



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

The purpose of the Cruising Sailors of St. Michaels (CSSM) is to have the benefit of sailing in the company of others, rather than alone, and thus provide added safety and incentive for cruising. A secondary purpose is fun and fellowship.

For these reasons, the rules are limited to Guidelines resulting from experience. These Guidelines will be interpreted by the Commodore and exceptions made as necessary. Changes to them will derive from a Membership Meeting called by the Commodore.

A. Board Membership: The Board will consist of the currently elected officers, the Cruise Captains for the current sailing year, and the immediate past two Commodores. All Board Members must be active CSSM Members.

B. Customs and Traditions:

1. To have an Annual Dinner Meeting in January during which new officers are installed. Guests are welcome.
2. To have as a goal:
 - a. At least one cruise a month - May through October.
 - b. Two shakedown, overnight, cruises in April - one on the Miles and one on the Choptank.
 - c. Two frostbite, overnight, cruises at the end of the sailing season - one on the Miles and one on the Choptank.

A "Cruise" consists of one or more overnights with two or more member sailboats in at least one harbor that is not the "home port" of the "Cruise Captain."

3. To have the Commodore meet, prior to the sailing season, with volunteer Cruise Captains, to plan the cruise schedule for the year. "Impromptu Cruise may be planned and allowed throughout the year if announced via email to the membership at least one day prior to the start of the cruise and so long it does not conflict/overlap with an already planned/impromptu CSSM cruise anywhere on the Chesapeake Bay. The individual proposing the Impromptu Cruise would assume the responsibilities of "Cruise Captain" for this cruise.
4. To have only one Cruise Captain for a cruise but allow multiple Cruise Captains for cruises longer than six (6) nights.
5. To have the Cruise Captain submit a Cruise Report to the Members.
6. To have the Commodore host a picnic in late summer of each year.
7. To have an Annual Membership Meeting in November to review club business and membership and to vote on next year's officers.
8. In any voting situation, only Active and Honorary Members may vote, with each boat represented having one vote. A quorum will be voting members equal to 50% of the Active Member boats.

C. Active Membership Qualifications:

1. Have a sailboat in Talbot County or an adjacent county.
2. Agree to abide by the Guidelines.

D. Membership Procedure:

1. Any Active Member may invite a guest sailboat to join a cruise.
2. Active Members may invite only one guest boat per cruise and must inform the Cruise Captain as early as possible.
3. A guest boat must be accompanied by an Active Member's boat at all times.
4. Any guest, desiring to become a member of CSSM, will complete an application for membership, as well as a Waiver of Liability, and forward it to their Sponsor.
5. If a guest boat qualifies for membership (paragraph C above), and participates in any cruises for a total of six (6) nights in a single year or two (2) consecutive years, then his/her Sponsor must endorse the application before forwarding it to the Commodore, recommending that the guest be admitted to CSSM. The Commodore then approves/disapproves the recommendation.
6. The entry year will be the date admitted to membership.



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7. Dues are payable for the entire year and are not prorated.
8. If there are no openings available at the time of application, the Prospective Member will be placed on a Waiting List.
9. Waiting List order is based on the date of receipt of the recommendation.
10. Waiting List Applicants will receive all Club correspondence.

E. Privileges and Obligations:

1. Members will receive all details of planned cruises, reports of completed cruises, and notice of all business and social events.
2. Annual dues will be paid.

F. Recognition Signal:

1. The Club burgee will be flown from the starboard spreader.
2. Cruise Captains will be signified by flying a "Fleet Captain" flag from the starboard spreader.

G. Active Members:

1. Not to exceed 25 boats. Honorary Members are not included in the boat count.
2. Must pay annual dues.
3. Strive to lead a cruise every two years.
4. Participate in any cruises, in one's own boat, for a total of four (4) nights every year.
5. Nights on a cruise are counted if a Member Boat is in the same anchorage as the Cruise Captain.
6. The Cruise Captain may make exceptions, and count boats not in the same anchorage, if special arrangements are made because of weather or crowding.
7. Other exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Commodore.

H. Honorary Members:

1. Active Members with 15 years of cruising with CSSM will be designated Honorary Members.
2. The requirements for four (4) nights on any cruises, and payment of dues, are waived.
3. Other Active Member privileges apply.

I. Sustaining Members:

1. Members:
 - a. Active Members without sailboats but with three (3) years or more of cruising with CSSM may retain a social membership as Sustaining Members.
 - b. Active Members with sailboats may request an exception to become a Sustaining Member for medical or other extenuating reasons. Such requests must be approved by a majority vote of the officers. Such members may participate in CSSM cruises.
2. At the discretion of the Cruise Captain, Sustaining Members with powerboats may participate in a cruise.
3. Are expected to volunteer to support the club's activities through time and service and may participate in all social functions.
4. Pay annual dues.

J. Change of Membership Status:

1. A written request must be submitted to the Commodore and approved by a majority vote of the Officers for any change in membership status.
2. A written appeal to the Commodore, prior to the Annual Membership Meeting, must be made for membership continuation if a Member has insufficient nights or cruises in a sailing season to remain qualified. Approval of the request will be based on a majority vote of the Officers.
3. Any change made to the guidelines with respect to membership qualifications cannot change the membership status of the then current members as of the date of change. (Grandfather Clause)



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K. Officers and Duties:

1. Commodore:
 - a. Interprets the Guidelines in such a way that a viable Membership Roster is maintained.
 - b. Calls and chairs the Annual Membership Meeting and such other Member and Board Meetings as he/she deems appropriate.
 - c. Chairs the Annual Member Dinner Meeting until his/her successor is installed.
 - d. Appoints the most recent past Commodore to form a Nominating Committee of three (3), to select a slate of officers for the next year. This is presented at the Annual Membership Meeting to be voted upon by the Members.
 - e. Makes arrangements for the Annual Picnic for which the Treasurer pays reasonable expenses from the Club treasury.
 - f. Conducts the Cruise Planning Meeting.
 - g. Maintains custody of the "Fleet Captain" flag when unused.
2. Vice Commodore:
 - a. Performs the duties of Commodore when the Commodore is unable to do so.
 - b. Plans and manages the Annual Member Dinner Meeting and Awards Program.
3. Secretary:
 - a. Maintains and distributes the Membership Roster and coordinates all correspondence with all Members.
 - b. Compiles boat night cruise information.
 - c. Sends New Members, and applicants on the Waiting List, copies of the Guidelines, Membership Roster and any other pertinent information.
 - d. Records all meetings of the Board and Membership Meetings.
 - e. Maintains all records of CSSM, including the Release of Liability documents.
4. Treasurer:
 - a. Maintains the financial records of the Club.
 - b. Maintains all inventory for sale such as T-shirts, burgees, etc.
 - c. Purchases burgees for the Past Commodore and New Members.

L. Term of Office: Club officers are installed, at the Annual Member Dinner Meeting, for a term of one (1) year.

M. Cruise Captain:

1. Plans all aspects of the cruise.
2. Provides the Secretary, and membership, with the Cruise Plan, and upon completion of the cruise, with a report to include nights participated by each boat.
3. Flies the "Fleet Captain" flag from the starboard spreader throughout the cruise.
4. Keeps Cruise Participants informed of any changes in published plans.
5. Rules on exceptions to Cruise Plans because of weather or crowding.
6. Approves/disapproves participation of any guest boat and Sustaining Members with power boats.
7. Conducts a Captain's Call each morning.
8. May host a Captain's Party during the cruise, providing glasses or cups, napkins and ice. The Cruise Captain may ask other boats to raft for additional seating purposes.
9. Accounts for all Members on the cruise.
10. Participates in Board Meetings.

N. Cruise Participants:

1. Advise the Cruise Captain of planned participation, including guests on board and guest boats, at the earliest date possible.
2. Defer to the Cruise Captain for all decisions affecting the conduct of the cruise.
3. Keep the Cruise Captain informed of any change of plans.

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4. Late arrivals should swing by the Cruise Captain's boat to advise of their presence.
5. Are responsible for their guests.
 - a. Arrange for participation.
 - b. Accompany guests at all times.
 - c. Introduce them to the fleet.
 - d. "Hand them off" to another member for all, or part, of the cruise, provided the substitute performs all of the same functions.
6. Rafting is optional.
7. Rafts always break up for the night unless plans to the contrary are made in advance.
8. Provide their own drinks and a snack to share at the Cruise Captain's Party. Attendance is optional.
9. May fly a "Cocktail Flag" when they desire to hold a party open to all Cruise Participants. Those attending should provide their own drinks, glasses or cups, ice, and a snack to share.
10. Cruise Participants bear total responsibility for their boats and all aboard.

O. Sea Manners:

1. Follow the "Rules of the Road" and stand by any boat in difficulty and see that it is assisted in whatever way is necessary.
2. Anchor carefully, allowing for safety and the privacy of neighboring boats.
3. Use common courtesy in all relationships on the water.

P. Release of Liability: All Members, current and future, and guests, will execute and send to the Secretary, a Release of Liability Form.