

## **Pontiac Yacht Club**

Pontiac Yacht Club (PYC) was established in 1934 as a sailing club and has maintained that character for over 75 years. The great majority of club members sail and/or race Lightnings, the only one design class supported by the club aside from 420s and Optimists used by our junior sailing program. The only motorized boats allowed on club property are those used to support sailing and sailboat racing, e.g. the race committee boat and safety boats. PYC is a member of the Detroit Regional Yachting Association.

### **Lightning Fleet 54**

Lightning sailing began at PYC in 1941 when a shipment of six boat from Skaneateles, New York, arrived at the club. Early club members understood the value of a strong one design class and the club went “all in” with Lightnings. Aside from small boats used in our junior sailing program, Lightnings are the only one design class supported by the club. Today there are 54 Lightnings owned by PYC members.

PYC and Fleet 54 annually host the Whitecap invitational regatta which today draws 25 to 30 boats (40 to 50 boats in the heyday of one design racing). We have also hosted Michigan District Regattas with about 40 boats contending. Typical Wednesday evening races regularly get 25 boats on the starting line and up to 30 on some days.

### **Location**

Pontiac Yacht club is located in the northwest Detroit metropolitan area in the city of Orchard Lake Village and on Cass Lake (see Figure 1.) [Click here](#) for a Google map of the area. We are easily reached via Interstates 75 and 94. For our Canadian competitors, we are located just across the border from Windsor, Canada and are a 4-5 hour drive from Toronto.

With a population of over 4 million people, the Detroit metropolitan area offers all the amenities of a major city including world class museums, major league baseball, excellent restaurants and numerous hotels.

PYC is located on approximately two acres of property on the shore of Cass Lake, an 1280 acre freshwater lake with clear, clean water.



Figure 1: Location of Cass Lake

## Facilities

PYC facilities include a 3,000 square foot clubhouse, a very large upper (street side) parking area for cars and boats, and lower (lakefront) boat parking area that is capable of holding about 40 Lightnings. Additionally we maintain a large dock with individual slips for 50 Lightnings, with nearly every slip equipped with an individual hoist to raise the Lightning out of the water when docked (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: PYC Property

The clubhouse has a great room of about 800 square feet and a full kitchen (refrigerator, stove, oven, sink). The kitchen is available to club members and guests but there is no restaurant on club grounds. Men's and women's locker rooms have shower facilities. A covered porch of approximately 1,200 square ft. is attached to the clubhouse (see Figure 3).

There is also a large, 4 station barbeque grill. There are numerous fast food, pub food, and family food facilities a short distance from the club, including some within walking distance.



Figure 3: The Clubhouse

A boat ramp (see Figure 4) is used to launch boats; due to zoning restrictions we do not have an electric hoist. However we will remove club Lightnings from the dock that are not participating in the regatta thus allowing many participants to keep their boats in a slip. (See Figure 5). Additionally we have arranged for a vehicle with a front bumper hitch and experienced driver to launch/retrieve any dry sailed boats. This will keep vehicles and congestion out of the lower parking area and ensure for fast and efficient boat launching.

We also maintain a “boat beach” separate from the club’s swimming beach. A Lightning needing mast or bottom repairs can be turned on its side on the boat beach. Parking is available on club property with overflow on the street and if necessary additional parking at a strip mall approximately 500ft from the club entrance.



Figure 4: Boat Ramp

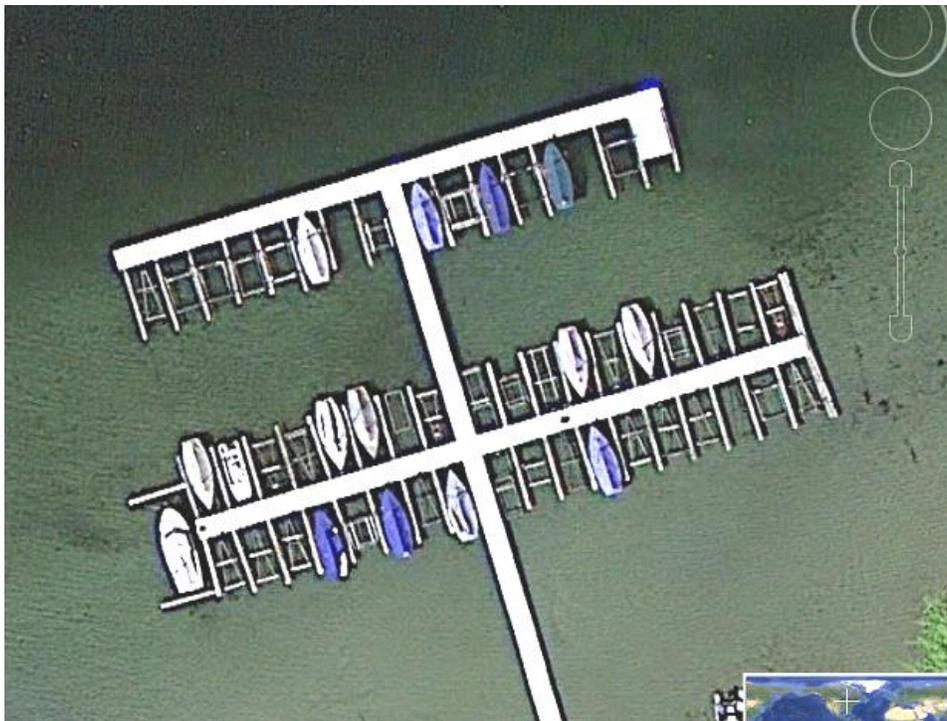


Figure 5: Dock and Slips

Should a competing boat have a major breakdown we are fortunate to have Nickels Boat Works only an hour away. General boating equipment is available from several boating stores, marinas, Home Depot and Lowes within a five mile radius. Two more extensive sailing stores (Avon Sailboats and West Marine) are available approximately 15 miles away.

Our family friendly club offers a number of other amenities. The children's play area includes swings, a huge sandbox, and a wooden play structure. The club's swimming beach is excellent for children and Cass Lake water is crystal clear. There is a large, 4 station brick barbecue grill, picnic tables and a beautiful well maintained lawn for relaxing between races (see Figure 6).



Figure 6: Lawn

## PYC Facilities



Barbeque Grill



PYC grounds showing sand box and play structure.



Lightnings at dock



Lightning repairs at the "Boat Beach"



Launching Ramp



Typical Wednesday evening club race starting line



PYC Junior Regatta