



*Merry Mariners*

## *Purpose and Guidelines*

### **PURPOSE:**

**THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE MERRY MARINERS BOATING CLUB IS: FUN - FRIENDSHIP - OUTREACH - KNOWLEDGE.**

### **FUN:**

**SHARING THE GOOD TIMES INVOLVED WITH BOATING, WATER ACTIVITIES, AND SOCIALIZING.**

### **FRIENDSHIP:**

**PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS WITH PEOPLE OF LIKE INTERESTS.**

### **OUTREACH:**

**A CLUB OF LIMITED MEMBERSHIP THAT IS OPEN TO BOAT OWNERS AND NON-OWNERS ALIKE. ALL HAVING A COMMON INTEREST IN, AND SHARING AN EQUAL VOICE IN PROVIDING A SUPPORT SYSTEM TO THE NEW BOATERS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATERS IN ORDER TO HELP THEM FEEL COMFORTABLE.**

### **KNOWLEDGE:**

**ALL MEMBERS SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IN SAFETY ON THE WATER, AND IN LEARNING, GROWING, AND PRACTICING GOOD SEAMANSHIP.**

# *Guidelines for the Merry Mariners Boat Club*

The Merry Mariners Boating Club (MMBC) will be governed by a Commodore, Vice Commodore, Treasurer, Secretary and Standing committees. The Commodore, with the governing board's approval, will appoint the chairpersons. The chairperson positions are Membership, Telephone, Hospitality, Historian, Destination, and Activities. All duties and responsibilities of the governing board and committees shall be as appended to these guidelines. It is mandated that **SAFETY FIRST** is the Club's **TOP PRIORITY**.

Changes to the Guidelines governing the MMBC will be accomplished through majority approved recommendations from the Governing/Executive Board to MMBC Membership for open or secret voting. Voting members of the Governing/Executive Board consist of the elected officers and chairpersons of the standing committees. Subjects for membership voting require a quorum of 25% membership attendance and a majority approval by said quorum to pass.

## **A. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES REQUIREMENTS**

1. All individuals wishing to become members of Merry Mariners including boat owners, spouses, singles, and non-owners who crew, must take a safe boating course through either the Coast Guard or the Power Squadron.
2. All non-certified members of Merry Mariners must complete the safe boating course within 3 months of joining the MMBC. Boat owners must present a Safe Boating Certificate prior to acting as Skipper on any MMBC boating activity. A copy of the certificate of completion must be presented to the Board, and filed in the Club's archives by the Club Secretary.
3. In recognition of the Club's fundamental "sharing" principle, all boat owners shall agree to take crew members aboard for club boating activities as a condition of membership.
4. Dues for each **new member** are \$30.00 for the **first year**. The dues include magnetic badges and all special events enjoyed by existing members (dinners, picnics, etc). Members joining after Sept of each year, may choose to apply the cost to the following year membership and pay the guest price for the December Party; or go to the party at the member price and renew for the following year. *(Approved 8/07)*
5. After the first year in the MMBC, dues are \$22.00 per person and are **due** and payable at the **December** Planning Meeting. Dues deadline will be the 15th of the following January. Members not paying on or before the January deadline will be dropped from the Club's membership roster and assessed a \$10 "reinstatement fee" if they wish to continue membership. *(Approved 8/07)*
6. Part-time and full-time residents pay yearly dues equally.
7. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

## **B. MEETING LOCATION**

Location of the Planning Meetings of the Merry Mariners is the CAPE CORAL SPORTSMAN CLUB located at **1401 S.E. 47th Street**, unless preempted by other activities.

## C. MEETING SCHEDULE

1. **Planning Meetings** will normally be held the first (1st) Tuesday of every other month: **FEBRUARY - APRIL - JUNE - AUGUST - OCTOBER - DECEMBER**. Meetings may be temporarily changed due to unusual circumstances.
  - a. The Hospitality Chairperson shall designate a panel of Hosts and Hostesses to act as a "Hospitality Committee" to assist in planning and setting up the Planning Meetings.
  - b. ALL members present at the Planning Meetings are to share in the cleaning and closing up duties.
  - c. Food, preferably Pot Luck plus BYOB, to be provided by members as requested by the Telephone Committee.
  - d. The Club will provide ice, cups, paper plates, napkins, plastic tableware, coffee and tea.
  - e. Prospective members may attend one Planning Meeting by paying a cost of \$5.00. If this prospective member joins MMBC at this Planning Meeting, the \$5.00 will be applied to their annual dues.
  - f. Guests attending a Planning Meeting will be charged \$5.00. Guests attending the Christmas Dinner Meeting will pay the full price of dinner.
2. Executive Board meetings will be held at the discretion of the Commodore during the month prior to each Planning/Business Meeting.

## D. BOATING ACTIVITIES

1. Boating activities will be held **Twice** per month. The first trip is usually the **first Wednesday** of each month. The second trip is held the **third week** of each month, with the scheduled day rotating from Monday thru Friday. Refer to the calendar.
  - a. Plans for the Club boating activities will be recommended by appointed Destination Chairperson(s). The Destination Chairperson(s) will present recommendations to the Governing Board for final approval, publication, and distribution to the general membership.
  - b. Boat owners (skippers) will be assigned crewmembers by a random process to ensure the "mix and meet" purpose of the Club is upheld.
  - c. Crew Members may also take a guest(s) as long as their Skipper agrees and the guest(s) may be safely accommodated on board. Member must notify Cruise Destination Chairperson(s) when guests are joining cruise. All rules apply equally to all guests as apply to Merry Mariners.
  - d. On occasion a Skipper may want/need to use a "non-member" boat. Use of a non-member boat may be permitted with the Commodore's prior approval, not to exceed two (2) occurrences per any 12-month period. Such boats must meet the established Merry Mariners Safety and Insurance Requirements.
2. The Club's trips are designed for Boating Flotillas – meeting at a certain Channel marker for the trip. This "safety in numbers" Flotilla provides assistance in the event any boat is disabled – or other assistance is needed.

It is not a requirement that boats stay within the Flotilla grouping. If a Skipper is not comfortable staying within the Flotilla for any reason, they have the freedom to proceed to the assigned location on their own. If the decision is made to do this, the Skipper should notify the other boats of the Flotilla prior to separating from them.
3. As required by the FCC, all skippers should monitor Marine VHF Channel 16. On all Club cruises the "working" VHF channel will be **CH 71**.

All boats used in any Merry Mariner boating activity must have a current Coast Guard **Vessel Safety Check** sticker. To remain current, a **Vessel Safety Check** sticker is required within 90 days of each new year, or upon joining the Club.

*(Added 2/7/06)*

4. Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 all skippers must carry a minimum of \$300,000 watercraft liability insurance on their boat. A current copy of the renewal page or definitions page showing the coverage must be on file with the Club Secretary each year for a skipper to use his/her boat on a club outing. Although not required by the club, skippers should also consider uninsured boaters insurance for their protection.

*(Added 10/03/06)*

5. Liquor will not be consumed, and open liquor bottles are not be allowed on any boat during any Merry Mariner outing. However, consuming a drink during a dinner or lunch outing is OK as long as it is not excessive. Although not required by the club, a skipper always has the right to refuse to take an inebriated crew member on board his/her boat.

*(Added 10/03/06)*

#### **E. CREW RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Sharing of activity expenses will be per the Club's cost schedule published elsewhere. (Ask your Skipper)
2. Follow your Skipper's boat rules - You are a guest and a friend.
3. Be a helpful crewmember - handle lines, fenders, anchor rode, etc.

#### **F. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

1. The Commodore appoints a nominating committee in August, which shall complete selection of a slate of nominees by the end of September. The Commodore will present the nominated slate for voting at the October Planning Meeting. Any Club member may also make nominations from the floor. Voting requires a quorum of at least 25% membership in attendance and a majority approval of said quorum to pass.
2. All nominees should voluntarily accept the nomination.
3. Orientation of the newly elected officers and appointed chairpersons shall occur at an Executive Board meeting held in December.
4. The induction of the newly elected officers and the appointed chairpersons will take place at the December Planning Meeting/Holiday Party. They will then assume their responsibilities/positions starting January 1.

## MMBC OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

(Duties and Responsibilities)

### **Commodore:**

Presides over meetings, coordinates activities and appoints committee chairpersons with consent of Board as needed. Acts as Club spokesperson for all inter-club activities. Becomes familiar with the duties and responsibilities of all officers and chairpersons and ensures the activities of the offices and chairs are consistent with the club's needs. *Email minutes of last Planning Meeting to all members one week prior to next Planning Meeting.*

### **Vice Commodore:**

Presides over meetings, functions and activities in the absence of the Commodore. Oversees and assists with the activities of the Destination Chairperson as needed or requested.

### **Treasurer:**

Collects all dues and fees. Disburses all funds as approved by the Commodore and/or Board. Keeps an account of all money received and disbursed. Prepares a bi-monthly report for presentation at the Planning Meetings. Notifies Membership Chair of dues paid.

### **Secretary:**

Takes and reports minutes of all Club meetings. Records Safe Boating Certificates and maintains certificate checklist. Maintain a list of skippers including copies of their liability insurance and Vessel Safety Check certificate. Send a current list to the Destination Chair(s) so they know if a skipper is current on all Merry Mariner requirements. *Email Board Meeting minutes to all Board members within one week of the Board Meeting.*

### **Destination Chairperson:**

Develops a schedule/plan for the club boating activities for the year. The schedule/plan is presented to the Executive Board for final approval, publication, and distribution to the general membership by the first Planning/Business Meeting of the year. (See "D. Boating Activities" for additional responsibilities.)

### **Safety Education Chairperson:**

Develop a Safety Training program for each Planning Meeting addressing safety issues of interest to club members. This session need not be longer than 15 minutes. Provide a written synopsis of this session to the Historian to be included in the bi-monthly newsletter and to the webmaster to be posted on the Merry Mariner website.

### **Historian:**

Maintains files consisting of photographs taken at any activities and newspaper clippings, letters or cards of historical interest to the Club. Will publish a bi-monthly newsletter for distribution to the membership for months when there is no Planning Meeting or when directed by the Commodore.

### **Telephone Chairperson:**

Appoints a committee to call designated members about food contributions needed for Planning/Business Meetings, or any changes in the functions of the Club as directed by the Commodore.

### **Membership Chairperson:**

- a. Maintains an updated membership list and the waiting list.
- b. Introduces new members and ensures they receive a copy of the Guidelines, the MMBC membership roster, and a welcome letter for new members.
- c. Calls prospective members and answers any questions about the Club.

**Hospitality Chairperson:**

Coordinates all kitchen activities for the Planning Meetings. Maintains and purchases supplies, serve meals, removes food, and cleans the kitchen.

**Activities Chairperson:**

Helps coordinate and schedule non-boating activities such as guest speakers, fund raisers, such as 50/50 Raffle, and community-oriented events.

**Compassionate Service Chairperson:**

Maintains contact with members who are ill or hospitalized; coordinates support services for families experiencing a death. *Sends cards to members for illnesses, loss of family member, etc.*

**Past Commodore:**

May attend, advise, and participate in Executive Board meetings as an ex-officio, non-voting member.