



2020 Lighted Ships Parade

Saturday, December 12th

Boat Lighting & Course Safety Handout

The Lighted Boat Parade has become an institution along the North Kitsap waterfront. Since 1969, the Poulsbo Yacht Club has provided outstanding holiday entertainment for thousands of kids and adults of Kitsap County.

Safety of our members and guests is paramount. Please take a moment to review these safety rules and guidelines.

Mandatory Requirements:

1. Key to the safety of all of the participants is knowing who they are, and where they are! For this reason, We must insist that the (15:30) Skipper's Meeting is mandatory. The meeting will be held on the quarterdeck... the covered area west of the PYC clubhouse. ***In the Spirit of Social Distancing please only have the skipper attend this meeting.*** We will provide a list of all participating boats to each skipper at that meeting. In so doing every skipper will know the name of the other boats and each skipper's name and phone #
2. During the event communication will be via VHF radio, Channel 72. There will be a radio check just prior to the start of the Parade. Tom Brooke is Skipper of the lead boat and he will warn us of hazards throughout the parade.
3. Every decorated boat must have at least two steady burning lights that are visible from the stern in order to provide depth perception to the skipper following you. This is essential for safety. In some cases this is accomplished using a string of Christmas lights.

The lead ship will be *Overexposure (Skipper Tom Brooke)* with the code name of "Rudolph". Rudolph will be minimally lighted in order to provide the best possible visibility. Rudolph will broadcast warnings to the rest of the fleet about floats, dinghies, logs or other things that might be in the path of the parade.

The second boat will be the Santa ship, which is the Majestic Lady, (Skipper David O'Morchoe) . Santa will have lights, music and, of course, "Santa Claus". After Santa, the rest of the boats will follow closely. You should follow at a distance of three to four boat lengths. Try to follow exactly in the path of the boat in front of you, and maintain a consistent speed, to reduce the "accordion effect" that plagues the boats in the back of the parade. This year we have increased our planned speed to 5 knots for most of the course.

Each boat, each skipper and each crew has different capabilities. It is entirely up to each individual skipper to decide if they want to participate that night. If there is foul weather, fog or anything that you feel uncomfortable about, please be assured that you will not be judged if you choose to stay at the dock. It really is your choice, only you can make it, and it will be the right choice for you!

Any changes or cancellations of the entire event due to weather will be made by a committee comprised of the Rudolph Skipper, the Santa Skipper and the Committee Chair; at least ½ an hour prior to sailing and before anyone leaves the dock.

If you have any questions, please call Bill Whiteley at 360-440-8082

Decorating Suggestions:

1. The night vision of the skipper can be reduced by bright lights within his field of view. Here are some suggestions that can mitigate the impact of lights.
 - a. Use red lights forward of the conning station.
 - b. When stringing lights from the anchor pulpit up to the mast, start with a 6' piece of line. That way the lights will start above where the skipper is looking.
 - c. If you have a giant lighted snowman, or reindeer, don't set him on the bow. Set him up behind the skipper.
 - d. Lights that hang down below the gunwale are very effective. They show off great because they reflect off the hull, and they are hidden from the skipper's eyes.
 - e. Same with lighting a Flybridge, ...don't light the top edge, let the lights hang down a bit, so they don't impair the skipper's night vision. And don't light the edge of your bimini top if you will be driving from up there!
2. LED lights are great. Many of us now have such a low power load that it can be run easily with an inverter, so you don't have a generator running all evening!

If you know of anyone who wants a greeting from Santa, ask him or her to email Santa at santa@poulsboyc.org

Visit our [PYC website for more information.](#)

For the full size 2020 Lighted Ships Route Map [Click Here.](#)

