

BVSPS-----Competent Captain and Competent Crew-----March 22, 2012
A few ideas submitted by John Venema

How do crew and captains evaluate each other BEFORE the sail? [compatibility is important]

Meet each other in person and come with questions you want answered. Pose these questions in the form of a conversation [not an inquisition] and make them open ended. For example:

“What do you do for fun? What do you think about alcohol on the boat?”

--bottom line is, you want to know whether or not this person loves sailing, maintains his health, likes people, drinks a lot or not at all, etc. You want to know whether this will be serious sailing, a week long beer fest or somewhere in between.

“What safety measures do you prefer?”

--bottom line: Is this captain safety conscious? Is the boat properly equipped? Is this crew member safe to have around?

“What have you done around sailing?”

--Is this person a serious sailor? Is he knowledgeable? Does he have references? Does he have some experience?

DURING the sail: Good crew, and captains, have a sense of humor and are aware of and open about their abilities and shortcomings. They are willing to participate fully in all aspects of the sailing adventure.

Good captains give clear, specific commands. They know and utilize the abilities of each crew member. They keep moral high by maintaining optimism and by validating and empowering each person aboard.

How you can evaluate yourself AFTER a sail:

Simply hand out a confidential evaluation form asking: “how did I do?”

“What did you like best or want more of? Less of? How can I improve?

Comment on anything you want.”