

## **How one Philadelphia Sailing Club (PSC) member describes our club to interested persons.**

PSC might be of interest to you if you think you might enjoy sailing, are a boat-less sailor, are wishing to meet other sailors, or are looking to sail in some exotic waters. Let me tell you about our club and sailing.

We bareboat charter, meaning there is no hired captain or crew. The boat comes with all the necessary sailing equipment but PSC members provide all the rest -- pilot the boat, trim the sails, navigate, determine the destination, . . . ., provide the food, and do the food preparation. You can participate in all of these tasks if you wish. PSC mostly anchors out in some snug cove, and occasionally takes a slip in a marina. We prepare breakfast, lunch, and dinner aboard the boat. If in a marina, dining ashore is an option. Getting to the anchorage is a large part of the fun.

What we all enjoy is the sound of the wind in the rigging and sails, the peacefulness emotion as the engine is turned off, the sound of the water shushing against the hull, the beautiful sunset as we sit in the cockpit with our favorite beverage, getting to know your crewmates, and meeting the crew members of the other PSC boats rafted together with your boat.

Our sailing events are different from other activity orientated clubs in that the crew of the boat is together for the entire sailing event. Unlike, for example, a ski club where everyone goes their own way on the slopes during the day and then after skiing perhaps gets together for cocktails and dinner before finally sleeping in separate rooms, our members spend the weekend (or longer) sharing a very small space, even on a 40 foot boat. Sailboats, like campers, try to get as much functionality as possible out of a small space, so berth and bath spaces may seem small in comparison to a shore accommodation.

Who are our members? We welcome sailors of all skill levels, novice to expert, 21 and older. Some of our members are good at navigation, some at steering, some at conversation. Some are good cooks while others only galley skill is washing dishes. Some are tweekers, some are ballast, some are gadgets freaks. Some like big wave blue water, some the calmer water of the Chesapeake Bay. Some are up at dawn and some not until the smell of coffee as permeated the entire boat. Some are happy just following the safety rules and doing the little things when asked. And yet, all of these people are what make PSC sailing unique.

Come to our meetings and get acquainted with us. You do not need to be a member to attend our meetings. However, I must say that to a non-sailor attending their first meeting, the club may appear to be chic-ish (we do

tend to passionately discuss our latest boating adventures with each other in groups) but we are friendly and will try to meet you. Our charter reservationists can answer your questions about our sailing trips. There is a short business meeting with announcements and such and perhaps a speaker, hopefully entertaining and not overly long-winded. After your first sailing trip you will know quite a few members well and will probably be in one of those groups discussing your first sailing adventure. The fun has started.

Along with the fun and adventure, there are annoyances and risks. Bareboat chartering also means that crewmembers may get wet while piloting the boat in the rain, get roused out-of-bed if something happens during the night, get bounced around if the weather turns nasty, and crew members are responsible for each other and the vessel because they are all chartering the boat. In addition to the risk of falling overboard and toe snubbing and tripping hazards, the deck and all surfaces will be angled (heeled) and moving about the boat requires some agility and balance. But there are always smiles on the crew's faces when they earn their "bragging rights" and boast about these sailing adventures to friends, acquaintances, and other sailors.

PSC offers many advantages.

- ~ Sailing without owning a boat!!
- ~ Our members who skipper are very experienced with many brands and sizes of boats and are evaluated on how they handle the crew as well as the boats. They are people persons. Many have multiple foreign water trips in their resumes.
- ~ Our exotic trips let you experience sailing in waters which you may not get to do by any other means or which you would not feel comfortable chartering a boat yourself.
- ~ Safety rules are followed and enforced.
- ~ With varying level of member experience on each boat, each crew member teaches and learns something new on every trip.
- ~ After 35 years chartering sailing vessels locally and worldwide, we know the type of vessel to charter and which charter company to use.
- ~ Since the club charters many boats over a season or many boats for a single event we can negotiate discounts.
- ~ With multiple boats on each trip, members get to experience many different brands (manufacturers) and sizes of boats.
- ~ Has land based activities of varied types to socialize with your sailing friends.
- ~ You may just meet that special someone who has the same love of sailing as you do. Many have!

In summary, the only way to experience the club and get to know its members is to go sailing with us.