

Bayou Chat User Guide as of 2020-04-25

Introduction:

The Bayou Chat Group is for residents of the [Bayou Club Community](#) located in Pinellas County Florida. The group is independent from the Bayou Club Community Association and has had an email group on Yahoogroups for about 20 years named Bayou-Chat@yahoogleroups.com (BCY). The primary purpose of the group is to share information of interest to the residents such as recommendations on service vendors such as electricians, plumbers, roofers, painters, lawn and pool care, etc. Other posts include personal items for sale such as tickets, treadmills, or announcements about events, lost pets, etc.

In 2019 Yahoo chose to remove several options from Yahoogroups including archiving of messages and optional digest mode to bundle multiple group emails into a single email with up to 25 emails per day.

On April 20, 2020 a new Bayou Chat Group on Google named Bayou-Chat@googlegroups.com (BCG) was officially launched and all members of the old Bayou Chat Group on Yahoo were sent email invitations to join. The new Google group provides the additional options removed by Yahoo.

As of today, 81 members have joined the new BCG group, and have started posting messages.

All residents of the Bayou Club are invited to join the new group on Google groups by sending a request to one of the group moderators:

Barbara Manty (bmanty@gmail.com)

Don Higgins (don@higgins.net).

Applications are being accepted for a few more volunteer moderators to help provide support.

Once users have confirmed their invitation to join the group, they can begin posting and receiving email messages using the email address they joined with. The default email delivery mode will be individual messages. Users can email one of the moderators to request changing their email delivery mode to digest which bundles up to 25 emails per day. There is also an option for users to change their own email delivery mode on the new BCG website described below.

The old email group on Yahoo groups will be disabled on April 27, 2020.

If all you want to do is post email and read email, using the single email address you joined with, you can ignore the following optional information.

Optional multiple email interface:

If you want to be able to use multiple email addresses to post and read BCG messages, you can register with BCG using your primary Google account email address (usually a Gmail address of the form (???)@gmail.com), and then assign one or more alias email addresses via your Google account settings. For example, moderator Don Higgins registered with BCG using donhiggins33782@gmail.com and assigned an alias of don@higgins.net. The first address is for posting from Gmail on PC, iPad, and iPhone. The second is for posting from Outlook on PC.

A verification email will be sent to each alias address which you will need to confirm using your Google password. And you may need to wait a while before starting to post email until the BCG website cloud has been updated. If you try to post a message to BCG before the new email alias has been registered, you will receive an email saying the group did not recognize the senders' email.

Optional website Interface:

The new BCG private email group has a website here:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bayou-chat>

To login to the new website above you will need to have a Google account with registered email and password. If you don't have a Google account currently you can go to www.google.com and register.

If you want to use a different email from the current Google default which is usually a Gmail address, you can go to the Google account settings and add one or more alias emails for use with the BCG group.

In the Google account settings, you can also set the default name you would like to appear with messages that you post on the BCG website. If the name field is left blank, then only your email address will appear. Please set your name field to your real name so we can get to know each other. You can also upload your picture to appear with your name on posted messages viewed on the new BCG website.

Once you can access the BCG website, you can change your own mail delivery mode by following these steps:

1. Click on "My settings" in top right
2. Click on "Membership and email settings"
3. Select desired email delivery mode from following options:
 - a. Don't send email updates (was nomail on Yahoo which is useful if you are out of town or just want to visit website to see messages)
 - b. Send daily summary
 - c. Send combined updates (was digest mode on Yahoo which combines up to 25 messages in one email)

d. Send individual email updates (default delivery mode)

The new website has a forum format where the subject of each email becomes the topic for a thread and all email replies with the same subject are placed under the same topic. Topics are listed in order by most recent posting date and time. You can click on a topic to view all the emails for that topic. For example, if someone posts a message with the subject “Recommendations for painting”, and then 4 other members post replies with the same subject, then all 5 messages will appear under the same topic on the BCG website.

You can also search all BCG messages for specific text.

Also, messages can have attachments including pictures and PDF files.

Terms of Service:

Group posts must respect the rights of others and must not include offensive material. Political campaign posts and product marketing posts are not allowed. Moderators have the final authority to delete inappropriate posts and ban members if necessary.

References:

1. Google Groups - <https://groups.google.com>
2. Google Groups Help Center - <https://support.google.com/groups/?hl=en#topic=9216>
3. Bayou Chat Google Group - <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bayou-chat>
4. Create Google Account - <https://accounts.google.com/signup/v2/webcreateaccount?hl=en&flowName=GlifWebSignIn&flowEntry=SignUp>