

Pontoon Boat Rental

Operating Instructions

Dock location: 45 West Bay Drive, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931 (Shorty's Pocket, Snug Harbor) · **Questions or help on the water:** call or text (215) 920-2348 · **Emergencies: call 911**

Use of the pontoon boat is subject to the Rental Agreement & Waiver you signed when you booked. By taking the boat out, you confirm that you know how to operate a boat safely, know Florida boating laws, and are legally allowed to operate it.

WELCOME TO THE LAGOON

The Indian River Lagoon is home to more than 3,000 species of plants and animals. From our dock you can explore as far north as Cape Canaveral, down through the Thousand Islands, and south to the Pineda Causeway near Patrick Space Force Base. Google Maps works great for navigating, and the boat has a GPS tracker, so if you ever feel lost, just call us and we'll guide you back.

Wildlife: dolphins often swim right up to the dock and are most active feeding in and around the inlet from about 4 to 6 pm. Keep an eye out for stingrays and manatees too.

Dock & dine: two restaurants are reachable by boat. **Squidlips** is to the left, and **Sunset Grille** is to the right near the Route 520 overpass.

Local fun fact: surfing legend Kelly Slater grew up a few houses down, on the corner to your left as you leave the inlet.

GETTING THE KEY

Before your rental, **text us at (215) 920-2348** to get access to the boat key. We'll help you get the key before you use the boat.

BEFORE YOU GO

- **Daytime use only.** We strongly recommend against taking the boat out at night and advise you not to do so. Plan to be back at the dock while it is still light out.
- Make sure there is a properly sized life jacket on board for every person. Children under 6 must wear one at all times while the boat is moving.
- Check the weather. If storms, lightning or high winds are approaching, stay at the dock or head back right away.
- **Fuel:** the boat starts with a full tank. The tank is at the back of the boat and the gauge is on top of the red container. If you prepaid for gas (\$45), you're all set. If not, return the boat at the same fuel level (a gas can is on the dock and there are several stations nearby), or you'll be charged \$6 per gallon.

STARTING UP

1. Turn on the **battery switch** at the back of the boat near the gas tank and set it to **"ALL."**
2. Insert the key in the ignition, but **do not start the engine yet.**
3. Make sure the throttle is in **neutral** (the middle position). The boat will not start unless it is in neutral.
4. The button on the throttle raises and lowers (trims) the engine. Push the throttle forward to go forward; pull it down past neutral for reverse.
5. The stereo is Bluetooth and connects to any smartphone.



Fuel tank & gauge (top of the red tank)



Battery switch: set to ALL



Throttle: neutral in the middle; trim button on handle

LEAVING THE SLIP

The slip is very shallow, so the boat is moved in and out with the **engine off**. Guide and push the boat by pulling on the wooden beams from the outside. It's much easier to **back out into the inlet** than to turn around in the small space between the docks and the bushes. Start the engine once you're clear and in deeper water.

IMPORTANT: BOAT LIFT

The lift motors were recently replaced, and until our dock upgrade is complete the lifts can only be run **one side at a time**. Turn one side on and let it move about a foot, turn it off, then do the same with the other side. Keep alternating until the boat is all the way up or down.

The switches are reversed: turn to "UP" to go DOWN, and "DOWN" to go UP.

Turn the lifts off once the boat is floating free. Before raising the boat, make sure it is lined up over the cross beams. If it's parked too far in toward the dock, the lift will raise only the front or back, which will damage the boat and lift. When you're done, raise the boat to the same level you found it.



Boat lift switches, one side at a time
(reversed: UP = down)

ON THE WATER

- Obey all speed, idle, no-wake and manatee zones and keep a lookout at all times.
- **Watch for wooden poles.** There are old wooden poles and pilings sticking up out of the water in the area. Go slowly, stay alert, and keep a lookout for them at all times. Hitting one can seriously damage the boat and injure passengers.
- **Sudden loss of power?** This is normal and just means the engine needs fuel. Give a few squeezes to the **primer bulb** on the fuel hose between the tank and the engine and it will pick right back up.
- Stay in the lagoon and inland waters. Do not take the boat into the Atlantic Ocean.

- No alcohol for the person driving the boat.



Primer bulb on the fuel hose: squeeze to re-prime



Dock guidance lights (switch is to the right of the lift)

RETURNING & DOCKING

1. **If it gets dark while you're still on the water**, head straight back to the dock. The red, white and blue **dock guidance lights** help you find your dock in the dark, so if there's any chance you'll be out late, switch them on before you leave (the switch is to the right of the lift).
2. As you approach, **turn off the engine about 15 feet out** and coast in, guiding the boat by hand.
3. Line the boat up over the cross beams and raise the lift as described above.
4. Turn the **battery switch OFF**, or the batteries will drain.
5. Refuel if you didn't prepay, and send us a few photos of the boat at drop-off.

EMERGENCY TROLLING MOTOR

The trolling motor is for **emergencies only**. It's zip-tied and disconnected from the battery so it doesn't drain power. If you ever run out of gas or have engine trouble on the lagoon, cut it loose, connect the positive terminal using the tools and nut in the zip-top bag in the battery compartment, and lower the propeller. It will get you back to the dock, slowly. Please call us too, and we'll help.

FISHING

Fishing poles are in the cedar box on the front porch. A Florida fishing license is required to fish, including catch and release, unless you qualify for an exemption. Licenses are easy to buy online from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Questions at any point? Call or text **(215) 920-2348**. For any emergency, dial **911**.

Have a great time on the water!