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## Cruising Lake Minnetonka



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Every now and then, we at *Minnesota Meetings + Events* are invited to tour event spaces and new venues.

A few weeks ago, we were invited to take a boat cruise on Lake Minnetonka, courtesy of the [Excel Boat Club and Marina in Excelsior](http://www.excelboatclub.com). We were unfamiliar with the company, so we decided to take them up on their offer. Last Tuesday, I and a few co-workers at Tiger Oak Publications took a two-hour tour of the lake on a 1985 Classic Skiff Craft, an absolutely beautiful wood boat that is one of a handful of classics restored by Skiff Craft in 2007.

I didn't know exactly what to expect when we arrived, but I was immediately blown away by the excellent condition of the boats. Every single one was spotless and looked brand new. Many had grills on board, as well as a pop-up private changing area and bathroom. Some were made for lounging and relaxing, while others were better suited for tubing and wakeboarding. The Skiff Craft we took out was clearly made for a simple, opulent getaway.

The owner and president, [Tom Jacob](mailto:tjacob@excelboatclub.com), explained that the concept of the club was to provide a luxury boating experience without any of the hassle involved with owning and caring for the boat.

I couldn't help but think of what an excellent teambuilding activity this could be, and Jacob confirmed that they frequently entertain out-of-town executives: "We're family oriented and corporate friendly."

Excel will haul your coolers, tubes and accessories to the boat for you, valet the boat in and out of the marina (a huge relief for anyone who didn't grow up on a lake), provide catering from local restaurants, make dinner reservations for you and best of all they take care of all the cleaning, repairs, fueling, storage and winterizing.

One testament to the club's success: Eighty percent of the current boat club members used to own a boat, but for various reasons (typically the incredibly inconvenient ratio of fun boat use to time-consuming boat care) now only access boats through the club.

The Excel Boat Club was named "Best rental Facility" on Lake Minnetonka by readers of *Navigator* magazine.

They now have two locations-the original in Excelsior and in Bayport on the St. Croix River.

Call 952.401.3880 for rates and more information. If you book, be sure to mention if you are celebrating a special occasion.

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