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Greetings and welcome to the 2024 season in Sachem's Head Harbor and Joshua Cove. Here's what you need to know for the coming season:

- It has been a fairly uneventful winter as far as the harbor is concerned. The frostbite group had a strong fall season and we've had the Guilford High School Sailing team practicing in our harbor. It's always great to see these groups continue their competition, regardless of fair weather. Our breakwater continues to hold strong and Brigham's light watches at night.
- We continue to have a significant number of boats on the waiting list. **If you don't plan to use your mooring, or only plan to need it for part of the season, please let me know as soon as possible.** We don't have enough moorings to fill all the requests, so I will be working to accommodate as many as possible.
- Please complete the enclosed forms and update any information that may be missing or out of date. You should have already received an online bill. It is our preference that you use electronic payment options ACH or Credit Card as this automatically accounts for receiving and reduces risk of loss or direction to the wrong box. As a reminder, the harbor billing is separate from the yacht club, we have different boxes and different accounts. Kindly return your documents and if you choose a check to: "Harbor Manager Sachem's Head" to the PO box shown above, by **May 11th. Payments received after June 1st will be subject to a \$50.00 late fee.** The system will automatically remind you 2 weeks after I send it. Enclose a copy of your current boat registration and, if you have not done so previously, a copy of your insurance.
- You are responsible to attach and remove your own mooring ball. CT state law requires: a white ball with blue stripe with the chain passing through the ball to a shackle. **It is mandatory that mooring ball be marked with your name and mooring number.** I will have paint markers onboard the *Mudmaster* should you need, although I find decals or paint work best and are less likely to fade during the season. Unmarked balls make it very difficult to perform harbor maintenance. For this reason, the Harbor Commission has stipulated **Unmarked mooring balls will be subject to a \$50.00 fine.**
- The *Mudmaster*, with a rusty assortment of tools, is available for your use in attaching your ball and pennant. Please be kind to the next person (and me) by cleaning up after yourself. If you happen to lose a tool overboard, I'm sure Page Hardware has an appropriate replacement, and we'll happily accept the donation. **All of the provided boat hooks have been destroyed and/or lost, so they will no longer be left in the boat. If you feel you will need one, please bring your own.** As an alternative, I have built up a rope and chain loop that works well for lifting balls. Simply throw the chain section over the ball and then choke it on the chain below the ball. You can hold the rope ends to pull the system over the rail. If you are unable to attach/remove your ball, please contact me and we will provide that service for an additional \$150.00 fee/season.
- **Clip your temporary buoy on the line on the rocks at the club** and we'll store it over the summer. Having all the buoys in one place is critical to organizing the fall chain drop. Let me know if you can't find your's or have any issues with it.

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- We are now on a 4 year cycle for the inspection of moorings and 2024 is an 'on' year. Bruce Beebe will be hauling 50% of the harbor, inspecting and replacing any worn hardware. It is your responsibility nevertheless to assess the suitability of your assigned mooring. **Please let me know immediately if you detect any issues.**
- **The spring work party to raise the mooring chains and attach temporary buoys will take place in early to mid May.** I will send out an email when we get closer. We always need help - particularly younger backs. Please call or email me to volunteer. You'll get wet, muddy and have fun.

Thanks for your help and have a great summer on the water.

Regards,

Eric Davidson