



thirty-fifth annual  
**NORFOLK**  
**HARBORFEST**<sup>®</sup>

**ATTN: ALL BOATERS & BOAT CLUBS**

**2011 HARBORFEST**

**PARADE OF SAIL / / /**

**'DRESS REHEARSAL'**

**FOR**

**OPSAIL - 2012**

**Join us**

**Friday – June 10, 2011**

**ELIZABETH RIVER / SEWELLS POINT**

**2011 – HARBORFEST –**

**PARADE OF SAIL**

**INFORMATION ENCLOSED**

**To Register visit: [www.festevents.org](http://www.festevents.org)**



# STARBOARD 'ESCORT' FLEET

## 2011 HARBORFEST - PARADE OF SAIL INFORMATION

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (but yes, you need to read the whole thing!):** The Starboard "Escort Fleet" will, as in years past, rendezvous at the northern end of the Elizabeth River and escort the Tall Ship/Period Fleet to downtown Norfolk. There will be ample time for all Escort Fleet vessels to join their respective yacht club group, rendezvous with the Starboard "Escort Fleet," and establish themselves in a right-hand "race track" type orbit, following in the wake of the lead Escort Fleet vessel (S/V "Magic"). As the Tall/Period ships pass, we will join them – per the Parade Order (see attachment) - and space ourselves as evenly as possible along the entire Tall Ships fleet. Once we pass Tidewater Marina in Portsmouth, the Escort Fleet vessels will make a wide, counterclockwise (for those of you with digital watches, that's a left turn!) circle, and then parade close aboard alongside Waterside Festival Marketplace/Nauticus. Those vessels in our group who are docking at Freemason Harbor will then proceed to a holding area just north of the USS Wisconsin and await docking instructions.

### **THE RULES:**

1. **Be SAFE - keep your head on a swivel and monitor VHF 74 for all instructions.**
2. **HAVE FUN....but remember – EVERYONE FOLLOWS RULE NO. 1 !!!**

**Parade Participants Rendezvous Location:** Elizabeth River, Red "12" located at the north end of Craney Island (NOAA chart number 1222).

**Parade Time:** The lead Escort Fleet yacht (S/V "Magic") will be in the vicinity of the rendezvous location at approximately 0930 Friday morning. I would like all yachts to be established in our pre-parade orbit no later than 1000. That will give us time to get all yacht club groups together, established in Parade Order and ready to join the Tall Ships. The Tall/Period vessels will begin to head south along the parade route at 1030 with a 1200 arrival at downtown Norfolk. The parade start time will be adjusted to account for winds and currents to ensure our arrival at downtown Norfolk at 1200...so be flexible!

**Parade Speed:** **6 knots MAXIMUM!!** I've been assured this speed will be adhered to throughout the parade. If you cannot maintain this speed, please let me know.

**Communications:** The "Escort Fleet" will be on **VHF Channel 74** the entire time, from our rendezvous prior to the parade thru the docking at Freemason Harbor. This is NOT the channel the Tall/Period vessels will be on (Ch 72). You are welcome to monitor that channel if you wish but do not transmit on it. You can contact me using either "Escort Fleet Commander" or "Magic" call signs. I ask each club/group leader to check in with me once you have a count of your vessels and I will insert you in our "holding pattern."

**Pre-Parade:** All yachts in the Escort Fleet will gather in the vicinity of "R12" just north of Craney Island in the Elizabeth River. My sailboat, a Catalina 400 named "Magic" will assume a **right hand** "race track" orbit with the north end anchored at "R12" and south end in the vicinity of "R14." If you don't already know my boat, you will be able find her by the large American flag I will be flying from my masthead. I will set up this racetrack pattern with plenty of room for all participating yachts to fall into place in the order listed below. Remember, and this is critical, **follow in the wake of the vessel in front of you. Do not cut corners at either end of the loop.** This is the same formation plan for next year's OPSAIL 2012 (which is going to be HUGE!), so it is critical that all Escort Fleet vessels join at this location and establish themselves in the orbit behind S/V Magic.

**Parade Order:** As in years past, we will parade in yacht club groups. Individual club vessels will also escort individual Tall Ships as we have in the past. To alleviate past problems with our vessels bunching up around their designated escort Tall Ship, depending on the number of vessels a particular club has, each club will escort between one and three Tall Ships. This will help spread our group out

throughout the parade, and dramatically improve the safety factor (remember rule 1!). A side benefit is that most, if not all of the Tall Ships will have one or more of our Escort Fleet alongside to add in the festive atmosphere of the parade.

## **PARADE INSTRUCTIONS**

Simply join your yacht club in the pre-parade maneuvering and stay in that order throughout the parade. Yacht Club Leaders; you are welcome to rendezvous your group away from the main Escort Fleet and then join us as we circle. I will endeavor to identify the last vessel in each club so you know who to line up behind as we cruise up and down the river awaiting the start. If you are receiving this and are not a member of any club listed here, you can either join in line with one of the clubs or fall in behind the last Tall Ship as part of the "Spectator Fleet."

### **Parade Conduct:**

1. As the lead vessels in the Tall Ship Fleet pass our location, I will time my final turn around R12 to join abeam the lead Tall Ship on her starboard side. All participating club yachts will simply follow in my wake and space themselves appropriately along the entire Tall Ships Fleet.
2. For us "ragbaggers," if conditions are favorable to sail, by all means do so, but please maintain spacing between vessels in your group and, no matter what, **DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE TALL SHIPS**. You may be under sail, but they are constrained by draft and maneuverability and therefore have the right-of-way during the parade. Don't forget; the "law of gross tonnage" applies here!
3. Continue down the Elizabeth River, remaining on the starboard (Red) side of the channel.
4. Once we get to the turnaround area of downtown Norfolk, remain well to the starboard side to not interfere with the Tall Ship vessels maneuvering for docking.
5. Pass by the reviewing stands in Town Point Park and then proceed to the Freemason Harbor docking area. Wave, blow your horn and MAKE SOME NOISE!
6. If you are not docking with the group, you are then clear to proceed.

### **Docking:**

1. If you are docking with the Rendezvous Fleet, await instructions from the dockmaster on Channel 74. Once "Magic" is in her berth I will be out at the end of the harbor to call you in.
2. Please review the docking plan you receive with your skipper's package. If you are close to the bulkhead, remain relatively close to the entrance. You will probably be called in for docking pretty early.
3. You will be called in by boat name. I will try to let the "next" boat know who they are so they can be ready to proceed.
4. As you enter the basin, you will be met by a "tug" or dingy who will both direct you to your berth and assist as necessary with docking.
5. Please have all lines and fenders ready by the time you enter the basin. This includes long spring lines you will use to join your "raft" to the ones both off your bow and stern (this is weather dependent).
6. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BOAT UNTIL ANY YACHT MOORING OUTBOARD IS SAFELY ALONGSIDE!!**

**Conclusion:** If you have any questions/comments, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below or call me on Ch 74 Friday morning. Remember, **BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN!!**

Tim Leighton

Rendezvous/Starboard "Escort Fleet" Commander – S/V 'MAGIC' (Catalina 40' Sail)

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