

Knot Tying, Rigging, and Derigging

Or why mariners are defined by their attention to detail.

This clinic is our opportunity to raise the bar and make sure all members know how much pride we take in putting our boats to bed. Mention that this same emphasis is occurring in the Academy, with great results.

There is no classroom portion to this clinic, however be sure to have at least 5 lengths of 4 to 5 foot line with you when you go to the dock. These should be found in (AND RETURNED TO) the sideboard of the conference room.

Points to Cover

- Bowline
- Round Turn and Two Half Hitches
- Cleat Hitch
- Rolling Hitch
- Figure Eight
- Flaking of the Mainsail
- Proper Coiling and Crowning of the Mainsheet
- Stowing all lines, covering the tiller, making sure the mainsail isn't hanging out of the cover
- Checking the bilge before leaving and after returning
- Before casting off the dock, always have the mainsail ready to hoist (halyard attached) and confirm the engine will work. Test forward and reverse at the dock. Discuss that, if the engine quits, the quickest sail to deploy is the jib.
- Discuss the importance of rinsing the boat off, making sure to hit the stainless steel, the blocks, and the cam cleats. Make sure to tell them that cam cleats that don't spring closed are probably jammed up with salt.
- Discuss how to turn the nav lights on and where the fire extinguisher, anchor, throwable floatation, spare bilge pump, and boat hook are.
- Finishing with a race is fun. Have them all rig their own boat, then race each other to put the boat away. Add time to their final score for things like

improper coiling and crowning, rolling hitch, mainsail hanging out, candy striped jib, etc.