

GLOSSARY

Abeam — At right angles to the centerline of the hulls.

Aft — In or near or toward the stern. To the back or behind the boat.

Apparent Wind — To those aboard a boat in motion, the direction from which the wind appears to blow. The sum of the true wind and the wind created by the boat's forward motion.

Back—to pull sail (jib) to weather so wind pushes bow to leeward.

Backwind — To push sail(s) out so wind pushes boat backward.

Batten — A thin fiberglass strip inserted into a pocket in the sail to support the leech and provide shape.

Bear off — to turn the boat further away from the wind.

Beat—To sail a boat upwind, changing tacks when necessary or desired.

Block — A seagoing pulley through which lines and sheets run.

Boom—Spar at the foot of the mainsail, holding clew of sail away from mast.

Boomvang—Line used to hold boom down, keeping sail spread out (helps downwind sailing)

Bow — The forward or front end of the boat.

Broach—To swing broadside to a following sea or surf – a dangerous maneuver on a monohull.

Capsize—To turn the boat over.

Chainplate — A metal strip, connected to the hull or bridle wire, to which shrouds or forestay are attached.

Cleat — A device used to hold a sheet or line, such as a jib sheet cleat, (i.e. cam cleats, jam cleats, etc.).

Clew — The lower aft corner of the jib or mainsail.

Close-Hauled — Sailing upwind as close to the wind as possible (all sails trimmed in).

Come About—To change tacks when sailing upwind (beating). To Tack.

Downhaul—Line that pulls the tack of the sail down, to tension the luff of the sail. Attached to tack and secured to cleat on mast.

Downwind — Sailing with the wind or in the same direction as the wind (sails eased out). (2) To leeward.

Ease — To let out a sheet or line, as in easing out the sail.

Foot—Bottom edge of the sail.

Footing - Sailing to windward slightly below an optimum course, (the opposite of pinching).

Fore—Pertaining to the forward part of the boat.

Fore-and-aft—lengthways dimension of a boat.

Furl — To roll up a sail, typically wound around the forestay (Getaway's jib), or around the mast (Bravo's mainsail), or just on itself, keeping the battens parallel (Wave's mainsail).

Gooseneck—fitting that connects boom to the mast.

Grommet—metal ring set into fabric of sail for attaching a line or shackle.

Gudgeon — The fitting on the stern into which the rudder pin (pintle) is inserted, or the fitting(s) on the rudder into which the stern pintle(s) is(are) inserted.

Gybe—Another spelling for Jibe – a downwind tack.

Halyard — A line to raise a sail. A main halyard for raising the main and a jib halyard for raising the jib.

Harden up — to sail closer to the wind.

Header — A wind shift that shifts toward the bow and thus makes you steer below your previous course to avoid luffing or losing speed. Headers work against you when sailing upwind, but aid in downwind.

Head Down — To steer away from the wind or bear off from the wind. The opposite of head up.

Headstay—Another term for the forward stay (forestay).

Head-To-Wind — With the bow headed into the wind. The boat will come to a stop and then back up.

Head Up — To steer the boat toward the wind. The opposite of head down or bear off.

Heel—The lean of a boat to leeward caused by the pressure of the wind on the sail.

Helm—The tiller (or wheel) steering the boat.

Hike (out) — To lean out to windward to keep the boat flat (or reduce the amount of heel).

Hiking strap—Strap running fore-and-aft under which you place your feet for balance when you are leaning out backwards to reduce the amount of heel.

Hobie — Means fast fun on the water.

Irons — A boat is in irons when it is pointing into the wind and unable to bear away on either tack. Recover by sailing backwards and moving tiller to one side.

Jib — The triangular shaped front sail (on some boats).

Jibe — Passing from one downwind tack to another by swinging the stern of the boat through the wind.

Lay — To sail a course that will clear a point of land, mark or buoy on the desired side. Also called "fetch".

Layline — The line leading up to a windward mark along which you can sail an optimum close—hauled course and lay the mark, or the line down to a leeward mark, along which you sail fastest to the mark.

Lazy Sheet — The windward jib sheet, which has no pressure on it. The leeward jib sheet bears the load.

Leech — The rear edge of the jib or mainsail.

Lee, Leeward —Away from the wind or downwind (such as a leeward boat).

Leeway—Sideways drift due to wind pressure.

Lift — A wind shift that shifts toward the stern and thus allows you to sail a higher course in order to maintain the same angle with the wind. Lifts work against you when sailing downwind.

Line — Every rope used on a boat except a sheet or luff rope.

Luff— The forward edge of a sail. (2) to turn the boat toward or into the wind, to luff up.

Luffing— A flapping sail.

Luff Rope—The rope sewn into the luff of the sail.

Mainsheet — The line used to trim or adjust the mainsail.

Mast—Vertical spar that supports the sail.

Masthead—The top of the mast.

Masthead Fly—Wind indicator attached to the top of the mast.

Off the Wind—Sailing any course except one to windward, which is called "on the wind".

Overlap — The positioning of two boats, in close proximity and on the same course, where the bow of the rear boat extends past the stern of the forward boat. Overlap can establish right-of-way for room to pass around obstructions.

Outhaul—Line used to attach and the clew of the sail to the end of the boom, and tension the foot of the sail.

Overstand — To sail farther past a mark or layline than is necessary before tacking for it or rounding it.

Pinch — To sail too close to the wind. Boat's speed and power fall off greatly.

Pointing — A boat's level of efficiency in sailing to windward. (2) Sailing as close to the wind as the boat's design will allow. (3) Sailing closer to the wind than another boat is called pointing higher.

Port — The left side of a boat. Opposite of starboard.

Rake — The tilt of the mast forward or aft. Rake is used to move the sail's center of effort, forward or aft.

Reach, Reaching— All points of sailing between a beat (close-hauled) and a run (straight down wind).

Reef—To reduce the sail area, done when the wind is excessively strong.

Reef Points—A horizontal series of grommets in the sail, parallel to the boom, through which short pieces of line are tied.

Rigging—All the lines of a boat; Standing rigging supports the mast; Running rigging controls the sails.

Righting Line—Line used to right a capsized boat.

Rudder—The blade which steers the boat, controlled by the tiller (or wheel).

Run — The point of sail with the wind directly behind the boat, a very slow way to sail downwind on a Cat.

Shackle—U-shaped fitting with a removable pin, used to attach a halyard to a sail, etc.

Sheet — A line for controlling a sail or boom in relation to the wind.

Shroud—Wire from the side of the boat that supports (stays) the mast; Sidestay.

Sloop — A single-masted sailboat with a large mainsail and a single jib.

Snuffer— A spinnaker retrieval/launching system where a retrieval line is led through a long spinnaker bag and tied to the middle of the spinnaker.

Spar—Mast, boom, or spinnaker pole.

Spinnaker — a large triangular sail set on a long light pole and used when running before the wind.

Stall — The slowing effect from sheeting the sails too tightly in relation to the wind direction or falling off (turning down wind) without easing the sails. The leeward telltales will stop flowing to the rear.

Starboard — The right side of a boat

Starboard Tack — Sailing with the wind coming over the starboard side of the boat.

Step—To place the bottom of the mast in position before raising it.

Stern — The rear end of a boat.

Tack — To come about; to change the course of the boat by bringing the bows through the wind so that the wind is now on the opposite side, (2) The relationship of a sailboat with respect to the wind. If the wind comes over the starboard side, you're on starboard tack; if the wind comes over the port side, you're on port tack, (3) The bottom, forward corner of a sail.

Telltale — A short piece of ribbon, plastic, yarn or feather attached to sails and/or shrouds for the purpose of reading wind direction and for monitoring sail trim.

Tiller—The stick that controls the angle of the rudder, for steering the boat.

True Wind — The wind as provided by mother nature and felt when on stationary objects. See "Apparent Wind".

Transom — The vertical area of the hull at the stern.

Traveler — A stern mounted, movable car, on a horizontal track, that is connected to the mainsheet for the purpose of controlling the boom and sail trim; also used for adjustable fore-aft and inboard-outboard jib lead locations.

Unirig — A boat with only a mainsail, such as the Hobie 14, I7, Bravo, or Wave.

Upwind — Sailing close-hauled toward the wind. (2) To windward.

Vang—Tackle (line, block(s), and a cleat) to steady the boom when sailing off the wind; also to flatten the sail, to maximize effective sail area.

Weather — Indicating the side toward the wind, also known as windward; "to weather" is to windward

Weather Helm — The boat having a tendency to head into the wind if the tiller is released.

Windward — The side of the boat the wind hits first. (2) Sailing toward the wind. (3) A boat or object up wind.