

Boating Course **Student's Notes**

Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons
Escadrilles canadiennes de plaisance
Scarborough, Ontario

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This course has been accredited by the Canadian Coast Guard strictly on the basis that it meets the minimum requirements of basic boating safety knowledge set out in the Canadian Coast Guard Boating Safety Course Standard.

CANADIAN POWER & SAIL SQUADRONS

BOATING COURSE

Introduction

Safe Boating Through Education

Boating is fun and, compared with road travel, is remarkably safe. *The Canada Yearbook* lists 13,657 accidental fatalities in 1990, of which 3,831 (28%) were due to motor car accidents. For the same year, Canadian Coast Guard figures show 214 (1.6%) boating fatalities, including commercial fishermen.

This does not mean that those who go boating can be foolhardy. The sea, the rivers and the lakes are not tolerant of those who use their waters in an ignorant or careless fashion, but the dangers can be reduced if boaters learn more about their chosen recreation. Those who enroll in this Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons *Boating Course* are taking the first step. Boating is fun - but safe boating is more fun!

With over 30,000 members in 1998, CPS is the largest safe boating organization in Canada and is dedicated to promoting high standards of navigation and seamanship. It is an entirely voluntary organization, whose members receive no remuneration for their work. It has offered Safe Boating courses to the public for over 60 years and, because of its record, is held in high esteem, both by regulatory bodies and by all levels of government. Some further information about CPS is given in Section 24.0.

Each member of CPS belongs to one of the 179 Squadrons that are grouped into 18 Districts, and span Canada from coast to coast. This course is being offered to you by the members of:

_____ Squadron, which is in _____ District.

The Squadron Training Officer is _____

The Course Instructor's name is _____

Your Proctor's name is _____

Objective of the *Boating Course*

This is the first of many steps that can help Canadians become better and safer boaters. The course is designed primarily to meet the needs of boaters who wish to become *safe* boaters. It is aimed primarily at those with boats less than 8m long. Initially, new boaters will probably take only one-day cruises; will run for cover at the first sign of bad weather, and will spend the night ashore, or in some safe harbour. In short, it is intended to provide elementary instruction in boat handling, for those who wish to know how to operate a boat safely in sheltered waters, during daylight hours. Those who have had considerable boating experience should be aware that this is the primary objective of the course.

Despite the best intentions, it is sometimes necessary to travel at night, or be exposed to adverse conditions; these aspects are therefore touched upon, but not in great detail. Those who pass the *Boating Course*, and become members of CPS, will have an opportunity to take the *Piloting Course*, which builds on the information imparted in the *Boating Course*. Its aim is to make a *safe* boater into a *competent* one by offering a more extensive study of seamanship and boat handling. Those who pass the examination for the *Piloting Course* can take the *Advanced Piloting Course*, the aim of which is to convert the competent boater into a *coastal navigator*.

The *Boating Course* is intended to be neither difficult or time consuming, but those taking it should expect to spend some time doing homework.

Acquiring a knowledge of the course contents is the responsibility of the individual student. Those who miss classes cannot expect the rest of the class to wait for them to catch up. The proctors will give special assistance to those who need it, but they should not be expected to fill in for missed lectures. Students who have registered for the course, paid the required fees and passed the final examination, will be deemed to have passed the course, and be eligible to apply for membership in CPS.

Course Structure and Content

Part 1 of the *Boating Course* reviews, for the novice boater, the various tasks undertaken from before launching until after lay-up. It begins with a description of the characteristics of different types of hull and power unit; lists the equipment that **must** be carried, as well as some that should be; suggests a pre-season maintenance schedule; outlines the skipper's legal responsibilities; explains how to handle a boat under various sets of circumstances, and gives tips on how to deal with some emergencies and special situations. Also included are sections on compasses, lines and knots and Canadian Aids to Navigation.

Part 2 of the *Boating Course* interprets the mass of information included on a chart; deals briefly with elementary navigation (piloting); discusses anchors and anchoring techniques and concludes with an outline of the steps to be taken before the boat is put away for the winter. There is also a section of optional, supplementary topics such as tides and trailering.

The course is taught in whatever sequence the local Squadron finds most convenient. Once all of the sections that contain the information from the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Minimum Boating Safety Course Standard have been completed (Part 1), the student can write the CCG accredited examination. Successful applicants will receive their Pleasure Craft Operator Card, and can apply to become a CPS Associate Member.

Completion of Part 1 and Part 2 will enable the student to sit the final CPS evaluation, which will review the entire course. Successful completion will entitle the candidate to apply for **full** membership in CPS.

The complete *Boating Course* provides 30 hours of classroom instruction. The two most popular patterns are weekly sessions of two hours each for 15 weeks, or weekly sessions of three hours each over 10 weeks.

Use of Technical Terms

Every profession has its own technical terms, which express in a single word what would otherwise require many words to describe. Since the profession of mariner is a very ancient one, many strange-sounding terms are used on boats, and an understanding of their meaning should be part of every mariner's knowledge. A glossary of nautical terms is included in these Student's Notes.

Course Material

The material supplied for this course consists of:

- Student's Notes
- CPS Plotter
- Canadian Coast Guard *Safe Boating Guide*
- Canadian Coast Guard *Collision Regulations (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, with Canadian modifications)*
- Training Chart "A" (Chart M170)
- *Symbols and Abbreviations used on Canadian nautical charts (Chart 1)*
- *The Canadian Aids to Navigation System*

An electronic calculator, while not a necessity, is also recommended. Each student will also need dividers, notebook, pencils, an eraser and, for the section on "Knots", a 6.5 mm line about 2m long.

Evaluation Format

In keeping with modern practice in the national education system, and recognizing that many of those taking the CPS courses have not written a formal examination for many years, heavy emphasis in this course is placed on self-evaluation. There is a separate manual of homework questions for most instructional sessions.

Instructors have been asked to set aside time at each class meeting to raise any points that are not fully understood.

The format for the final evaluation will be a closed-book test similar to the homework and tests that have been taken during the course. It is expected that the final evaluation will generally be completed within three hours.

Reference Material

For those who wish to read more about some of the topics covered in this course, a short Bibliography is provided.

Table of Contents

Boating, Part 1

INTRODUCTION

- SECTION 1.0 Characteristics of Boats
- SECTION 2.0 Licensing, Registration and Other Requirements
- SECTION 3.0 Mandatory Equipment
- SECTION 4.0 Optional Equipment
- SECTION 5.0 The Magnetic Compass
- SECTION 6.0 Preparing to Launch
- SECTION 7.0 Ropes, Lines and Knots
- SECTION 8.0 Handling a Boat Under Power
- SECTION 9.0 Handling a Boat Under Sail
- SECTION 10.0 Weather
- SECTION 11.0 Skipper's Responsibilities Before Setting Out
- SECTION 12.0 Skipper's Responsibilities When Under Way
- SECTION 13.0 Collision Regulations
- SECTION 14.0 Canadian Aids to Navigation
- SECTION 15.0 Emergencies

Boating, Part 2

- SECTION 16.0 Global Positioning and Charts
- SECTION 17.0 Navigation
- SECTION 18.0 An Exercise In Conning - Cruise No. 1
- SECTION 19.0 Introduction to Plotting
- SECTION 20.0 Plotting and Labelling
- SECTION 21.0 Cruising Single-handed
- SECTION 22.0 Anchors and Anchoring
- SECTION 23.0 Supplementary Topics
- SECTION 24.0 Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons
- APPENDIX 1 Checklist for Lay-up
- APPENDIX 2 Pre-launch Checklist
- APPENDIX 3 Transport Canada Vessel Licence Prefixes
- APPENDIX 4 Standards of Accuracy for Chartwork
- APPENDIX 5 Trip Plan

GLOSSARY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Boating, Part 1

SECTION 1.0 Characteristics of Boats

- 1.1 General
- 1.2 Distinctive Features of a Boat
 - 1.2.1 Sailboats
 - 1.2.2 Power Boats
- 1.3 The Hull
 - 1.3.1 Construction Materials
 - 1.3.2 Above-water Design
 - 1.3.3 Underwater Design
 - 1.3.4 Deck Fittings
- 1.4 The Power Unit
 - 1.4.1 Oars and Paddles
 - 1.4.2 Sails
 - 1.4.3 Gasoline Engines
 - 1.4.4 Diesel Engines

SECTION 2.0 Licensing, Registration and Other Requirements

- 2.1 General
- 2.2 Licensing
- 2.3 Registration
- 2.4 Standards Decal and Capacity Plate
- 2.5 Other Requirements
 - 2.5.1 Ventilation
 - 2.5.2 Backfire Flame Arrestors
 - 2.5.3 Mufflers
 - 2.5.4 Local Requirements

SECTION 3.0 Mandatory Equipment

- 3.1 General
- 3.2 Lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)
- 3.3 Oars, Paddles, And/Or an Anchor
- 3.4 Bailer Or Manual Pump
- 3.5 A Sound-signalling Device
- 3.6 Lights and Shapes
 - 3.6.1 When Anchored
 - 3.6.2 When Under Way
- 3.7 Summary
 - 3.7.1 Some Examples
 - 3.7.2 Shapes
- 3.8 Fire Extinguishers
 - 3.8.1 Types
 - 3.8.2 Requirements
- 3.9 Life Buoys
 - 3.9.1 Requirements
- 3.10 Visual Distress Flares
 - 3.10.1 Types of Flare
 - 3.10.2 Requirements

- 3.11 RADAR Reflector
- 3.12 Charts and Other Publications
- 3.13 Reboarding Device
- 3.14 Exemptions for Special Craft and Circumstances
- 3.15 Summary

SECTION 4.0 Optional Equipment

- 4.1 General
- 4.2 Additional Safety Equipment
 - 4.2.1 Spare Anchors and Rode
 - 4.2.2 Fenders
 - 4.2.3 Docking Lines
 - 4.2.4 Spare Fire Extinguishers
 - 4.2.5 Safety Harnesses
 - 4.2.6 Snorkel, Mask and Flippers
 - 4.2.7 Yachtsman's Knife
 - 4.2.8 Engine Spares, Tools and Repair Material
 - 4.2.9 Portable Lights
 - 4.2.10 Weather Instruments
 - 4.2.11 Emergency Kit
 - 4.2.12 Dinghy
 - 4.2.13 First Aid Kit
 - 4.2.14 Radiotelephones
 - 4.2.15 Man-overboard Equipment
- 4.3 Navigation Equipment
 - 4.3.1 Topographical Maps
 - 4.3.2 Magnetic Compass
 - 4.3.3 Binoculars
 - 4.3.4 Pocket Calculator
 - 4.3.5 Boat's Logbook
 - 4.3.6 Electronic Equipment
 - 4.3.7 Spare Batteries and Bulbs

SECTION 5.0 The Magnetic Compass

- 5.1 The Earth's Magnetic Field
- 5.2 Variation
- 5.3 Construction of the Compass
 - 5.3.1 Direct-reading Compass
 - 5.3.2 Reverse-reading Compass
- 5.4 Installation of a Compass
- 5.5 Deviation
- 5.6 Hand Bearing Compass
- 5.7 Fluxgate Compass
- 5.8 Steering by Compass

SECTION 6.0 Preparing to Launch

- 6.1 Pre-season Maintenance
- 6.2 The Hull
- 6.3 Engine

- 6.4 Equipment
- 6.5 Electrical Hazards
 - 6.5.1 Storage Yards and Docks
 - 6.5.2 On-board Wiring
 - 6.5.3 Additional Information

SECTION 7.0 Ropes, Lines and Knots

- 7.1 General
- 7.2 Rope Fibres
- 7.3 Three-strand Rope
- 7.4 Braided Line
- 7.5 Properties of Different Types of Synthetic Rope
- 7.6 Other Characteristics
 - 7.6.1 Nylon
 - 7.6.2 Polyester
 - 7.6.3 Polypropylene
- 7.7 Care and Use of Lines
- 7.8 Finishing the Ends of Lines
- 7.9 Knots
 - 7.9.1 Belaying to a Cleat
 - 7.9.2 Figure Eight Knot
 - 7.9.3 Round Turn and Two Half Hitches
 - 7.9.4 Reef Knot
 - 7.9.5 Double Sheet Bend
 - 7.9.6 Bowline
 - 7.9.7 Clove Hitch
- 7.10 Securing to a Dock
 - 7.10.1 Mooring Lines
 - 7.10.2 Docking Problems
 - 7.10.3 Chafing Gear
 - 7.10.4 Docking - Courtesy

SECTION 8.0 Handling a Boat Under Power

- 8.1 General
- 8.2 Propellers
- 8.3 Forward Motion and Steering
 - 8.3.1 Jet Boats and Personal Watercraft (PWCs)
 - 8.3.2 Outboards and Inboard/Outboards
 - 8.3.3 Single and Twin-screw Inboards
- 8.4 Stopping and Reversing
 - 8.4.1 Jet Boats and PWCs
 - 8.4.2 Outboards and Inboard/Outboards
 - 8.4.3 Single-screw Inboards
 - 8.4.4 Twin-screw Inboards
- 8.5 Undocking
 - 8.5.1 Preparations
 - 8.5.2 Procedures
 - 8.5.3 Good Seamanship

- 8.6 Docking
 - 8.6.1 Preparations
 - 8.6.2 The Approach
 - 8.6.3 Heaving a Line
 - 8.6.4 Securing the Boat
- 8.7 Picking Up a Mooring

SECTION 9.0 Handling a Boat Under Sail

- 9.1 General
- 9.2 Getting Under Way
- 9.3 Points of Sail
 - 9.3.1 Beating (close-hauled) and Tacking
 - 9.3.2 Reaching
 - 9.3.3 Running
- 9.4 Reefing
- 9.5 Leeway
- 9.6 Steering
- 9.7 Docking

SECTION 10.0 Weather

- 10.1 General
- 10.2 Weather Hazards
 - 10.2.1 Wind
 - 10.2.2 Waves
 - 10.2.3 Poor Visibility
 - 10.2.4 Lightning
 - 10.2.5 Hail
- 10.3 Weather Forecasts
- 10.4 Obtaining Weather Information
- 10.5 Weather Procedures for Safe Boating
 - 10.5.1 Before Setting Out
 - 10.5.2 While Under Way
- 10.6 Weather Tips
 - 10.6.1 Manoeuvring
 - 10.6.2 Clouds
 - 10.6.3 Wind
 - 10.6.4 Waves

SECTION 11.0 Skipper's Responsibilities Before Setting Out

- 11.1 General
- 11.2 Local Water Hazards
 - 11.2.1 Large Bodies of Water
 - 11.2.2 Abnormal Weather Conditions
 - 11.2.3 Whitewater Areas
 - 11.2.4 Dams and Weirs
 - 11.2.5 Cold Water Conditions
 - 11.2.6 Currents
 - 11.2.7 Tides and Seiches

- 11.3 The Fuel Supply
- 11.4 Engine Fuels
- 11.5 Fixed Fuel Tanks
- 11.6 Refuelling Precautions
 - 11.6.1 Before Starting To Refuel
 - 11.6.2 During Refuelling
 - 11.6.3 After Refuelling
- 11.7 Stove Fuels
 - 11.7.1 Alcohol
 - 11.7.2 Diesel, Kerosene or Coal Oil
 - 11.7.3 Propane
 - 11.7.4 Natural Gas (also called LNG or “Sea Gas”)
 - 11.7.5 Charcoal and Briquets
 - 11.7.6 Naphtha Gas
- 11.8 Other Checks
 - 11.8.1 The Weather
 - 11.8.2 Water Conditions
 - 11.8.3 Mandatory Equipment
 - 11.8.4 Serviceability of the Engine
 - 11.8.5 Starting the Engine
- 11.9 Embarking Passengers
 - 11.9.1 Avoid Overloading
 - 11.9.2 Freeboard
 - 11.9.3 Trim and List
- 11.10 Attention to Crew Comfort
 - 11.10.1 Food and Fresh Water
 - 11.10.2 Suitable Clothing
- 11.11 Effects of Being on the Water
 - 11.11.1 Drugs and Alcohol
- 11.12 Towing a Person
- 11.13 File a Trip Plan

SECTION 12.0 Skipper’s Responsibilities When Under Way

- 12.1 General
 - 12.1.1 Personal Watercraft (PWCs), Windsurfers, Kayaks and Dinghies
- 12.2 Trim and Balance
- 12.3 Fuel Conservation
- 12.4 Boat Handling
- 12.5 Effect of Wake and Wash
- 12.6 Fixing Position
- 12.7 Keeping a Good Look-out
 - 12.7.1 Aids to Navigation
 - 12.7.2 Other Vessels
 - 12.7.3 Floating Debris

- 12.7.4 Underwater Hazards
- 12.7.5 Overhead Hazards
- 12.7.6 Weather Changes
- 12.8 Involve Passengers
- 12.9 Pollution Control
- 12.10 Keep a Log
- 12.11 Radio Log
- 12.12 Common Courtesies
- 12.13 Flag Etiquette

SECTION 13.0 Collision Regulations

- 13.1 General
- 13.2 Under Any Condition of Visibility
- 13.3 When Vessels Are in Sight of One Another
- 13.4 Relative Bearings
- 13.5 Collision Bearings
- 13.6 Power Boat Approaching Power Boat in Unrestricted Waters
 - 13.6.1 Meeting
 - 13.6.2 Crossing
 - 13.6.3 Overtaking
- 13.7 Power Boat and Sailboat Approaching in Unrestricted Waters
 - 13.7.1 Sailboat Overtaking Power Boat
 - 13.7.2 All Other Situations
- 13.8 Two Sailboats Meeting in Unrestricted Waters
 - 13.8.1 Starboard Tack Rule
 - 13.8.2 Windward Boat Rule
- 13.9 Special Situations
 - 13.9.1 Large Commercial Vessels
 - 13.9.2 Upstream/Downstream Situation
 - 13.9.3 In Narrow Channels
 - 13.9.4 In Traffic Lanes
 - 13.9.5 Fishing Vessels
 - 13.9.6 Diving
- 13.10 An Over-riding Rule
- 13.11 Sound Signals
 - 13.11.1 Signals by Horn
- 13.12 Warning Signals in Reduced Visibility
 - 13.12.1 Signals When Under Way
 - 13.12.2 Signals When Anchored
 - 13.12.3 Signals When Aground

SECTION 14.0 Canadian Aids to Navigation

- 14.1 General
- 14.2 Buoys
 - 14.2.1 Spar Buoys
 - 14.2.2 Can Buoys
 - 14.2.3 Conical Buoys
 - 14.2.4 Pillar Buoys
 - 14.2.5 Lights

- 14.3 Lateral Buoys
 - 14.3.1 Port Hand Buoys
 - 14.3.2 Starboard Hand Buoys
 - 14.3.3 Fairway Buoys
 - 14.3.4 Port Bifurcation Buoys
 - 14.3.5 Starboard Bifurcation Buoys
 - 14.3.6 Isolated Danger Buoy
- 14.4 Cardinal Buoys
 - 14.4.1 North Cardinal Buoys
 - 14.4.2 East Cardinal Buoys
 - 14.4.3 South Cardinal Buoys
 - 14.4.4 West Cardinal Buoys
- 14.5 Special Buoys
- 14.6 Daybeacons
 - 14.6.1 Port Hand Daybeacon
 - 14.6.2 Starboard Hand Daybeacon
 - 14.6.3 Bifurcation/Junction Daybeacon
- 14.7 Ranges Day Beacons
- 14.8 Posted Command Signs

SECTION 15.0 Emergencies

- 15.1 General
- 15.2 Problems That Affect the Crew
 - 15.2.1 Minor Medical Problems
 - 15.2.2 Falling On Board
 - 15.2.3 Falling Overboard
 - 15.2.4 Hypothermia
- 15.3 Problems That Affect the Boat
 - 15.3.1 Mechanical Failure
 - 15.3.2 Structural Failure
 - 15.3.3 Collision Or Grounding
 - 15.3.4 Fire on Board
- 15.4 Deteriorating Weather Conditions
 - 15.4.1 Fog
 - 15.4.2 Heavy Weather
- 15.5 Distress Signals
- 15.6 Swamping and Capsizing
- 15.7 Foundering
- 15.8 Rendering Assistance
 - 15.8.1 Towing
- 15.9 Accident Reports

Boating, Part 2

SECTION 16.0 Global Positioning and Charts

- 16.1 Global Positioning
 - 16.1.1 Latitude
 - 16.1.2 Longitude
 - 16.1.3 Co-ordinates
 - 16.1.4 Nautical Miles
 - 16.1.5 Direction
- 16.2 Charts
 - 16.2.1 Projections
 - 16.2.2 Scale
- 16.3 The Training Chart A
 - 16.3.1 Folding the Chart
 - 16.3.2 The Title Block
 - 16.3.3 Heights
 - 16.3.4 Soundings
 - 16.3.5 Compass Rose
 - 16.3.6 Bottom Margin
 - 16.3.7 Parallels of Latitude
 - 16.3.8 Meridians of Longitude
 - 16.3.9 Measurement of Distance
 - 16.3.10 Symbols and Abbreviations
- 16.4 Charts of Other Areas
 - 16.4.1 Strip Charts
- 16.5 Sailing Directions
- 16.6 Small Craft Guides

SECTION 17.0 Navigation

- 17.1 General
- 17.2 Piloting
- 17.3 Conning
- 17.4 Chart Reading
 - 17.4.1 Piloting by Profiles
 - 17.4.2 Interpreting Height Contours
 - 17.4.3 Interpreting Depth Contours
 - 17.4.4 Limits of Visibility
- 17.5 Correcting and Uncorrecting Compass Readings
 - 17.5.1 Correcting a Compass Reading
 - 17.5.2 Uncorrecting a True Course
- 17.6 Lines of Position
 - 17.6.1 LOPs from Ranges
 - 17.6.2 LOPs by Hand Bearing Compass
- 17.7 Fixes
 - 17.7.1 Close Aboard a Charted Aid
 - 17.7.2 Two Ranges
 - 17.7.3 Two Bearings
 - 17.7.4 Electronic Positioning
- 17.8 Reporting a Position

SECTION 18.0 An Exercise in Conning - Cruise No. 1

- 18.1 General
- 18.2 Pre-planning
- 18.3 Getting Under Way
- Answers to Cruise No. 1 - Chemainus Bay

SECTION 19.0 Introduction to Plotting

- 19.1 General
- 19.2 Area of Uncertainty
- 19.3 Time
- 19.4 Definitions
 - 19.4.1 An Example
 - 19.4.2 Speed (S)
 - 19.4.3 Track (TR)
 - 19.4.4 Course (C)
 - 19.4.5 Course Line
 - 19.4.6 Heading (Hdg)
 - 19.4.7 Dead Reckoning Position (DR)
 - 19.4.8 DR Plot
 - 19.4.9 Course Made Good (CMG)
 - 19.4.10 Speed Made Good (SMG)
- 19.5 Time, Speed, and Distance
- 19.6 Rounding

SECTION 20.0 Plotting and Labelling

- 20.1 General
- 20.2 Instruments
- 20.3 Plotting
- 20.4 The CPS Course Plotter
 - 20.4.1 Main Features
 - 20.4.2 How to Plot a Track Between Two Points
 - 20.4.3 Plot a Course from a Point of Departure in a Given Direction
 - 20.4.4 How to Plot Bearings and LOPs
 - 20.4.5 How to Draw Parallel Lines
 - 20.4.6 How to Draw Symbols
- 20.5 Labelling
 - 20.5.1 Course Line
 - 20.5.2 Bearings and Other LOPs
 - 20.5.3 DR Positions
 - 20.5.4 FIX
- 20.6 Standards of Accuracy for Chartwork
- 20.7 Planning a Cruise
 - 20.7.1 Establish a Point of Departure
 - 20.7.2 Establish a Destination
 - 20.7.3 Plot and Label the Track
 - 20.7.4 Find the Expected Duration
 - 20.7.5 Plot the Course Line
 - 20.7.6 Determining Compass Course to Steer

- 20.7.7 Select Aids to Navigation and Landmarks
- 20.7.8 Plotting the DR Positions
- 20.8 Keeping a Log

- SECTION 21.0 Cruising Single-handed**
 - 21.1 General
 - 21.2 A Hypothetical Situation
 - 21.3 Preliminary Planning - Cruise 4
 - 21.4 Use of a Planning Sheet
 - 21.5 Detailed Planning - Cruise 4
 - 21.6 Plotting Boards

- SECTION 22.0 Anchors and Anchoring**
 - 22.1 General
 - 22.2 The Holding Power of an Anchor
 - 22.2.1 The Weight
 - 22.2.2 The Anchor Rode
 - 22.2.3 The Design of the Anchor
 - 22.2.4 Angle of Attack
 - 22.2.5 Type of Bottom
 - 22.3 Selecting the Anchors
 - 22.3.1 Stowage
 - 22.3.2 Care of Anchors and Rode
 - 22.4 Selecting an Anchorage
 - 22.5 Anchoring
 - 22.5.1 Standard Anchoring Technique
 - 22.5.2 Courtesy
 - 22.6 Weighing Anchor

- SECTION 23.0 Supplementary Topics**
 - 23.1 General
 - 23.2 Canals and Locks
 - 23.2.1 Considerations and Requirements
 - 23.2.2 Lock Operation
 - 23.3 Tides
 - 23.4 Tidal Currents
 - 23.4.1 The Great Lakes
 - 23.4.2 The East Coast
 - 23.4.3 The West Coast
 - 23.5 Trailering
 - 23.5.1 Before Starting Out
 - 23.5.2 On the Road
 - 23.5.3 Launching
 - 23.5.4 Recovery
 - 23.5.5 Routine Maintenance of the Trailer

- 23.6 Winter Lay-up
 - 23.6.1 Unloading
 - 23.6.2 Care of the Hull
 - 23.6.3 Sailboats
 - 23.6.4 Equipment and Supplies
 - 23.6.5 Engines
 - 23.6.6 Ventilation
- 23.7 Water Skiing
- 23.8 Auxiliary Boats
 - 23.8.1 Inflatable Boats
 - 23.8.2 Car-top Boats
 - 23.8.3 Canoes
 - 23.8.4 Personal Watercraft

SECTION 24.0 Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons

- 24.1 Purpose
- 24.2 Chronology
- 24.3 Organization
- 24.4 Permission to Come Aboard?
 - 24.4.1 CPS Associate

APPENDIX 1 Checklist for Lay-up

APPENDIX 2 Pre-launch Checklist

APPENDIX 3 Transport Canada Vessel Licence Prefixes

**APPENDIX 4 Standards of Accuracy for Chartwork
Plotting and Labelling Examples**

APPENDIX 5 Trip Plan

GLOSSARY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

WHAT LIES AHEAD?