

PORT BAY CLUB

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HUNTING **1912** FISHING

Port Bay Club Newsletter

October 22, 2020



Dear Port Bay Club Members,

Hello everyone. I hope you are well and healthy as we continue to navigate COVID and prepare for our first hunting season in the new lodge and dining facilities. Jeremy and his team have been busy preparing blinds and skiffs for the upcoming season. It looks like its going to be a busy season, and with a little luck the ducks will cooperate. There is always the fire pit, football, and adult beverages if the ducks refuse to cooperate. I hope you get a chance to come down and enjoy some excellent hunting and the new facilities. In preparation for that, I thought it would be useful to provide an update on how we expect operations to run in light of the COVID situation, as well as pass on other news and notables since the last newsletter.

Welcome Tye and Lisa Green:

As I announced a while back, we have a new facilities manager at the club. Tye Green, and his wife Lisa, came on board in mid-September. That is Lisa in the picture above. As you can see, they are already settling into the Port Bay experience. Tye is a native Texas, originally from

Comfort. Prior to joining us, he spent 13 years managing at 6,500 acre ranch in George West, including managing all aspects of their commercial hunting operation. In addition, Tye has spent time as an Orvis certified fly fishing guide in Colorado. Our management structure will stay the same as it has been in the past few years. Tye, as the facilities manager, will manage the facilities and operation of the lodge, dining facilities, the grounds, reservation system, etc. Jeremy will manage the hunting operations, as he has done the past few years.

I know many of you have already had the pleasure of meeting Tye and Lisa, and I hope you will join me in welcoming them aboard. Tye's contact information is: 210-748-3870, or portbayclub99@gmail.com.

Meal Service for Duck Season:

As you know, due to COVID, we have mostly suspended meal service at the club since we reopened. The board, and I think the membership, feel very strongly that we need to offer meal service during hunting season. We will offer three meals a day during hunting season. However, COVID continues to be an issue in Texas and around the country. We will, therefore, institute certain protocols and procedures to try to reduce risks and stay within local and state guidelines. For breakfast and lunch, we will offer take away options rather than our usual sit down meals. Members and guests can choose to eat their to- go meals in the dining hall, outside, or elsewhere so that we can reduce the concentration of people in a single room. For dinner, we will set dining capacity at 75% of total dining hall capacity, in line with local dining guidelines in Texas and Aransas County. Our current dining capacity is 48 seats. 75% capacity amounts to 36 seats maximum during dinner. If we cannot accommodate all members and guests on a given date, these seats will be on a first come, first serve basis. Others can either take their meals to- go and eat on the patio (weather permitting) or elsewhere, or wait until space in the dining hall becomes available.

We will also move the blind draw outdoors to minimize people congregating in enclosed spaces. The draw will be moved under the CRR at a time established by Jeremy. I encourage everyone to try to be on time each morning for the draw so that we can run that process in an orderly fashion and people can get to their appointed blinds on time.

It is unfortunate that we must put these limits and changes in place, I know they will place some limits on the collegiality during meals that we have been fortunate to have at the club. Hopefully, this all passes soon and we can get back to normal.

Even with these restrictions and changes in place, I caution everyone, especially those with health conditions that make them vulnerable, that no dining or lodging policy can eliminate the risks and everyone should take whatever precautions they deem necessary to protect their own health when using club facilities.

Masks in the Duck Blind:

In addition to dining and lodging, COVID presents issues for hunting since the very nature of duck hunting at Port Bay Club involves two or more people spending extended periods of time in the confined space of a duck blind. Members and guests are encouraged to use masks in the blind, but ultimately, we are going to leave the decision up to you about whether to wear masks in the blind. Guides will be instructed to have masks available and to wear them if members or guests request that masks be worn.

Adopt-a-Project Opportunities:

Historically, members have stepped forward to sponsor projects that held special importance to them or that would contribute to the experience of members and guests. As you can imagine, we are still pursuing a number of projects to bring the club back to full operations. I'm sure some of you have your own ideas about projects that might enhance the experience at the club. Especially now, the club has many more projects than we have funds available to pursue--adopt-a-project opportunities abound. Our current list includes items such as repairing the pier that was damaged in the last storm, landscaping/sod around the lodge, possible acquisition of ATVs to make it easier to move hunters into and out of the marsh when roads are especially wet, replacement of the gazebo next to the water that was destroyed by Harvey, repair of fencing down Port Bay Road in the direction of the kayak launch, skeet range and equipment that was lost in Harvey, and improvements to our water generation and storage capabilities, among a host of other potential projects. If anyone is interested in providing leadership and/or financial support for these, or other projects, any such support will be greatly appreciated.

In that spirit, I would like to thank again all those who provided support for our adopt-a-room program, which basically fully furnished all the rooms at the lodge, as well as providing funding for new patio furniture, new dining furniture and new chairs around the fire pit. I also thank John and Terri Obermiller, who have graciously contributed inspiration and funds to build a new dog room that will be constructed under the CRR.

Member-Guest Events:



The member-guest fishing tournament back in August sponsored by Emerson Hankamer and Levi Goode was a great success, bringing together members, guests, and potential new members together for camaraderie, fishing, food and drinks. **Toby and Hudson Hamilton won the biggest redfish and the redfish with the most spots. Tony Kuebler won the biggest Trout.**

Toby and Hudson
Hamilton with the
winning cash!

Thanks to Emerson for organizing this, and special thanks to Levi for providing catering services from Goode Company while our kitchen was down.



Tony with Redfish



Levi Goode, Charles, Michael Soper, Emerson Hankamer and Philip Kuebler



Mason Goode, Toby Hamilton, and Levi Goode

We plan on hosting more potential new member events in the future, so if anyone has ideas for events or wants to help host some, let me know. Rebuilding our membership is a priority for the club, so I encourage you if you have any friends or business acquaintances who might be interested in coming down and looking at the club, or learning more about Port Bay Club, please take the opportunity to tell them about what we offer. Better yet, bring them down hunting or fishing to experience all we offer, and if they want more information, have them contact me or our membership director, Nathan Allen, nathanevanallen@me.com or 713-725-8126.

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