

Ocala Boat Club

Cruise Captain Responsibilities

Cruise Captains are responsible for setting up all details of their cruises.

Prior to the cruise: Assess the Weather Conditions prior to the Cruise Date. Make all arrangements, including restaurant reservations (about 2 weeks in advance). For picnics: Remind boaters what they should bring. Contact all who are signed up for a cruise about 2 days before the cruise date to reconfirm those going, then contact the restaurant at that time and give them the final count. Provide directions to the launch ramp and time of departure. Assign a Captain to follow the flotilla with a VHF Marine radio to maintain communication with the Cruise Captain. Inform the Cruise Master as to the status of the trip when all is confirmed. Be sure to carry the restaurant's phone number and contact name on board. All this information should be put onto the sign-up sheet and carried with you.

On the cruise day, at the launch site, brief the boat captains about the particulars of the trip before departing. During the cruise, the Cruise Captain leads the flotilla with the rest of the boats following. The lead boat (Cruise Captain's) and the last boat should have Marine VHF radios turned on, and tuned in to **Channel 68**. Keep in contact by radios and cell phones. These are also used to point out items of interest, sickness, ecological oddities, falling behind, assistance needed, etc. Do not be shy about requesting help, but do not be too "chatty" either.

- **Cruising speed:** 25-30 mph. If this speed cannot be maintained, please request a ride from another Skipper. Keep pontoons in sight. Boats should stay together during the trip in order to lend assistance if required.
- **Safety and readiness:** Prior to departure - have passengers try on life jackets for fit. Keep life jackets out and available along with the life ring or flotation cushion.
- **If weather forces cancellation** of the water cruise and restaurant reservations were made, a land cruise to the restaurant should still take place. If the trip is cancelled before the cruise date, cruise captains should call people who signed up and give them directions to the restaurant or attraction, or form a convoy to the destination.

After the trip: Please give all paperwork, such as sign-up sheets and restaurant information, to the **Cruise Master**. This information will be used to build a file for future trips and outings.

Follow-Up: Please submit a short article about the trip and a picture or two for the Helmsman.

Reminder to all boat captains: Check all oil, fluid and gas levels, plus tire pressure in the trailer tires before leaving home. Remember to bring a trash bag so we can keep our lakes, rivers and the Aquifer clean. Check ramp to ensure there is adequate water for launching.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Chuck Lemon 352-438-3345 or 352-209-2846 (cell) or Molly Lemon 352-209-2846 (cell).