along with retaining existing staff. Doing so puts the club in a position to fulfil its mission to provide safe and affordable boating to its members, while meeting the needs of our growing organization. 2026 offers additional possibilities in these areas as we cautiously consider the opportunity to manage Watergate Marina.

I've had the privilege of serving on the SPYC board during 5 of the 10 years I've been a members. I've served as Board Secretary for three years – and I look forward to supporting the actions of those members to service on the board in 2026 – and beyond.

Troy Janisch

Secretary, St. Paul Yacht Club

Member Roll

The St Paul Yacht Club maintains a roll of its [INSERT #] active SPYC members. To ensure individual privacy and security, the personal information of members is not shared in this report. However, membership for the 2025 boating season included the following.

Voting Members	Voting Members are approved by the board after completing the application process as defined in the SPYC Standing Rules. Voting members pay an initiation fee, annual dues, all assessments and fees as determined by the SPYC's Board of Directors, and are required to volunteer for SPYC activities.	49
Associate Members	Associate Membership in the SPYC is granted to boaters with a current SPYC slip lease. The Associate Member has no voting privileges, but is subject to all SPYC fees and assessments and must comply with all By-Laws, Standing Rules and all city, state and park regulations. Associate Membership in the SPYC terminates when the slip lease terminates.	85
Lifetime Members	Life Membership may be granted by the Board in accordance with our Standing Rules. A Life Member is exempt from the payment of annual dues. Life Members shall have the same privileges as an SPYC Voting Member	11
Social Members	Social Members are non-voting members, with no right to hold office. They are entitled to notice of all social meetings. Social Members pay the same annual dues as the Associate Members .	1
Honorary Members	Honorary membership is bestowed by the board. Honorary Members do not pay dues and cannot vote or hold office.	0
Total Members:		146

Motions and Actions of Note Approved by the Board in 2025

Changes to By-Laws: None

Changes to Standing Rules:

- Clarified that minors (under 18) are prohibited from conducting official business with SPYC staff and board members. All official business must be conducted through a parent or legal guardian.

Finance Changes:

- Motion approved (Finance Committee, April 23, 2025): "When the board approves any new, unbudgeted expenses and/or income, at the next Board Meeting – that is, the next meeting held subsequent to the action – the budget will be modified to show separately any such Board-approved new expenses and/or income that were not part of the yearly approved budget."

General Board Motions:

February 2025:

- Approved 2025-2026 SPYC Board of Directors election results
- Elected 2025-2026 Elections Committee: Greg Jorgensen, Lynn Adler, Janeice DeLisle
- Elected 2025-2026 Grievance Committee: Bonnie Jean MacKay, Jerry Quaal, (TBD)

March 2025:

- Established quarterly review schedule for meeting minutes (June 16, September 15, December 15)
- "Actions to be taken" items will remain on agendas until addressed
- Committee chairs scheduled initial meetings for Spring 2025

April 2025:

- "Purchase two dredging totes of materials (less than \$5000)." Unused materials do not expire and can be stored and applied to future needs.
- "SPYC to finalize design approval by DNR, COE and partners to create a mutually beneficial asset for the community. The SPYC along with SPPR will move forward with gathering funding through possible avenues with SPPR, DNR, Grant Opportunities and any other sources we can identify." (Boat Ramp Dock project - no SPYC funding associated)
- "Approve \$6,800 for a land survey of the yard area between the yard gate and high bridge, then from the road to the river area." Survey cost will be rolled into a future capital project, as possible.
- "Engage Bethany [Gladhill] as HR consultant to SPYC board, leveraging the unused \$5,000 dollars approved engaging in 2024 for use with another consultant."

April 2025 (Special Meeting - April 28):

- "SPYC to negotiate for and purchase 2 Smalley dredges, 1 spoil barge and 2 workboats along with agreed upon hours of training on equipment operation from the seller in Phelps, WI. Purchase price is not to exceed \$85,000, excluding costs for travel and training. Funding would be from deferred projects such as new Clubhouse mini-split, expected 2026 spoils removal along with balance from our short-term line of credit if needed."
- "SPYC to negotiate best available shipping for purchased equipment, not to exceed \$6,000. Costs would be financed with SPYC short-term line of credit if needed."

May 2025:

- "The Membership & Marketing Committee moves that the St. Paul Yacht Club Board approve a budget of \$300 for the acquisition, installation, and decoration of a Little Free Library on the Dahlgren Dock in the lower harbor during Summer 2025."
- "Approve club membership for Brian and Diane Backes"

June 2025:

- No formal motions passed
- Actions completed: Letter of appreciation drafted and routed to board for St Paul Police enforcement at Harriet Island; inquiry made about adding 3 J-barriers to separate Gate G parking lot as test prior to Minnesota Yacht Club Festival; Lifetime Membership update written for Friday communication

July 2025:

- HR report received from HR consultant. Referred to HR and executive committee for next actions. Report to be made available to members in the SPYC office by 8/1.
- Review of billing procedures and conduct a 2025 Financial Audit - Referred to Finance Committee
- Boat break-ins and strangers on docks - Referred to Operations Committee
- "RESOLVED, that there are serious questions about the facts and circumstances concerning the claim of an invoice past due that precipitated the decision by the Commodore to remove Andrea Johnson as a board member, and therefore, as a matter of good Club governance and internal fairness, the board hereby decides that the Commodore's action to remove Ms. Johnson shall be delayed and the treasurer with assistance of an external auditor shall be given 45 days to investigate the facts and circumstances of the claimed overdue invoice and to deliver a report to the Board via email, with the board to act on the treasurer's report at the next regular meeting. Ms. Johnson shall remain a general member in good standing until the board acts on the treasurer's report."

August 2025:

- "Increase quickbooks monthly subscription cost by no more than \$50 to enable the ability for members to login and view their billing."
- "That the dismissal of Andrea Johnson to SPYC's Board of Directors be rejected and we recommend reinstatement of Andrea Johnson to the Board. Effective immediately."

September 2025:

- No formal motions passed due to lack of quorum

October 2025:

- Special Election Results: Jim Carmery elected as Treasurer; Tom Marrone elected as Director
- "Set the annual utility rates to .21/kw for electric; and \$1.20/therm for gas 11/25-9/26."
- "St Paul Yacht Club to pay the slip cover vendor for the cost of new cover materials (\$26,000). Members with new covers to be invoiced ½ of their cost up front by SPYC to reimburse the prepaid amount."
- "Accept the following new members: Jim Will Golden, Mike Gude, Janice Deisle, Aul Wiefehback, Brenda"
- "Change the due date for 2026 (only) summer slip deposit to Dec 15, 2025."

November 2025:

- "Accept 2026 budget, but at retaining current \$85/ft slip fee"
- "Reaffirm, MJ Babcock as a life-time member"
- "Accept the \$250/mo payment plan offered by a member"

December 2025 (Special Meeting - December 8):

- "Submit the proposed SPYC response to the RFP as written. Response to remain confidential until after bids are opened by the St Paul Procurement, but along with any negotiation time if we are invited as an operator. If we are not invited to negotiate terms further as an operator for Watergate, our proposal would not become public, but available for review at the office. If St Paul accepts our proposal and we are able to agree on terms, any lease will become public and shared on our website as a public document like our current lease."

January 2026:

- No formal motions passed.

