



NorthWest Sailing Association

Skipper Responsibilities

Safety

1. Ensure all crew has proper equipment.
2. Ensure your boat is equipped with safety equipment appropriate for your vessel. Refer to Coast Guard requirements and recommendations for a complete list.
3. Direct crew to your safety equipment; point out VHF, extinguishers, life jackets, swim ladder, et al. (NWSA monitors VHF channel 69)
4. Review your plan for Man Overboard scenario, especially if the Skipper would go overboard.

Skipper Checklist

1. Coordinate with the Cruise Captain to know times, meeting arrangements, float plan and sundowner event.
2. Communicate your expectations to the Cruise Captain, this could include any of the following:
 - a. Number of crew you can accommodate.
 - b. Level of experience you wish to have for your crew.
 - c. Whether you have or allow smoking, drinking, pets, guests, or not.
 - d. Any extra tasks that require help like rigging, launching, driving, etc.
3. Skippers should do their best to accommodate the Cruise Captain's plans for the group, but any variations on meeting time, disembarking arrangements, or duration of the sail ought to be communicated to the Cruise Captain as well as the Crew.
4. Day of the event:
 - a. Safety Check as outlined above.
 - b. Create a sail plan for your crew.
 - c. Include crew in the physical effort of sailing the vessel.
 - d. Share your knowledge and experience with the less experienced.
 - e. Reasonably accommodate the comfort of your crew. Although Crew has the responsibility for their own comfort, weather conditions or less hardy crew may suggest a shorter sail. **THE SKIPPER HAS THE FINAL DECISION!**
 - f. Be gracious of any courtesy extended to you.
5. Above all, the Skipper is in charge on his or her vessel. Decisions regarding latecomers, undesirable crew, unexpected guests, duration of the sail, and any other issues are solely at the discretion of the skipper!