



CRUISING SAILORS OF ST. MICHAELS GUIDELINES, CUSTOMS, AND TRADITIONS

The Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels (CSSM) is a group of sailors who enjoy the company of others while cruising on the Chesapeake Bay. A secondary purpose is fellowship and fun.

These Guidelines are based on our experience and are intended to make our cruises on water and land an organized, safe, and enjoyable experience.

A. CSSM Cruising

We primarily engage in sailing cruises through the sailing season from early Spring to the late Autumn. Our cruises are primarily focused on the myriad creeks, rivers, and bays and destinations in the Chesapeake Bay Area, but occasionally venture further from our home ports. Cruises are at least one night, either at anchorages or in marinas, depending on the Cruise Captain's plan. We also enjoy a variety of "Land Cruises."

B. Membership

1. CSSM consists of Active Members, Sustaining Members, and Prospective Members.
2. Active Members
 - a. Must have a sailboat located in Talbot County or an adjacent county to allow them to easily join cruises and other activities.
 - b. Must have signed a Release of Liability form.
 - c. Have fully participated as active Prospective Members and have joined the club.
 - d. Are encouraged to lead a cruise at least once every two years.
 - e. Are encouraged to participate in cruises with at least four (4) overnight stays each year.
 - f. Pay annual dues as determined by the membership.
3. Sustaining Members are those Active Members who no longer regularly participate in the group's cruising activities on the water.
 - a. Are encouraged to lead a Land Cruise or organize the Picnic or Annual Dinner.
 - b. Pay annual dues as determined by the membership.
4. Prospective Members are those who wish to join CSSM as an Active Member and:
 - a. Are sponsored by an Active Member.
 - b. Have completed an application for membership and signed a Release of Liability form.

- c. Join CSSM cruises with a sponsor on at least three (3) occasions, with six (6) overnights within two (2) consecutive years before becoming active members.
 - d. Will receive a CSSM Burgee upon meeting the cruise requirements and paying dues for that year.
- 5. Members of other Sailing Clubs or other guests who are invited by a member are welcomed to join us on sailing cruises after signing a Release of Liability form. They are also welcome to participate in Land Cruises.

C. CSSM Leadership Roles

- 1. Commodore
 - a. Normally serves for a two-year term.
 - b. Acts as the overall leader.
 - c. Organizes and leads the annual Business Meeting and an annual Cruise Planning Meeting.
 - d. Interprets the Guidelines and makes exceptions as necessary in conjunction with the Board and/or membership.
 - e. Calls a meeting of the CSSM Membership as necessary to vote on changes to the Guidelines or for other purposes.
- 2. Treasurer
 - a. Normally serves for a two-year term.
 - b. Manages the CSSM checking account, dues, and any club expenses.
 - c. Issues an annual Treasurer's Report for the Annual Business Meeting.
 - d. Maintains an inventory of burgees and other club items.
- 3. Secretary
 - a. Normally serves for a two-year term
 - b. Records and issues Minutes of the annual Business and Cruise Planning meetings.
 - c. Records and issues to the CSSM Active and Sustaining members the membership lists with other relevant information such as boat identification.
 - d. Compiles and reports boat-night cruise information.
 - e. Maintains the records of CSSM including membership applications and Release of Liability forms.
 - f. In any voting situation, confirms that there is a quorum of 50% of "Dues Paying Memberships" represented.
- 4. CSSM Board – the Board consists of the Commodore, Treasurer, Secretary, and the most recent past two commodores. The Board will meet if necessary to resolve organizational or Guideline questions or issues, and also to determine awards. The immediate past commodore will take the lead on recommending a slate officers for the next year.

5. Other Key Roles

- a. Cruise Captain – is the organizer and leader of a cruise. Issues Cruise Plan and all other communications regarding an upcoming cruise. Follows the guidance of the Cruise Checklist. Is encouraged to write a cruise report after the cruise and sending it to all Active and Sustaining Members.
- b. Sponsors - act as the primary contact for Prospective Members to CCSM. Provide all relevant information relating to club events, and accompany them to all events or provide another Member to act as substitute sponsor.
- c. Volunteers – are needed for leading/organizing the Summer Picnic, Annual Dinner, and Land Cruises.

D. Customs and Traditions

1. To have an Annual Membership Meeting in November led by the Commodore to review club business and membership and to vote on next year's officers
2. To have an Annual Awards Dinner in December or January. The purpose is to celebrate the past sailing season and any memorable events, and to install new officers. If possible, CCSM funds will be used to pay for any venue expenses, and each participant will pay their own food and drink expenses. The Annual Dinner will be held only when there is a volunteer to take the lead.
3. To have a Spring Cruise Planning Meeting lead by the Commodore to create a summary plan of cruises for the upcoming season. The Cruise Captain for each proposed cruise will complete and submit a Cruise Planning form to help communicate dates and destinations for each cruise. Overlapping cruises should be avoided.
4. "Impromptu Cruises" may be announced during the sailing season with a two (2) day lead time recommended. These cruises will be communicated to all Active Members, as well as Sustaining Members if a Land Cruise event is included. These cruises should not normally overlap planned cruises.
5. To have a Summer Picnic at a location convenient for most members, preferably at a member's home. Each participant brings their own beverage, may be asked to contribute a nominal fee to help cover expenses, as well as contribute food to share. The picnic will be held only when there is a volunteer to take the lead.
6. Separate "Land Cruises" are encouraged as well. These are drive-to destinations to provide a chance to visit a new topic of interest and/or to just socialize. These may be led by an Active Member or Sustaining Member. Land Cruises are open to all members.
7. All previous Honorary Members are now included as Sustaining Members. Former Honorary Members at the time of adoption of these new guidelines will continue to not be required to pay dues.