

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CHRISTMAS SHIP SKIPPERS

- 1) All Christmas Ships will form up at designated areas at the time and place indicated on the published Christmas Ship schedule.
- 2) Channel 68 VHF will be the working frequency for the Columbia River Fleet and Channel 71 VHF for the Willamette River Fleet, using 1 watt (low power) on the VHF.
- 3) All maneuvers and orders will come from the lead boat.
- 4) No radio chit-chat during maneuvers.
- 5) All maneuvers will be called to the right or left instead of starboard or port.
- 6) A curtsy to the right or left is a 1/4 turn to the right or left, holding the boat steady until the command to turn back to the original direction is given.
- 7) Forming a circle: When the ships are in a straight line, the lead boat starts a gradual turn to the right or left, all boats follow in line. When the lead boat comes to the stern of the last boat, a circle is formed; to break the circle, the lead boat breaks away to whichever direction they want and the other boats follow in line. REMEMBER - Uniform Spacing of each boat makes this a spectacular sight from shore.
- 8) All turns are done at idle speed and with no forward motion. Do not rush your boat, let it come around slow and steady. Do this by bumping the boat in and out of gear. Care should be taken to keep the bow in line with the boats on your right and left side. The lead boat will call the direction you should be facing. If you are behind, bump your speed up a little, if you are ahead shift into neutral until you see the line again. REMEMBER - Straight Lines and Even Spacing make this a beautiful sight from a distance or shore.
- 9) The lead boat calls all maneuvers slowly and very clear, the maneuver will be repeated at any time - do not hesitate to ask the leader to repeat a maneuver call if you do not understand it. There will not be any difficult or dangerous maneuvers called or attempted. Skipper's discretion on all maneuvers are his/her responsibility as well as the responsibility of guests on board. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN VESSEL.**
- 10) REMEMBER - SAFETY AT ALL TIMES - Your lead boat is in contact with other river traffic on different channels, however do not hesitate to mention any traffic you see or hear to the lead boat.
- 11) A blackout is when a decorated boat loses power. All the lights go out and that boat is completely black. If this happens to you do not panic, turn on your running lights and let the lead boat know you have a blackout. Other boats around you will stay clear until the problem is fixed.
- 12) All participant boats must have at least one crew person. Any crew or other people working outside the cabin area, handling lines, etc., should be wearing a PFD.
- 13) No alcoholic beverages will be consumed by the Skipper or Crew before or during the parade. Each skipper is responsible for the conduct of his crew and guests.