



Press Release

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MINNOW SKIPPER FAILED TO TAKE SIMPLE STEPS BEFORE GETTING UNDERWAY

Most of us remember the S.S. Minnow from the 1960's Sitcom Gilligan's Island. That voyage was crewed by a mighty sailing man (Gilligan) and a sure and brave skipper. They were only going to be out for a three hour tour but ran into some bad weather. What most people don't know is that the brave and sure skipper never filed a Float Plan, failed to check the weather forecast and did not carry an Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacon or EPIRB thereby delaying search efforts for weeks and making locating them on an uncharted deserted island almost impossible.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary strongly suggests that all recreational boaters, regardless of the size of their boat, carry with them not only the federal and local mandated safety equipment, but also a VHF Radio and a (EPIRB), which are not mandated. If the Minnow carried an EPIRB there never would have been a series since the five passengers and crew would have been located very quickly.

The filing of a Float Plan (<http://www.floatplancentral.org>) with friends, relatives and your marina enables these people to inform the Coast Guard when you don't arrive at the point you are supposed to when are expected to arrive. When properly completed the Float Plan contains information to make the search faster and easier. In the case of the Minnow no one knew they were overdue for several weeks.

A Float Plan asks such questions as what type of boat, what is your proposed itinerary, do you have a radio, how many people on board, etc. The answers can shorten the process of locating a missing boater.

Although we have made a little light out of the voyage of the Minnow, safe boating and seamanship is no joke. For more information about safe boating, [check out](#) the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at www.cgaux.org.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard. It was founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress as the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve and re-designated as the Auxiliary in 1941. More than 29,000 members donate millions of hours annually in support of Coast Guard missions. For more information on the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, visit us at <http://www.cgaux.org> or <http://www.auxpa.org>.

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