

LPSC Role of the Cruise Skipper

January, 2019

Cruise Planning

- * Be creative – or not
- * Previous member surveys have suggested some members like themed events, others just want to hang out with their friends
- * Up to you to decide
- * Themed events ideas
 - * Map or navigation events
 - * Pot Luck Dinners
 - * Synchronized sails
 - * Etc.

Communicating Your Plan

- * Once your plan is complete, communicate the details to the Meet-Up coordinator (2-3 weeks before the event)
- * Post on Meet-Up regularly coming up on the event to build enthusiasm
- * Typical plans include and should be posted on Meet-Up
 - * VHF Channel for afternoon communication(69)
 - * Time and place of raft-up
 - * Details on food and activities, appetizers to pass, cruise skipper providing ... , etc
 - * Bring ground tackle, fenders and lines
- * Best locations are Port-a-Pottie, or Honeymoon Coves

Final Details – Thurs/Fri

- * Check the weather say a week out and post on Meet-Up the long term forecast
- * Any decision to cancel or postpone should be made Thurs/Fri before the event
- * Events are usually canceled with rain in the forecast or afternoon or especially overnight wind forecasts of over 12-15 knots the day/night of the event
- * If cancelation is a possibility – coordinate the decision with the Cruise Director

Day of To Do

- * Good idea about an hour before the raft up do a general announcement on VHF 16 (directing members to 69) then 69 stating the time and location of the raft up and reminding skippers to radio the cruise skipper as you approach the raft-up for final anchoring and location instructions
- * At the appointed time of the raft-up announce again on 16 switching to 69

Day of To Do

- * Cruise skipper should set anchors about 30 minutes before the appointed time of the raft-up to be prepared for arrivals
- * Given normal wind patterns unless the forecast is clearly different, set up North/South, with a bow and stern as necessary to have your boat aligned North/South as boats come in to form the raft-up

Setting Up the Raft Up/Anchoring

- * As boats come in, be on the radio(hand held best so you are on deck) directing them generally to the below normal sets
 - * Large boats with bow anchors towards center of the raft-up
 - * Smaller boats on edges
 - * Boats who will be leaving that evening or early in the AM on the outer edges

Setting Up the Raft Up/Anchoring

- * Alternate bow and stern anchors so you have approximately even numbers of bow and stern
- * Lunch, daytime, or Sunday Sail raft-ups require less anchors
- * Large raft-ups are facilitated by members with dinghies who can help set anchors

Overnight

- * Check for updated weather before you turn in especially overnight wind forecasts, direction and velocity
- * Check for slack halyards and remind skippers to secure halyards, anchor lights on
- * Set an anchor alarm (lots of apps on smart phones)
- * If overnight forecast are for winds of 10 knots or more it would be a good idea to keep one eye open, and stick your head out of your hatch if winds pick up significantly
- * Check to see the raft-up flotilla hasn't swung or started dragging anchors
- * This has rarely happened but if unexpected high wind conditions happen it may require all hands on deck
- * Most often, overnight conditions are less than 10 knots shifting to out of the north and it is a quiet night unless a front is coming through.

Sunday Morning

- * Usually folks have made their own plans for breakfast
- * Early risers put on coffee and usually share coffee and sometimes breakfast items with others
- * Some folks leave early, the raft-up usually breaks up around 10 am
- * Often there is good wind and some boats will want to get out sailing early as it often lays down by 9-10 am

Breaking Up the Raft-up

- * Boats will leave at different times, the early departures should have been on the edges of raft-up for easy departure
- * There is little to do here as most of our members are experienced sailors and know how to release lines and move away from the raft-up retrieving their anchors
- * Check on new members and inexperienced sailors who may need some help or instruction
- * Cruise skipper should stick around to assure everyone is on their way and all anchors are up lending assistance as necessary

Post Raft Up

- * Write up a short article and send to the Newsletter Editor
- * Include:
 - * Who was there – boat names/participants
 - * What happened, results of themed events or just what went on
 - * Make it newsy and fun