



# EDGEWOOD YACHT CLUB

Two Shaw Avenue  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02905

January 12, 2011

Dear Members:

On Wednesday, January 12, 2011 our club suffered a devastating fire. During a stormy blizzard firefighters from five communities valiantly struggled to protect our grand home. In the predawn hours 15 fire engines crowded Shaw Avenue. Two fireboats travelled miles in the northeasterly storm to fight the fire from the water side. It is with deep regret that I inform you that we lost the most magnificent building on Narragansett Bay and our treasure. Our clubhouse burned to the pilings. The building and all of its contents are completely lost.

123 years ago Edgewood Yacht Club was founded. Our first clubhouse burned in 190?. The club has suffered two major hurricanes which completely flooded the first floor, and countless storms. Generations before us cleaned out the clubhouse, patched together their boats and sailed on. It is our call to rebuild and preserve the spirit of the Edgewood Yacht Club and to restore our former clubhouse's majestic legacy to our waterfront.

While we have lost the clubhouse, we have a great deal to be thankful for:

- First, there were no physical injuries. Emotions and broken hearts are scattered across our community, but no one was hurt.
- Second, no boats were harmed. This year, we decided to keep boats stored for the winter on the north side. We know of no damage to any boats in the lot.
- Third, the docks, slips, moorings and launch are fine. About 10 feet of gangway to the east of the former clubhouse was harmed, the rest is unchanged. Your slips and moorings await. On the docks, the solar powered lights burn at night and the flagpole at the T dock heralds us home.
- Fifth, the club owns the cottage which is sustained no damage.
- Sixth, the club has substantial fire insurance.
- Finally, while the clubhouse was destroyed, the club still has its greatest asset: its members.

Within hours of the fire, and while the snowstorm was still raging, your flag officers met to assess what happened, where we are, and our future. Buoyed by the support of the community and members (present and past) we are each committed to create a new home for our members. We established a new plan for our boat show presentation, resolved to clean and restore our cottage for member use, organized teams to deal with the insurers, government agencies and financing institutions, and we press on. While it is challenging for us to keep up with the countless offers of support, the messages of good will, the media inquiries and all the work to be done, many members are committed to the task of rebuilding the best club there is.

I know that the members want to help, and want to know all that is going on. While it is January, the club has never been more active, and I could not possibly crystallize the hard work of the members, or the staff in this brief missive. However, we will keep you updated with where we are and what we are doing.

There are some things you can do to help:

1. During the next week or so, access to the club is limited for safety purposes. If you stored your boat at the club it is safe and untouched. If you kept property inside the club, it is clearly lost. Please try to avoid venturing down the hill for the next few days so we can fence off the danger and shore up our facility. The docks will be inaccessible for January and a security company is already on staff.
2. I am not hesitant about saying this club is rock solid. While our grand home will not be with us this summer, you will be thrilled with the vitality at Edgewood. Unfortunately, this disaster occurred at a critical time of the year for us – just as billings were sent to members. While many members have already paid, kindly show your support by paying your membership bill and keeping timely payments of your storage contracts. We can receive mail which was addressed to 3 Shaw Avenue but for now, our new address is the cottage at 2 Shaw Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island, 02905.
3. Friends are offering support from all sides. The officers cannot adequately keep up with the many phone calls and e-mails. For your club, kindly keep a list of those who offer support, we will need their names and contact information later and we would like to thank them.
4. Rest assured, your club is strong and very much alive.

Your club is continuing its work to move forward, and has already planned some special events. The Board of Governors will meet for its 2011 organizational meeting on Wednesday night, January 19, 2011 at the Parish Hall of Trinity Church, 139 Ocean Avenue, Cranston at 7:00 p.m. While this will be a business meeting of the leadership, members are always welcome to join us.

I intend to call a meeting of the general membership in approximately six weeks. Before the meeting, we need to do more groundwork, planning, and cleanup – and we need to catch our breath before we meet as a whole. Rest assured, members will be involved in planning the future of the club, and any new clubhouse. Until then, we will attempt to keep you informed of our ongoing progress.

It is time to gather and show the Edgewood Yacht Club spirit. On Sunday, January 23, 2011 we will gather for the first major party of 2011, a reception in the South Parking Lot. Please join us. While we hope to have some cover, please dress casual and warm. The frostbite sailors who lost their sails and persist in sailing will be on the water and the EYC enthusiasm will be our main source of energy.

More information on this will follow, but let us celebrate the many years that our grand home gave us, and look toward the future. Bring optimism, a smile and your enthusiasm while we show Mother Nature that hurricanes, snowstorms, and fires do not prevent our members from joining in friendship, enjoying our bay and celebrating our Renaissance.

I cannot yet communicate with all of you, but I assure you that you keep all of your leadership with the strong breeze necessary to sail the boat home.

LONG LIVE EDGEWOOD YACHT CLUB!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Lanphear  
Commodore, 2011