

# Welcome Aboard BlueJ!



## **Your Day Charter Experience on Lake Minnetonka**

Welcome to your sailing adventure aboard BlueJ, our Beneteau First 260 Spirit! We're Clay (your skipper) and Jodi (crew), and we're excited to share the beauty of Lake Minnetonka with you.

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### **Meeting Location**

**Wayzata Yacht Club**  
1100 Eastman Ave  
Wayzata, MN 55391

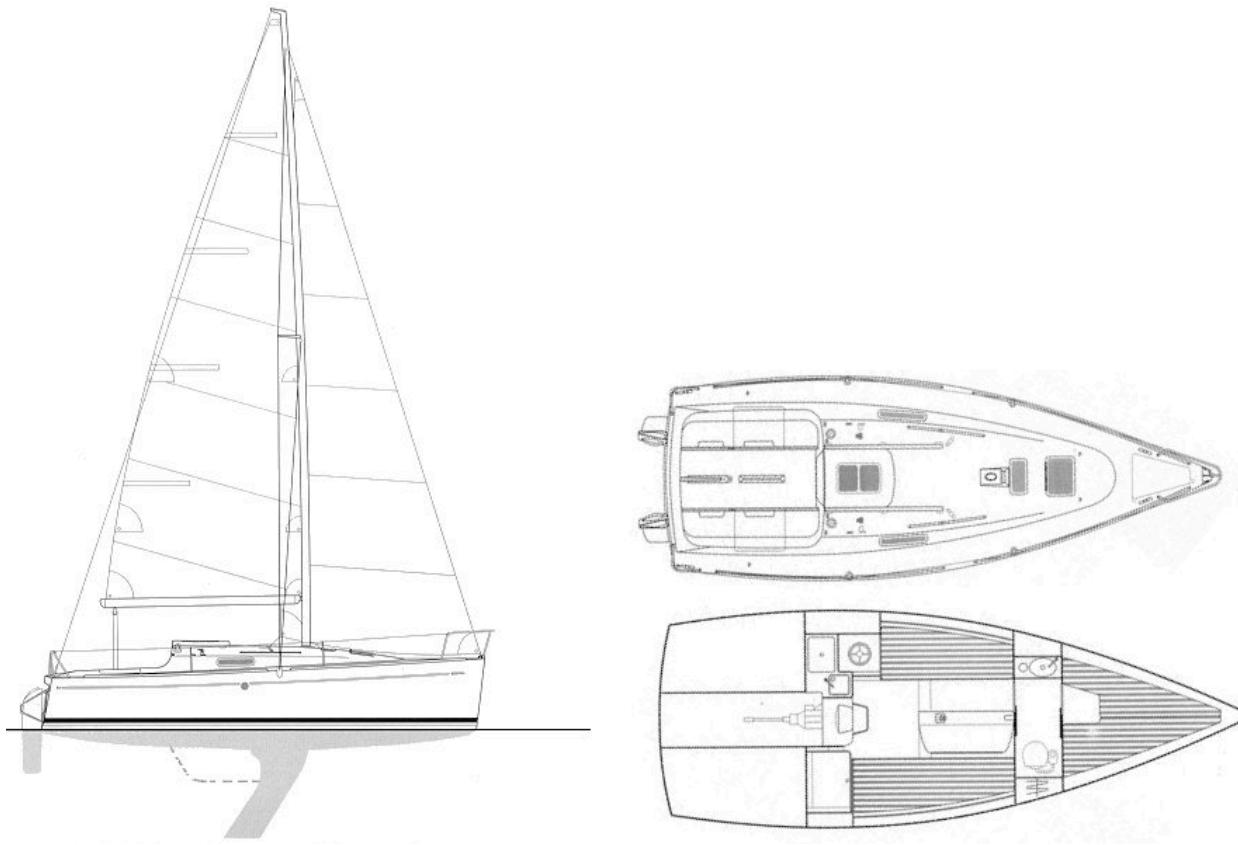
The club is located on the south shore of Lake Minnetonka in the charming town of Wayzata. Unless we tell you otherwise based on the day, you can park in the main parking lot next to the clubhouse and meet us at the club. We'll reach out on the day of the sail to let you know where, sometimes we'll be up on the patio waiting. We'll greet you and get you settled aboard.

Founded in 1967, Wayzata Yacht Club is one of the premier sailing clubs in the Midwest, offering excellent facilities and a welcoming sailing community. Let us know if you want more details!

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### **About BlueJ**

BlueJ is a 2001 Beneteau First 260 Spirit - a performance-oriented daysailer and weekender built in France and designed by the renowned Groupe Finot for ocean sailing conditions. At 26 feet (7.9m), she's nimble, reliable, responsive, and perfect for sailing on Lake Minnetonka.



### Key Specifications:

- Length: 26.0 feet
- Beam (width): 9 feet
- Draft (underwater): 6 feet (lifting keel)
- Displacement (weight): 4,700 lbs
- Sail Area: 400 sq ft upwind, 800 sq ft with spinnaker
- Top Speed: 8.7 knots/10 mph (sustained flatwater)
- Crew Capacity: Comfortable for 4-6 people

For more about our boat and adventures, visit our blog: [rarerarebird.blogspot.com](http://rarerarebird.blogspot.com)

## Safety First

### BlueJ is Exceptionally Stable and Safe

- BlueJ will NOT capsize under any sailing conditions - her wide beam, substantial ballast, and lifting keel design make her extremely stable

- All USCG required safety equipment is aboard and inspected regularly
- Life jackets (PFDs) are provided in multiple sizes - we'll help you find the right fit
- The cockpit has deep seats and is self-bailing, meaning water drains automatically
- Twin rudders provide excellent control even when heeling
- We sail conservatively and always prioritize your comfort and safety
- BlueJ is a US Coast Guard registered vessel

#### **Your Crew:**

- Clay is a life-long sailor who has owned 7+ sailboats of all sizes
- He is a US Coast Guard registered Captain (OUPV/Six-Pack) for off-shore waters
- He has a Royal Yacht Club (RYA) Coastal Skipper Certification
- He has an International Certificate of Competency issued by the RYA and the United Nations
- He has USsailing Keelboat Instructor Certification
- Jodi has been sailing actively for over 10 years, and knows BlueJ inside out.
- Clay & Jodi also own a 34 foot Beneteau sailboat in Florida, and both LOVE to host and help our guests have the best day possible on the water!

#### **What to Expect:**

- The boat will heel (lean) when sailing - this is completely normal and safe
- Rare, but you may get splashed occasionally - dress accordingly
- Non-slip surfaces throughout, but always use handholds when moving around
- Crew will brief you on emergency procedures before we depart

**Your Comfort Matters:** If you ever feel uncomfortable, just speak up. We can adjust our sailing style, reduce heel, or head back - your experience is what matters most.

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# Where We Can Explore



Lake Minnetonka offers 14,000 acres and over 100 miles of shoreline to explore! Our typical day charter includes:

## Popular Destinations:

- **Wayzata Bay** - Fun sailing with quick access to downtown area and restaurants
- **Excelsior Bay** - A fun but longer sail, that MAY involve a stop at Maynards!
- **Robinson Bay** - Great place to drop anchor and chill
- **Big Island** - Circumnavigate this large island with beautiful homes
- **Tour of the Lower Lake** - Through the channels for more adventurous sailing

To give a sense of scale, the distance between downtown Wayzata and downtown Excelsior is about 5 miles, and takes 1-2 hours of sailing depending on wind direction and conditions. We'll jointly plan our itinerary based on wind conditions, your interests, and experience level. Want relaxed cruising? Spirited sailing? A bit of both? You're in control; just let us know!

#### **What You'll See:**

- Magnificent lakefront estates
- Historic landmarks
- Other sailboats and watercraft
- Natural shoreline and wildlife
- The famous Lake Minnetonka scenery

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## What to Expect During Your Charter

#### **Typical Schedule:**

- Welcome and safety briefing (15 minutes)
- Depart Wayzata Yacht Club
- Sailing on Lake Minnetonka (4 hours typical)
- Possible swimming stop or anchoring (weather permitting)
- Return to dock
- Help with basic cleanup

#### **Weather Considerations:**

- We sail in winds from 5-20 knots
- Light rain is okay with us, but we avoid thunderstorms
- We'll contact you if conditions require rescheduling
- See the contract for full details
- Your safety and comfort always come first

#### **Communication:**

- Feel free to ask questions anytime
- Tell us if you're cold, hot, thirsty, or need anything
- Let us know if you want more or less heel
- We want you to have the best experience possible!
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#### **Video & Drone:**

- We will start our 360 cam for a fun video you can share
- If we anchor we can launch our drone for aerial footage

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## Your Role: Active Crew or Relaxed Guest

### You Choose Your Experience!

One of the best things about chartering BlueJ is that you can be as involved or as relaxed as you want.

#### Active Participation Options:

- **Helm** - Steer the boat
- **Trimming** - Adjust the sails
- **Line handling** - Help with tacking and gybing
- **Navigation** - Help plan our route
- **Crew work** - Learn the fundamentals of sailing

#### Relaxation Options:

- Sit back and enjoy the ride
- Take photos and videos
- Read a book in the cockpit
- Listen to music
- Enjoy conversation
- Simply watch the scenery go by
- Take a nap (seriously, it's very peaceful!)

**Mix and Match:** Most guests do a bit of both - help out when they feel like it, relax when they want to. There's no pressure either way.

**Learning Opportunity:** If you've always wanted to learn to sail, this is a perfect introduction. Clay & Jodi will teach you as much or as little as you'd like.

**Deeper Learning:** If you are interested in more intensive learning to skill-up fast, talk to us. We are deeply experienced sailors and racers, and have raced and sailed all over the world, and can translate that into valuable learning for our guests. In addition, BlueJ is set up like a modern 35 foot racer cruiser, so skills and techniques learned on board are immediately transferable to larger boats. We can offer a discounted program matched to your current skills and long-term

desires. Want to prepare for being a quality WYC crew member? Maybe build a sailing resume for a dream bareboat charter? We can design a program to match.

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## Common Sailing Terms

Learning a few basic terms will help you understand what's happening and participate if you'd like!

### Parts of the Boat:

- **Bow** - Front of the boat
- **Stern** - Back of the boat
- **Port** - Left side (when facing forward)
- **Starboard** - Right side (when facing forward)
- **Hull** - The body of the boat
- **Deck** - The floor/walking surface
- **Cockpit** - Where we sit while sailing
- **Cabin** - Interior space below deck

### Sailing Terms:

- **Tack** - Turning the bow through the wind
- **Gybe** - Turning the stern through the wind
- **Coming About** - Another term for tacking
- **Heel** - The boat leaning over (normal and safe!)
- **Luff** - When sails flap (usually means we need to adjust)
- **Trim** - Adjusting the sails
- **Head Up/Bear Away** - Turn toward/away from the wind

### Sail Parts:

- **Main** - The large sail behind the mast
- **Jib/Genoa** - The smaller sail in front
- **Spinnakers** - Large, colorful downwind sails (if conditions permit)
- **Mast** - The vertical pole that holds up the sails
- **Boom** - The horizontal pole at the bottom of the mainsail (watch your head!)
- **Sheets** - The lines we use to adjust the sails

### Commands You Might Hear:

- **"Ready To Tack"** - We're preparing to tack
- **"Tacking"** - We're turning now, duck under the boom
- **"Watch the boom"** - The boom is moving, stay clear
- **"Ease the sheets"** - Let the sail out
- **"Trim in"** - Pull the sail in

Don't worry about any memorization - we'll explain everything as we go!

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## The Head (Marine Toilet)

The head compartment is located forward, just past the saloon. It's compact but fully functional and totally private.

### How to Use:

1. Normally #1 only, let us know if you really need #2
2. Close the door for privacy
3. The marine toilet operates with a hand pump
4. **Pump several times** to bring water into the bowl
5. Use marine-friendly toilet paper only (provided)
6. After use, **pump 10-15 times** to fully flush
7. Continue pumping until bowl is clear
8. Leave the bowl clean for the next person

### Important Rules:

- Nothing goes in the toilet except what we provide
- Tell us immediately if something seems wrong
- Hand sanitizer is available in the head

The wash basin has a pump built into the faucet for fresh water.

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## The Galley (Kitchen Area)

The galley is located on the port (left) side as you enter the cabin.

### What's Available:

- Refrigerator (bring your special drinks and snacks!)
- Cubed ice for drinks in a small cooler
- We will have a complimentary bottle of wine to celebrate the day!
- Fresh water sink with foot pump
- Storage lockers for your provisions
- Basic utensils and cups
- Small preparation area

#### **Tips:**

- Bring a soft-sided cooler with your food and beverages
- Pack items that don't require cooking, unless we've planned to cook, no problem!
- Everything should be secured - things can shift when sailing
- Clean up as you go - help us keep BlueJ tidy
- Trash goes in provided bags - we practice "leave no trace"

#### **What else to Bring:**

- Snacks, sandwiches, fruit
- Beverages (water highly recommended, we always have bottles on board)
- Sunscreen and hats
- Sunglasses with retainer straps
- Light jacket (temperatures drop on the water)
- Non-marking boat shoes or soft-soled footwear

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#### **Music and entertainment**

BlueJ has a very modern Fusion audio system, with high quality stereo speakers down in the cabin and up in the cockpit. While FM works, we usually listen to S/XM satellite radio, or playlists on our phones via Bluetooth. Love music? Got your favs that you want to hear? Load up a playlist and we'll jam to it all day!

# Contact and Payment Information

## Before Your Charter:

- Email: clay.babcock@gmail.com
- Phone: 952-288-6656
- Venmo @Clay-Babcock



**venmo**

**Fees:** Actual fees will be agreed on before charter, and due on booking to confirm the reservation. We accept Venmo, Zelle, or cash.

**Questions?** Don't hesitate to reach out before your charter date!

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## Final Notes

- Arrive a few minutes early if possible for boarding and safety briefing
- Bring soft-sided bags (no hard luggage)
- Wear or bring layers - it's often cooler on the water
- Bring camera/phone (in waterproof case if possible)
- Sunscreen is essential - the water reflects UV rays
- We provide water and a bottle of wine, but feel free to bring your own beverages
- Let us know about any mobility concerns in advance

**We're Looking Forward to Sailing With You!**

Clay, Jodi, and BlueJ

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*For more information or to book, visit <http://sailbluej.com>*