

SBYC Sail past – May 28th, 2022.

SBYC is hosting a formal sail past on May 24th so it is important to understand the traditions.

What is Sail past?

The Sail past tradition began at the first Yacht Club which was formed at Cowes in England nearly 200 years ago. The membership at Cowes was primarily aristocratic and many were familiar with naval practice and tradition. A “review of the fleet” was introduced as continuations of the naval habit of having Admirals (and/or Royalty) review the fleet on special occasions. Protocol demanded that a flagship be anchored with the Admiral and staff on the quarterdeck to receive and return the salute. Vessels sailed past, dipping their colours in salute, and with their captain, if hatted (which he...or she, should be), also saluting with the ship’s company standing at attention. The fleet passing in review would be led by the Vice-Admiral and the final vessel in the line would carry the Rear-Admiral.

The Sunshine Bay Yacht Club will create a tradition almost identical, except that the salute is received by the Commodore instead of the Admiral. The review of the fleet begins with the current Board, then the Past Commodores then the Fleet in order of size.

Who should participate in Sail past?

Tradition dictates that all Club members participate in the Sail past, on their own or on another member’s yacht. We encourage all boat owning members - to participate in the on water activities. Good manners require that a member unable to participate will send their regrets to the Commodore – commodore@sunshinebay.org. Commodore Pat would also like to remind members that a final part of the tradition is that if you miss Sail past you must buy the Commodore a bottle of his favourite! ;)

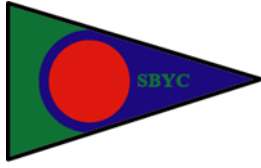
How do we know what to do on the water?

Attend the Skipper’s meeting and opening Ceremonies. Then listen on VHF channel 72 from your boat. More info to follow.

While sailing past, each yacht should maintain a distance of three boat lengths from the yacht in front. Each yacht will salute (dip the ensign or luff the jib) when two boat lengths from the Commodore’s yacht until past the yacht. All the crew if possible, should stand and face the Commodore but will not they themselves salute. Boats will salute the Commodore by dipping their ensigns and/or letting their jibs luff. If there is insufficient wind, sailboats should have their engines on. Once the Sail Past is completed, no ship should return to harbour ahead of the Commodore’s vessel.

How do we salute the Commodore?

Well, actually you don’t, the Commodore salutes you! On your turn, the skipper (and all crew) stand facing the Commodore (who will salute with his hand) and the skipper (or crew) acknowledge the salute by dipping their Canadian Flag (ensigns) and/or sailboats by letting their jibs luff (flap in the wind). Remember, only the Commodore salutes with his hand!



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How long are we out on the water for the Sail past?

The on-water review will begin at approximately 1400hrs. Be prepared to be out on the water for about 60 minutes. Some people may choose to go for a sail after. It's up to you! **However, there will be a great Wine and Cheese event following.**

What happens after we get in from the water?

If you have flags, you can "dress the boat". It's not required (but is a tradition) and looks so pretty! Please wait to dress your boat until you have returned to your slip - flags and sails don't mix well.

What should I wear and how fancy is it?

Wear blue and white! It doesn't matter how you put this together... show us your fashion! While it's not a fancy event, it is a traditional event - let's call it "cleaned up casual" (i.e. no ripped, dirty or other inappropriate clothing).