

Renton Sailing Center

USE OF KEELBOATS FOR CRUISING POLICY

PURPOSE

These guidelines have been established to clarify use of keelboats for multi-day cruising. Please take these guidelines into consideration when planning a trip.

GUIDELINES

Boat:

Catalina 27 OR Ranger 24 (only if no keelboat classes scheduled). Only one keelboat can be out cruising at a time.

Skipper:

Must be an Advanced Member who has paid the annual keelboat fee and is signed off on the specific vessel through Salish Sea Cruising. The Skipper is responsible for the safety of the vessel and Crew throughout the duration of their cruise until the vessel is either handed off to another RSC Skipper or safely secured at the RSC mooring.

The Skipper is required to submit a Float Plan to the RSC Board for review and approval (see attached U.S. Coast Guard template float plan; samples of plans are available by contacting the RSC President).

Float plan shall include reasonable daily distances, planning for tides and currents, and inclusion of alternative anchorages and moorages in case of changes in condition. A minimum of one (1) month should be allowed for the Board to review a Float Plan prior to approval.

Upon return of the keelboat, The Skipper shall ensure that:

- The holding tank is pumped out,
- Fuel and water tank (Catalina 27) are filled,
- Any supplies are replaced,
- Any maintenance issues are both logged and reported to the Maintenance Officer and President. The Skipper will need to coordinate with the Maintenance Officer as to how the issue will be addressed, responsibility, and obtain pre-approval for any RSC expenditures.
- The boat is left bristol (clean, put away correctly, locked, secured, etc.).

Crew:

Singlehanded cruising is prohibited. Skipper must have at least one responsible crew member who is physically capable of assisting with sailing activities (i.e., trimming sails, walking on deck, assisting with dock lines, taking the helm when needed., assisting in man overboard situations, use of the VHF radio, etc.). Crew shall go on a 1-day orientation sail with the Skipper, including a safety briefing, and is suggested to take a

minimum of an online sailing course (e.g., American Sailing Association's *Your First Sail*: <https://asa.com/online-sailing-course/>).

Duration:

Maximum 8 days/7 nights per year, per RSC member family. Skippers are encouraged to coordinate with other member keelboat Skippers for back-to-back trips, with handover of the vessel at a marina on the Sound in order to optimize use and time.

Anchoring, Mooring, and Docking:

Anchoring out, using maintained moorings, or docking at maintained marinas are permitted. The Skipper and Crew are responsible for paying any and all fees and expenses.

Night Sailing:

Night sailing is highly discouraged, and permitted only in familiar waters for unforeseen delays or special circumstances. The sail plan should be developed accordingly, with tides, currents, sunrise, and sunset considered in order to allow ample time to safely arrive and secure the vessel before nightfall.

Navigational Boundaries:

Sailing is allowed in the Puget Sound, San Juan Islands, Victoria, and the Southern Gulf Islands. Specifically, east of Race Rocks and South of 49° North Latitude.

Swimming:

Swimming is allowed at the individual's own risk. RSC maintains no liability for swimming activities.

Onshore Activities:

Participating in activities on shore is at the individual's own risk. RSC maintains no liability for onshore activities.

Additionally:

Keelboats may be used for local inshore regattas within the navigation limits.

Common courtesy must be observed when accessing keelboats so as not to interfere with other RSC activities such as sailing courses (e.g., the dock and coach boat are reserved for use during these periods and the class can easily be distracted so the vessel needs to be cleared from the dock well before or after class)

Exceptions can be requested and sent to the President for consideration by the Board