

Pre-departure checklists – *amend as necessary for your boat and equipment.*

For Towing

- **The Boat**

- Motor tilted up for clearance over the road. Put manual lock into position (to take load off hydraulics).
- Secure all loose gear in the boat. Everything stowed and secured down.
- Lower antennas and high flagpoles and light staffs.
- Use only cockpit covers (or covers with snaps) if the boat is to remain covered.
- Be sure straps are secured from boat to trailer.

- **The Trailer**

- Add a dab of oil to the trailer ball before hooking up trailer. This will reduce the heat from friction.
- Be sure coupler is locked into position and that cotter pin is in place to hold lock down.
- Be sure chains are attached to the tow vehicle. Bring S-hooks up through the holes (not down) so they don't bounce out. Cross the chains to form a cup to hold the trailer if a disconnect should occur.
- Check for proper tire pressure and don't forget the spare.
- Grease wheel bearings with a grease gun and check that lugs are tight. Check tires for excessive wear.
- Make sure winch is positively locked and attached to the bow eye. Check cable or strap for frays or kinks. Replace as necessary.
- Check wiring harness for connectivity, and also bare wires or nicks. Repair as needed. Test lights with assistant or back up to a garage door (or wall) and look for reflections when activated.

- **The Vehicle**

- Check tire pressure, and don't forget the spare. There will be heavy loads on the tires.
- Check rear-view mirrors for adjustment.
- Check engine and transmission oil. Check coolant level.
- Spare tools and jack onboard

For Launching

- Drain plug in place and secured (not hand tight).
- Straps are removed
- Covers are removed
- Wiring harness is disconnected from trailer
- Blowers on
- All gear onboard
- Docklines are in place
- All nav lights function (even if you won't be out after dark)
- Drain plug in place and secured (not hand tight). Engine and fuel levels are adequate. All loose gear stowed properly.

For Boating

- Pre-starting
 - Final weather check. Listen to marine weather on your VHF radio.
 - All safety equipment is onboard. PFD for every person on board and correct size.
 - Start blowers (if not already running from pre-launch)
 - Bilge is dry and not filling up (you remembered the drain plug checks right?)
 - Re-check fuel level. Enough for 1/3 travel, 1/3 return, 1/3 reserve.
 - Guests have been given pre-departure orientation.
 - Float plan left onshore
 - Radio check ok
 - Engine shift in neutral
 - Start engine.
 - Check ammeter for pegged needle(stuck starter) or discharge(short circuit).
 - Check oil gauge to come into green area immediately.
 - Let engine warm up.
 - Power up any electronics. Let all equipment orient itself. Put in waypoints or tracks into GPS if needed.
 - Check surrounding area for clear departure.
 - Release lines and depart dock area.
 - Stow gear properly.