**Guest Safety Briefing “Joan III”**

Sailing is a safe sport but different from land sports. Safety and no-damage come first on all our trips.

Forces on sail and rigging can be large and movements can be abrupt. If you haven’t done something before don’t attempt it now without an explanation first.

**You join us at your own risk**

**Command** is with the captain/skipper. When the skipper commands you to do something don’t argue or ask why but do this first and ask or argue later when back in port. This rule overrules parental commands to their children as well.

**Rings** and otherjewelry can get caught easily. Take these off and keep them in a safe place. Diamonds and gold sink, so do wallets and blackberries (even I-phones do sink).

**Arms, Legs** **and Fingers** are to be inboard at all times when maneuvering in port or close to other vessels or obstacles. **Do not ever** attempt to use arms or legs to stop the vessel. “Joan III” displaces 16,800 lbs that is more than your car weighs and she has no brakes.

We will show where 5 **fire extinguishers** are located

**PFD (life vest)**

* Crew under age 12 must wear a (USCG class II) parent supplied PFD at all times.
* Small children must also be wearing a parent supplied tether fixed to the vessel and short enough make the child stay in the cockpit.
* Anyone who cannot swim well must wear a PFD when underway.
* During strong winds and fog PFDs (with harness and tether at sea) must be worn by everyone when outside the cabin when indicated by the skipper.
* After nightfall everyone outside the cabin must also be wearing a harness and be snapped on with a tether at all times.

**Radio (VHF) in Emergencies: Lift the red strip and press the button. Press to speak release to listen.** Cell phone 911-call doesn’t alert other boaters or coast guard.

**If someone falls overboard.**

* Shout: ‘man overboard!’ and ‘swim!’. Keep watching the person in the water at all times, and pointing with an outstretched arm
* Throw the life ring and dan-buoy (the stick with the flag) immediately
* Don’t waste energy trying to swim to the boat. Thread water and keep calm we will pick you up. Ditch boots if not wearing a PFD.

**Head (1).** The most frequent accidents are from the boom coming over and hitting a person: keep your head down and stay away from the deck during changes in direction.

**Hand.** If you see a line running out, do not attempt to stop this by grasping the line and trying to hold on. Letting a line (rope) run through your hand will cause severe burns or worse.

**Head (2).** The toilet on board is called the head. In former days people had to go to the head of the boat and hang overboard. This is no longer needed. The head will be explained. Because it has many moving parts DO NOT put anything in the toilet unless you have eaten it first. Anything includes paper, tissues and especially cherry pits. Paper goes in the waste-bin provided NOT in the toilet like at home.

**Gas (LPG) and Cooking.** Don’t touch it.

**Sun and Wind.** The wind makes it cooler than it is. This is Texas and the sun and its reflection on the water is brutal. Cover up, lather up and find some shade.