

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CRUISING SKIPPER CANDIDATES 12/86

In order to become a cruising skipper, a CSC member must satisfy the following requirements: a) hold the Senior Skipper rating b) pass a written test, c) participate as Skipper on certain required cruises, d) pass a Red Cross basic first aid course, e) petition the Executive Committee for appointment to the Cruising Skipper rating.

The Cruising Skipper rating is the highest conferred by the Cal Sailing Club. A Cruising Skipper, in addition to holding all privileges accorded a Senior Skipper, is privileged to take a Club boat on a cruise to any location in the cruising area, at any time approved by the Cruising Chair.

It is expected that a Cruising Skipper Candidate, having passed the tests for the Senior rating, will possess an advanced knowledge of sailing, an instinctive capacity for handling any Club boat on the Bay and an ability to meet any emergency which may arise. Therefore, a Senior Skipper may qualify for the Cruising rating at any time by fulfilling the above requirements. The written test must be taken before required cruises (see below).

### WRITTEN TEST:

The written test for the Cruising Skipper rating will be given by appointment with and graded by the Rating Committee Chair or an assistant. Since a Senior Skipper's knowledge and ability is taken for granted, the written test for the Cruising Skipper rating is designed to test the candidate's knowledge of the bay (including geography and effects of tides), general cruising considerations (including cruise planning, light requirements for night sailing, and fog signals), navigation (including chart reading -- especially nautical chart signals, depths and currents and piloting), and Club Cruising Regulations.

Bay geography can be studied from NOAA charts, and the cyclic pattern of local tides studied in "Tidal Current Charts, San Francisco Bay" (both published by the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). Nautical chart symbols are defined in "Nautical Chart Symbols and Abbreviations", NOAA Chart No. 1. These documents, as well as "Tide and Current Tables" for the current year, are available at marine supply houses. Light requirements for night sailing and fog signals are found in various books such as Chapman and Mixer. Club Cruising regulations are found in the CSC handbook. The Club schedules periodic cruising rating lectures covering the material on which the test is based.

If the written test for the Cruising Skipper rating is failed, a minimum of two weeks shall elapse before the test may be retaken. There will be no limit to the number of times the written test may be taken.

### CRUISING REQUIREMENTS:

In order to satisfy the cruising requirements for the Cruising Skipper rating, the candidate must take at least four cruises with four different Cruising Skippers. A Cruising Skipper shall accompany the candidate on the cruise, either in the same boat or on another boat. In the latter event, the two boats must remain within communicating distance at all times. During the cruise the candidate shall always be at the helm while inside a harbor and while leaving or arriving at any dock, berth or mooring facility. During the remainder of the cruise, he may relinquish the helm to anyone he feels qualified to skipper the boat. The Cruising Skipper in charge of the cruise may overrule this decision if he feels the substitute skipper is unqualified.

The candidate must have the following items on board while on a cruise. Compass, chart or charts covering the chosen route, motor and sufficient fuel, first aid kit, Coast guard approved flare kit, tools, flashlight. It is recommended that extra warm clothing, foul weather gear, water, and food be carried.

There are 4 categories of cruises listed below. A cruise from each category is required. At least one of the four cruises must return more than one hour after sunset.

Category I Raccoon Strait - A cruise in this category must extend into Raccoon Strait. Examples- Angel Island, Sausalito, Tiburon.

Category II West Bay Area - A cruise in this category must pass between Angel Island and Yerba Buena Island. Examples - Mile Rock, Horseshoe Cove, San Francisco.

Category III North Bay Area - A cruise in this category must pass to some point North of Bluff Point on the Tiburon Peninsula. Examples - China Camp, Point San Pablo, San Rafael.

Category IV South Bay Area - A cruise in this category must pass under the Oakland Bay Bridge. Examples - Jack London Square, Oakland Estuary, Mission Rock.

A cruise which falls into two categories, e.g. around Angel Island, will be recognized as fulfilling the candidates cruising requirements for only one of these cruises. The cruises exemplified above are not the only ones which will meet the cruising requirements.

A senior skipper who has not passed his written Cruising skipper test shall be permitted to take a second boat on a cruise if the cruising skipper in charge takes full responsibility and assures himself of the senior skippers knowledge of tides, currents, cruise plan, and cruising regulations. Cruises taken before the written test do not count as required cruises.

#### PETITION FOR RATING:

Upon satisfactory completion of written examination and the cruising requirements, the candidate must petition the Executive Committee at one of its regular meetings for

appointment to the Cruising Skipper rating. At the meeting, the Cruising Skippers in charge during the candidates required cruises shall report orally or submit a short written report to the Executive Committee stating their observations of the cruising ability of the candidate and making recommendations regarding advancement of the candidate to the Cruising Skipper rating. The candidate must have recommendations from at least four different Cruising Skippers. The Executive Committee shall consider the petition and recommendations in closed session, a majority vote of the Executive Committee members favorable to the candidate's petition being required for appointment to Cruising Skipper. The presiding officer shall remind the successful candidate of his obligations as a Cruising Skipper.

#### OBLIGATIONS:

Cruising Skippers are accorded a large number of privileges and freedoms in the Club which members of lower ratings do not enjoy. In return for this standing, they are expected to render some services to the Club which other members are not in a position to yield. Cruising Skippers are expected to take an interest in, and assume a responsible attitude toward, the proper conduct of Club activities, particularly at the harbor. In addition to this general obligation, Cruising Skippers are expected to skipper a boat on at least one Club cruise each quarter in order to maintain their rating for the following quarter. It is especially recommended that Cruising Skippers arrange Club cruises in addition to those officially scheduled by the Cruising Chair: e.g. evening cruises to points in Marin county, and other cruises particularly appealing to new and inexperienced members.

The candidate will become a Cruising Skipper upon committing to take a Club cruise.