

Guidance for Cruise and Raft Up Captains

General. The Cruise Captain is aboard the flagship of the fleet during a Raft-up, Cruise or Rendezvous. He or she is in charge of everything associated with the event. It begins with the planning and ends with a report to the Portlight Editor. Being Cruise Captain should not be a daunting task; in fact, it should be fun. So advice and support should be sought from the Officers and/or other experienced NSHSA members.

PLANNING. The Cruise/Raft-up Captain is responsible to:

- Select a theme for the event,
- Determine the location and time of the event,
- Define the requirements for the event; e.g., costumes, decorations,
- Solicit specific support for the event, including a photographer,
- If club funds are needed for the event, contact the Commodore and Purser,
- Develop and distribute the flyer announcing the event.
- Contact those members who committed to be there in the event of a last minute change of venue.



ORGANIZATION. The Captain should be first to arrive at the site.

- For anchorages, choose the location considering bottom, depth, weather, other boats, etc.
- Put down an adequate anchor with a little excessive scope, based on raft size, swing room.
- For dockage, determine all the slip locations for the expected fleet.
- Monitor VHF 78 throughout the event to direct members as they arrive and control the raft.
- Organize and instruct the support crews to assist in building the raft or docking arriving boats. There are typically many volunteers for this effort.
- Balance the raft, considering boat length and displacement, on the anchored boat(s).
- Seek advice, if necessary. Involve the skippers of the boats to be rafted together.

JOINING VESSELS. Skippers of vessels joining the raft are responsible to:

- Communicate with the Cruise/Raft Captain on VHF 78,
- Provide 2 adequate sized docklines, fore and aft,
- Provide 2 adequate sized fenders,
- Provide 1 or more adequate sized spring lines (to keep spreaders apart).



RAFT INTEGRITY. Cruise/Raft up Captain is responsible for raft integrity and safety.

- Monitor wind and weather conditions.
- Monitor raft size, balance, ground tackle holding, swing room, general sense of stability.
- Determine if the raft needs to break up; direct the break up.

EVENT HOST. The Captain is the Host and Master of Ceremonies. He or she directs the operations.

DISSOLUTION. Cruise/Raft-up Captain is responsible to:

- Oversea the dissolution of the raft after completion of the event or earlier,
- Support the departure of the fleet from the dock area, as necessary,
- Monitor VHF 78 to graciously and humbly respond to any plaudits you may receive.

POST MORTEM. After the Cruise/Raft-up, the Captain must:

- Provide a written report to the Editor of the Portlight. As a minimum, identify all the participants. Submit not later than two weeks following the event.
- Ensure any photos are supplied to the Editor of the Portlight and the Historian.
- Submit any information to the NSHSA Webmaster for inclusion on the Home Page.