

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™



Door County Squadron



Boat Handling

Course and Seminar Series

United States Power Squadrons® Boat Handling Curriculum

**Rules
Of the Road**
A Practical Approach



**Confidence in Docking
And Undocking**
Slow-Speed Maneuvering



**Boating with
Confidence**
Handling Your Boat Under Way



**Anchoring
With Assurance**
Don't Get Carried Away



**Emergencies
On Board**
Preparations for Handling Common Problems



**Knots and
Line Handling**
The Knots You Need to Know



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Boat Handling-2019

Our new *Boat Handling* course is intended for newer recreational boaters who have completed a basic boating class (like *America's Boating Course*) and want to gain more knowledge, skill, and confidence; want to boat more, boat farther, and have more fun on the water and are keen to learn how to operate their boat safely and how to handle situations that arise.

Boat Handling covers these topics:

- [Rules of the Road: A Practical Approach *](#)

Navigational rules of the road help you know what to do when you share the water with other boats, how to recognize and signal intentions, and how to avoid collision. This seminar focuses in a practical way on helping you understand the basic rules encountered by recreational boaters during most every boating outing and the rules most likely to apply in the local waters where you boat. It covers skipper responsibilities, general rules and definitions, rules to avoid collision, lights and shapes, and sound and light signals.

Be sure to read the United States Coast Guard's *Navigational Rules and Regulations Handbook* for the authoritative word on all rules of the road, since - as the skipper or designated crew member - you are responsible to know the rules that apply anywhere you boat.

- [Confidence in Docking and Undocking: Slow-Speed Maneuvering](#)

Docking can be one of the most stressful tasks you can perform, especially if you are a new boater. Closely related as a source of anxiety is maintaining control of your boat at slow speed in close proximity to other boats and fixed objects. With the knowledge you'll gain in this seminar, coupled with your on-the-water practice, your confidence in docking and slow-speed maneuvering will increase and your boating will be both safer and more enjoyable.

- [Boating with Confidence: Handling Your Boat Under Way](#)

Boat handling away from the dock or marina is often called "at sea". This seminar has been designed to acquaint you with general boat-handling situations and teach you skills to handle your boat at sea. You'll gain confidence about basic operations; trimming your boat; operating on plane; handling seas and waves; dealing with bars, rivers, rivers, and bends; and other situations you will encounter along your cruise. And you'll have a better understanding about issues you can control, issues that the environment will present, and how to use and tie the two knots most often used when at sea: the sheet bend and the bowline.

- **Anchoring with Assurance: Don't Get Carried Away**

Anchoring is the skill of securing your vessel to the bottom through the use of line, chain, and one or more anchors. Whether it's for fishing, swimming, a lunch break, or an overnight stop, one of the real pleasures in boating is "hanging on the hook" in some quiet spot. Emergencies such as loss of power, equipment breakdown or failure, or weather hazard may also require that your boat be anchored for a time.

Good seamanship demands that all boaters know how to anchor safely. Our anchoring topics begin with how to select an anchorage and how to anchor depending on conditions. After learning how anchors should be used, you will know if yours are satisfactory or - if you don't already have equipment - what kind(s) to buy. The seminar covers useful anchoring tips and tricks and concludes by discussing how to moor and raft safely. Also included is how to use and tie the two knots most often used when anchoring: the anchor bend and the figure-eight knot.

- **Emergencies on Board: Preparation for Handling Common Problems**

Prevention and preparation make all the difference. This seminar has been designed to prepare you to handle common emergencies that can happen when you are away from the dock... whether you venture out for the day or are leaving on a longer cruise. You will learn how to deal with them as they occur and especially when the skipper is unable to respond. Upon completion of this seminar, you will have gained an understanding of: the most common types of vessel emergencies and how to deal with them, medical emergencies and how to be prepared for them and the various ways, when you need help, to communicate your problem to others.

Knots and Line Handling: The Knots You Need to Know

Recreational boaters use line and knots to secure their boat to docks, piers, and other boats; handle rescue and repair situations; manage running rigging; anchor securely; and tow other vessels or people. This seminar has been designed to help you to select line for your boat and know which lines and knots to use in each situation. You'll gain knowledge and hands-on experience selecting line and tying the 10 most useful knots, bends, and hitches; and you'll learn how to care for the lines on your boat and on the dock.

Our instructors will enrich the course with local knowledge, experience, and discussion that will help you expand your boating horizons.

Ask us about on-the-water coaching to help you grow in your situational awareness, knowledge of what to do in each situation, and ability to perform boat-handling skills that will help you enjoy boating more and with the confidence you desire.

**For the Rules of the Road section of the course and the Rules of the Road seminar, all students will need a copy of the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook, which is the official reference for the course/seminar. It may be ordered as a printed book from your favorite*

bookstore, and it may be downloaded free-of-charge from the internet. You may also be interested in the U.S. Coast Guard *Navigation Rules – Amalgamated*, which is also available for download free of charge. Here are the links:

- [*U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook*](#). This link goes directly to the *Handbook*, which you may save to your computer. Please note that the cover is fuzzy and the next three pages are blank. Then you will find a clear view of the entire *Handbook*.
- [*U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules – Amalgamated*](#). This link goes to the Amalgamated Navigation Rules, which is a convenient, user-friendly resource. When used online, it provides links to full-color illustrations, other useful hyperlinks, and glossary.