

1982 Spring Bahamas Cruise

To: All 1982 Bahamas Crew Members
From: Rock Bell
Subject: Final Trip Instructions

The following is detailed information which should answer any questions you may have about the cruise. Please read these instructions carefully as crew assignments, transportation, final payments and recommended gear are included. There will be a mandatory meeting of the entire group on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of Newcomb Hall. Final crew assignments and last minute details will be discussed. After the meeting you will meet with your skipper to discuss meal and destination preferences, so come prepared with your likes and dislikes. Anyone who cannot attend the meeting must contact me beforehand, at 295-3234, after 6:00 P.M.

Response for this trip has been overwhelming. At present we have eight boats, and I have made arrangements for two more. The boats will all be departing from the same marina in order to facilitate carpool arrangements.

Final Payment

To ensure your space on the cruise the balance of \$315 is due Wednesday, Feb. 10. There are two reasons for the increase. 1) There are over \$500 in sales taxes that must be paid which I was just recently informed of. 2) Two of the boats already ordered have been taken out of service and the charter company has replaced them with two bigger, but more expensive boats. I regret that this had to be done, but hopefully it will not be too much of an increase for you. If this increase makes it impossible for you to go, your \$100 deposit will be returned immediately and some one on the waiting list will be given your place. You must let me know by Feb. 10 if you cannot go. I will accept payment until Feb. 10, but would appreciate earlier payment if possible, as we owe the charter company the remainder of their fee by Feb. 13. Checks should be made out to:
Dewey Bell/Bahamas Cruise. Mail them to: Rock Bell
#4 University Court
C'ville, Va. 22903.

Security Deposit

Any damage to or loss of equipment on your boat will be paid for out of your deposit. Any unforeseen, extraordinary expenses, such as the charter company's penalty in the event that our return is delayed will also come out of your deposit. Furthermore, should you return your boat in anything other than the clean, shipshape condition in which it was boarded, a cleaning charge will be imposed. With the exception of last year, when the charter company went bankrupt, the return of the damage

deposit has been paid within three weeks. This year we are dealing with one of the most respected charter firms in the business, so this should not be a problem for this cruise.

Expected Itinerary

The boats will depart Saturday afternoon, March 13. All the boats will cross the Gulf Stream together and make landfall Sunday morning. Depending on wind and weather conditions and the wishes of your crew, your destination will be either Bimini, West End Grand Bahama, or the Berry Islands. Return to Florida will be Friday, March 19. The boats are to be back to the charter company by noon on Saturday.

It is your responsibility to be dockside at noon on Saturday, March 13. Due to the nature of the trip, anyone who is late will miss the trip, and your money will not be refunded unless there are extraordinary circumstances. The earliest possible time you may board the boat is 5:00 P.M. Friday, March 12. You must notify me if you intend to arrive Friday night. Directions to the mariana will be given at the meeting.

Transportation

Due to the number of people on this cruise, there will be no organized transportation to and from Florida. Transportation is your responsibility. Amtrak, Air Florida, and Trailways serve Ft. Lauderdale. Individuals who have indicated they might drive are listed at the end of this letter. We suggest that you allow twenty hours for the trip to allow for unforeseen delays.

Accommodations

We will be staying on the boats for the duration of the cruise. These yachts are fairly luxurious, as sailboats go, but they don't have all the comforts of home, or even a hotel. The easiest way to get along on a boat is to plan on roughing it. The boats have a limited amount of space, so filling them up with baggage greatly reduces their comfort. If you pack the least you think you can get by on for the week, your time on the boat will be most enjoyable. Each boat has three cabins, with combined space sufficient to sleep every one on board. The middle cabin contains the galley, dining area, and navigation station. Each boat also has two heads(bathrooms). Marine Toilets are very peticular, so don't hesitate to ask your skipper about its operation if you are not familiar with it. The boats carry a limited amount of fresh water, and it is virtually unobtainable in the Bahamas. You will learn to love salt water showers. Salt water shampoo or Lemon Joy work very nicely for this. The boats have no electricity for running appliances, such as electric razors or blowdryers. You may use the 12-volt electrical supply to power a car stereo if you arrainge it with your captain.

What to Bring

Please rember that you're not going on the Love Boat. The gear you bring should be practical and relatively small in quantity. Although the Bahamas are fairly tropical, it is still winter, and it will be cool at night or in bad weather.

You should have a warm sweater, preferably of wool because wool retains its warmth when wet. In rough weather it is difficult to stay dry on a sailboat, so be prepared for this also. Hard-soled shoes, clogs, etc. may not be worn on the boats. Topsiders (Dockside) are the ideal sailing shoes because their non-slip soles were designed specifically for this purpose. Tennis shoes also work well. Be prepared to get your shoes thoroughly soaked, as bare feet are dangerous in rough weather. It is also a good idea to bring a hat, preferably with a brim, for protection from the sun.

A duffle bag is the ideal gear for a boat. It is soft, stows easily, and is easy to live out of. One large duffle should be more than enough to hold everything you need. If you don't have a duffle, a laundry bag works very well. Do Not bring large suitcases or hard luggage. They are almost impossible to store and to use. No matter how you are travelling, it is advisable to waterproof anything that cannot get wet. Each crew member is requested to limit his or her baggage to one duffle, a sleeping bag, and snorkel gear.

The following checklist includes all you need to bring:

- Duffle bag
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow (optional)
- 1-2 towels
- 2 Bathing suits
- 2 shorts
- 4-5 shirts
- 1 pair Jeans or slacks
- Socks
- Hat
- Topsiders or tennis shoes
- Sweater
- Weatherproof jacket or slicker
- Motion sickness pills
- Sunscreen, suntan lotion (not oil), zinc oxide
- Personal items (soap) -
- Sunglasses
- Driver's license, birth certificate, or passport
- Lemons Joy (for salt water showers or shampoo)

Optional:

- Camera
- Skin-diving gear
- Guitar
- Reading material, Backgammon, cards, etc.

The boats are often provided with blankets, some pillows and linens, but I recommend that you bring what you want. A medium weight sleeping bag is good to have, as it is more comfortable and convenient than a blanket.

Although many of you are going mainly for the sun, it can ruin your trip in less than a day's time. The exposure is very intense on a boat, and you should be worried about getting too much sun, rather than not enough. Be sure to bring a sunscreen that works. Products such as Pre-sun, Eclipse, and Coppertone are effective and not unpleasant to wear. When baths are limited, it is important to use a lotion that does not become an occlusive, smelly mess after prolonged use. Popular items such as coconut oil are not necessary and only mess up the decks. You will get two to three times as much sun on a boat as you would on the beach. A good skin moisturizer, such as Aloe, will be invaluable to you. In late afternoon you will probably need long pants, a long sleeve shirt, and a hat to avoid sunburn. Towards the end of the week, a pair of sunglasses may become your most valuable possession.

Next to sunburn, seasickness is the most unpleasant reality of ocean sailing. If you have any doubt about your hardiness in twelve-foot seas, please come prepared! Many good products are available, such as Bonine, marzine, or Benedryl. Ask your pharmacist for one which won't make you drowsy.

Watches and other jewelry are completely unnecessary, and easily lost overboard. Any watches brought should be completely waterproof. The following rule of thumb should be used in determining what to bring: If the luxury of having the object along is not worth the (considerable) risk of losing it, don't bring it.

If you bring a valuable camera you should take special precautions to protect it. The normal salt mist in the sea air can get inside a good camera and ruin it. Most professional photographers keep their cameras well sealed in a plastic bag and remove it only to shoot. Any delicate equipment should be well padded and protected against crushing.

Several people have inquired into the diving opportunities on this cruise. I have just returned from the Berry Islands and found little in the way of places where scuba gear could be used. The water depth varies from one to ten feet in most places and is ideal for snorkling, but there is no guarantee that scuba gear would be utilized. However, I will leave the scuba gear to the discretion of yourself and your skipper. Most boats come with some snorkle gear, but I would advise getting together with someone else on your boat and buying a set.

Over the past several years, the use of the Bahamas as a drug-trafficing base has been publicized by the media. Although the problem of "pirates" exists, it has been blown out of proportion and should pose no threat to our cruise. For our own protection, to guard against not only this but also equipment failure on one of the boats, not to mention the obvious social reasons, each boat will always travel in the company of at least two other boats.

Identification Papers

Bahamian Immigration laws require that you have a passport, birth certificate, or valid drivers liscense accompanied by your voter registration card. Without these documents you will not be allowed to enter the Bahamas.

What Not to Bring.

A warning to whom it may concern: The Bahamas are a foreign country. The boats will be inspected several times by U.S. and Bahamaian Cusoms officials. We must insist that no illegal drugs, including marijuana, be brought or kept on the boats. This is not for your sake, but for all of us. In the Bahamas, a foreign boat carrying contraband will be seized by the government and sold at public auction, along with everything on board. This is not an idle threat-I have seen it happen before. The boats we will be sailing cost on the order of \$200,000. Obviously it's just not worth the risk. Enough said!

Final Note

If all of these details and rules get to you, don't let them. They have been given to you in an attempt to answer your questions and prepare you for this most unusual trip. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me. The 1982 Bahamas Cruise is just a few weeks away. Get psyched for the best and most carefree springbreak ever!

Drivers

The people listed below may have space available in their cars:

- Mark Binning 296-0453
- Beth Campbell 295-5323
- Lucy Duke 295-7278
- Jane Harris 977-9488
- Steve Harris 295-6900
- Mark Lay 979-7757
- Anita Richardson 979-8639
- Bob Rosen 971-6923
- Melody Rouser 295-0709
- Henry St, Clair 979-7898
- Roxanne Thompson 979-7829
- Pete Weisinger 295-3234
- Ce Ce Williamson 977-3613
- Tom Weeks 293-4824
- Ruffin Tyler 979-7757
- Mike Toms 296-5249
- Rob Case 296-3278