

Getting Started in the Ocala Boat Club

OBC General Meetings: The OBC general meeting is on the third Monday of the month at 6:45 pm. The meeting includes a discussion of club business, cruises, social activities and presentation on a topic of interest by a guest speaker. A potluck dinner is served prior to the meeting. Members contribute by bringing an entree, salad, vegetable, appetizer or desert to serve 8 or more. There is a social hour prior to the meeting with doors opening at about 6:00 pm. Beer and wine are available for a \$1.00 donation.

Orientation Packet: The Membership Committee Chair or Commodore introduces all new members at a membership meeting after their Board approval. Members then receive an orientation packet to help them get started with the Ocala Boat Club. This packet is a great resource for new members. It contains the activity schedule, a membership roster and information about boating and boating safety. It also contains maps, boating tips, restaurant list, mileage list, and information on flora and fauna. If you have not yet received the orientation packet, contact the Membership Committee Chair.

Club Communications: The Helmsman is the club newsletter. It includes information on the next two months of cruises and activities, information and pictures from recent club activities and the next guest speaker. Important club documents such as the Helmsman, membership rosters and Club Bylaws are distributed by email.

Cruises and Activities: The Cruise Master prepares a list of OBC cruises and activities twice a year. Each Helmsman includes a two-month list of cruises and activities. Members may print a six-month list of scheduled activities from the club website ocalaboatclub.org. Be aware that the six-month list is a dynamic document cruises can be added, deleted or cruises details may change.

The **Cruise Master** will review upcoming cruises and activities at each OBC General Meeting. *Sign-up sheets* with trip details are on the clipboards on the tables at the front of the meeting room. Be sure to sign up for all cruises and activities that interest you. Doing so ensures you receive information on cruise details or changes. The Cruise Master or cruise leader (a.k.a. Cruise Captain) will confirm your participation and contact participants of changes or cancellations when required.

Committees and Special Interest Groups. Members are encouraged to make the most of their OBC membership by joining one or more club committees or special interest groups. It is in these smaller group settings that you best come to know your fellow boat club members. Committees are membership, communications, history, programs and entertainment, safety, kitchen and building, grounds and rentals. The Club currently has two special interest groups fishing and kayaking.

Members can obtain more information on the committees and special interest groups by talking to the Commodore, committee chair or any Club Officer or Board Member. The names of current and Club Officers and Board Members and their phone numbers is in each Helmsman. All members are encouraged to Consider joining a committee or special interest group.

Kitchen Duty. Members are encouraged to sign up for Kitchen Duty each year. Four to six volunteers are needed to serve at each meeting. The Kitchen chair sends a reminder letter to all volunteers with kitchen duty instructions before the meeting. Kitchen duty instructions and needed keys are in the floor-to-ceiling cabinet.

Member Benefits. The primary benefit of joining the Ocala Boat Club is having the opportunity to enjoy central Florida waterways with a great group of people. Whether you are new to the area, new to boating or an experienced captain you will have the opportunity to learn or to share information about safe boating on central Florida's many rivers and lakes. We travel as a group so there is always someone to help if you have a problem along the way.

Another benefit is that members may rent the Boat Club for private affairs at a reduced rate.

Board Meetings. Board meetings are on the first Monday each month at 6:30 pm at the Boat Club. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings and to participate in discussion. This is a business meeting. Water and sodas are available but no meal or other refreshments.

February 6, 2015