

RPYC Boaters' Guide

Welcome to the RPYC boating community!

Whether or not you own a boat, you can enjoy the many activities offered to RPYC boaters and cruisers. For boat owners, these include lunch cruises, overnight cruises, raft-ups and fleet-ins throughout the year. Non-boat owners may enjoy RPYC camaraderie by driving to the restaurants and yacht clubs visited by cruisers for lunch or dinner; may ride as guests aboard boats participating in the annual Fleet Review Ceremony and Boat Parade, or may join boaters for lunch cruises.

This Boaters' Guide booklet will give you an overview of boating and cruising as a member of RPYC. Topics include:

1. RPYC Cruising Overview
2. Cruise Committee and Boaters Meetings
3. Joining an RPYC-Led Cruise
4. Visiting RPYC by Boat
5. Visiting FCYC Clubs
6. Visiting Marinas and Non-FCYC Yacht Clubs
7. Awards and Recognition
8. Personal Burgees
9. Reference Documents

We look forward to your active participation in the many upcoming cruises and boating events. If you have any questions, please email me at pajohnston@embarqmail.com or call me any time at 239-541-2114.

Best regards,

Phil Johnston
Fleet Captain

1. RPYC CRUISING OVERVIEW

RPYC has the most extensive boating schedule of any club in the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs. Our activities include:

- ***Lunch Cruises***
Lunch Cruises are scheduled for restaurants that can be accessed by boat or (usually) by car. There are numerous interesting destinations throughout our cruising area. Generally, there will be one lunch cruise scheduled per month. Members who attend by boat often have space to take non-boater guests. If you do not have a boat, you may wish to drive or ask the Cruise Leader to match you up with a member who is coming by boat.
- ***Overnight Cruises***
Overnight Cruises may be to a single destination, such as a yacht club, marina or anchorage, or multiple destinations, and may last for two days to several weeks. Generally, single-destination cruises are scheduled for two nights, three days. Most cruises can accommodate both displacement-speed boats (6-8 knots) and fast boats. The distances are usually not great between individual marinas and anchorages, and the slower boats have the option to leave earlier to arrive in time for scheduled events.
- ***Raft-Ups***
Raft-Ups are held in protected waters, usually during months that are cooler and do not require running generators overnight. They feature much boat-to-boat socializing and sharing food and beverages. Water activities may be scheduled during the day.
- ***Fleet-Ins***
Fleet-Ins are held at the RPYC Harbor in conjunction with other RPYC entertainment events, such as during Independence Day Celebration, when fireworks can be viewed from the docks, and the annual Commodores' Ball. Continental breakfasts and other social events during the day are often provided. The swimming pool next door at Harbour Towers is available for all RPYC members who come by boat.
- ***Annual Fleet Review Ceremony and Boat Parade***
The annual ceremony is one of the highlights of the year. Following a ceremony in the RPYC harbor, member boats parade out of the harbor, round upstream and downstream mark boats and pass in review of three anchored boats. These boats have on board the Incoming Flag Officers and Directors, the Outgoing Flag Officers and Directors, and Past Commodores. Hand salutes are exchanged and cannon salutes fired as boats pass in review. All members are encouraged to participate, either by entering their own boat or as a guest aboard a boat in the parade.

The Boating Schedule for the next several months is published monthly in the *Wheelhouse News*. Destinations, dates, names of the Cruise Leaders and required

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deposits are indicated. The most up-to-date schedule may be accessed on the RPYC website at "rpyc.org." Click on the "Cruising Calendar" at the top of the welcome page.

Boating events are led by volunteer Cruise Leaders and Assistant Cruise Leaders. They handle all the planning and arrangements. They ensure that you will have a very enjoyable time socializing, partying and enjoying the great boating and cruising opportunities of Southwest Florida.

First-time cruisers and those who are hesitant to visit other destinations are especially welcome. During a Captains' Meeting prior to each overnight cruise, the Cruise Leaders discuss the events, destinations, navigation instructions, arrangements and any other information that will contribute to a safe, enjoyable cruise. If you encounter problems during the cruise (run aground, engine or generator malfunctions, etc.), your fellow RPYC cruisers are there to assist. Whether it is spare parts, technical knowledge, or just providing a tow, you can count on having help.

We are always looking for volunteers to lead cruises. Each year, there is a Cruise Leader Seminar to train new Cruise Leaders and offer the opportunity for experienced Leaders to brush up on the latest information.

Leading a cruise is fun and rewarding. First-time Leaders receive a lot of support. For overnight cruises, they usually start as Assistant Cruise Leaders, working under the direction of experienced Cruise Leaders. Lunch Cruises are easy to organize and offer ideal opportunities to volunteer as a Cruise Leader for the first time.

2. CRUISE COMMITTEE AND BOATERS' MEETINGS

The Cruise Committee, appointed each year by the Fleet Captain, performs an essential role in ensuring a successful boating season. The 2009-2010 Cruise Committee includes the following members:

Fleet Captain	Phil Johnston
Deputy Fleet Captain	Jim McKinley
Treasurer	Judy Jones

Committee Members

David and Gail Bernstein
Len and Chris Burger
Fred and Debbie Mann
Carlos and Marta Perosio
Ralph and Cathy Sangiovanni
Guy and Dianne Stigall
Len and Liz Zych
Sharon McKinley

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Ann Johnston
Tim Jones

The responsibilities of the Cruise Committee include approving and implementing policies and procedures for boating, approving the calendar of boating events and assisting in the recruiting of Cruise Leaders, participating in conducting the monthly Boaters' Meetings, providing Cruise Leader training and support, participating in planning and conducting the Boaters Award Night and Cruise Leader Recognition Reception, and assisting the Fleet Captain as requested. A member of the Cruise Committee (Jim McKinley for 2010) serves as Master of Ceremonies for the annual Fleet Review.

Boaters' Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Prior to the start of the Boaters' Meeting, there are tables in the back of the room manned by the Leaders of each upcoming event. You may peruse the opportunities for participation, talk with the Leaders, and sign up for those that interest you. During the meeting, Cruise Leaders who led completed cruises are recognized, and Leaders of upcoming cruises each have two minutes to describe their cruise. Attendance awards are presented at each meeting, and other awards are presented quarterly. A raffle is conducted to raise funds for Cruise Leader awards and recognition. Boaters arrive early to socialize and sign up for boating events prior to the start of the meeting. Meetings are usually adjourned by 6:45 p.m. in time for the delicious Buffet following the meeting each month. (Shorts are acceptable in the Dining Room this night only.)

The expenses of the RPYC Boaters' Meetings, boating awards and recognition, and the annual Fleet Review are borne by the Cruise Committee. No RPYC funds are budgeted. The Cruise Committee funds these activities by conducting the raffle at each meeting and assessing a \$10.00 contribution per boat for each participant in raft-ups, fleet-ins and overnight cruises. There is no contribution by participants in lunch cruises. The annual budget is distributed at the October Boaters' Meeting, and is available any time upon request to the Treasurer or Fleet Captain. Monthly financial summaries are distributed at Boaters' Meetings and provided to the RPYC Treasurer and Accounting Manager.

3. JOINING AN RPYC-LED CRUISE

Registration

Members may register for a boating event in person at a Boaters' Meeting or by mail, on or after the Opening Date as published in the *Wheelhouse News* or posted on the RPYC Website. All registrations (except for lunch cruises) require a completed Boat and Crew Information Form and a deposit check made out to the Cruise Leader for the registration to be valid. The Cruise Leader uses the Boat Information Form to plan for slips and cruise activities. For mail registrations, the Boat Information Sheet may be

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downloaded and printed from the RPYC Website (click on "Cruising Calendar," then "Boating Event Registration by Mail Form").

Only RPYC members may register for a cruise, although non-members or other members may join you as guests aboard your boat. Additional deposits may be required for guests.

See the "Cruising and Boating Event Registration Policies and Procedures," and "Cruise and Boating Financial Policies," included in the Reference Documents for a complete description. The policies are also available on the RPYC Website.

Captains' Meeting

Prior to the cruise, often after a Boaters' Meeting, the Cruise Leader will have a short meeting with the registered cruisers to brief the participants concerning the cruise. Navigation, communication and other topics are covered. The Cruise Leader will also distribute a cruise booklet with relevant information such as copies of charts and a list of participants and boat names. Occasionally the information will be emailed to participants instead.

Participating on the Cruise

All RPYC boaters should be familiar with the RPYC "Cruising Customs and Guidelines." A copy is included in the Reference Documents. Safety and courtesy while afloat are emphasized. We want RPYC boaters to set a good example while cruising, such as controlling wakes while passing other boats, proper use of VHF radio, securing docking lines prior to docking, etc. Rafting Etiquette and Lock and Bridge Guidelines are also included in the Reference Documents section.

All reservations, arrangements and marina gratuities will be handled by the Cruise Leader. Participants are responsible for gratuities for dinners and other events not paid by the Cruise Leader out of the cruise deposit. At the end of a cruise, Cruise Leaders appreciate a note of thanks for their efforts.

Financial Policies

The Cruise Leader will provide each participant with a financial summary following completion of the cruise. A copy of the Cruise and Boating Financial Policies, included in the Reference Documents, covers deposit and refund policies.

4. VISITING RPYC BY BOAT

All members are encouraged to visit RPYC by boat, whether just for lunch or to stay overnight. Members receive three free nights' dockage per month; subsequent nights are charged at a rate of \$.50 per foot. Electric service is billed separately for each night's stay. All prices are plus tax. There are no charges for lunch visits.

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Please call the Club for reservations at 239-334-2176 or contact the Dockmaster, Jim Townsend or his assistants on VHF channel 16. Gratuities are expected and are at the discretion of the member. \$5.00 or more is customary. Please note that gratuities given directly to a member of the Club staff are permissible only for the Dockmaster and his staff.

The pool at Harbour Towers next door to the Clubhouse (not the pool closest to the river) is available to members who arrive by boat. A Boaters' Shower and Restroom are also available in the RPYC clubhouse. The Dockmaster or his assistants will provide access.

5. VISITING FCYC CLUBS

One of the significant benefits of being a member of RPYC is our membership in the Florida Council of Yacht Clubs (FCYC). There are currently 37 clubs in the Council, and more may be added in the future. RPYC is one of the thirteen original founders of FCYC.

FCYC publishes the *Guide to the Clubs by Land and Water*, available in our Ship Shop for \$20.00. It is updated every two years; the Fifteenth Edition is now available. The guide gives directions for boat and car arrival, and includes information on each club, such as telephone numbers for reservations, reciprocity and dress codes, types of services it offers, and the hours of operation. It is always advisable to verify the hours of operation and dress codes at the time you call for reservations.

Advance reservations are required for all dining and marina accommodations. You usually will be asked for your RPYC Club membership number when you make reservations, and often will be asked to show your membership card upon arrival at the marina or dining room. All charges will be billed back to your RPYC account. It is not permissible to give any employee of the club a cash gratuity (other than the Dockmaster and his assistants and for valet parking), although some clubs allow you to vary the gratuity on the charge slip. The customary gratuity for the marina is in the range of \$5.00 to \$10.00, although \$10.00 is recommended.

Each FCYC club is required to have a minimum of three slips that will accommodate a minimum boat length of 37 feet. Most clubs can accommodate more than three transient FCYC boats and significantly greater lengths. Therefore, if your boat length is greater than 37 feet, you may not be able to make reservations at certain clubs. Slips are reserved first-come, first-served, so it is advisable to make your reservation as far in advance as possible. Sometimes no slips are available because they have scheduled a cruise from another club. The first night's dockage is free, except for the electrical charge, and subsequent nights will be billed at the FCYC rate which is significantly less than commercial rates. The number of nights for your current stay and the number of

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times you can arrive within a month may be limited, so check their policies when you call.

Several FCYC clubs will provide navigation instructions (“local knowledge”). If you will arrive by boat, always ask whether there are any special instructions. An example is Sarasota Yacht Club which will provide instructions for navigating Big Sarasota Pass.

Remember that you are a guest, and each club offers us reciprocity at its discretion. Reciprocity is not guaranteed. It is your responsibility to ensure that you and your guests follow their policies, such as no cell phone usage within their buildings and observing dress codes.

If you have problems with service or any member of the FCYC club's staff, do not complain to their employees or management. Contact the RPYC's Commodore or FCYC Director for resolution. It is very important to maintain good relations with sister clubs.

6. VISITING MARINAS AND OTHER NON-FCYC YACHT CLUBS

Often other yacht clubs will grant reciprocal privileges. They will require you to pay by credit card, rather than billing your RPYC account. Customary gratuities for other yacht clubs and marinas are in the range of \$5.00 to \$10.00.

7. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

RPYC is very grateful that members volunteer their time to make the RPYC experience so enjoyable for everyone. For boating, we are particularly indebted to Cruise Leaders and their Assistants, without whom there would be no boating activities. To recognize and encourage contributions to our boating activities, the following Awards and Recognition are given:

At each Boaters' Meeting, Cruise Leaders and Assistant Cruise Leaders of each completed cruise are recognized and the Cruise Leaders given a gift as a token of our appreciation. To encourage attendance at the Boaters' Meetings, each person who attends a meeting is encouraged to write his or her name on a slip of paper. Names are drawn at the next meeting for lunch for two at a local restaurant or other prizes. You must be present to win.

The more formal awards are Boater of the Quarter/Year and FCYC Cruiser of the Quarter/Year, and are calculated as follows:

RPYC's Boater of the Quarter/Year Award points

Attend Monthly Boaters' Meeting

10 points per meeting

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Lead a Cruise (Leader and Assistant Leader)	10 points plus 3 points each Overnight (maximum of 50 points per cruise)
First time Cruise Leader	20 bonus points
Participate in a cruise	1 point each overnight
Participate in a Luncheon Cruise	1 point, by boat or car
Attend cruise dinner away from RPYC	1 point
Attend a Fleet-In	1 point each overnight
Attend Cruise Leader Seminar	20 points
Drive Boat in Fleet Review Parade	10 points
Complete Coast Guard Courtesy Inspection	5 points per boat per year

RPYC's FCYC Cruiser of the Quarter/Year Award Points

Points:

- 5 points per FCYC club visited by boat
- 1 point per FCYC club visited by car or other means for lunch or dinner

Rules:

- Points will be awarded for one visit to each club per quarter (the same club may be visited and points awarded during other quarters)
- Visits should be recorded on an FCYC Cruising Log form and a copy submitted to the RPYC Fleet Captain at the end of each quarter.
- Log forms need not be signed by a representative from the FCYC club (honor system).
- If an FCYC club cannot accommodate a cruiser because the FCYC marina is full or the boat is too large, and the cruiser stays in a nearby marina, credit (points) for visiting the FCYC club will be given.

Awards

- The cruiser who accumulates the most points wins.
- Ties will be broken by mileage (sum of the total distance between RPYC and the clubs visited)

Florida Council of Yacht Club Awards

The Florida Council of Yacht Clubs also grants two Cruiser of the Year awards to FCYC members who either visit the most clubs or who travel the most miles visiting FCYC Clubs. The awards are duplicated for the east and west coast members. Unlike RPYC's awards which cover the watch year from October 1 to September 30, the FCYC awards are for the calendar year. The rules are incorporated in the FCYC Cruising Log which is required for documentation of club visits, a copy of which is included in the Reference Documents. Help us uphold our reputation as "the cruisingest club in the Council"!

8. PERSONAL BURGEES

Having personal burgees has become an RPYC tradition. On vessels these are known as “owner’s burgees” or “private signals” and are flown from the starboard spreader or starboard antenna. The burgees are displayed in the clubhouse, and plaques identify the member(s) along with the name of their vessel.

A personal burgee typically depicts some aspect of the owner’s life or occupation that is unique to the owner. It can also depict, in some way, a pictorial representation of the boat name. There are numerous examples. The burgees displayed in the clubhouse have specific dimensions so that they are identical as far as size and style. The RPYC office has instructions specifying the dimensions that can be utilized to sketch a design. Burgees can be double sided or single sided. Single sided burgees lend themselves to relatively simple pictorial designs while double sided burgees are preferred for more elaborate designs embodying script or letters.

A supplier of burgees is available to work with you on your design. The final sketch must be approved by the Burgee Committee, a sub-committee of the House Committee. The RPYC office can provide information on our current supplier.

9. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- a) RPYC Cruising Customs and Guidelines
- b) Cruise and Boating Event Registration Policy and Procedures
- c) Cruise and Boating Financial Policies
- d) Rafting Etiquette
- e) Lock and Bridge Guidelines
- f) Disclaimer
- g) FCYC Cruising Log

NOTE TO CRUISE LEADERS:

Cruise Leaders should include copies of RPYC Cruising Customs and Guidelines and Disclaimer (a.) and e.) (referenced above) as part of the Cruise Booklet given to all participants.

a) CRUISING CUSTOMS AND GUIDELINES

We, the members in good standing of the Royal Palm Yacht Club, pledge to set an example as safe, knowledgeable, competent and courteous boaters whenever and wherever we cruise. Toward this end, adherence to the following Customs and Guidelines is requested:

Planning

- 1) Only those vessels owned or controlled by regular members in good standing of the RPYC, can participate in club sanctioned cruises. Guests are allowed on such vessels, if approved by the Cruise Leader.
- 2) Guest Code of Conduct: Boat captains will be held responsible for the conduct of their guests and their expenses. Guests are expected to attend all scheduled prepaid activities. Should guests be unable to attend activities, they must inform their captain who will notify the Cruise Leaders. Refunds will be made consistent with the Cruise and Boating Financial Policies document.
- 3) Attend all skippers' meetings. Review trip plans, charts, way points, tides, etc. prior to leaving dock. You may be asked to lead or may have to reach a location on your own.
- 4) Prior to cruise embarkation date, you must notify Cruise Leaders if you will be late or plan to leave the cruise early.
- 5) If one or more vessels intend to leave port earlier than the planned time, they must notify the Cruise Leaders.
- 6) Have your vessel serviced and in good safe working condition, with the appropriate spare parts for the length and destination of the cruise. Have all navigation equipment and VHF radios working properly.

Cruising

- 7) Cruisers must give proper respect to the Cruise Leaders' decisions while on the cruise.
- 8) Utilize all possible courtesy when passing another vessel. A large wake can cause injuries and have a negative effect on the reputation of you, your vessel and the Royal Palm Yacht Club. REMEMBER you are legally responsible for any injury or damage caused by your wake.

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- 9) Always monitor VHF Channel 16 and the assigned "working" channel while engines are running. After docking, keep your radio on in order to assist other incoming vessels – until all vessels have arrived.
SPECIAL NOTE: FCC bans excessive "chit-chat" on all channels. None is permitted on Channel 16. While on RPYC cruises, keep your radio on LOW power, since high power can tie up the channel for a 30 mile radius.
- 10) Never follow another vessel too closely, especially into a marina channel or harbor. Leave sufficient room for vessels to maneuver and sufficient time for dock personnel to secure boats. The Cruise Leader or marina personnel may ask you to wait outside the entrance channel until called in to dock.
- 11) When entering a marina/harbor, have all docking lines properly secured to your vessel and ready to deploy. Have fenders and boat hook ready.
- 12) If you will require fuel to continue the cruise, fuel upon arrival or make certain that fuel will be available the next morning substantially in advance of the scheduled departure time.

Docked

- 13) After docking and securing your vessel, be prepared to assist other RPYC vessels prior to connecting power, water lines, cable or washdown.
- 14) If invited to another vessel for drinks, it is RPYC custom to bring your first drink.
- 15) When there is a scheduled cocktail party during a cruise, any private party must cease in time to attend the cruise party.
- 16) Wear your name tags at the direction of the Cruise Leader.
- 17) Cruise Leaders are responsible for tipping the dockmaster and his assistants. They have already budgeted and collected funds prior to the cruise. Do not tip individually.
- 18) While pets are always welcome on RPYC sanctioned cruises, owners must abide by the existing regulations governing pets at host clubs/marinas. This includes, compliance with local leash laws, use of designated pet areas, clean-up and so forth.

Funds, Refunds and Deposits

- 19) Deposits and refunds will be made per the Cruise and Boating Financial Policies document.

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20) You will be asked to give more funds to cover unexpected costs that are more than originally budgeted.

Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you have many safe and enjoyable cruises with the RPYC.

b) CRUISE AND BOATING EVENT REGISTRATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Purpose:

To ensure that all RPYC members have an equal chance to participate in boating events of their choice, the Board of Directors has approved the following standardized registration policies and procedures effective May 8, 2008 and updated July 9, 2009.

Any changes to the Policies and Procedures may be recommended to the Board of Directors who shall have final approval responsibility. The intent is that this Policy will not be changed annually by incoming Fleet Captains/Cruise Committees.

Boating Event Categories:

1. Overnight cruises, including raft-ups.
2. Fleet-ins at RPYC.
3. Day cruises (lunch cruises, raft-ups, etc.).

Registration Policies:

1. Overnight Cruises and Fleet-ins
 - a. The deposit and the Boat and Crew Information Form may be mailed to the Cruise Leader or handed in at a Boaters' Meeting. To be valid, registration must include the completed Boat and Crew Information Form and the specified deposit. Copies of the Boat and Crew Information Form may be requested from the Fleet Captain or Cruise Leader by phone or email and it will be mailed or downloaded to you.
 - b. Checks must be made out to the Cruise Leader.
 - c. In cases where a Cruise Leader is not yet identified in the *Wheelhouse News* and/or on the RPYC Website (list of cruises) in time for the Boaters' Meeting prior to the Selection Date, the Fleet Captain shall receive the deposit check (made out to the Fleet Captain) and completed Boat and Crew Information Form.
2. Day Cruises
 - a. Cruisers may register by completing the registration sheet at the monthly Boaters' Meeting or by emailing the Cruise Leader.
 - b. A deposit will not be required.
3. Opening and Selection Dates for cruises will coincide with the dates of the monthly Boaters' Meetings. A cruise will be open during at least two Boaters' Meetings.
4. The list of cruises, including Opening and Selection Dates and Cruise leaders, shall be published in each issue of the *Wheelhouse News* and on the RPYC

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Website. The Website shall be updated frequently and may have more current information than the *Wheelhouse News*.

Registration Procedures:

1. All cruises will have a defined "Opening Date" for registrations not less than three months prior to the start of the cruise. The Cruise Leader may set an earlier Opening Date if necessary, such as when marinas require longer advance registrations to secure the number of slips required. Opening Dates shall coincide with a Boaters' Meeting.
2. All cruises will have a defined "Selection Date" that shall be set for the next Boaters' Meeting following the "Opening Date." The Selection Date is the Boaters' Meeting at which cruise slots are confirmed.
3. All valid registrations received up to the Selection Date will be assigned places on the cruise. If the registrations exceed the number of available cruise slots, the Fleet Captain and/or Deputy Fleet Captain shall conduct a random drawing to determine who will be accommodated on the cruise and who will be placed on a waiting list. The priority of cruisers on the waiting list will be determined by the order of the draw.
4. Any required drawing will be announced at the Boaters' Meeting and the drawing will be held immediately after the meeting. Interested boaters may stay to witness the drawing. Results will be communicated as the drawing is completed. It shall always be understood that boat slip availability may be boat size dependent and that Cruise Leaders shall use the drawing results but impact cruise slot assignments due to such size limitations.
5. All registrations received after the Selection Date will be added to the waiting list in the chronological order received by the Cruise Leader. If cruise slots are available and no waiting list was established, they will be added to the cruise in the chronological order that they are received.
6. Should cancellations occur or more slips become available, the next name on the waiting list will be notified subject to acceptable boat size by the marina.
7. Within two days after the Selection Date, the Cruise Leader will notify all who registered whether they are confirmed on the cruise or if not, their priority on the waiting list. If a cruiser chooses to withdraw from the waiting list when notified, the deposit will be refunded.

c) CRUISE AND BOATING EVENT DEPOSIT AND REFUND POLICIES

Purpose:

To ensure consistent and fair application of cruise deposits, payments and refunds, the Board of Directors has approved the following standardized policies effective August 14, 2008.

Any changes to the Policies may be recommended to the Board of Directors who shall have final approval responsibility. The intent is that this Policy will not be changed by annually by incoming Fleet Captains/Cruise Committees.

Reference:

"Cruise and Boating Event Registration Policies and Procedures," approved by the Board of Directors effective May 8, 2008: Valid registrations must include the completed Boat and Crew Information Form and the specified deposit.

Deposit Policies:

1. No deposits are required for lunch cruises.
2. The following standard deposits are required for boating events and cruises:

Fleet-ins	\$40
Raft-ups	\$20
Overnight cruises (up to three days)	\$50
Overnight cruises (more than three days)	\$100
3. The Cruise Leader may specify a higher deposit to reflect the actual anticipated cost of the cruise. The difference between the initial deposit and the higher deposit shall be announced at or before the Selection Date (as defined in the above referenced document) and payable within one week after the Selection Date. Should the participant decline to pay the balance, the reservation will be cancelled.
4. The Cruise Leader will determine the additional deposit required for guests aboard a participant's boat. The deposit will include a ten dollar contribution to the Cruise Fund for each RPYC member couple.
5. All deposits must be by check made out to the Cruise Leader.

Refund Policies:

1. Within two days after the Selection Date, the Cruise Leader will notify all who registered whether they are confirmed on the cruise or if not, their priority on the waiting list. If a cruiser chooses to withdraw from the waiting list when notified, the deposit will be refunded (see referenced document).

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2. If a cruise is canceled for any reason (slips become unavailable, weather, etc.), all deposits will be refunded. However, any expenses incurred shall be deducted from the deposit refunds.
3. If participants withdraw from a cruise after the Selection Date for reasons beyond their control (boat breakdown, health issues, etc), their deposit will be refunded. However, any expenses incurred shall be deducted from the deposit refunds. Participants who withdraw by choice will forfeit the ten dollar Cruise Fund contribution, in addition to expenses incurred. If their place on the cruise is filled from the Waiting List or they recruit a replacement, deposits will be refunded in full.
4. Within two weeks after a boating event is complete (or at such date as bills for all expenses are received), the Cruise Leader will refund the excess deposits paid to the boating event participants and provide the participants and the Cruise Committee Treasurer with a financial summary of receipts and expenses. Refunds less than \$5.00 per boat may be donated to the Cruise Fund at the discretion of the Cruise Leader. If expenses exceed deposits, the Cruise leader will request the additional funds from the cruise participants.
5. All refunds of deposits shall be approved by the Fleet Captain to ensure fairness and consistency. The Cruise Committee will be the final arbitrator of any issues.

d) RAFTING ETIQUETTE

The purpose of rafting is to provide opportunity for socializing and having fun with fellow members of Royal Palm Yacht Club. The following guidelines will enhance your enjoyment of this social opportunity:

1. Visit other boats participating in the raft. Circulate and socialize.
2. Offer food and drink to those who are visiting your boat. Those not willing to open their boat to visitors should not join the raft.
3. Wear boat shoes or sneakers for good footing. Do not wear any footwear with dark soles; these could leave marks on white decks. Bare feet may slip on damp decks. Remove shoes when boarding boats if requested.
4. When moving over several boats, it may be easier to walk forward over the deck to transit the boat than to walk through the cockpit.
5. You are expected to bring your own food, drinks and ice for your own consumption and to share with others. During a scheduled "happy hour," hors d'oeuvres and appetizers may be hot, cold, simple or elaborate. Usually sufficient food will be available so that supper afterward is not necessary. Raft-up participants may bring their food and drinks to congregate on and circulate between one or more of the larger boats during the formal happy hour(s). If there is a communal or pot luck meal, bring your own plates, silverware and napkins.
6. It is good practice to have paper plates, napkins, and disposable utensils appropriate to the dish you are contributing.
7. Please make minimal noise before 8:00 a.m. (this includes not running generators before 8:00 a.m.).
8. Please lower the noise level after 10:00 p.m. (this includes not running your generators after 10:00 p.m.), and be quiet after midnight.

Rafting involves tying up to another boat upon arrival at the raft, and tying up another boat to yours as additional boats arrive. The following guidelines will facilitate this process:

1. The coordinator of the raft (Cruise Leader or designated "Raft Master") will arrive first, select the raft's location, and anchor with a bow and usually a stern anchor. Depending on the forecasted wind conditions, other boats may be requested to deploy bow and/or stern anchors. The initial boat will ensure that the scope is appropriate for a heavy pull on the anchor (usually a scope between 7 and 10) and set a secure stern anchor.
2. Before you arrive, pump out your black water (holding) tank(s), fill your water tanks, and charge your batteries.
3. Be certain your VHF radio is on and tuned to the specified working channel.
4. Prior to arriving at the raft, have a bow anchor ready with at least 150 feet of rode (200 feet preferred), and a stern anchor available with at least 100 feet of rode (150 preferred). The stern anchor may be stowed and will be used if requested

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- by the Raft Master. Also have one bow line (25 feet), two spring lines (25 feet each), and one stern line (15 feet) aboard and ready to deploy.
5. As you approach the rafting location, call the "RPYC Raft Master" on the specified working channel (usually VHF channel 78) five minutes prior to your expected arrival to receive instructions. The Raft Master will inform you which side of the raft you will join, which side you should deploy your fenders and prepare your docking lines, and whether you will need to wait for any other boat to complete the rafting process. For everyone's safety, take your time and be prepared to follow the Raft Master's instructions.
 6. Secure a bow, stern, and two spring lines to appropriate cleats and have them ready to toss to the rafted boat upon arrival (lines should be led over the outside of the rail or lifeline and coiled). Deploy fenders at the appropriate height, one forward of amidships, one at amidships, and one near the stern on the side you will be tying up to the rafted boat.
 7. The captain of the boat to which you will raft may also deploy fenders or have them ready in case they are needed, at his option.
 8. People aboard the rafted boats will assist you in tying up to the raft (as you will help others who join after you). If possible, have crew members stationed at the bow, stern and spring lines ready to toss them to the rafted boat as you slowly approach. The Raft Master may provide instructions as you approach.
 9. Always secure your boat with at least four lines: bow, stern, forward spring line, and after spring line. These will hold your boat in place and prevent forward or aft movement. Position fenders and add fenders as appropriate.
 10. If requested by the Raft Master, deploy bow and/or stern anchors. The Raft Master will coordinate; usually the anchor will be moved to the appropriate location by dinghy.
 11. If you intend to stay overnight and join the raft on Saturday, arrive earlier (during the morning); if you do not plan to stay overnight, arrive later (early afternoon). This will facilitate raft planning. Boats staying longer will be near the middle of the raft; those leaving early will be on the outer sides of the raft. If staying over Friday night, arrive prior to 5:00 p.m.
 12. When departing, follow the instructions of the Raft Master.
 13. If you have to leave the raft-up for any reason, rejoining that weekend will be at the discretion of the Cruise Leader/Raft Master.

e) LOCK AND BRIDGE GUIDELINES

During a cruise we may pass through several locks between Ft. Myers and Stuart, Florida. For those who have not experienced this procedure, the following information is for your use:

Locks

The lockmaster controls all movement of vessels through the locks by signaling with traffic lights or horn blasts. Wait for the lockmaster's signal before moving into the lock. The lockmaster monitors VHF channel 13.

- **A flashing red light means DO NOT enter.**
- **A flashing amber light means approach slowly.**
- **A flashing green light means ENTER.**
- **If sound signals are used, one long blast means enter the landward lock, one short blast means leave the landward lock.**

When you enter the lock, be prepared and pay attention to lock attendants' instructions and signals. If your passengers are going to help in mooring, give them directions in handling lines before you reach the locks. Line handlers should wear PFD's. Passengers who are not involved should remain seated.

To avoid accidents, follow these guidelines:

1. Hang boat fenders on sides of the boat before you enter the lock. If there will be boats rafting off of your boat hang fenders on both sides of your vessel.
2. On signal, enter the lock slowly.
3. Lock attendants will pass lines to secure the craft safely to the lock wall. Hold lines or wrap loosely around cleat. **DO NOT** tie lock lines to any boat cleats!
4. Shut off the engines and do not smoke in the locks. (Keep engine running if needed to hold the boat in place).
5. Follow the attendants' instructions for paying out or taking in lines as the water level rises or falls. Be alert at all times; watch the lock doors so you are aware of the water movement.
6. When the process is completed, release the lines on instructions from the lock attendant, wait for the signal to leave and then proceed out of the lock slowly.

Special Notice

The locks that we enter will have existing secured lines for your use. The lockmaster will instruct you as you enter the lock, so be vigilant. We suggest you provide gloves to those on board your vessel who will handle lines. Have one or more boat hooks available.

RPYC Boaters' Guide

For specific data on each lock, please refer to your Waterway Guide Book. It will indicate what side of the lock you usually will pull up to. This will help you prepare fenders as you approach each lock.

Bridges

Bridges monitor VHF channel 9. Call the bridge tender when approaching the bridge and request an opening if it is closed. Many bridge tenders will not respond unless you use the proper name of the bridge. Names can be found on nautical charts. Minimum clearance is also charted and usually indicated on depth boards mounted on the bridge's fenders. Sometimes the minimum clearance at the sides of the span is indicated with a notation that the center has an additional clearance, often three feet.

If you request a bridge opening and you could have cleared the closed span by lowering outriggers or antennas, you could be subject to a heavy fine.

If the bridge opens on a schedule, such as every 20 minutes and on the hour, the bridge tender will inform you of the time of the next opening. If it opens on request, the bridge tender will give you instructions (such as maintain approach speed). Most bridges have idle zones several hundred feet either side of the bridge, so watch your speed. Many bridges require single file transit; if another boat is approaching from the other direction, slow down and wait until it clears.

f) DISCLAIMER

Cruise Leaders are asked to provide the following disclaimer to all participants in cruises:

ROYAL PALM YACHT CLUB

This statement constitutes a legal disclaimer for any and all advice contained in this booklet, conveyed verbally or disseminated by these Cruise Leaders. The old sailor's adage, "Never rely on someone else's charts, advice or direction" is certainly applicable here. You and you alone are the keeper of your soul, sometimes your mate and always your vessel.

The information contained herein might be acceptable. The coordinates may be close but not exact. The courses may be close but not exact. In fact, neither may even be close. Study your own charts and make your own calculations and act accordingly. There are undoubtedly mistakes in the proposed courses and waypoints. There may even be errors. If so, they are unintentional and not deliberate.

Your Cruise Leaders wish you Godspeed, smooth waters and whatever else would be appropriate under the circumstances.

THE FLORIDA COUNCIL OF YACHT CLUBS, INC. CRUISING LOG 20_____



CAPTAIN: _____

YACHT: _____

CLUB: _____

There are two Yachtsman of the Year Awards for each coast, one for owners in their boats visiting the most FCYC Clubs and one for owners in their boats cruising the most miles between FCYC Clubs.

The following rules apply:

- The awards are based on activity during a calendar year, starting on January 1.
- Each participating owner will record applicable cruises in a FCYC Cruising Log obtained from the FCYC website or from his club's Fleet Captain. The dockmaster of the club visited, or his representative, must sign each Cruising Log entry. Club Fleet Captains may obtain Cruising Logs from the FCYC website or the appropriate FCYC Fleet Captain.
- Repeat club visits are not counted for either award, e.g., for the mileage award, a cruise from Club A to Club B may be counted only once per year. However, for a subsequent cruise from Club A to Club C with a stop at Club B, the mileage from Club B to Club C may be counted. In other words, each club may be counted as a destination only once per year. For specific ruling, consult the appropriate FCYC Fleet Captain.
- A visit to a club may be of any duration providing dock lines, an anchor, or a mooring are actually used. If the Club is unable to accommodate the visiting boat due to a lack of space, a stay at a nearby marina is permitted if the Club dockmaster is cognizant and he or his representative signs the Cruising Log.
- Mileage between Clubs will be the statute miles shown in the "Dock-to-dock Distances Between Clubs" section of the current edition of the FCYC Guide to the Clubs By Land and Water.
- Club Fleet Captains will submit annual Cruising Logs to the appropriate Fleet Captain by February 1 of the following year. FCYC Fleet Captains will recommend the Yachtsman of the Year awards to the Executive Committee and the four awards will be presented at the FCYC change of watch in March.
- No owner may receive both awards. If an individual should be entitled to both awards he will receive the award of his choice and the other award will be awarded to the runner-up in the other category.

RPYC Boaters' Guide

<u>To Yacht Club</u>	<u>From Club</u>	<u>Club Validation</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Bird Key Yacht Club				
Bradenton Yacht Club				
Captiva Island Yacht Club				
Carlouel Yacht Club				
Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club				
Clearwater Yacht Club				
Coral Reef Yacht Club				
Coral Ridge Yacht Club				
Davis Island Yacht Club				
Eau Gallie Yacht Club				
Fort Walton Yacht Club				
Halifax Yacht Club				
Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club				
Isles Yacht Club				
Key Biscayne Yacht Club				
Lake Beresford Yacht Club				
Lauderdale Yacht Club				
Marathon Yacht Club				
Marco Island Yacht Club				
Naples Sailing & Yacht Club				
Naples Yacht Club				
Pensacola Yacht Club				
Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club				
Royal Palm Yacht Club				
Sarasota Yacht Club				
Smyrna Yacht Club				
St. Andrews Bay				
St. Charles Yacht Club				
St. Petersburg Yacht Club				
St. Pete Yacht Club at Pass-A-Grille				
Tampa Yacht & Country Club				
Tarpon Springs Yacht Club				
The Field Club				
The Florida Yacht Club				
The Moorings Club				
Treasure Island Yacht Club				
Venice Yacht Club				
Vero Beach Yacht Club				