Lynn's Nautical Terms



Acronyms Galore

NLC - Navy League Cadet

NLCC - Navy League Cadet Corps

NLOC - Navy League of Canada

RCSC - Royal Canadian Sea Cadet

RCSCC - Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps

NL - Navy League

IAW - In accordance with

IRT - In reference to

RTU - Return to Unit

ACO - Area Cadet Officer

ACA - Area Cadet Advisor

AO - Administrative Officer

XO - Executive Officer

CO - Commanding Officer

TO - Training Officer

RCSU - Regional Cadet Support Unit

DET - Detachment

CHAP - Cadet Harassment Advisory Programme

CSTC - Cadet Summer Training Centre

CPU - Cadet Programme Update

CI - Civilian Instructor

CV - Civilian Volunteer

CPIC - Canadian Police Information Check

A&A	Alteration or addition to a ship
ABACK	Condition of sail when the wind pressure is on the leeward or forward
	side, with sails backed or trimmed to windward
ABAFT	Behind or further towards the stern, behind the boat
ABAFT THE BEAM	Any direction between the beam and the stern, more behind a vessel
	than in front of it. Bearing more than 90 degrees on either side from
	dead ahead
ABEAM	The direction between the beam and the stern, at right angles to the
	length of the boat
ABOARD	On or in or into a boat
ABOUT SHIP	The order to tack ship
ABREAST	Opposite or right angles to
ADRIFT	Not being fast to a stationary mooring
ADMEASURE	regulation measurement of a vessel for documentation
ADMIRALTY LAW	The Law of the Seas, often debated by Sea Lawyers
ADVANCE	When a unit is moving in the direction the front rank is facing, or would
	be facing if it were in line.
AFT	Towards the stern-back of the boat from a midship
AGROUND	A vessel that is resting on the bottom or the rocks is said to be "aground"
АНОУ	A seaman's way of attracting attention
AID TO NAVIGATION	used to establish position, a fixed mark such as a buoy, landmark, radio
	beacon, lighthouse, gps satellite, etc.
ALEE	Away from the direction of the wind, referring to the helm or the tiller
ALOFT	Above the deck, overhead in the rigging
AMA	outboard hull of a trimaran
ANCHOR	1) the act of anchoring
	2) a weighted object designed to hold a boat in position that is lowered
	into the water, usually "catching" on the bottom
ANCHORAGE	A suitable place for anchoring
ANCHOR	A chain attached to the anchor. The chain acts partially as a weight to
	keep the anchor lying next to the ground so that it can dig in better and
	better absorb changes in the boat's position due to waves. Chain holds
ANGLIOD DENIE	up better than line when lying on rocks.
ANCHOR BEND	A knot used to fasten the anchor to the anchor line
ANCHOR LIGHT	A white light, usually on the masthead, visible from all directions, used when anchored
ANGLIOD I OCKED	A storage area, usually in the bow, to store the anchor, rode and line
ANCHOR LOCKER	IN STOTUCE UTED USUALLY IN THE DOW. TO STOTE THE ANCHOR FOOD AND LINE

ANCHOR ROLLER	Also called bow roller. A fitting with a small wheel that allows the anchor and chain to roll over when dropping or raising the anchor. Some anchor rollers also have a provision to store the anchor
ANCHOR WINDLASS	A windlass used to assist when raising the anchor, can be manual or electric
ANEMOMETER	An instrument used to measure wind velocity
ASTERN	Backwards, somewhere behind, towards the stern
ATHWART OR ATHWARTSHIPS	At right angles to the centerline: running from side to side
AUTOPILOT	A device used to steer a boat automatically, usually electrical, hydraulic or mechanical in nature. A similar mechanism called a self-steering gear may also be used on a sailing vessel
AUXILIARY	A yacht propelled by both sail and power or a support group, i.e., Coast Guard Auxiliary
AVAST	A nautical command to stop or cease. Date: 1681, perhaps from Dutch "houd vast" hold fast
AWASH	Level with the surface of the sea
AWEIGH	To raise the anchor

BBB BRAVO BBB	
BABY STAY	Secondary forestay supporting the leading edge of the mast and used to flatten the mainsail in building winds. Usually hydraulic
BACK	 The wind shifts its direction counterclockwise To trim a sail to windward
BACK SPLICE	A splice formed when a crown knot is made in the end of a piece of line and the ends are woven three times or more into the standing part of the line
BACKING & FILLING	Alternatively letting the sails fill then spilling wind, to keep a boat in one place
BACKSPRING	A spring line from the stern of a boat to mid ships to stop forward movement
BACKSTAY	Standing or running (adjustable) wire rigging that supports the mast from the aft stern
BACKWIND	Wind that is deflected from it's normal course by the sails
BACKWIND A SAIL	Causing the wind to fill the back or low pressure side of the sail, used to slow a boat
BAGGY WINKLES	Tassels of unravelled line that are lashed around chafe spots to minimize chafing on the sails
BAIL	To remove water from the boat
BAILERS	Bilge troughs in a small boat to funnel water overboard when underway

BALANCE	Set up and trim of all equipment and the sails so that there is a slight weather helm.
BALE	Metal ring on a boom, pole or mast used to attach blocks or shackles
BALLAST	Weight in a boat to give it stability and prevent over-heeling. Crew on the high side may be called movable ballast
BALLOON JIB	A reaching headsail that has a big draft and is usually light-weight
BAR	A region of shallow water usually made of sand or mud, usually running parallel to the shore. Bars are caused by wave and current action, and may not be shown on a chartchart
BARBER HAUL	A block and tackle set-up used to change the athwart ships lead of the jib sheet
BARE BOAT CHARTER	Chartering a boat that you skipper yourself, no paid captain
BARE POLES	A boat under way with all sails furled
BARGE	To force (be high) your way illegally between another boat and the starting line; a flag officer's boat
BAROMETER	An instrument that measures atmospheric pressure in inches or millibars of mercury
BARRACK STANCHION	A person who has spent time ashore
BATTON DOWN	To secure closed or shut
BATTENS	Light, thin strips of wood or plastic inserted in batten pockets in the sail to stiffen the sail and extend the leech
BEAM	The greatest width of a boat
BEAM ENDS	When a ship is completely on her sides; confusion
BEAM REACH	Point of sail when the apparent wind from directly abeam
BEAM WIND	One which blows across a boat's side
BEAMY	Wide, a wide boat is a beamy boat
BEAR	To approach from windward is to bear down, to bear off is to sail away to leeward
BEARING.	Direction of an object from another in compass points or degrees
BEATING	Working to windward by a series of tacks A point of sail also known as sailing close hauled
BEAUFORT SCALE	A number system used to describe wind forces and sea conditions from O for a flat calm to 12 for a hurricane
BECKET	An eye in the end of a block in which to secure a line
BEFORE THE WIND	Having the wind coming from behind or aft the boat, going the same direction as the wind is blowing
BELAY	To make fast a line to a cleat or belaying pin; also to cancel an order
BELOW	Beneath the decks, ie, inside a cabin or in a hold
BEND	To fasten one line end to another using a knot
BERTH	A narrow sailor's bed or the slip where a boat is moored
BIGHT	Any section a line between the ends
BILGE	The area of the hull below the waterline. The lower internal part of a

	boat's hull, adjacent to the keels. The place where water collects
BILGE PUMP	A pump to drain the place where water collects
BIMINI	A weather protection covering, usually mounted on a frame over a
	portion of the cockpit. Can be of fabric, i.e., canvas or hard material,
	i.e., fiberglass or plastic.
BINNACLE	The pedestal usually where the wheel is mounted that holds the compass
	and nav equipment
BITT	A vertical post extending above the deck for securing mooring lines
BITTER END	The end of a line or last link of chain
BLANKET	To block the wind from the sails of a boat that is to leeward
BLOCK	A piece of hardware consisting of a shive inside a frame which a line is
	run through. A line through a block forms a tackle
BLOCK & TACKLE	Combination of blocks and line to afford a mechanical advantage
BLOOPER	Light-weight fore sail similar to a spinnaker but set without a pole.
BOARD	A leg or tack when sailing close-hauled; the old name of the side of the
	ship. To board means to go alongside. To board and enter means to
	enter a ship (forcibly).
BOAT SPEED	Speed through the water, not over ground
BOATSWAIN	Crew member responsible for upkeep on the hull, riggin and sails.
	Pronounced bo sun.
BOBSTAY	A wire stay from the bow to the end of a bowsprit to counteract the
	upward pull of a forestay
BOLLARD	A strong post securing lines
BOLT ROPE	A rope sewn to the edges of a sail for additional strength and along the
	luff of some mainsails to insert in a track on mast in order to raise it
BOOM	A spar at the foot of a sail attached to the mast
BOOM CRUTCH	A notched support built off the deck for the boom when the sail is
	furled
BOOM PREVENTER	A block and tackle attached to the boom and the deck to prevent the
	main from flopping over when sailing downwind
BOOM-VANG	A block & tackle secured to the boom to flatten the sail and to prevent
200	it from lifting when off the wind by a downward pull on the boom
BOOT-TOP	A painted stripe along the waterline delineating the topside from the
	bottom paint
BOSUN'S CHAIR	Canvas or wood seat attached a halyard to raise and lower someone to work on the mast
DOTTOM	
BOTTOM	 The underside of the hull that sits in the water The ocean floor
POW.	
BOW	The forward end of the boat, the pointy end
BOWDITCH, Nathaniel	The "author" of navigation and seamanship, Bowditch's referring to his
DOWE TAKE	book
BOWLINE	A knot used to form a loop in the end of a line

BOWSPRIT	A spar attached to and extending forward from the bow to provide
	additional sail area
BRIDGE	The area from which a vessel is controlled, usually applied to engine
	powered vessels
BRIGHTWORK	All wood that is varnished or polished metal
BRING ABOUT	To reverse directions, to turn around
BRISTOL FASHION	Keep in a seaman-like manner
BRIGHT WORK	Wood trim and any metal needing polishing on a vessel
BROACH	To go over violently toward the wind and lose steering , a "knock down"
BROAD REACH	A point of sail when the wind comes from either quarter
BUFFER	Chief Boatswain
BULKHEAD	Vertical partition in a boat, the "walls"
BULWARK	A railing around the deck of a boat to keep things from going overboard
	and the seas from coming aboard
виоу	A floating mark or mooring anchored in place sometimes with whistles or
	bells
BUOYANCY	Degree of floatability
BURDENED VESSEL	The vessel without right-of-way that must keep clear of a vessel that
	does have the right of way
BURGEE	A small flag , usually triangular, flown from the starboard spreader on a
	sailboat or the bow on power vessels to denote yacht club affiliation
BY THE LEE	Sailing with the wind coming from the same side that the sails are
	trimmed on
BY THE WIND	Sailing close-hauled

CCC CHARLIE CCC	
CABIN	The room in a small boat, sleeping quarters in a larger boat
CABLE	The line or chain that is secured to the anchor
CADENCE	The number of paces to the minute
CALKING/CAULKING	Forcing material into the seams of the planks in a boat's deck or sides to make them watertight
CALM	Little or no wind and flat seas
CAM CLEAT	A spring-loaded cam that clamps a fed line in its teeth
CAMBER	The arch of the deck sloping downward from the center towards the sides or of a sail under load
CAN BUOY	A cylindrical green, odd numbered buoy used in US waters to be kept to the left when returning from one body of water to another
CANVAS	Sails or sail area or the sail cover, dodger, etc. usually made from cotton, linen or hemp, as opposed to modern sailcloth
CAPSIZE	To turn over, either a boat or a knot on itself

CAPSTAN	a machine for moving or raising heavy weights that consists of a vertical
	drum which can be rotated and around which cable is turned, much like a
	windlass or winch
CAPTAIN	The person in charge of the boat and having legal responsibility for it
	and its passengers and crew
CAR	The slider on a track to which blocks or other hardware is attached to
	allow adjustment
CARDINAL POINTS	The compass points of north, east, south and west. Intercardinal points
	are southeast, southwest, northwest and northeast
CARRY AWAY	Removed or lost due to sea or wind
CAST OFF	To let go of a line, to be free of one's mooring
CATAMARAN	A craft with two hulls joined by crossbeams
CAT BOAT	A small boat with the mast stepped far forward, carrying a single sail
CAT RIG	Rigged to carry only a mainsail, no jib
CATENARY	The curve of a rope hung between two points such as the anchor rode or
	towing line
CELESTIAL	A method to determine a position using the sun, moon and stars by
NAVIGATION	measuring with a sextant the apparent altitude of one of these objects
	above the horizon, recording the sightings with an accurate clock and
	calculating using the Nautical Almanac
CENTER OF EFFORT	The center of wind pressure on the sail plan
CENTERBOARD	A board that is raised and lowered in a watertight box called the trunk
	or well to increase the draft and lateral area of the hull
CENTERLINE	The imaginary line that runs down the middle of the boat, bow to stern
CHAFE	Abrasion or wear
CHAFING GEAR	Canvas, rubber or other material around a line or cable to protect it
	from wear and abrasion
CHAIN LOCKER	Similar to an anchor locker, storage area for the anchor chain
CHAIN PLATES	Metal straps or rods bolted to the hull structure to which the shrouds
	are attached
CHANDLERY	A marine hardware store
CHANNEL	A navigable waterway, usually marked that is charted as to depth.
CHART	A nautical map
CHARTER	To rent a boat
CHEEK BLOCK	A block whose sheave is mounted against the side of a surface such as a
	spar
CHINE	The line of intersection between the sides and bottom of a boat, where
	the deck joins the hull
СНОСК	Deck fairlead used to direct anchor or mooring lines
CHOCK-A-BLOCK	Full up
СНОР	Short waves at rapid intervals
CHUCK	The sea
	1110 300

сним	A fishing term for animal or vegetable matter (as chopped fish or corn) thrown overboard to attract fish
CIRCUMNAVIGATE	To sail around the world
CLEAR	Free, not entangled
CLEAR FOR RUNNING	A sheet or halyard coiled so that it will run out quickly without becoming
SSEAR FOR ROTATE	tangled
CLEAT	A device of wood or metal with two horns around which ropes are made
	fast, not good for bare feet
CLEW	The lower, after corner of a mainsail, jib, mizzen, and both lower
	corners of a spinnaker
CLEW OUTHAUL	The tackle used to adjust the clew in and out on the boom
CLOSE ABOARD	In close proximity to
CLOSE-HAULED	Sailing as close to the wind as possible - "beating" and "on the wind"
CLOVIS PIN	A pin that secures one fitting to another.
CLOVE HITCH	A knot to fasten a line to a spar or another line
COAMING	The low wall around a cockpit
COCKPIT	The lowered area in the after deck housing the tiller or wheel and for
	the use of the helmsman and crew
CODLINE	According to "The Oxford Companion To Ships And The Sea", a codline
	is a: Small line laid up with eighteen threads. It was originally the line
	used in fishing for cod, but also has a variety of uses on board ship for
	purposes where small rope would be too large and clumsy. Cheers from
	the sloop LITTLE WING
COIL	To lay a line down in circular turns or to arrange in loops so it can be
	stowed. Line is sold by the coil, which contain 200 fathoms
COLOURS	When used alone, or unless otherwise specified - Standards
COLUMN, CLOSE	A column with distance reduced to suit requirements with minimum
	distance of 12 paces between divisions and 15 paces between companies
COLUMN OF ROUTE	Unit with not more than 3 people abreast in any part of the column,
	including officers and supernumeraries
COLUMN OF THREE	A unit in threes whith officers and supernumeraries in the same
1045 400 400	position as in line, but turned to a flank
COME ABOARD	To enter a stone frigate or to come onto a ship or boat
COME ABOUT	To tack
COMPANIONWAY	The area leading down from the deck to the cabin., usually with steps
COMPASS	A glass dome containing a magnetized card indicating the direction to magnetic north
COMPASS COURSE	The direction of a ship's heading based on the ship's compass
COMPASS ERROR	The amount the compass is deflected from the true direction by
	variation and deviation together
COMPASS ROSE	A circle graduated in points, or degrees, or both, from which courses
	are laid
-	,

CORDAGE	Any line or rope
COTTER PIN	A small double-pronged bendable pin used to secure a clovis pin
COUNTER	"The underside of the overhand of the afterpart of the hull"
COURSE	1) The compass direction steered by the vessel
	2) The sequence of marks rounded in a race
COURSE PROTRACTOR	An instrument with a movable arm to plot a course on a chart
COURTESY FLAG	A smaller sized flag of the host country flown from the starboard spreader
COWLS	Scooped devices to direct airflow into a boat
CQR ANCHOR	Coastal Quick Release anchor, also known as plow anchor designed to bury itself in the bottom
CRADLE	The bridles on a spinnaker pole which attach to the topping lift and the downhaul or the framework that supports a boat when hauled out
CRASHED	Slanf for a sailor sleeping
CREST	The highest point of a wave
CREW	Everybody who helps sail a boat but not the captain
CRINGLE	A large eye of line around a thimble worked in the leach and clew of a sail, ie, the reef cringle and clew cringle
CROSS BEARING	Two or more bearings are noted on the chart in order to determine the ship's position at the intersect
CUDDY	A small shelter cabin in a small boat
CUNNINGHAM	A block and tackle system invented by Briggs Cunningham and used to adjust the tension on the luff of the mainsail
CURRENT	The horizontal movement of water which may be periodic caused by the tides or seasonal winds
CUT	The shape of a sail
CUTTER	A sailboat with one mast, rigged with a mainsail and two headsails

DDD DELTA DDD	
DAGGER BOARD	A centerboard that is instead raised and lowered vertically in a trunk
DAVIT	A hoist that projects over the side of a ship or a hatchway and is used especially for boats, anchors, or cargo.
DAYSAILER	A small boat intended to be used only for short sails or racing
DECK HEAD	The ceiling in a stone frigate or a ship
DEAD RECKONING	To plot a future position based on travel from a known position using speed, time and course
DEEP SIX	The ocean or, to throw overboard
DERELICT	A ship abandoned by her crew, but still afloat

DEVIATION	The errors of a compass' reading due to the effect of magnetic forces
	on board the boat
DEVIATION CARD	A listing of a particular boat's steering deviation on each point of the
	compass
DINGHY	A small rowboat or inflatable, usually used for transport
DINK	Nickname for dinghy
DIP	To lower temporarily; to pass under. Dipped is to be reverted in rank
DISPLACEMENT	The weight of the water displaced by a floating boat which is equal to
	the its weight
DITTY BAG	Canvas bag for a sailor's personal tools
DOLPHIN	a spar or buoy for mooring boats. also a cluster of closely driven piles
	used as a fender for a dock or as a mooring or guide for boats
DOUSE	To take down a sail quickly
DOWNHAUL, BOOM	Tackle attached to the gooseneck which pulls down the boom when the
	sail is raised to tighten the luff
DOWNWIND	To leeward
DOWSE	To put out a light or fire
DRAG	To pull along the seabed or recover something
DRAFT	1) How deep the water must be to float a boat.
	2) The belly or chord depth of the sail, its fullness
	3) The depth of the boat below the waterline
	4) The amount of water the boat draws from the water line to its
	greatest extremity below the water line.
DRESSING	The act of taking up correct alignment and covering
DRIFT	Speed or velocity of current
DRIP	To complain

EEE ECHO EEE	
EASE	To let out a line or sail <i>slowly</i>
EBB	The time when the tidal current is flowing away from the land
EYE SPLICE	A loop spliced into the end of a rope
Eyes of the Ship	The extreme forward end

FFF FOXTROT FFF	
FCC RULES	Federal Communications Commission rules and regulations governing radio equipment and operation in the United States and its coastal waters.

FAIR WIND	Wind coming over the beam, quarters or stern, abaft of the beam
FAIR LEAD	Deck hardware, usually with an eye used to lead line
FAIRWAY	The "lanes" used for passageway in a harbor, the channel way
FAKE OUT	To lay wire or rope on the deck so it is free running
FAST	To secure, tie off, cleat, knot or fasten
FATHOM	Six feet of depth; nautical measure
FENDER	Protective devices placed alongside the freeboard to protect the hull.
	Old tires, sponges, rolled nets, hawsers were all called defenders, thus "fender"
FETCH	1) Making a mark or location when sailing to windward without tacking
FETCH	2) The distance wind and waves can travel toward land without being blocked.
FIBERGLASS	A construction medium using layers of woven glass mats that are
	bonded together with glue (epoxy).
FID	A pointed tool used to separate strands of rope
FIDDLE	Fitting on a table to keep mess utensils in place in bad weather
FIGURE EIGHT KNOT	A knot made in the end of a line to prevent its backing through a block
FIN KEEL	A keel that is narrower and deeper than a full keel
FISHERMAN'S BEND	A knot used to fasten a cable to the anchor
FIX	The charted position of a boat made by taking two or more bearings on known landmarks
FLAKE	
FLAKE	 A complete loop in coiling down a line so that it can run free To fold the sail in layers on the boom
FLANK	Either side of a body of troops, as opposed to its front or rear
FLARE	1)safety equipment-an unsteady glaring light produced by an incendiary
	device
	2) the rise of a boat hull that "flares" out from the water line to the
	deck, usually at the bow
FLATTEN IN	To trim the sheets in
FLAW	A gust stronger than the prevailing wind
FLEET	A general term meaning the ships of the navy
FLOOD	The time when the flow of the tide is toward the land
FLOTSAM	Debris floating on the water surface.
FLUKE	1) The broad flat parts of an anchor that are designed to grab and hold
	in the bottom 2) The fin on a whale
FLY	The wind direction indicator on the masthead
FOIL	A winglike surface below the hull that, when moving through water, lifts the hull out of the water (plane-ing) allowing greater speeds
FOOT	The bottom edge of a sail
FORE	The part of a boat or things forward of amidships
FORE AND AFT	Following the line of the keel, from bow to stern
FORECASTLE	The crew quarters on a traditional sailing ship forward of the main mast
I OKTONO I EL	Time of ew qualifiers on a frauthonal salling ship forward of the hain hast

FOREDECK	The deck area forward of the mast, to work foredeck is to change the headsail or tack or jibe the spinnaker
FOREFOOT	The point where the stem joins the keel
FOREMAST	The mast nearest the bow
FOREPEAK	The compartment at the bow of the vessel
FOREREACH	The headway a vessel makes when luffed in the wind
FORESAIL	The sail set from the foremast on a schooner
FORESTAY	Also known as the headstay, a line running from the bow of the boat to the upper part of the mast, designed to pull the mast forward. A forestay that attaches slightly below the top of the mast can be used to help control the rake of the mast.
FORWARD	Towards the bow
FORWARD OFF THE BEAM	Any direction less than 90 degrees off the bow
FOUL	1) To be tangled (line) or in turmoil (air) 2) In racing, a rules infraction
FOUNDER	To sink
FREE	1) To sail with the wind from the quarters of stern 2) In racing, when not sailing close-hauled
FREEBOARD	The distance from the deck lip to the water
FULL AND BY	The point of sail when all sails are full and drawing and the course is close-hauled
FULL KEEL	A keel that runs the length of the boat and having a shallower draft than fin keels
FURL	To lower a sail or bring it in partially furled to reduce the amount of sail area in use without completely lowering the sail (reefing). A self furling rig winds the sail around the stay or into a itself.

GGG GOLF GGG	
GAFF	A boom or spar that supports the head of a fore-and-aft sail
GALLEY	A vessel's cooking area, kitchen
GANGWAY	Boarding ramp; hallway in a stone frigate or on a ship or boat
GASH	Extras, leftovers and garbage
GASKET	A sail stop
GATE VALVE	A valve with a faucet handle used to restrict the flow of water in a line
GEL COAT	The outer resin surface of a fiberglass boat, usually colored
GENOA	A jib that overlaps the mainsail
GHOSTING	To make headway when there is no apparent wind

GIVEWAY VESSEL	The boat which must give way to the right of way vessel
GLOBAL POSITIONING	A navigation system using satellite signals to fix a position
SYSTEM (GPS)	
GO ADRIFT	To break loose from a mooring, anchor or docking
GOOSENECK	The fitting which secures the boom to the mast
GRAPNEL	A pronged hook for retrieving gear over the side or for dragging the
DRAFINEL	bottom
GREEN SEA	An unbroken wave
GROUND	To touch bottom
GROUND SWELL	Long wave formations during calm or light air formed by waves running
	into shoaling water
GROUND TACKLE	The anchor and associated gear
GUNWALE	The rail or upper edge of a boat
GYBE	To change direction before the wind onto another tack with the boom
	coming over by the force of the wind

HHH HOTEL HHH	
HALYARD	A line attached to the head of sail and run up the mast to lower and raise the sail
HANDSOMELY	Slowly, carefully
HARD CHINE	The abrupt intersection between the hull side and the hull bottom of a boat, not a rounded edge
HATCH	An opening in a boat's deck fitted with a watertight cover
HAUL TAUT	To pull tight
HAWSER	A heavy line or cable used for towing, or mooring or anchoring a large vessel
HEAD	1. A marine toilet (The term comes from the days of sailing ships when the place for the crew to relieve themselves was all the way forward on either side of the bowsprit, the integral part of the hull to which the figurehead was fastened.) 2. The upper corner of a triangular sail.
HEADFOIL	A channel fitted on the forestay into which the bolt rope of the sail is inserted, used instead of shackles
HEADING	The direction in which a vessel's bow points at any given time
HEADWAY	The forward motion of a boat. Opposite of sternway.
HEAVE TO	To back-wind the jib and luff the main to hold a position especially in heavy seas
HELM	The wheel or tiller controlling the rudder
HELMSMAN	The person who steers or drives the boat
HITCH	1. A knot used to secure a rope to another object or to another rope

	2. To form a loop or a noose in a rope
HOLD	The compartment below deck in a large vessel used solely for carrying cargo
HOLYSTONE	The last Navy ships with teak decks were the battleships, now since decommissioned. Teak, and other wooden decks, were scrubbed with a piece of sandstone, nicknamed at one time by an anonymous witty sailor as the "holystone." It was so named because since its use always brought a man to his knees, it must be holy!
HULL	The main shell of a vessel.

III INDIA III	
IN IRONS	With the bow of the boat directly into the wind so that neither side fills, this will stop a boat
IN STAYS	see IN IRONS
INBOARD	Inside the boat, ie., an inboard motor is one installed inside the boat as opposed to an "outboard" motor that is mounted on the outside of the hull.
INCLINE	To face, and if on the march to move, in a direction of 45 degrees from the front to the indicated flank
INLAND RULES	Navigation rules governing waters inside designated demarcation Izones
INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE	The line of longitude 180 degrees opposite Greencich, England. located in the Pacific that marks the date change
INTERNATIONAL RUKLES	Navigation rules governing waters outside designated demarcation zones
IRISH PENNANTS	Rope yarns or stray rope or thread ends hanging
ISSINGLASS	The clear, soft plastic material used for dodger window panels

JJJ JULIET JJJ	
JACOB'S LADDER	rope or line ladder
JACK	Knowledge or a friend of ours'. With "Union", the British flag.
JACK LINE	Lines that running along the deck between the bow and stern used to attach a safety harness tether
JACKSTAY	1: an iron rod, wooden bar or wire rope along a yard of a ship to which the sails are fastened 2: a support of wood, iron, or rope running up a mast on which the loop or collar of a yard travels
JAM CLEAT	A cleat with two teethed jaws that hold a line in place

JAMING	Particular method of taking a turn with a rope
JAWS	Retractable levered fitting through which a line runs, ie., spinnaker pole jaws
JETTISON	To cast overboard
JETTY	A breakwater or other rabble built up to protect a harbor, anchorage or other area from the open seas
JIB	A foresail, smaller than a genoa
JIFFY REEF	Usually a series of lines used to catch the main as it is lowered, or reefed so that it doesn't spread out all over before tying down
JIMMY	The executive officer
JUMP (A LINE)	To stand at the mast and pull down on a halyard as another crewmate winches it in

KKK KILO	KKK
KEDGE ANCHOR	A light anchor used for kedging off
KEDGING OFF	Freeing a grounded boat by hauling in on an anchorline that has been secured in deeper water by a dinghy
KEEL	The fin attached to the underside of the hull. It is filled with lead ballast to provide upright stability and prevent sideslipping by countering the lateral force of the wind
KEEP HER FULL	To keep the sails full and drawing
KETCH	A two masted yacht with the smaller after mast stepped ahead of the rudder post
KNOCKDOWN	When a boat is knocked on her beam-ends by a sudden gust or squall, especially under spinnaker
KNOT	A measure of speed in nautical miles per hour
KUMATAGE	A bright appearance in the horizon, under the sun or moon, arising from the reflected light of those bodies from the small rippling waves on the surface of the water FROM Bowditch's Navigator, 24th edition (1854) page 295, thanks to John Lynch Cummins (moon river)
куЕ	Hot chocolate drink

LLL LIMA	LLL
LABOUR	A ship labours when she pitches and rolls heavy
LADDERS	Stairs in a stone frigate or on a ship or boat
LAND BREEZE	An evening wind coming from the land

LANDLOCKED	Surrounded by land
	A short line, often with a clip, used to fasten things together
) to tie something down or together with line
	2) a strike of a whip or cat-of-nine
LASK	To sail with the wind on the quarter, i.e., well abaft the beam
-	-from the glossary of Peter Padfield's "Maritime Supremacy and the
	Opening of the Western Mind". ThanksKen Atkatz
	The use of a keel, centerboard, daggerboard or leeboard to keep a boat
	rom being pushed sideways by the wind
LATITUDE	East and west circle lines running parallel to the Equator at 0°, measuring distance north and south at 90°
) a small boat used as transport to a larger vessel
	2) to set a boat or ship afloat
) Lay the course, able to fetch a given point when close-hauled 2) The twist of a line's strands, if twisted left, it is left laid
LAZARETTE	Stowage lockers in the cockpit
	A line attached to a sail but not in use when the boat is on the opposite
	ack as opposed to the working sheet
	A weighted line, knotted at fathoms, lowered from the deck and used to
	determine water depth
LEAGUE	Three nautical miles
	The trailing edge of a sail
	An integrated line in a sail used to tighten the leech to create the
	proper shape in various wind conditions
	Jsually a piece of canvas attached to a berth and fastened so as to keep one in bed when heeled
LEE HELM	Sailing with the tiller over to leeward by force of the wind
	Foward the lee side, away from the wind
LEEWAY	The distance a boat slips to leeward by force of the wind
	The distance sailed on one tack. The course from one mark to another
	To be as stationary as possible in a gale with the wind and sea ahead
	A sudden wind shift away from the bow
	Sails, such as the spinnaker, reacher and reaching staysail used when
I I	running or reaching
LIMBERS	Holes in the bilge crossframes to allow bilge water to drain to the
	owest point
LINES	Ropes
LIST	When a boat leans to one side
LOA	Refers to Length Overall, the measurement from the leading edge of
<u> </u> +	he bow to the end of the stern or any overhang
LOCKER	A closet or stowage compartment
LOG, LOG BOOK	
	A record of all activities of the boat and conditions. In the early days of sailing ships, the ship's records were written on shingles cut from logs.

	These shingles were hinged and opened like a book. The record was called the "log book." Later on, when paper was readily available and bound into books, the record maintained it name.
LONG-SPLICE	Joining ends of two lines in so that the splice will pass freely through a block
LONGITUDE	North and south circle lines pointing true north, measuring distance east and west 180 degrees from the prime meridian at Greenwich, England. The International Date Line is longitudinal
LOOSE-FOOTED	A sail not attached to a boom or secured to a boom at the track and clew only
LORAN	A positioning systems using broadcast radio waves from a known positions to determine your location. Is being replaced by GPS
LUBBER LINE	A line on the forward side of the compass bowl representing the bow of the ship and used to steer a course
LUFF	1) To alter course more nearly into the wind 2) The forward edge of a sail

MMM MIK	E MMM
MAGNETIC BEARING	The direction of a point figuring no deviation
MAGNETIC COURSE	The boats heading based on the magnetic compass
MAIN MAST	The forward mast of a yawl or ketch or the tallest mast on a schooner
MARKER	An individual place to indicate the position, which a body of troops will occupy, when covering and falling in
MARLINE	Two-stranded twine of tarred hemp
MARLIN SPIKE	A pointed steel tool for opening line strands for splicing or to loosen an over-tight knot
MARLINSPIKE SAILOR	One who is adept at splicing, knotting, and working with line and canvas
MAST BOOT OR COAT	A canvas or rubber sleeve or boot around the mast at the deck to keep out water
MAST HEAD	The top of the mast
MAST STEP	The structure on which the mast rests
MATIE	Dockyard worker
MAYDAY	The internationally recognized voice radio signal for ships and people in serious trouble at sea. Made official in 1948, it is an anglicizing of the French m'aidez, "help me".
MILE	A nautical sea mile is 6080 feet
MIZZEN	The sail of a ketch, yawl, or three masted schooner on the aft mast
MOORING	Heavy cement blocks on the bottom or anchors with chain, mooring lines and usually a buoy placed permanently in position

MORSE CODE	The radio language of "dits" (•) and "dahs" (-) used with a key
	A · - I · · R · - ·
	B-···J·S···
	C - · - · K - · - T -
	DLU
	E · M V · · · -
	F · · - · N - · W ·
	G · O X - · · -
	H····P··Y
	Q · - Z · ·

NNN NOVEMBER NNN	
NAUTICAL MILE	The International Nautical Mile as proposed by the International Hydrographic Bureau in 1929 and adopted by the United States in 1954 has a length of 1852 Metres (approximately 6076.11549 International Feet). This length is from the French Sea Mile in use in 1929. (thanks to Michael Young) The Nautical miles is 1.15 greater than a statute mile and is directly related to the 360 degrees of the circumference of the earth. All navigation is based upon the Nautical Mile. (thanks to Verne Russell)
NAVIGATION RULES	The maritime rules governing navigation
NOAA	(United States of America) National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, keeper of nautical charts and the weather

000 OSCAR 000	
OFF SOUNDINGS	In blue water beyond the 100-fathom curve
OFF THE WIND	To sail with sails trimmed off
OFFSHORE WIND	Wind blowing from off the shore
ON THE WIND	Close-hauled
ORDER, OPEN	An increased distance between the ranks in the line which when is completed is two and one-half paces
ORDER, CLOSE	The normal distance between ranks in line, which is one pace
OSPREY POLE	Osprey poles are simply tall poles set in the water for the birds to nest on. Fish eagles= osprey, thanks Dan Goldston
OUTHAUL	A line on the end of a boom or gaff used to adjust the tension in or out on the clew of a sail away from the tack

OUT-POINT	To sail closer to the wind than another boat on the same tack
OVERHAUL	To overtake; to examine and repair; to haul apart the blocks of a tackle
OVERLAP	The distance the bow of a boat is forward of another's stern

PPP PAPA	PPP
PAD EYE	A round eye attached through the deck used to fasten a line or block to
	some part of the boat
PACE	A measurement of distance measured from heel to heel
PAINTER	The line attached to the bow of a dinghy for towing or tying up
PALM	A leather glove with a thimble built into the palm for sewing canvas
PARALLEL RULE	Tool used to transferring course and bearing to and from the compass rose on a chart
PAY OUT	To ease out on a line
PEA COAT	Sailors who have to endure pea-soup weather often don their pea coats but the coat's name isn't derived from the weather. The heavy topcoat worn in cold, miserable weather by seafaring men was once tailored from pilot cloth, a heavy, course, stout kind of twilled blue cloth with the nap on one side. The cloth was sometimes called P-cloth for the initial letter of "pilot" and the garment made from it was called a p-jacket, later, a pea coat. The term has been used since 1723 to denote coats made from that cloth.
PINCHING	Sailing too close to the wind
PIPE DOWN	An order meaning keep silence, a pipe down at sea means a free afternoon to catch up on lost sleep
PIPING	Boatswains have been in charge of the deck force since the days of sail. Setting sails, heaving lines, and hosting anchors required coordinated team effort and boatswains used whistle signals to order the coordinated actions. When visitors were hoisted aboard or over the side, the pipe was used to order "Hoist Away" or "Avast heaving." In time, piping became a naval honor on shore as well as at sea.
PIRATE	From the Latin "pirata" meaning marine adventurer
PISTOL SHOT	Pistol shot is an inexact term used for a distance. Think of it as 20 meters or less. Long pistol shot may be forty meters.
PITCH	Fore and aft movement (up and down) as the bow and stern rise and fall with the waves, also called hobby horsing
POINT	Being able to sail close to the wind
PORT	The left side of a vessel when facing forward
PORT HOLES	An opening in the structure of a vessel with a closable section. The word

	"port hole" originated during the reign of Henry VI of England (1485). King Henry insisted on mounting guns too large for his ship and the traditional methods of securing these weapons on the forecastle and aftcastle could not be used. A French shipbuilder named James Baker was commissioned to solve the problem. He put small doors in the side of the ship and mounted the cannon inside the ship. These doors protected the cannon from weather and were opened when the cannon were to be used. The French word for "door" is "porte" which was later Anglicized to "port" and later went on to mean any opening in the ship's side, whether for cannon or not.
PORT TACK	Sailing with the wind coming over the port side
PRAM	A square-ended dinghy
PREVENTER	A line and two blocks or the boom vang used to keep the boom over when reaching or running and to prevent an out of control swing during an accidental jibe
PROP WALK	Sideways force created by the spinning of the prop. Cat 36's back to port because of "prop walk"
PROW	The bow, stem and above the waterline.
PURCHASE	A block and tackle with multiple passes of the line to give power ration increase
PUSSER	Anything that is service issue

QQQ QUEBEC QQQ	
QUADRANT	The circle piece attached t the rudderpost on which the steering cables ride
QUARTER	The section of a boat behind the shrouds and in front of the stern, the aft sides. "Off the quarter" is in a direction 45 degrees behind the beam
QUARTERS	The cabin, staterooms, galley and salon
QUARTER BERTH	The bunk under the side of the cockpit
QUICK FLASH LIGHT	60 or more flashes per minute.

RRR ROMEO RRR	
RAKE	The angle of the mast with the deck
RANGE	1) Sighting two objects in a line to indicate a course to be steered 2) The distance a boat can travel using the fuel stored aboard
RAP FULL	A little off the wind, with all sails filled

On a tack with the wind coming from the side (abeam)
The call to tack
To reduce the sail area
Short pieces of line set in a sail for reefing
To pass a line through a block
To repair
The right to maintain a course according to the Rules of Navigation
The curve of the trailing edge of the sail
An anchor line or cable
The sideways motion of a boat
A knot
One complete turn of the line around a cleat, spar or another line
A board-shaped piece attached to the rudderpost or stern for steering and maneuvering
Rules of Navigation - The laws of navigation written to prevent accidents and collisions, including right of way, lights, pennants, and whistle signals
Detachable backstays set for the tack
Sailing with the wind coming from the stern
All control lines used to adjust the sails

SSS SIE	RRA SSS
SALVAGE	To save or recover a vessel or cargo
SCRAN LOCKER	Stowage for kit left lying about
SCUD	To run before a gale with little or no sail set Also a gust of wind. Ragged low clouds, moving rapidly beneath another cloud layer. American Heritage 3rd Edition. Billie JohnstonSailing Vessel Tango Checking out your nautical terms actually, to name our new dog (Also happens to be the name of a friend's boat.)
SCUPPER	A hole which allows water to run off the deck
SCUTTLEBUTT	a nautical term for a drinking fountain, or rumors. Derived from the cask containing drinking water in the days of sail, around which the crew used to gather and talk shop - <i>Jeffrey Cizek</i>
SEA BREEZE	Cool air pulled ashore by rising thermal air currents caused by the air inland rising as the land heats up
SEA LEGS	The ability to maintain balance when the ship is rolling
SEA ROOM	A safe distance away from a shore, jetty or other boat
SEA LAWYER	An argumentative crew member
SEACOCK	A valve in a line that restricts the flow of water operated by a handle

SECURE	To make fast; to stop work
SEIZE	1) To bind with thread
	2) To freeze up, as a valve
SET	1) To raise a sail
	2) The direction the current is flowing
SHARPEN UP	To come up more into the wind
SHEAVE (Shiv)	The roller in a block
SHEER	The upward curve in a deck
SHEET	A line used to trim a sail
SHEET BEND	A handy knot for joining two ropes' ends
SHIP'S COMPANY	The officers and crew of a ship
SHIPPING LANE	Path through open water used for commercial vessel passage and so noted on chart
SHIPSHAPE	Neat and tidy
SHORT-SPLICE	To permanently join two pieces of rope. It will not pass through a block since it increases the diameter
SHROUDS	Rigging which supports the mast from the sides
SILENT HOURS	Hours between pipe down and calling the hands; only emergency pipes
	are made
SISTER SHIPS	Ships of the same class
SKULK	To shirk work or loaf
SLACK AWAY	To let out a line
SLACK WATER	Absence of current. The time between flood and ebb tides when there
	is no current flow
SLOOP	A one masted vessel carrying a mainsail and a jib or genoa
SNATCH BLOCK	A block which opens on the side so that the bight of a line can be led
	into the block and closed without running the whole length through
SNUG	Properly secure, tight
SPARS	Booms, gaffs, masts yards and spars that attach to the mast
SPINNAKER	A light-weight, spherical sail used in reaching and running
SPLICE	To join two ropes by tucking their strands over and under each other in
	various manners
SPLIT TACKS	To take the opposite tack when sailing to windward with another yacht
SNUB	To stop the running out of a line by taking a turn around a cleat
SPRING LINE	A dock line leading forward or aft, to prevent a vessel from moving
	ahead or astern
SQUARE KNOT	A knot consisting of two overhand knots used for tying reef points
STANCHION	A supporting post
STANDING PART	The part of a line that is made fast
STANDING RIGGING	The shrouds and stays that support the mast
STAND ON VESSEL	The one having the right of way
	······································

STARBOARD	The right side of a boat when facing forward; indicated by the colour
	green
STARBOARD TACK	Sailing with the wind coming over the starboard side
STAYS	Rigging used to support the mast from forward or aft
STAYSAIL	A triangular sail set from stays or 'flying' on halyard
STEERAGE WAY	Sufficient forward movement for the rudder to affect steering
STEM	The upright post or bar of a boat
STERN	The afterpart of a boat
STONE FRIGATE	Term used to describe land bases or barracks used by the naval service
STOPS (or ties)	Pieces of line or canvas strips used to secure a sail when furling it
STOW	To put stuff away
STRUT	Metal support attached to the hull and propeller shaft to align
STUFFING BOX	The fitting that seals and lubricates the propeller shaft where it passes
	through the hull
SWEEPER	Person responsible for cleaning an area
SWING THE LEAD	To avoid work

TTT TANG	O TTT
TABERNACLE	A hinge in the mast near the deck used to lower and raise it
TACK	1) The course sailed with the wind on one side of the boat.
	2) To go about and change direction.
	3) The lower forward end of the sail
TACKLE	A purchase composed of blocks and lines
TAFFRAIL	originally the railing around the poop deck (officer's deck) on sailing
	ships. Now being applied to the railing at the stern of a sailboat. Also
	called a PUSHPIT (thanks to Richard & Janice Martin)
TAUT	Tight; to haul taut
TELLTALE	A length of yarn or other lightweight material attached to the sails,
	shrouds and other parts of a boat, used as a wind flow indicator of the
	apparent direction of the wind,
TENDER	1) A boat that lacks stability.
	2) A small dinghy or launch carried aboard a larger vessel
TETHER	The line, usually with shackled ends, used to attach a safety harness to
	a secure part of the boat
THWARTS	Seats set across the beam in a small boat
THWARTSHIPS	Crosswise of the deck following the beam
TIDAL RANGE	The range between high and low tide in feet
TIDDLEY	Neat; smart
TIFFY	Originally an artificer; mostly the medical person on board a ship

TILLER	The stick that the boat is steered with as opposed to a wheel
TOPPING-LIFT	A line from the upper mast supporting either the boom or the spinnaker
	pole
TRACK	The course traveled over the ground
TRAFFIC SEPARATION	The area between opposing shipping lanes, restricted to most navigation
ZONE	except for crossing with caution
TRANSOM	The flat area of a square ended boat
TRAVELER	A track that allows side to side adjustment of a main or jib sheet
TRIM	Trim is to adjust. It does not just apply to sheets. You can trim the boat or ship (ie improve it's balance)
TRIP LINE	The line attached to an anchor used to free it when fouled
TRUE COURSE	A course steered by the compass that has been corrected for variation
	and deviation
TURNBUCKLE	An English bolt, a threaded adjuster to tension stays and shrouds
TURNING BLOCK	Horizontally mounted block used to re-direct lines

UUU UNIFORM UUU	
UNBEND	To cast adrift
UNDERWAY	Untied and on your own, not attached to land or a mooring
UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT	Two vessels rig a line between themselves while underway to pass a basket between themselves containing supplies. Thanks to MST1 Zane A. Reser!
U <i>SCG</i>	United States Coast Guard
USSA	United States Sailing Association
USYRU	United States Yacht Racing Union

VVV VICTOR VVV	
VANG	A combination of short lines, a locking cam and a pulley attached to the lower part of the mast at one end and the cabin top or nearby area at the other end. The purpose is to keep the boom tensioned so that it doesn't lift. Also tensions the leach of the main sail. Stu MacDonald
VARIATION	The difference between true and magnetic north found in the compass rose and expressed in degrees and minutes. The difference in degrees from magnetic north and true north.
VEER	When the wind changes direction to the right, it is said to veer

www v	VHISKEY WWW
WAKE	The track of disturbed water boat leaves as it moves
WATCHES	A watch is somewhat akin to a work shift. Traditionally, a 24-hour day is divided into seven watches. These are: midnight to 4 a.m. [0000-0400], the mid-watch; 4 to 8 a.m. [0400-0800], morning watch; 8 a.m. to noon [0800-1200], forenoon watch; noon to 4 p.m. [1200-1600], afternoon watch; 4 to 6 p.m. [1600-1800] first dog watch; 6 to 8 p.m. [1800-2000], second dog watch; and, 8 p.m. to midnight [2000-2400], evening watch. The half hours of the watch are marked by the striking the bell an appropriate number of times.
WAY	A boat's movement through the water
WEAR SHIP WEARING	When a sailing ship sails "into" the wind, it necessarily has to zig zag, since it cannot sail directly upwind. The "zigs" and "zags" are called the port or starboard "tack", in relation to the wind direction. Changes of tack through the eye of the wind are called "tacking". If the ship changes "tack" by falling off from the wind, making a downwind turn, and coming back up on the other tack, that is "wearing". Wearing is easier on the ship, though slower, but needs more sea room.
WEATHER	The side of the boat from which the wind blows
WEATHER DECK	The uppermost deck of a ship; any deck that does not have overhead protection from the weather.
WEATHER HELM	The tendency of a boat to come up into the wind. The helm must be held over to keep the boat from coming
WHEEL	A movement by which a division changes direction
WHIPPING	Winding twine or heavy thread around the end of a line to keep it from unraveling
WHISKER POLE	An adjustable pole connected to the clew of the jib and the mast to hold the sail away from the mast when going downwind
WINCH	a mechanical device used to pull in a line or chain that may have a heavy load on it, ie, an anchor line or a sheet attached to a sail under pressure, using a gear ratio winding movement
WINDLASS	A revolving machine with a horizontal spindle used to raise or lower an anchor.
WIND SHADOW	Dead air in the lee of another boat or obstruction such as a jetty
WINDWARD	The side of the boat from which the wind blows



YYY YANKEE YYY		
YACHT	A boat over 65 feet in length	
YARD	Spar from which a square sail is hung	
YARDARM	The outer end of a yard	
YARN	A tall tale sea story	
YAW	To move from side to side	
YAWL	A two masted boat with a smaller mast stepped abaft of the helm	

ZZZ Z	ULU ZZZ
ZEPHYR	A gentle breze; the slightest movement of air
ZINC	Sacrificial anodes attached to the underwater section of the sahft to prevent electrolysis of metals aboard the boat from currents inherent to salt water