



**NEWCASTLE
YACHT CLUB**

P.O. BOX 20044, NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO L1B 1M3

Newcastle Yacht Club Sailpast and Blessing of the Fleet Protocol

What is the Sailpast and Blessing of the Fleet??

- The Sailpast (or Fleet Review) is steeped in 600 years of British naval tradition and history.
- The Blessing of the Fleet is a long standing European tradition providing divine favour to the fishing and working fleets as they went out to sea., to assure good harvest, safe passage, and return.

Newcastle Yacht Club's Sailpast and Blessing of the Fleet will officially mark the start of the boating season.

This Year's Event:

The Annual Sailpast and Review of the Fleet will be hosted by the Club Commodore.

Times to note are:

- 12:00 Skippers' Meeting
- 12:20 Raising of the Newcastle Yacht Club Burgee at the flag pole by the gas dock
- 13:00 Boats leave the docks to assemble in the marshalling area
- 13:45 Sailpast and Blessing of the Fleet
- 17:00 Commodore's Reception
- 18:00 Potluck Dinner

Assembly in the marshalling area:

- The fleet will assemble in a marshalling area (normally) upwind of the Commodore's yacht, and toward the south or west mark. The location will be determined at the 12:00 skipper's meeting.
- The Rear Commodore's vessel(s), will signal the start of the Sailpast at 13:45 with one long signal. This signal will be preceded by a warning signal and radio all-call at 13:30; 13:35; 13:40 and 13.44.
- When you have sighted the vessel you are to follow, fall in behind and attempt to maintain a three (3) boat length interval.
- Radio communication will be via Channel 09.
- The Review Ship is the Commodore's yacht which will be anchored in an area roughly defined by the either the north race mark or lighthouse pier, depending on conditions.

The Sailpast order of Yachts:

At 13:45, the Vice Commodore will lead the fleet past the Commodore's yacht and will be followed by all Past Commodores, the Newcastle Yacht Club Fleet in assigned order, followed by the Rear Commodore(s). The actual order of yachts will be reviewed at the Skippers' Meeting.

The Salute:

Sail past the Commodore's yacht maintaining an interval of approximately three boat lengths and salute in the following manner.

- Yachts wearing an ensign will dip the ensign. (Lower to half staff and then raise again)
- Yachts not wearing an ensign will luff their foresail (Release the jib sheet and allow to luff).
- The Commodore will return the salute by hand.

The salute should commence one boat length before reaching the Review Vessel and continue for one boat length beyond. Wherever possible the skipper and crew should stand and face the Commodore. Only the Commodore salutes by hand.

After passing the Review Vessel, and depending on the sea state, it is preferred that vessels will round up and break off toward open water (south) at least until all vessels in the fleet have passed through the review. With fair winds...enjoy the day!

Upon arriving back at your slip, dress ship. (Fly your flags burgees, streamers, signal flags etc... whatever you have...Dress it up!)

In the event of inclement Weather:

In the event of foul weather, and upon instructions from the Rear Commodore, the fleet shall remain at their moorings and the Commodore's yacht will pass through the harbour.

Post Sailpast Event:

The Commodore will host a reception at approx 17:00, on the lawn between docks 3 and 4. In the event of poor weather, the reception will be held under the picnic shelter.

A potluck dinner follows at approx 1800. Don't forget!

Attire:

This is the clubs only 'formal' event. As such, traditional blue and white attire is preferred.

Please note:

- All participating vessels must have an operating radio on board, tuned to channel 09.
- Weather conditions may dictate small changes in the plan. Thus, it is important that at least one crew member attend the Skippers' meeting at 12:00.
- We will have a mix of power and sail craft.

Questions?

Members of the Club's Board will be on hand to answer any questions regarding this event. If you are interested in assisting, please speak to one of the Board members listed on our web site. We are looking forward to a great day!

See you on the water!