

My new Rules of the Road

They're not Racing Rules. And they're not the conventional and traditional Rules Of The Road. They're *my* rules. Permit me to explain:

My years at sea have been on the decks of a great variety of ships and boats, sail and power. Only two of these vessels have been mine. The remainder (hundreds) have been owned by others, or operated by various military and commercial shipping companies.

As captain, crew or guest on these vessels, I learned to diligently follow advice issued by their owners, officers and crew. Guidance and instruction ranged from safety precautions to damage control, boat handling to sail trim, and countless difficulties related to crew ineptitude (including mine) and so-called "acts of God." Indeed, my education continues: Life at sea, as we all know, is an ongoing learning experience.

So, after many years, I have established the following easy-to-remember rules – my personal "new Rules of the Road." These advisories have been reliable guidelines for me as a delivery skipper aboard other peoples' boats. I, therefore, recommend them to

all boaters, captains and crew alike.

Before departure

Ensure an ample supply of fuel, water and provisions. Topping the fuel tanks is essential, because tank gauges on boats are notoriously unreliable, and engine burn rates (fuel consumption) are usually in doubt. If there's any question about the boat's range, augment the fuel supply with 5-gallon jugs or other supplemental tankage. Even on a sailing yacht, you cannot possibly ever have too much fuel – unless, of course, the boat is on fire.

When filling the boat's water and fuel tanks, suction out the holding tank.

When bringing ice and provisions aboard, or taking garbage ashore, suction out the holding tank. Be certain about this.

Before casting off the docklines, inspect your standing and running rigging. Are the anchors and ground tackle OK? Check your mechanical systems for fluids and function (engines, transmissions, plumbing sys-

Open House

Saturday June 7, 2008

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Rain date Sunday, June 8



SailMaine

Come sailing for free!

Community Sailing for Maine

- Knot tying demonstrations
- sailing in our boats
- rigging demonstrations
- BBQ
- apparel for sale
- newsletter/ brochures available

At the Casco Bay Community Boating Center, past the Ocean Gateway terminal off Thames Street on Portland's Waterfront.

www.sailmaine.org



Full service marina in the heart of ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

West Marine • Acadia Sails • Maine Point Embroidery
Hinckley Yacht Charters & Service • DiMillo's Yacht Sales
• Deck House Restaurant Cabaret Theatre • Little Notch Bakery
Free Wireless Internet • Diesel

No. 11 Apple Lane • P.O. Box 1503
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679
Tel (207) 244-0117 • VHF Channel 9

www.dysartsmarina.com

tems, and even thrusters if you have them). Are the radios, radars and chart-plotters operational? Does a flick of the wheel turn the rudder? Do the navigation lights come on? Where's the toolbox? Spare parts? A routine pre-departure check such as this requires only a few minutes, but may save hours or days of angst

At sea

At sea, if it doesn't concern you, don't mess with it. If you open it, close it. If you turn it on, turn it off. If you unlock it, lock it. If you make a mess, clean it up. If you move it, put it back. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it. If you borrow it, return it.

If you use it, take care of it. If you break it, repair it. If you can't repair it, call someone who can. If it's already broken, fix it. If you don't know how to fix it or operate it, read the manual. If you still don't know how to operate it or fix it, call someone who does.

If you see, hear, or smell something you don't understand, report it. In fact, if in doubt about anything, ask about it – the sooner, the better.



When under way and on watch: No tobacco. No alcohol. No recreational drugs. No exceptions. And, always, at least two responsible people on deck at all times. Expect (and be prepared for) the unexpected, probably at a time when it is most inconvenient.

Whatever it is you're doing, if it is working, don't stop. If it's not working, try something else. Anything that works is better than something that doesn't work.

Enjoy every cookie.

No yelling (except when necessary to be heard).

Avoid firm ETAs. Definitive predictions of arrival time are frequently problematic. I prefer generous time allowances

(and, if possible, surprising everyone by arriving "early").

Avoid entering unfamiliar waters and harbors at

★ FINESTKIND
BOATYARD
HARPSWELL, ME
(207) 833-6885

- ★ FULL SERVICE BOATYARD AND STORAGE FACILITY
- ★ NEW STORAGE BUILDING COMING SUMMER 2008
- ★ CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE



WWW.FKBY.COM

Aspasia Marina



Most affordable Marina in Portland Harbor


- ◆ Best view of skyline
- ◆ Ample Parking
- ◆ Short walk to restaurant
- ◆ Secure Storage

Make your 2008 reservation now!!

207-767-1914

257 Front Street,
So. Portland, ME 04106

SEARCHING FOR
A PIECE OF OUR
MARITIME PAST?



Ship's Lamps
Compasses . Wheels
Bells . Anchors . Sextants
Curiosities of the 7 seas
Fids, spikes & palms
☛ buy . sell . trade ☛

CHINA SEA
MARINE TRADING Co

324 Fore St. Portland ME 04101
chinasea@chinaseatrading.com
207-773-0081

Don't expect comfort, convenience, and amenities at sea. We are "roughing it." Living aboard a boat, even briefly, is a lot like hiking and camping, living in a tent or an RV. . . we experience pretty much the same lifestyle, as well as some inconveniences, many of the same nuisances, and some of the same compromises . . . except that on a boat, we also have the opportunity to drown.

night, and in fog or rain. If necessary, retard your speed of advance so as to arrive with improved visibility.

Finally: Lower your expectations. Don't expect comfort, convenience, and amenities at sea. We are "roughing it." Living aboard a boat, even briefly, is a lot like hiking and camping, living in a tent or an RV. In return for being "at one with Nature," we experience pretty much the same lifestyle, as well as some inconveniences, many of the same nuisances, and some of the same compromises in terms of confined space and lack of amenities – except that on a boat, we also have the opportunity to drown.

On arrival:


Leave the boat as you found it – or better. Clean up

after yourself, secure and stow any equipment or tools you used, wipe down the galley and heads, make the minor repairs and adjustments (or create a checklist for yourself or for the owner), wash down the exterior, carry the garbage ashore, fill the fuel and water tanks – and empty the holding tank.

Capt. Bernie Weiss is a delivery skipper based in Stamford, Conn. As Atlantic Yacht Delivery (www.AtlanticYachtDelivery.com), Cap'n Bernie repositions sailing and motor yachts between Maine and Florida. When not at sea, he instructs, lectures, and organizes workshops on electronic navigation, seamanship, boat handling, engine maintenance, and related subjects.


ONBOARD, NO DETAIL HAS BEEN LEFT UNEXPLORED.

UNDER SAIL, NO PART OF THE COASTLINE WILL BE, EITHER.



HINCKLEY YACHT CHARTERS

Southwest Harbor, Maine
1-800-HYC-SAIL • (207) 244-5008
charters@hinckleyyachts.com



**Donate to Vinalhaven Islands
Community Medical Services**



**Order your copy of Boathouse Doors
For info. email: zekes@midcoast.com**

Custom BOAT MATTRESSES at Comfortable PRICES!!!



PORTLAND BOAT MATTRESS & CUSHION
A Portland Mattress Makers Company

800-244-3311
portlandboatmattress.com

ALL SHAPES & SIZES

Fleet Sheets

**Quality custom fitted boat sheets.
They slip on easily and stay put!**

For brochure and/or info.
email: fleetsheets@maine.rr.com
Gretchen Vogel ~ Yarmouth ME

207-846-3212