

Policy on Sailing Trips

TASS Sails Charter Policy

The Texas Association of Social Sailors ("TASS" or "Sail TASS") has established organizational policies regarding the chartering of sailboats for cruising in the Clear Lake/Galveston Bay, Texas areas. TASS engages in bareboat charter agreements primarily with Windward Sea Venture (and occasionally South Coast Sailing) in Kemah, Texas, with all sails chartered in the name of TASS. TASS makes direct payments to the charter company for each sail.

As per the TASS bareboat charter agreements with Windward Sea Venture, TASS commits to restricting the cruising of chartered vessels within Clear Lake and Galveston Bay unless prior written approval for other areas is obtained. TASS refrains from chartering sailboats outside of these specified regions.

TASS is not involved in sponsoring, organizing, or entering into bareboat sailing contracts or agreements for sailing trips in the United States or other countries beyond the Clear Lake/Galveston Bay areas.

Individual Skipper Sails

Individual skippers, whether current or former TASS members, may autonomously decide to charter sailboats in their own names and organize sailing trips in states or countries outside the designated areas. These trips, however, are not considered "TASS trips." The responsibility for planning, organizing, and the execution of these sails lies solely with the individual skipper who signs the bareboat charter agreement with the charter company.

The individual skipper or a group of skippers independently plan and make decisions about trip details, including dates, length, sail plan, and crew selection. No TASS funds are involved in these charters, nor are these trips promoted by the organization, and as such, TASS is not involved and bears no responsibility for these trips.

Rationale

Several reasons underpin TASS' decision to abstain from involvement in chartering vessels or planning sailing trips outside the Clear Lake/Galveston Bay areas:

TASS is not in the travel agency business and lacks authorization to conduct business in other countries. The organization does not finance individual skipper-organized sailing trips and operates as a non-profit entity staffed by unpaid volunteers without specialized knowledge or training in the travel business.



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Crew selection is solely at the discretion of the bareboat charter skipper, with TASS having no involvement in evaluating or selecting participants.

Individuals with the requisite sailing skills and qualifications can charter boats for trips without any affiliation to TASS. These individuals understand that they are fully responsible for organizing their charter boat without TASS assistance.

Skipper groups planning extended trips consider factors such as limited cabin space, accommodating more than 6-8 people (boat size dependent), and skill compatibility among crew members.

Sailing trips on boats with sleeping cabins typically accommodate only 6-8 passengers per vessel. If more qualified skippers are willing to charter sailboats, additional participants can join future sailing trips, with the skipper having sole discretion in selecting participants.

TASS encourages individuals planning domestic or overseas sailing trips to undergo appropriate sailing courses and training from recognized organizations such as the American Sailing Association, US Sailing, or other certified sailing schools, as TASS does not offer approved sailing training.

Members discussing domestic and overseas trips are urged to clarify that these are individual skipper trips, not "TASS trips." Those interested in participating in future sailing trips in other states or overseas should communicate with qualified skippers directly.