

Message from Brian Fitzgerald – July 10, 2021

Fellow Maine Cruisers:

We are about three weeks out from the start of our cruise to Maine and our planning group wants skippers and their crews to be as prepared as possible. I encourage every skipper to conduct on-water safety drills, most of which were discussed in the safety at sea seminar in May. To ensure everyone has the latest cruise details, please take the time to review this email.

As you know, cruise documents are on the BYC website (bristolyc.com/maine-cruise) and this email is now posted there as well as “July 10 Cruise Updates.” *Thank you for sharing this email and the website link with all members of your crew.* Also, downloading pertinent documents to your own device may be useful should you have limited Internet access during the trip.

Final Planning Meeting/Weather briefing

Our final cruise planning meeting is WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 7 pm at the Clubhouse. It will be an opportunity to answer final questions and, most importantly, to review the long-range forecast for the start of our trip. John Bell and Jil Westcott will lead both the presentation of up-to-the-minute offshore forecast data and discussions with skippers and navigators following the presentation. I would encourage skippers to bring and share the boat’s itinerary, in the event that others might want to join you in your planned anchorages.

An Information Request

While we’ve asked for data previously, we realize that we do not have a full list of contact information for each member of your crew. ***If you are the skipper of a boat heading to Maine, please complete this Google form ([link here](#)) so we have names, emails and cell numbers for everyone heading Downeast.*** (Do not include crew only with you for the to/from delivery passage; just include crew with you for the bulk of the cruise.) We will put this information into a spreadsheet and share it via email (for privacy reasons we will NOT post it on the website so plan to print it or save it to your device). PLEASE RESPOND BY NEXT WEDNESDAY, JULY 14.)

Cruise Itinerary

As we’ve discussed, our itinerary includes planned get-togethers for some days while other days are “open” leaving cruisers options to visits ports on their own or in smaller groups. This way everyone gets to explore the Maine ports that most appeal to them.

Please see an updated itinerary document attached. It is also on our website page. This document includes an itinerary of the get-together days, plus just a few suggestions for you may want to drop anchor or moor on “open” days. Page 2 of the document is an easy-reference overview of Penobscot Bay and page 3 has some handy details.

Cruise Gathering Events

We have three planned get-togethers per below.

1. Camden – Tuesday, August 3, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, Camden Yacht Club lawn

Bring your own cocktails and appetizers to be shared

Access via Lyman Morse launch if on one of its moorings or use YC dinghy dock

Note: if you haven’t yet reserved a mooring in Camden, highly suggest doing it ASAP

Suggestion: If you plan dinner in town (easy walk), be sure to make reservations

2. Torrey Islands – Eggemoggin Reach – Friday, August 6, 5 pm

Bring your own cocktails and appetizers to be shared

Plan is to anchor off the island for the night and dinghy into beach; depending on weather/conditions we might do a dinghy raft up instead

3. Burnt Coat Harbor – Swans Island – Monday, August 9, time TBD

Burnt Coat Harbor offers both mooring and anchoring opportunities

Details of event TBD and communicated during cruise

Communication During Cruise

• **Leaving Buzzards Bay – Sunday, August 1**

- Communicate on Chanel 72; Saratoga II (Fitzgerald boat) will check-in at 08:00

• **During Offshore Passage – Sunday/Monday, August 1/2**

- Call on 16 and switch to 72

• **Upon Arriving in Rockland – Monday, August 2**

- Communicate on 72

• **Departing Rockland – Monday, August 3**

- Saratoga will check-in at 08:00 on 72 before proceeding to Camden

• **During Cruise – Tuesday, August 3 thru Monday, August 9**

- When proceeding to or while at anchor in the gathering harbors, communicate on 72. Because we may be in different ports, particularly during our “open” cruise days, it may be difficult to communicate effectively via VHF. Thus, we would like our primary communications to be via text and email. We will use the information provided in the Google Form requested above to establish these groups and will circulate links once completed.
- We will use the opportunity of our Camden Yacht Club event on August 3 to review communications and other cruise details.