

# **CBI HARBOR TRIPS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **WHAT'S A HARBOR TRIP?**

From late May through mid October, about three weekends each month, Community Boating members set sail on Boston Harbor in our Rhodes 19 fleet. The trips are towed down the Charles River and into the harbor by a motor launch with a US Coast Guard licensed driver, who accompanies the entire trip. Once our sailors are in the harbor for a day trip, they sail to an island, have lunch, and return in the evening. Camping trips add overnight stays at island campgrounds. The trips are an excellent family outing, and a great way to meet new people!

## **WHO CAN GO?**

Any member. If you have a Solo rating, you may bring one non-member guest; Helmsman or better, two guests; Harbor Trip Skipper, three guests.

## **HOW DO I SIGN UP, AND WHAT'S THE COST?**

Make a reservation at the front desk or by phone before 5pm Wednesday before each trip. Pay when you make your reservation. We accept Visa and MasterCard at the front desk or by phone. Cash or personal checks are also welcome at the front desk. Trips fill up fast; make reservations early. You may sign up for any or all of the next three daytrips. Sign up at any time for camping trips. The fee is \$20 per member for daytrips, \$25 per person for guests. Our trained member Skippers sail for \$5.00 on daytrips when they sign up to skipper boats. On overnight camping trips most meals are included, and there's an additional fee of \$25 per person per night.

**Groups Sailing Together** – When you make your reservation, tell the front office staff member if you have two people or more who want to sail in the same boat. The volunteers who assign sailors to boats will take this into account.

**Waiting List** - If the trip is full, we keep a small waiting list. If you are on the waiting list, show up on trip morning by 8:30am, ready to go. The odds are, there will be a place for you (but no guarantee, of course). Sailors on the waiting list pay for their trip when they are given a place on a boat.

## **WHAT'S A TYPICAL TRIP DAY LIKE?**

We meet on the dock at CBI at 8:15am to get our boat crew assignment and ready the boats. Harbor Trip Committee volunteers hand out trip equipment. You can help to tie up boats to the dock as they are brought in from the moorings, pump boats dry, put harbor trip equipment aboard, and lower boat masts. (We lower the masts to fit under bridges.)

**Guests** – Be sure to sign them up in the regular CBI guest book. (Ask staff if it's not out at the dockhouse.)

**Parking** - Park after 8am at the Mass. Eye and Ear lot. Your regular parking ticket will be okay if you do this. Buy your parking ticket when the front office opens at 9am. (The office may be closed when the trip returns.) For camping trips, your parking ticket will be good for the whole trip, including overnight.

At 9am the Launch Captain calls a group meeting to pick an island that we can reach, given wind, currents, and the group's preferences. After the meeting, **use the facilities!** We go to islands that have toilets, but the trip out takes many hours.

After the meeting and comfort break, we tie the boats together at the dock. The launch then tows the boats down the river, through the locks, and into Boston Harbor (near Old Ironsides), where we raise masts and set sail for the island we've chosen. When we reach the island, we anchor. The launch brings us to the island's dock. After an agreed time on the island for picnicking and sightseeing, we return to the boats and sail back to CBI. The trip usually returns to the CBI dock around sunset. Please don't plan a definite appointment for the evening, however. Sailing trips don't run on firm timetables.

Back at CBI, sailors help their skipper raise the mast, stow the sails, clean personal goods and trash out of the boat, and return gear to the Harbor Trip lockers. We leave our boats ready for the next day's sailing at CBI, and harbor trip gear ready for the next trip.

## **WHAT SHOULD I BRING?**

**Clothes in layers** - It's always colder, hotter, or wetter than you think when you start out. Bring foul weather gear or a rain jacket to keep off wind and spray - even on sunny days. For rainy days, bring *waterproof* clothes. Boating and camping stores sell cheap waterproof suits. You don't need fancy foul weather gear, although higher quality gear will last longer. Tip: Dry and warm really beats wet and cold every time!

**Sunglasses, sun lotion, and hat, even if you don't think it's very sunny.** Sunlight reflected off of the water will burn you, too.

**Toilet paper in plastic bag** - The toilets on the islands can run out. (Note: Most islands have privies, no running water. Exception: Georges Island, if its water line has been fixed.)

**Water/other drinkable fluids** - at least half a gallon per person (8 cups). Tip: Fill plastic bottles mostly full and freeze before the trip, leaving expansion room. No alcohol, of course.

**Lunch** - plus a few munchies to share as you sail on the way out or back.

**Plastic garbage sacks** for trash or as improvised rain gear. NOTE: Take back all you bring. The islands have no trash barrels.

**Other** - A Swiss army knife, rigger's knife, or pocket tool kit is useful to have. Binoculars and cameras can add to your fun.

**For overnight trips** - Tent, sleeping bag, and other camping gear you may wish for your comfort. (Camping gear rentals are sometimes available through the efforts of a CBI volunteer.) Bring lunch and drinks for the trip out, as for a day trip. CBI provides makings

### **Fine Print**

**Cancellations and Refunds** - If you cancel *before* the Wednesday 5 pm deadline, or if CBI cancels a trip, you may transfer your payment to a future trip or request a refund. If you request a refund you will be assessed a \$5.00 administration fee. All refunds are made by check and mailed out to you. You forfeit your entire reservation payment if you cancel after the deadline, if you are a no-show on trip day, or if you show up after 8:30am and someone else has been given your space. CBI cancels trips rarely, and mainly for reasons of safety, including high winds or seas and broken equipment. Generally, trips run rain or shine. If we know before the trip day that a trip won't run, we'll call you. If the weather is merely uncertain, we'll gather as usual on the trip morning and make our decision then. When assigning sailors to boats, the Harbor Trip Committee member who prepares rosters will respect sailors' preferences, but also the need to have balanced sailing skills in each boat. If there is a conflict, safety considerations will govern.

for meals on the island, plus for deli sandwiches for lunch on the trip back.

## **WHAT BOATS DO WE USE?**

**Rhodes 19** - 19 ft keelboat. Larger, more stable, and faster than a Mercury. It can hold up to five people (six if they are skinny and all close friends).

**Motor Launch** - goes along to pull us through the locks and under bridges; a safety measure if there's no wind or we get in a tight spot. Usually will be a launch with roof and forward cabin, with an emergency portable toilet aboard.

## **WHO IS INVOLVED?**

**Launch Captain** - Experienced launch driver with US Coast Guard rating, hired by CBI. Represents CBI; acts as trip director and mother hen.

**Boat Skipper** - In each sailboat, CBI member with harbor trip experience and training. Responsible for operation of boat and for insuring that crew has a good time. Should share sailing with crew if they want to be involved.

**Crew** - Other CBI members and guests. Almost always at least one sailor on each boat, in addition to skipper, will be rated Helmsman or better. Crew members are responsible for assisting skipper and for insuring that skipper has a good time. Those with Harbor Trip Crew rating can raise and lower masts and anchor boats with supervision.

**Harbor Trip Committee members** - CBI volunteers who post boat assignments, check-in arriving sailors, adjust roster if necessary, hand out harbor trip equipment and store it after trip. They welcome your assistance. (Committee members also teach the Crew and Skipper classes and are frequent sailors themselves on harbor trips.)

**For more information, call the Harbor Trip Committee Chairperson, Meryl Jacobson, at 781-294-1639, or email us at [harbortrips@community-boating.org](mailto:harbortrips@community-boating.org)**