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WELCOME TO BIRD KEY YACHT CLUB

Dip your toes in waves of fun at Sarasota’s most active and engaging waterfront club. Every day is filled with friends and family, connecting over lunch, competing on the courts, conditioning at the fitness center and cruising across Sarasota Bay into the beautiful Gulf of Mexico.
OUR CLUB

Our members come from throughout the U.S. and around the globe, their common thread a lifetime of dynamic experiences that contribute and enhance the diverse fabric of our Club. Our motto, “anchored in friendship,” is alive and well and demonstrated every day. And although our name describes our geography, don’t assume it restricts our membership: whatever your address, you are welcome at Bird Key Yacht Club.

Our members enjoy all types of boating from our protected, bay front marina. They explore the world around them through ongoing activities including a wide range of social events, fashion shows, luncheon speakers, cooking classes and wine tastings. Boating not your sport? Then take in a round of golf with friends or associates at our reciprocal memberships at Laurel Oak Country Club or Sara Bay Country Club. Improve your serve on one of our three Har-Tru tennis courts and stay healthy in our full-service fitness facility. And, how about a little bocce ball? Our bay front courts await you. After all that exertion, our members relax by our Olympic sized swimming pool and spend their evenings enjoying our waterfront dining options.

Whether new to Sarasota or a long time resident looking for fresh activities, Bird Key Yacht Club has it all. The only thing missing is you.
Our History

Bird Key Yacht Club can trace its history to one of the most dazzling developments in Sarasota Bay.

Our clubhouse is located on the site of the New Edzell Castle, the first mansion in Sarasota built by the Worcester family in 1914 and named after their ancestral home in Scotland. The mansion, with electric lights, steam heat, and hot and cold water, was positioned to face the mainland as the Club is today. John Ringling purchased the mansion and the entire island of Bird Key in 1922. Ringling’s intention was to use the mansion and property as the winter White House for his friend, President Warren G. Harding. That dream never reached reality. Instead, his sister, Ida Ringling North, and her family lived in the house until 1950.

The Arvida Corporation bought Bird Key in the 1950’s and began to develop Bird Key as a residential playground. In 1959, Bird Key Yacht Club was created on the site of the original New Edzell Castle as a sparkling jewel in Sarasota Bay for the “benefit, amusement, recreation, and entertainment of its members and their friends.” Although the Club is named for its location, it has never been for the exclusive use of Bird Key residents. It welcomes members from across the area and the world.

Today, Bird Key Yacht Club is indeed an oasis on sparkling Sarasota Bay, offering members a busy schedule of activities or an afternoon and evening relaxing in this idyllic place that seduced its first residents over a century ago.
Susan T. Wilson
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Located on Bird Key on the edge of beautiful Sarasota Bay, our yacht club is just a bridge away from downtown and another short bridge to the renowned St. Armands Circle. The Bird Key entrance is located at the intersection of Bird Key Drive and John Ringling Boulevard, marked by a stoplight at the foot of the Ringling Bridge. Continue south, cross a small canal bridge and you will see Bird Key Yacht Club on your left. Turn left onto East Royal Flamingo Drive and left again into the Club entrance.

If you are coming by sea, at the flashing red #10 just south of the Ringling Bridge, take a heading of 250° magnetic. Approaching the shore of Bird Key near the bridge, you will see a sign indicating the channel into the club. Follow the green markers on your port side and the seawall on your starboard. This no-wake channel will take you directly to the Club. The depth of water in our channel is 12 feet and the basin is 8 feet. Make radio contact when entering the channel on 16, and you will be asked to switch to channel 68.

Welcome!
As the closest yacht and tennis facility to downtown Sarasota and its surrounding neighborhoods, Bird Key Yacht Club offers a variety of outstanding activities for you and your friends to enjoy. Our private Club experience includes the area’s finest amenities, and daily opportunities for social and recreational enjoyment in our spectacular waterfront location. Don’t have a boat? No problem. Many of our members belong for the fellowship of other active adults participating in the wide range of activities offered. Our motto, “anchored in friendship” is alive and well and demonstrated every day.

You’ll feel what makes us special the moment you walk in our door. We are a friendly and open group of people with a wide diversity of interests, ages and backgrounds. For more information and to take a tour of our Club, call our Membership Representative at 941-953-4455.

OUR NO-OBLIGATION 60-DAY INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM

To fully understand how special Bird Key Yacht Club is, we invite you to meet our members, attend our functions, and participate in our programs with a no-obligation 60-day arrangement. During the 60-Day Program, participants can take part in any activity and function we offer. There are no up-front fees, dues, or food & beverage minimums. Our Membership Director can explain the program in detail. The 60-Day program is a one-time event for prospective members and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enjoy all that Bird Key Yacht Club has to offer.
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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership indeed has its benefits!

Bird Key Yacht Club offers members an impressive array of social, boating, tennis and lifestyle activities as detailed further in this brochure. We invite you to browse a sampling of our membership benefits to see how your interests and our activities intersect.

In addition to the benefits of belonging to our Club, members and guests enjoy programs and amenities offered throughout the region at other prestigious private clubs. Visiting Naples for the day? Make a reservation for lunch at one of two esteemed clubs with reciprocity. Or, play a round of golf at either of our two Sarasota country clubs with their award-winning courses.

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LET’S BE SOCIAL

We love bringing our members together. Connecting people is at the heart of Bird Key Yacht Club, which is why our first priority is creating a robust and diversified social calendar. We recognize that your interests reach beyond the bay front, which is why you’ll find a variety of food and wine events, athletic activities, social gatherings and holiday celebrations.

We encourage you to bring your talents and interests to Bird Key Yacht Club to enhance our rich community of vibrant individuals.

Bird Key Yacht Club’s Social Committee is filled with some of the brightest lights in our membership. The committee’s job is to solicit ideas from members for the wide variety of parties offered each month throughout the year. Parties include farm-to-table community pool side dining; luaus on Lido Beach; impersonators of popular performers such as Frank Sinatra and Elton John; Sarasota’s top dance bands; jazz brunches and even the occasional black tie gala.

Fresh ideas for events are not only welcome, they are encouraged.

Our goal? To bring our membership together under our motto, “anchored in friendship.”
**WINE EVENTS**

Our members love exploring the world through food and wine presented by our award-winning kitchen. And we continue to create new opportunities to celebrate this culinary passion together at the Club. Wine pairings and wine dinners are arranged with our Executive Chef to provide special evenings focused on exposing members to new wines and their vintners. Members also enjoy informal wine tastings paired with small plates as part of our Wine Dinner featured menus.

**LUNCHEONS**

Our members lead exciting lives outside of Bird Key Yacht Club and often they use the Club as the location to bring their outside interests bay side. For all our members, our facility is always available to host a variety of organized luncheons. Many luncheons involve either fashion shows or prominent speakers. A member favorite, the weekly Boaters’ Luncheon, encourages and facilitates boaters and non-boaters to connect and plan new adventures on the high seas of the Gulf or our Intracoastal Waterway.
INTEREST GROUPS

Bird Key Yacht Club offers a wide range of interest groups and events. These include art, photography, bowling, bocce ball, bridge, fashion, line dancing, trivia, Tai Chi, and many others. Love yoga by the pool or Java and Books discussion groups? We invite you to bring your passions to our Club and see what and whom you can inspire.

HOLIDAY GATHERINGS

Many families have adopted Bird Key Yacht Club as their home for celebrating holiday traditions. Our activities over Easter weekend are filled with children’s crafts, Easter egg hunts, a fabulous lobster dinner, and delicious Easter brunch. Our Fourth of July event is packed with an arcade of games for all ages, barbecue, and the best view of Sarasota’s spectacular fireworks. Our Club also loves to live it up with events on Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve. And we know that every day can be someone’s special occasion, which is why we love to kick-it-up-a-notch on any given opportunity to celebrate members’ birthdays and anniversaries!
CRUISES

At the direction of our Fleet Captain, our members organize distance cruises to destinations along the west coast of Florida, with most stops at reciprocal Florida Council of Yacht Clubs member clubs. While most cruises feature two-night stays, we offer two extended cruises during the year that feature three- and four-night stays at multiple locations.

DAY CRUISES

Our monthly day cruises explore the Intracoastal Waterway and Gulf of Mexico. Our members — those with or without boats — caravan together to a local waterfront dining spot before returning to Bird Key Yacht Club marina. Many a lasting friendship has been made between launch and lunch.
BOATING

Large or small, power, sail or paddle — boats come in all types and sizes. Bird Key Yacht Club welcomes all those at home on the water.

SAILING

Our sailors compete in many local regattas. And Bird Key Yacht Club proudly presents Sarasota Bay Cup Mote Marine Laboratory Regatta. There is the Sunday series PHRF races held each week on Sarasota Bay. In addition, club sailors regularly take Sunday afternoon cruises on the Bay — no racing, no shouting for room at the mark, just stretching the sails, generally with a few non-boaters on board to begin their love affair with the sea.
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KAYAKING

As the only waterfront club with a kayak lift, we take our paddling seriously. Bird Key Yacht Club offers monthly wilderness kayak trips from October to May each year. Two hours of kayaking are followed by lunch, prior to returning to the marina. Rental kayaks, both singles and doubles, are available year round. And the kayak lift is perfect for putting in a paddle board. Silent sports have a home at Bird Key.

FISHING

Bird Key Yacht Club has an active group of anglers with varied experience. Many members get together frequently for day fishing trips on the flats of Sarasota Bay or offshore on the Gulf. More elaborate trips are often organized to fish the ideal area in hopes of catching the “big one.”
FITNESS

Bird Key Yacht Club is about much more than boating. We pride ourselves in offering members the very best facilities for a variety of activities encouraging fitness as well as some friendly athletic competition.

FITNESS CENTER

Our fitness center is open 24/7, offering members an assortment of state-of-the-art equipment in a relaxed setting. For aerobic exercise, we offer treadmills, an indoor rowing machine, ellipticals, stationary bikes and more. Free weights, weight machines and a TRX system are available for strength training. Personal trainers are available to help improve your workout and physical conditioning. Lockers, showers and dressing facilities are offered for your convenience.

YOGA

Yoga brings flexibility, strength and balance to its practitioners and the healing benefits of yoga are practically limitless. Our professional instructors teach a therapeutic style of yoga perfect for all levels of fitness and flexibility. Yoga classes are open to all members for the season or as a drop in. Breathe in the beauty of the Club as you gain serenity and relaxation.
FAQs

**Do you have to be a resident of Bird Key to belong to Bird Key Yacht Club?**
No! While BKYC was originally built as an amenity for the residential development, living on Bird Key is not a membership requirement.

All our members come from across the region, especially as our location is just a bridge away from downtown Sarasota and the mainland.

**Is boat ownership a requirement of membership at Bird Key Yacht Club?**
Only around one-third of our members own watercraft — and the Club is fortunate that most of those members are generous in inviting other members to enjoy our beautiful waters. All members delight in the many other amenities and activities they find at BKYC. Our motto is “anchored in friendship” and that is demonstrated every day.

**Do you have different levels of membership at Bird Key Yacht Club?**
Unlike other private clubs, BKYC has just one kind of membership, which opens the opportunities for all members to enjoy all of our many activities.

**What are some of those amenities?**
BKYC is the closest tennis facility to downtown Sarasota, offering three Har-Tru courts along with a number of organized tennis activities. We have two waterside bocce ball courts and an Olympic sized pool. Local physical fitness trainers offer members personalized programs at the center. Various classes are also available. Group activities are almost too extensive to name — bridge, line dancing, mah jongg, trivia, golf, biking, fashion shows, water aerobics, book reviews, art, lectures and, of course, a robust social schedule. Finally, our award-winning cuisine is celebrated everyday as well as during structured winedinners and special tastings.

**What about reciprocity with other clubs?**
Because many of our members travel extensively, they have the priviledge of using any Yachting Club of America, a nationwide network of private clubs. BKYC is one of the founding members of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs, which provides a reciprocity benefit used by many of our members.

Locally, we have reciprocity with two of the Gulf Coast’s exceptional golf clubs — Laurel Oak and SaraBay, as well as limited reciprocity with several of the city’s other fine private clubs.
Tennis

Bird Key Yacht Club is proud to offer the closest tennis facility to downtown Sarasota with its three Har-Tru tennis courts for the exclusive use of our members and their guests. Join a regular tennis group for competitive play or experience all levels of play in our Saturday morning Round Robins. It’s a great way to improve your game as well as making new friends. After your match, a meal or refreshment is just steps away in the Club.

Pool Activities

Our Olympic sized pool is situated in a picture perfect spot overlooking Sarasota Bay with our newly renovated yacht basin in the foreground. And the city views are beautiful. But, it’s much more than a lovely view. It’s a place for stress-free water aerobics, lap swimming or simply relaxing under azure Sarasota skies.
BOCCE BALL

The ancient game of bocce ball has found a new Sarasota home on our bay front courts. Amateurs or seasoned bowlers can experience the fun and complexity of the game. Our two courts are regularly in use as members discover the fun and competitive nature of rolling the ball.

BICYCLING

Those enjoying pedal power and fresh air will join the many club-organized bicycle outings in the greater Sarasota area. The group charts a course on bike trails and/or light traffic roadways to enhance safety. Each adventure features a stop for lunch at a local restaurant or a reciprocal club.
GOLF

Because life should be enjoyed by land and by sea, Bird Key Yacht Club offers its members a reciprocal golf membership agreement with the beautiful Laurel Oak Country Club and historic Sara Bay Country Club.

Sara Bay’s 18 hole course was designed in 1925 by the “dean of golf course architects,” Donald Ross, on a choice piece of land near Sarasota Bay that included undulating terrain, native trees, and a meandering creek. Ross is credited with approximately 400 designs throughout the world. Upon completion of this layout, Ross stated that he had accomplished as much in this design as any of his master works in America and Europe.

At Laurel Oak you will encounter two of the most challenging courses in Sarasota, one designed by Gary Player and the other by Rees Jones.

Both clubs also offer a myriad of other activities available to Bird Key members who choose to go a bit inland for dining, tennis or fun.
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TRIVIAL PURSUIT

Our regular trivia nights are not only about recalling facts, but making memories as tables enjoy dinner and fellowship along with their mental exercise.

JAVA & BOOKS

This monthly meeting explores a theme of fiction and non-fiction through an entire season, calling on the expertise of members to present reviews of chosen books. Perfect for a cup of coffee and lively discussion.
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Bird Key Yacht Club is one of the founding members of the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs. The FCYC encourages reciprocity between clubs and extends benefits to assist travel between its 36 members clubs by land or sea. Our members regularly visit other FCYC clubs during organized group activities as well as individually as they travel Florida. Bird Key is proud of its affiliation and displays the flags of each member in the rotunda at the entrance of our club.

YACHTING CLUB OF AMERICA

As members of Yachting Club of America, reciprocal privileges are available at member clubs nationwide. This benefit fits well with the profile of our members, many of whom travel extensively and escape to cooler climates in the summer. Take your Bird Key membership with you when you go and explore the many clubs available across the United States.
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EVENTS

Members enjoy access to our spacious dining rooms and intimate meeting spaces that create the perfect place to hold weddings, receptions, anniversaries, bar mitzvahs, confirmations, birthdays, business meetings, charitable galas and other celebrations.

What better place to say “I do” than overlooking the sparkling waters of Sarasota Bay? Make your day one filled with spectacular memories with the experienced staff and beautiful bay front amenities available at Bird Key Yacht Club. It is also a spectacular venue for non-member weddings or events. We offer provisional opportunity for non-members to do so. Our location offers the unique experience to arrive or depart by land or sea on that special day.

Bird Key Yacht Club offers detailed planning and careful execution ensuring every event is a success. The Club offers services to help coordinate the elements of your special affair. Once the final arrangements are in place, the Executive Chef will assist with menu planning to insure amazing cuisine and exquisite service. Learn more how we can bring your event dreams to life in our oasis on Sarasota Bay.

From birthdays to bar mitzvahs, Bird Key Yacht Club’s renowned hospitality awaits. We’re just a phone call away.
LEARN MORE

You are the heart of who we are. As a Bird Key Yacht Club member, our goal is to enrich your life through the friendships and activities found in our dynamic community by the sea.

Schedule a visit with our membership representative, reached at (941) 953-4455 (ext.#103).

GUEST INFORMATION

While we are a private club, we always enjoy extending our hospitality to visitors. Most commonly, a current member will invite a friend or family member to dine with them. In this case the member makes the arrangements. Members of other yacht clubs visit using a reciprocity agreement. Your reciprocal club membership card is all you need to use our facilities. Any other guest visit must be arranged by a manager or flag officer.
Visitors Guide

Members regularly bring friends and family as their guests to Bird Key Yacht Club. In order to make these visits enjoyable for everyone, here are a few guidelines to remember:

Cash is not accepted for any Club service. Visa, Master Card and Discover Card are accepted for the convenience of guests of members or those with a guest card.

Please leave your cell phone outside the dining room, or place on silent in order to maintain a convivial atmosphere. If a call is necessary, please step outside to the patio or portico.

Smoking is permitted, only in designated outdoor areas.

Because of our water location and to maintain a safe environment, children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

No pets are permitted in the dining areas; however, dogs and other pets are welcome on a leash at all times on the grounds of the Club.

Club Dress Code

Main Dining Room: Prior to 5:00 p.m.: Appropriate casual attire. After 5:00 p.m.: Men - collared shirt, slacks & proper footwear. Ladies - corresponding appropriate dress. Please, no casual denim.

Compass Bar, Aft Deck & Sun Deck:
Casual, including appropriate tennis attire. No swim attire.

Members are responsible for informing any guest(s) they bring to Bird Key Yacht Club.

Reservations

Please call to make reservations (941) 953-4455. Visitors must identify themselves using their current Club membership card to assure the best experience.
BY SEA

The Club’s 42-slip marina, christened in October 2016, offers 18 boat lifts from 10,000-14,000-pound capacity, 24 wet slips that can accommodate sail and power vessels from 20 to 50 feet, and a kayak lift. The marina also offers members and slip holders both diesel fuel and gasoline, along with complete pump-out facilities. Direct TV and Wi-Fi are available at all slips. The marina is staffed by an experienced full-time dock master and an assistant, on call to meet all members’ boating needs. Marina staff monitors VHF channel 16.

Visiting boating members are invited to bring their vessel to the Club, tie up for the day, or overnight, and enjoy all that the Club has to offer: meals, tennis, bocce ball, and the amenities of BKYC’s spacious and comfortable clubhouse. Shower facilities and locker rooms are available as well. All this is accompanied by the best view on the Bay of the downtown Sarasota skyline. Sunrise and sunset at the Bird Key Yacht Club marina are magnificent and perfectly complement the BKYC experience. Visiting mariners from other Florida Council of Yacht Clubs clubs will find transient space available, with their first night’s dockage free of charge and all the benefits of Club membership available to them.

Come see for yourself all that the Bird Key Yacht Club marina has to offer. For more information, and to arrange a visit, call the Club directly at 941-953-4455.
In the Sarasota area, you can enjoy the breathtaking sunsets, educational museums, operas, ballets, plays, golf tournaments, and boat races. You can join in tennis, lawn bowling, water skiing, shell collecting, bird watching, growing exotic tropical plants, university classes, golf, or boating.

Quality service is available from knowledgeable physicians, bankers, lawyers, investment brokers, lenders and insurance agents, who can help answer your questions about living and conducting business in Florida.

Sarasota, together with its neighbors to the north and south, Manatee County and Charlotte County, forms the 7th-largest market in Florida. It is also Florida’s third fastest growing major market. With over 600,000 people, the Sarasota Manatee Charlotte area is one of the largest, most affluent markets in Florida. In the last 5 years, it has grown 4 times faster than the national average. The per capita retail sales are almost 20% above the national average. It has a strong base of retirement age people, about a third of the population, but the fastest-growing segment of the market is middle-aged adults and their children. It has approximately 1/4 the population of the Tampa/St. Petersburg area.

The beauty of Sarasota will get your attention on your first visit. If you see Sarasota first from the window of an airplane, the colors of the Gulf of Mexico and Sarasota Bay, contrasting with the brilliant white sand of Longboat, Lido, and Siesta beaches, will make you anxious to see more. A rainbow of colors comes from the tall condominiums shining in the sun, the warm tile on the roof and patio of the mansion built by circus magnate John Ringling, the various green hues from the lush jungle-like vegetation, the flowers that are blooming any month of the year, and the lavender seashell-design Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.