

GTSC Keel Certification Requirements

Revised on October 13, 2005

Prerequisites: 1) Dinghy Skipper Certified, 2) Dues Paying Member, 3) Completed Keelboat Skipper Application Form on file with the Vice Commodore.

Requirements apply to all GTSC keelboats, which at the time of this writing includes two J/24s.

1. General

- Demonstrate knowledge of Lake Lanier reefs(7), channel markers(12-28), and racing marks(A-F + X), lighthouse at aqualand, flagpole light at LLSC, surrounding Lake Lanier Sailing Club.
- Know where Aqualand fuel and pumpout locations are, GTSC is responsible for dock hardware.
- Knowledge of what required GA Safe Boating Act for all GTSC keelboats(Class 1 and 2 sail and power as applicable to Lake Lanier)
- Knowledge of draft, capacity, all safety equipment, electrical, mechanical systems, head, and motor, location and function of thru hulls.
- Know active sail inventory.
- Understand and demonstrate responsibility as skipper in charge.
- Knowledge of GTSC responsibilities
 - 1. Instruction in regards to keel students.
 - 2. GTSC Events ie: NMBBQ
 - 3. Repair, maintenance, replenishment.
 - 4. Encouraging the use of the keelboats (cruising, racing, etc)

2. GTSC Maintenance

- Outboard Motor operation
- Porta Potti operation
- Electrical systems operation, charging, and shore power.
- Observe condition of dock including lines, cleats, canvas skirt.
- Knowledge of the seasonal/winter maintenance, biannual haulout programs.

3. General Seamanship

- Perform a presail check for the boat's integrity, safety and legally required equipment, and instruction of crew responsibilities.
- Know all Parts of the boat
- Sail trim: Knowledge, use and effect of all sail controls, rigging and derigging.
- Knowledge of proper sail trim in heavy/light air and sail reefing.

- Know proper clearing of a fouled winch.
- Demonstrate knowledge of VHF radio operation *
- Knowledge of Spinnaker sailing: bearaway sets, jibe sets, jibing, windward and leeward takedowns, boat driving, flying spinnaker.
- Knowledge of how to avoid and recover from a broach, knockdown and accidental jibe.
- Demonstrate appropriate helmsman and crew coordination and skills for arrival and departure under power and sail suitable to the conditions: raising sails, line handling, casting off, fending off and boathandling, deploying fenders, stopping, tying up, and lowering sails.
- Demonstrate knowledge and use of docklines, including springlines, for storage and boat control while departing and arriving.
- Demonstrate knowledge of close quarters under sail: starting, stopping, speed control, tacking, jibing, steering control, sail luffing, the No-Go Zone, getting out of irons, backing the jib, crew coordination and communication, heaving-to.
- Proper seamanship regarding use of the outboard motor, attaching and starting, knowledge underway regarding right of way, use of safety line, avoid dragging lines, don't use reverse for stopping, differences among the GTSC motors.
- Anchoring knowledge of bottom surface, required scope, anchoring location, adequate depth, approach and drop, how to set hook, swing circle, anchor retrieval and departure.
- Rafting up, bow line, stern line, spring lines, fenders, mast placement, who sets hook, make sure boats aren't heeling towards each other during rafting.
- Running Aground: avoidance and know at least 3 recovery methods.
- Knots: bowline, figure eight, half hitch, cleat hitch, square knot, clove hitch.
- Knowledge of Towing: techniques, handling, securing a tow line and maneuvering.

4. Safety

- Explain proper motor safety with outboard motors
- Know Precautions when using an onboard stove *
- Demonstrate knowledge of crew and boat limitations
- Demonstrate or explain situational awareness of surroundings and boat
- Demonstrate knowledge of man overboard and rescues techniques under sail and power and the recovery of an unconscious victim.
- Demonstrate knowledge and use of required safety equipment (DNR required and GTSC recommended)
- Knowledge of BUI laws
- Cold weather precautions, general first aid including knowledge of hypothermia, seasickness, heat stroke, heat exhaustion

5. Rules of the Road / Right of Way

- Definitions and required actions (giveaway, standon, burdened vessel)
- Order of ROW for vessels
 1. Overtaking vessel
 2. Limited maneuverability
 3. Power vs Sail
 4. Power vs Power
 5. Sail vs Sail
- Understand that you are required to avoid collision regardless of ROW

6. Aids to Navigation

- Proper lighting for power and sail boats reasonable to LL
- Day beacons, bouys, gongs, bells, Day Shapes etc.

7. Weather

- Be aware of current, forecasted, and potential weather
- Wind and water surface conditions are related (Beaufort scale)
- Pressure systems and fronts
- Adverse weather and boat handling

Suggested Knowledge (not required):

1. General Navigation

- Use of Compass
- compass deviation, variation
- Charts, latitude, longitude, features
- Piloting, dead reckoning, lines of position, fixes

2. Tides and Currents

- Why do they exist
- Types of tides (3), definitions, etc.
- Tide tables
- Currents

Notations:

* - Indicates an item which could be needed if equipment were acquired or made to work.