

SONATA YACHT ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA:

THE MEMBER--- ASSOCIATION RELATIONSHIP

1) AIM . It is the Association's aim to provide its members with the opportunity to cruise, race and enjoy social events and meetings in the company of others with a similar sailing interest. The benefits gained are:

- a) **Experience.** The less experienced gain help, knowledge and advice.
- b) **Safety** Members can come to each other's aid in an emergency.
- c) **Encouragement.** Cruising with others encourages members to visit areas that they may not visit alone.
- d) **Friendship** Through shared experiences enduring friendships will result.

The knowledge and experience gained by members from activities in company with others helps maximize the enjoyment gained from a member's investment in a Sonata yacht.

2) PLEASURE AND RISK

It is the intention of the Association to always be as helpful as possible to members in relation to their sailing activities. There is much enjoyment to be had in sailing and the Association wishes to encourage members to participate. At the same time water can be a dangerous environment and members must at all times be aware of their responsibility to their crew and themselves. Members must take the following into account :-

- a) The Association membership is spread out over Victoria and Australia. The Association does not have a clubhouse or fixed meeting place but comes together at various venues. Members may attend Association events infrequently and may join and leave sailing events at different times and places. It is not possible or practical for the Association to establish or know or carry out a check of the seaworthiness of members boats and the suitability of their equipment or to be aware of the sailing ability of members or their crews or to control their activities.
- b) The Association's committee and members nominated to carry out a function such as a 'cruise co-ordinator' are all volunteers and may have limited sailing experience. They should not be taken as experts in nautical matters.

3) RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) Neither the Association, its committee members nor its nominated or elected cruise co-ordinators take any responsibility for the safety of any persons or for damage to or loss of property ashore or on the water.
- 2) It is the sole responsibility of the captain of any vessel to decide whether to proceed or not on an Association co-ordinated cruise or any part thereof, based on his assessment of the prevailing and future sea and weather conditions and the suitability of his vessel and the suitability and training and experience of himself and his crew. The safety of his vessel and its occupants shall be paramount in his deliberations.

4) RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Association has carried out a risk assessment analysis. This has identified many of the potential risks associated with trailer-sailing. Your committee has decided to treat these risks in an educational manner. That is by referring members to the appropriate section of the '**Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook**' prescribed for study for the Boat Operators Licence and or by means of articles in the Associations news letter. The Association recommends that members refer continually to the above safety handbook and keep a copy onboard. Members are also reminded that quarterly meetings often discuss safety issues.

5) CRUISING ORGANISATION

Cruise Committee. This is an elected sub-committee with duties as follows:

- 1) prepare a cruise calendar for approval by the committee.
- 2) Arrange cruise co-ordinators for each cruise.
- 3) Arrange for cruise description articles for the Association magazine.
- 4) Encourage members to participate and answer pre- cruise enquiries.

Cruise Co-ordinator . Either a committee member or an ordinary member who's duties are: -

- 1) Before a cruise-- help prepare the cruise description articles and encourage participation
- 2) During a cruise-- call together at relevant times the participating captains to mutually plan the forthcoming sailing or other activities.
- 3) Act as the radio communication co-ordinator during the cruise
- 4) Arrange for a participating person to write a cruise report for the magazine.
- 5) In the event that a cruise commences without a nominated co-ordinator then the captains present shall elect one of their number.
- 6) Keep a record of those attending.

7) CAPTAINS OBLIGATIONS

- 1) Advise the cruise co-ordinator when joining a cruise.
- 2) Ensure that every operator of his vessel has a boat operators licence and always operates his vessel in accordance with the requirements and obligations of the **Marine Act**.
- 3) Keep a copy of the **Recreational Boating Safety Handbook** on board and use it as a primary reference.
- 4) Ensure that his vessel and it's equipment and fittings are in good order and condition
- 5) Ensure that safety and emergency equipment as required by the **marine act** are carried and located in a position readily to hand in an emergency.
- 6) Ensure that a marine band radio is carried and tuned to the emergency /call-up channel
- 7) Obtain and study marine and tide charts of the cruise area.
- 8) Obtain and study weather and sea state forecasts prior to and during the cruise.
- 9) Attend meetings arranged by the cruise co-ordinator during the cruise
- 10) Contact the cruise co-ordinator if problems arise.
- 11) Advise the cruise co-ordinator when retiring from a cruise.

7) SONATA ASSOCIATION TRADITIONS

- a. Assist other members to launch and retrieve their vessels
- b. Offer assistance whilst on the road or on a voyage to any trailerable yacht owner with problems
- c. Thank the cruise co-ordinator at the end of a cruise..