

NYC Guidance for Skippers



The Crew Matching Scheme is a great way to get extra crew, even at short notice. Members on the Crew List in general are appreciative, responsive, helpful, follow your instructions and are well mannered.

For your part you need to be satisfied your boat is safe, seaworthy and safety gear is working and serviceable. Particularly lifejackets, life rafts, flares – things that expire like insurance.

- 1 First and foremost you are the skipper and in control of your own boat. Crew may range from experienced skippers to absolute beginners. When you invite people always use the 'bcc' option so that email addresses are not shared. We need to comply with GDPR, as stated on the clubs website:
<https://newhavenyc.org.uk/clubstuff/privacy-policy-1.html>
- 2 This also gives you the option to include or exclude potential crew. That is the invite does not need to include everyone. You may choose not to invite someone because they are too inexperienced and you need a broader mix of skills. You can also choose more than one crew. It is your boat.
- 3 When you send an invite it can be helpful to give details of the boat, where you are berthed, where you intend to sail, meeting times and duration, is it an hour or two or a day etc. Are there any parking issues? Do they need to bring food, do you have spare lifejackets? Be prepared to cancel the sail right up to the last minute if you feel the weather or forecast is wrong, an important crew member is unavailable, or the conditions may be too lively for your inexperienced crew.
- 4 When your crew are assembled you need to go over the safety drill for your boat. This list is not exhaustive but normally you would cover: Man overboard procedure; Mayday; radio use; starting the engine; first aid kit; fire extinguishers; whether the heads can be used; lifejackets. Who is in command if you fall over-board? Does anyone have any medical condition to be made aware of? All boats have peculiarities and things to trip over or hit your head on. Take care particularly if you are not used to visitors on your boat.
- 5 As you prepare to leave you can decide who can do various things, but particularly allowing for lack of experience and taking care that this does not lead to accident or injury. You are not obliged to have everyone doing things. If you don't want a stranger on the helm or on the foredeck that's fine. Just try and explain it nicely.
- 6 On occasions people get seasick or the weather gets rougher. Just as you would with your own visitors on board you need to decide what action to take.

The Crew List can definitely give you more sailing options on a range of journeys. Fun trips, delivery trips, long or short passages and overnight trips. Practising heaving to, man overboard, etc. The social interaction can be fun and often you will repeatedly invite certain buddies who become your back up crew. Enjoy it but do let the Crew Co-ordinator know if you have any worries or concerns.