

## Notes on How to Raft Up

### DRAFT DOCUMENT

3/21/2024

Fleet 69 enjoys rafting up in various locations on Lake Travis. It's a fun way to socialize after and before sailing. Depending on the number and sizes of boats and the wind conditions, one or more anchors are set off the bows. Sometimes stern anchors are also useful. We raft up side to side, bow to bow, and stern to stern.

Before you approach a raft up,

- Take down the sails and motor.
- Communicate with the fleet on VHF channel 69. Ask if they are ready for another boat and on which side should you tie up to. We try to match similar boats together and keep the primary anchor in the middle.
- Have several bumpers / fenders ready on the raft-up side. Be ready to adjust them to match the other boat's rail.
- Have at least two tie-up lines (bow and stern) ready. The bow lines need to be long enough to make spring lines. Or at least that's easier than adding another line for a spring line. So, 30' might be OK. Bow to bow then bow to mid-ship.
- Ask if they need an additional anchor set. Be prepared with an extra anchor in case the host decides another is needed. More than 4 boats usually requires another anchor.
- Align boat sterns together, (not bows together) so people can go from boat to boat.
- Be aware of spreader clearance
- Always keep in mind that you can make a "missed approach" .... make another approach if going too fast or not ready.

In Feb 2019 Joe suggested that when approaching a raft-up, use the same steps an airplane uses when it prepares to land: Approach downwind past the raft, then make a ninety-degree base turn to approach the raft-up on the side indicated by the host. If under motor, approach using the same pattern.

After the raft-up, boats leave in an orderly manner. It's nice if at least one boat stays around until the anchored boat successfully raises her anchor.

References:

<https://www.sailnet.com/threads/the-art-of-the-raft-up.60693/>