



NOTICE TO MEMBERS

SSC WINTER SAFETY RULES

WINTER SAILING & CLUBHOUSE USE

All members sailing between October 31 and 2010 Opening Day (early April, 2010) **DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK** and **MUST** be **SELF RESCUING**. The Club's crash/rescue boats are **NOT** available during this period because the SSC motors and/or the SSC crash/rescue boats and gear are being serviced and/or winterized. The only on-water rescue facility available is the Canadian Coast Guard and/or the volunteer rescue inflatable sometimes based at the Crescent Beach Marina. They will only respond if called (Dial 911) and their response time depends on where they are and what other priorities they have to deal with. You should not assume that if you get into trouble on the water that someone on shore will realize you are in trouble and dial 911, or that if 911 is called, anybody will respond in time to save you. We also remind you that the Clubhouse is not monitored during the winter months and you should not assume that the club telephone or internet connection will be operating.

For your own safety, and to address the concerns of other members and the Executive, you must comply with the following rules:

1. **Wear PFD's and appropriate sailing gear at all times.** Coast Guard approved PFD's must be worn at all times. It is strongly recommend that you not go on the water unless you are wearing a good quality cold water wetsuit or Drysuit, together with insulated gloves, headgear and boots appropriate for the weather and water temperature. Once you are in the water, hypothermia can quickly rob you of the strength and willpower necessary to right what would in warmer conditions be a routine capsized. Tying a simple knot becomes impossible if your fingers are frozen. Dress appropriately!
2. **Do not sail alone.** Adopt the buddy system so that if you get into trouble, there is another boat that can provide assistance or call for help. Even the most experienced of sailors suffer gear failures, accidents, or injuries that they cannot survive without assistance;
3. **Have a plan.** Make sure somebody on shore knows you are going sailing and if possible have a buddy on shore that can raise the alarm if the boats on the water get into trouble. Do not rely on the club telephone or computer to be working. They will not be monitored until opening day in the spring and may have been put out of service by winter storms etc.



4. **Carry Safety Equipment with you** We strongly recommend you carry a waterproof cell phone, two way radio or other communication device, as well as emergency Coast Guard approved flares and waterproof lights and whistles on your PFD's;
5. **Respect the sailing conditions.** Do not sail if the conditions are such that there is any risk of capsize and you are not completely capable of self-righting your boat in all conditions. Boats such as Albacores, Ospreys, Tasars, etc are NOT self rescuing in most conditions and should NOT be sailed if there is any risk of capsize.
6. **Do not sail beyond your ability.** A capsize in the winter with no prospect of rescue is much more serious than going for a swim on a sunny summer afternoon. Remember that cold winter air is much denser and packs a much heavier punch than warm summer breezes. If you see another member going out that you think is not experienced enough for the conditions, talk to them. If there is any question, stay ashore!!
7. **Have a well maintained boat and gear.** Do not sail unless your boat and gear are in first class condition. Rudders must be locked to the boat, all buoyancy tanks must be watertight, and the rig and sails must be capable of surviving strong winds and a capsize. The prevailing winds and tide at Surrey are such that any gear failure/injury/capsize or other problem on the water will almost always result in the boat and crew being carried away from the relative safety of Blackie Spit and out into the middle of Boundary Bay.
8. **Do not sail if your ability to do so is impaired by drugs, alcohol or health issues** No explanation required!

Failure to comply with the above rules will not only endanger your own life, but those of your fellow sailors who may try to rescue you, as well as jeopardizing the continuation of winter sailing at SSC. Violations should be reported to the executive and may result in a loss of privileges or membership.

Members are also reminded that the Clubhouse and facilities are considered "closed for the winter" from October until April. Please comply with the following rules:

1. **Members only.** The Club facilities, and participation in frostbite sailing, is restricted to members in good standing who have signed a current release of liability wherein they have acknowledged that they are using the Clubhouse and facilities, and participating in SSC sailing events, at their own risk. The Clubhouse and facilities should be considered as closed for the winter from October until April and should not be used by anybody who is not a member, and by members only for boat storage and limited sailing in compliance with the above rules. People who are not SSC members are not permitted to occupy or use SSC facilities during the winter.
2. **Clean up after yourself .** There is no janitorial/bosun/garbage removal or other service at the Club, and the building is unheated and the water is shut off. If you pack it in, you must pack it out! Remove all garbage and empty cans and bottles the same day, and clean and wash any surfaces and utensils used for food preparation and leave the fridge and facilities neat and tidy. Rats, mice and other vermin are a problem throughout the year. Stow your gear and the leave the clubhouse and compound neat and tidy for the next member.

If you have any questions concerning any of the above, please call the Fleet Captain (Colin Huggett for 2009-2010) at 604-535-2857 with respect to sailing issues, or the Rear Commodore (Rob Raymond for 2009-2010) at 604-881-2051 with respect to building/grounds issues, or email any member of the executive via the SSC website at www.surreysailingclub.bc.ca

per: SSC Executive Committee, December 19th, 2009.