Welcome to Cruising with the Puget Sound Cruising Club

Puget Sound Cruising Club’s monthly cruises are a great way to meet other boaters, share tips on sailing and boat maintenance and just have a great time.

We are a loose association of boaters dedicated to local and bluewater cruising. We are not incorporated and do not have insurance. You are responsible for your own boat.

Winds can change directions and strength without warning -- usually at 3 in the morning. Here are some suggestions for making cruises safer and more enjoyable:

- If your boat is especially heavy or has lots of windage, please volunteer to put down an anchor. A good rule of thumb to make sure we have enough anchors is to have all 40ft+ boats put anchors down and make every other anchor a “stern” anchor (i.e. set in the opposite direction from the wind). Smaller boats may need to set anchors also depending on their number and position in raft. When you drop anchor, make sure your distance from the raft gives enough scope.

- Be prepared with fenders on both sides of your boat.

- Long mooring lines are good. The 50 ft length recommended for the Ballard locks is a good length. Having a throw line in a bag available can also help.

- When tying up to the raft, pass the person on the next boat the eye of your mooring line and ask them to put it on their cleat. If you pull in the line yourself, you don’t risk pulling someone overboard or having them pull your boat the wrong way. Alternately, if your line is long enough, you can double it and pass the other boat the bight (loop) to put around their cleat.

- Be prepared to leave in the middle of the night if wind and waves come up unexpectedly. Tie your boat in a way you can untie it quickly. Keeping both ends yourself (see above) makes untying easier. If someone hands you an eye, put it over your cleat, not under the middle and back.

Passing the eye of your mooring line to another boat, as on the right in this photo, allows you to keep control.

Imagine getting this eye off at three in the morning with the wind blowing 30 knots.

Throw bag with line.