



Safety Rules

Boaters to bring to Raft Up:

1. Plenty of fenders for both sides of your boat. Fenders can never be too big or too many.
2. Plenty of dock and spring line. At least, as much as you would need to tie up at a dock.
3. A good anchor. If the raft has to break-up unexpectedly, make sure you are ready to deploy your anchor.
4. VHF radio (installed or handheld)

Raft Up Safety:

1. Follow the instructions of the Raftmaster or others when approaching. Radio and/or hand signals will guide you to the correct side downwind of the raft.
2. Be patient with other Captains and crew – not everyone is an experienced helmsman!
3. Use care moving from boat to boat.
4. Everyone in the water should have some sort of floatation device.
5. All children in the water must wear a life jacket
6. Practice good parenting and keep an eye on the kids.
7. Consider a “buddy system” for kids or swimmers so someone is looking out for each person in the water.
8. Each boat is responsible for their guest when they enter the water.
9. Don't try to swim between or under boats that are rafted up and stay visible to others
10. Keep throwable life preserver in plain sight and easily accessible.
11. If swimming, stay in the immediate vicinity of your boat.
12. Use extra caution when walking from boat to boat to reduce the risk of injury.
13. Respect the laws of boating on Lake Norman

14. Keep a lookout at the weather and be prepared to break up the raftup before a storm approaches. It is hard to untie boats in an orderly manner in a storm! Stay Calm..
15. Communicate with VHF Radio on channel 11 if you need help or call 911.

Raft-up etiquette:

1. You will be expected to remain in place until the raftup disperses - be respectful of the boats next to you regarding music, manners, and noise.
2. If you are in a large raft-up, getting from boat to boat can be cumbersome. Take your time.
3. Normally the “party/gathering” is on the larger boat(s) in the center of the raft. Please be considerate when crossing other boats and ask permission. Boat shoes or bare feet only – be careful with wet/slippery surfaces!
4. Do not enter the cabin or spaces of a rafted boat without the owner’s invitation/permission.
5. Make sure you have plenty of fenders and lines deployed before you approach the raft!

Communication

1. We will assign one captain at the raft up to help coordinate the boats tying up and departing.
2. Use VHF channel 11 to communicate when needed.
3. Fleet Members will be monitoring the weather and will communicate any threats.
4. We will communicate via email and text if we have weather conditions that may cancel the event.

Raft up Procedure:

1. The biggest boat is generally the anchor boat. Usually, only one anchor is set as multiple anchors can get tangled. The captain of the anchor boat should have experience with his anchor and should also remember to let out plenty of rode with a minimum scope of 4-5:1.
2. Communicate (by VHF radio – PYC uses 11) with the raft-up boat and ask which side the captain wants you. Generally, the anchor boat captain will want to balance out the raft-up and will have a preference on what side you come up on. Usually you want the bigger boats in the middle and the smaller boats on the sides so that the height of the boats gunnels is nearly the same.
3. Have fenders deployed on the proper side at the beamiest part of your boat *and* lines ready to hand to the boat you will be coming up alongside. Normally, the boat that is already tied up should deploy its fenders for the next boat joining the raft.
4. The rafting boat approaches from downwind with a person on the bow and stern to handle lines. Fenders should be in place amidships and at the stern. Fenders usually work best when placed at the sheer line of the boat – especially for smaller boats next to larger boats.

5. As the rafting boat approaches the set boat, the person at the bow sends a line over to the set boat. Lines should be under rails and around cleats for leverage – don't try to hold the boat by hand! A second line is sent over at the stern. Use half-cleat hitch knots for initial setting – add a loop for a full hitch after.
6. Set your stern and bow lines so that the boat is straight and even alongside the boat next to you. You want to align the sterns of the boats to you, allowing the beamiest part of your boat (usually amidships) to touch with the boat next to you (this is where the fenders come in handy).
7. Set the spring line from the front or mid cleat on the set boat to a more rearward cleat on the rafting boat. The spring line should hold most of the rearward load. Adjust the spring line so the transoms of the boats are aligned. Make sure all are tied tight, but do not overly wrap lines over cleats so they are hard to remove later. Use a half-cleat hitch to allow for easy removal later.
8. Tie the boat as tightly to others; as slack will allow excessive movement in a wake.
9. Try to arrange for some length in tied lines to absorb shock. Wave action can rip some cleats out if the lines are very short and do not allow for movement.
10. An anchor should be set for about every 5 boats that are rafted up on each side.

Departing the raft-up:

1. Get all swimmers out of the water to avoid injury when boats are moving – even if you are not leaving the raftup, no one should be in the water when props are turning!
2. Make sure bilge blowers have run as required before starting engines.
3. Raft up departure is usually from outside to inside – one boat at a time on each “wing.”
4. Departing is just the opposite of rafting up – remove the spring line, then the bow line and allow the departing boat's bow to swing out a little. Then remove the stern line and the departing bow can move away freely.

2019 Boater of the Year Point System

- Raft up 15 points if you bring your boat. 10 points if you ride with someone.
- Big Day at the Lake, 15 points to participate as host.
- Poker Run 10 points, additional 10 points if all stops are made.
- Lighted Boat Parade 10 points participation, 10 additional points for any award. Talking through expanding boat size categories.
- Volunteering at events, you can earn 5 points per event you volunteer for in 2019, max 15 points
- Halloween Haunted Harbor decorate your dock gate, 10 points
- Participate in Operation Christmas Child, 5 points
- PYC Boating Safety Events, there are 10 Safety events hosted by Harry Smith. Attend 3 Safety events for 5 points each, max of 15 points.