



Whittley Club Victoria Inc.

Reg No. A0049742X

Role of “Tail End Charlie” on a Cruise

What is “Tail End Charlie”

Tail End Charlie is the last boat in a convoy, ensuring the safety of all boats on a cruise. They help boats in trouble and keep everyone on track.

How the Role is Assigned

- The Cruise Leader appoints a Tail End Charlie before the cruise.
- If the current Tail End Charlie has to stay back to assist, a replacement may temporarily take over until they rejoin.

Responsibilities of Tail End Charlie

1. Monitor the Fleet:

- Ensure no boat is left behind.
- Stay in contact via radio.

2. Provide Assistance:

- Help with mechanical issues or towing if safe.
- Contact rescue authorities if towing isn't possible.

3. Ensure Navigation:

- Keep the convoy on course.

4. Communicate:

- Inform the Cruise Leader and other boats about issues or hazards.
- Use designated marine radio channels during emergencies.

Requirements to Be Tail End Charlie

Skills:

- Confident in handling boats, navigation, and communication.



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- Able to troubleshoot and solve common boat issues

Equipment Needed:

- Marine radio.
- Towlines, bridles, fenders, and basic tools.
- Navigational tools like GPS and charts.

Towing a Boat Safely

Before Towing:

- Check weather and safety for everyone involved.
- Communicate clearly with the disabled boat's crew.
- Ensure life jackets are worn.

Common Towing Methods:

1. Towing Astern (Behind):

- Attach a towline to the bow of the disabled boat.
- Use a slow, steady speed and monitor the towline.
- Adjust the line length to match wave conditions.

2. Hip Towing (Side-by-Side):

- Secure the disabled boat alongside with lines and fenders.
- Move slowly, as the towing vessel steers both boats.

3. Towing on a Bridle:

- Use a bridle for better stability.
- Maintain moderate speed and check the equipment regularly.

Emergency Towing:

- In urgent cases, quickly attach a line to pull a boat away from danger.
- Once safe, assess the situation and decide on the best towing method.



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By taking on the Tail End Charlie role, you help ensure a safe and enjoyable cruise for all!