

## **Cocktail Time Etiquette**

A major cruising joy is sitting in the cockpit of a boat, sipping cocktails and watching the sunset. That joy is often shared with other cruisers, either in their cockpit or yours. This is the perfect forum for meeting new arrivals to an anchorage, renewing old acquaintances or simply chatting with the friend you chatted with yesterday.

The world is littered with alcohol deserts, and it is as important to know where these areas are because they exist, and because boats have only limited storage areas, some of which has to be allocated to food. A sort of unwritten code has been developed amongst long term cruisers to conserve this special resource. The host boat provides the snacks, visitor boats may bring snacks as well, but it is not mandatory. Everyone brings their own drinks, whatever they are, from water to martinis, in their own containers, with their own drinking glasses or cups. The visitors bring their own ice, unless the host boat advises, in advance, that ice is available aboard. When the visitors finish their drinks, it is extremely bad manners for them to ask for more, or for others to offer more.

The timing for cocktail hour is also a factor. Generally you want to start the cocktail hour early enough so you can have one or two drinks before darkness or dinner time signals a stop.

Everyone in the anchorage should be the host boat at least once. The larger boats often are asked to be the de facto host boat by others who would bring the snacks.

Do not fly one of the tacky flags with a martini glass on it. Everyone in the anchorage has either been invited to another boat, is a host boat, or is drinking alone, so it is totally redundant.