

## Fleet Manual and Captain of the Week Duties<sup>1</sup>

The Rockport Boat Club's "adult" fleet currently consists of three sailing vessels (two 19-foot Alberg Typhoons, *Rocky* and *Natasha*, a J-24 on loan from members Mike and Carolyn Moore, and two inflatables, *Bullwinkle* and *Boris*.<sup>2</sup> All of the boats are equipped with outboards. The sailing vessels are available for day use (and limited overnight use) by qualified<sup>3</sup> RBC members.

The vessels are stewarded and maintained by volunteer members, led by the Adult Sailing Committee. Merritt Carlton and Corey Stone are the current committee Co-Chairs. During the summer season, volunteer "Captains of the Week" oversee the vessels and assure that they are being kept in safe working order. If you would like to use any of the vessels but haven't already been certified to captain one of them, contact the Co-Chairs ([merrittcarlton41@gmail.com](mailto:merrittcarlton41@gmail.com) or [bcoreystone@gmail.com](mailto:bcoreystone@gmail.com)) and they'll arrange for an orientation sail with you.

### Basic Rules

Here are a few basic rules designed to keep users and their guests safe and to keep the vessels in good working order.

- After using each vessel, leave it in the same good condition as you found it.
- If something isn't working on a vessel, or if you find something damaged, or something becomes damaged while you're using a vessel, or if you have questions about how something works, contact the chairs immediately.
- When using club vessels, PFDs must be worn by all captains and passengers. No alcohol consumption is permitted on club vessels while they are in use.
- The vessels are not equipped with running lights or navigation equipment. Don't use them at night or in fog. Do carry either a working cell phone or a VHF radio (portables are available in the clubhouse) when sailing.
- Use the online reservation tool to reserve sailing vessels and times; there is link for each vessel on the RBC homepage. ALSO, use the sign-out sheet in the clubhouse to indicate your expected return time; and don't forget to sign back out.
- To login to SuperSaas to schedule a boat:

[Schedule J-24](#)

[Schedule "Nastasha" Cape Dory Typhoon](#)

[Schedule "Rocky" Cape Dory Typhoon](#)

---

<sup>1</sup> This replaces the Rocky Manual, recognizing that the RBC fleet now comprises multiple vessels. We've tried to simplify and generalize rules of conduct for all vessels and assume a basic level of boating and sailing knowledge among users.

<sup>2</sup> (If you are below a certain age and are curious about the origins of these names, visit the Wikipedia entry for [Rocky the Flying Squirrel](#).)

<sup>3</sup> I.e. you have received an orientation sail and have demonstrated sufficient sailing and boating knowledge to use the vessels.

- Vessel use is restricted to the Western side of Penobscot bay between Camden and Rockland Harbors. Contact one of the Co-Chairs before planning to venture further. Don't venture outside of Rockport Harbor unless you're carrying a nautical chart that covers the Western Penobscot Bay. Be aware of high/low tide times before sailing.
- While the vessels are primarily for day use, limited overnight use is possible. Please contact the committee Co-Chairs before planning any overnight trips.
- The two inflatables are at members' disposal for tending the club's three sailing vessels. Contact the committee chairs before taking out an inflatable for any other use or if you're thinking of towing one on an overnight.

### **The Outboard Motors/Fueling**

The outboards range in size from 3 HP (on Bullwinkle), to 4 HP (on Boris, Rocky, and Natasha), to 6 HP (the J-24). All but one of them are 4-stroke engines that take regular gasoline (the 2-stroke on Natasha requires a blend of gas and 2-stroke engine oil).

When not in use, all engines should be stowed with their props tilted out of the water and fuel valves set to OFF.

All of the outboards have integral fuel tanks. The 6HP on the J-24 is connected to a remote tank, which is its primary fuel supply. Before starting an engine, be sure to switch the fuel valve to the appropriate fuel supply. (Note: these valves are at different places on different engines.)

If you use an engine for any length of time, please top it up for the next user from the fuel can kept by the clubhouse back steps (for the inflatables) or from the reserve cans on board (Rocky and Natasha). If one of the reserve cans (or the remote tank on the J-24) is nearing empty, bring it to the clubhouse for refilling and return it to the vessel (**be sure to refill Natasha's can with 2-stroke fuel**) and alert the committee chair that you've done so.

### **Sailing**

It is OK to sail a vessel off the mooring (without using the motor). But be sure you're comfortable navigating among the closely moored vessels in the harbor.

Leave sails with covers on (all main sails) and jibs furled or stowed in their bags. It is OK to leave a jib (on Natasha or the J-24) attached to the forestay. Halyards shackles should be left detached from sails and fastened to the mast or bow plate.

Be conservative: give wide berth to shoreline, submerged ledges, and other boats and their mooring/anchor lines. In the event of major damage to a club vessel or another vessel, you are responsible for the cost of repairs.

### **Captain of the Week Duties**

Our adult sailing program depends on member-volunteers. If you're a user of the club's vessels, please sign up for one or more weeks of Captain-of-the-Week duty. They are not onerous:

At the beginning of the week (Sunday or Monday morning) check the fleet:

- Make sure that all vessels are securely tied to their moorings or the dock. Check that motors are tilted with props dry, fuel valves to off, and have plenty of fuel (they don't have to be completely full).
- Check inflatables' pontoons for firmness and pump up if necessary (pump is located in the Adult Sailing Program gear box by the clubhouse back steps). Bail any water that has collected.
- Eyeball all standing and running rigging to make sure all are in good shape and secure and that sails are properly covered or stowed.
- Alert committee chairs if anything is amiss, even when it is something you were able to rectify/fix something yourself.
- Check the reservation schedule for the vessels (both at the beginning of the week and midweek) to know which vessels are set to be used and by whom.

After each rain, bail out the inflatables.

At the end of your week, contact the Captain on duty for the following week to let them know the status of the vessels.

**Be safe. Have fun!**