

**S** 'Sierra' in phonetic alphabet. Designated in International Code by square white flag with blue oblong in center. Hoisted in isolation it means; 'my engine is going full Astern'.

**SA** See Selective Availability.

**SACRED COD** From tradition that this was the fish Christ multiplied to feed the multitude. See Cod.

**SADDLE** 1) Rest for any Boom or Spar such as ring or bracket on Mast, etc. 2) What you might want to be back in again at Sea.

**SAFE PASSAGE** 1) From French word 'passager' or the journey a ship makes from one port to another (as opposed to voyage which is the round trip). 2) Unharmed or unhindered.

**SAFETY COMMUNICATION** Transmission or reception of distress, alarm, urgency, or safety signals, or any communication preceded by one of these signals, or any form of radiocommunication which, if delayed in transmission or reception, may adversely affect the safety of life or property.

**SAFETY FAIRWAY** Corridor established by the U.S. Coast Guard which is maintained free of permanent structures.

**SAFETY HARNESS** Web or rope harness worn on the upper body and attached with a safety line to the Deck, Jack Line or Jack Stay with a Tether to prevent a sailor's falling overboard in rough conditions.

**SAFETY SIGNAL** International radiotelephone signal which indicates that the station sending this signal is preparing to transmit a message concerning the safety of navigation or giving important meteorological warnings. In radiotelephony, the international safety signal consists of three oral repetitions of the word 'Securite' sent before the call.

**SAFE WATER MARK** Buoy or Beacon with navigable water all around it that does not mark a danger to navigation such as Mid-Channel or Fairway Buoys and Landfall Marks.

**SAG ( GING )** 1) Vessel bending in center with Bow and Stern turned upward and tendency of Keel to droop in middle. Opposite of Hogging 2) What some body parts may do with too much age, time ashore or sunshine.

**SAIL ( S )** 1) Fabric that catches wind and enables you to sail boat. 2) On a Full Rigged Ship: (lower to Upper): Course or Crojack, Lower Topsail, Upper Topsail, Lower Topgallant, Upper Topgallant, Royal.

**SAIL CLOTH** Generally used for modern sailmaking fabrics such as polyester (dacron) and nylon. See Canvas.

**SAIL CONTROLS** Lines, tackles, and other Gear used to hold a Sail in position and adjust its shape, such as the Sheets, Traveler, Outhaul, Cunningham and Boom Vang.

**SAIL COVER** Protective cloth tied over a Furled Sail to protect it from the deteriorating effects of ultraviolet light and dirt.

**SAIL HANDLING** Hoisting, Trimming, and Dousing of Sails.

**SAILING** The art of going someplace slowly, while getting wet, enduring the elements, at great expense.

**SAILING CHARTS** Classification of nautical Charts used by National Ocean Survey. Smallest Scale Charts used for planning, fixing position at sea, and for plotting dead reckoning positions on a long voyage. Scale is generally smaller than 1: 600,000. See Chart, Coastal, General, Harbor and Special Charts.

**SAILING DIRECTIONS** Published by the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA) to provide information on foreign waters that cannot be shown graphically on a nautical chart and that is not readily available elsewhere. Published in two volumes.

**SAILING DIRECTIONS ENROUTE** Provides information on charts, coastal winds and currents, outer dangers, coastal features, anchorages and major ports.

**SAILING DIRECTIONS PLANNING GUIDE** Provides information on countries, ocean basin environment, warning areas, routes and nav-aid systems.

**SAILING ON A BOWLINE** Sailing on a wind or close-hauled when Bowlines would be hauled taut.

**SAILING TOO CLOSE TO THE WIND** 1) Conduct just within the rules. From the helmsperson who allows the ship to do this but cannot (yet) be admonished because the sails have not begun to shake but have lost their optimum lifting power and the thus the ship will not be making her best possible speed.

## **PETER'S NAUTICAL TERMS DICTIONARY & GLOSSARY for BLUEWATER SAILING**

**SAILING VESSEL** Any Vessel under sail provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not being used. Vessel principally equipped for propulsion by sail even if the Vessel has an auxiliary means of propulsion. See Power Driven Vessel and Vessel.

**SAIL LARGE, SAILS FREE (TO)** See large.

**SAILMAKER'S NEEDLE** Thick needle used in conjunction with Palm to stitch Canvas of Sails.

**SAILMAKER'S WHIPPING** 1) Type of lashings placed on end of Line. 2) Fun for certain types of strange sailors.

**SAIL PLAN** Total number of Sails carried by Vessel and manner in which they are set.

**SAIL SLUG** Used to attach sail to Mast track instead of Bolt Rope.

**SAIL SLUG RETAINER PIN** Pin in Mast track used to keep Sail Slugs from falling out of Mast track when lowering Sail.

**SAIL STOPS** See Sail Ties, Gaskets, Furling Lines.

**SAIL TIES** Straps used to Secure a Furled Sail or to Lash a Doused Sail on Deck so it doesn't blow away. AKA Stops or Gaskets.

**SAIL TRIMMER** Name once given on board Sailing Vessels to Seaman who worked Aloft.

**SAIL (ING) UNDER FALSE COLORS** 1) Pirate ships often violated unwritten law of Sea that requires all ships to display their true flags or colors so they could be positively identified or recognized as friend or foe. 2) Pretending to be something you aren't, to be a hypocrite or misrepresent.

**SAIL TIES** Lengths of webbing used to secure a Furled Sail to a Boom. See Gaskets.

**SAIL TWINE** See Twine.

**SAINT BARBARA** Patron saint of those besieged by Lightning because Lightning flash killed her unnatural father after he had tortured her and was about to lop off her head with a sword.

**SAINT ELMO'S FIRE** Luminous discharges of non dangerous electricity that extend into atmosphere from projecting objects. Believed by sailors to be portent of bad weather. From corrupted name of St. Erasmus, patron saint of Neapolitan sailors, who was rescued from drowning by a sailor and promised ever after to display warning light for mariners whenever storm was approaching. AKA Castor and Pollux or Helen.

**SALARY** Wages. From Roman custom of paying sailors a quantity of salt as part of their wages or 'salarium' from the Latin 'sal' meaning salt.

**SALLY OR SALLY A SHIP, TO** 1) Roll ship by assembling or gathering crew all on one side, then signaling them to rush together to other side. By repeating signal at intervals, ship can be made to roll. Fore example, to assist in ungrounding or loosening Vessel that ran around from mud holding her fast by breaking mud's suction where ship could be pulled free or gotten underway. 2) Expression for continuous rising and falling Or swinging or bounding motion of ship at Sea. From Latin, 'salire', to leap and Middle French, 'saillir', to rush forward. AKA Sally Ship.

**SALLY SHIP** See Sally.

**SALT** Just plain old sodium chloride. Used to pay wages (see Salary), preserve meat, eating and as a crude antiseptic (See Rub Salt In The Wound).

**SALT CREEK** Creek leading through salt marsh or marshland to Ocean. See Up The Creek.

**SALT HORSE** Staple diet of early sailors and it wasn't exactly tasty cuisine. Consisting of low quality beef that had been heavily salted, it was tough to chew and even harder to digest. See Chew The Fat, Dead Horse.

**SALT JUNK** 1) Rope yarn used for caulking Ship's seams. 2) Bully Beef.

**SALTY** Nautically experienced.

**SALTY SEADOG** See Sea Dog.

**SALUTES** Hand salute ismilitary custom that is centuries old. It probably originated when men in armor raised their helmet visors so they could be identified. Salutes are customarily given with right hand and while head is covered with cap, but there are exceptions. Sailor, whose right arm or hand is encumbered

may salute lefthanded, while people in Army or Air Force never salute lefthanded but do salute uncovered.

**SALUTES, GUN** See Gun Salutes.

**SALUTING THE QUARTER DECK** Some hold that salute to Quarter Deck is derived from very early seagoing custom of respect paid to pagan altar on board ship, and later to crucifix and shrine. Others hold that custom comes from early days of British Navy when all officers who were present on Quarter deck returned salute of an individual by uncovering (removing the hat). Original salute consisted of uncovering Salute, touching hat, to seat of authority or Quarter Deck, place nearest the colors, is an old an tradition

**SALVAGE** Saving or recovering a Vessel or its Cargo.

**SAMSON POST** 1) In smaller Vessels, it is single Bitt Forward in the Bow and fastened to strong structural members below Deck. Often used to Fasten the Anchor and Dock lines. In larger Vessels, term is applied to small forward derrick wooden or metal post or Mast, used with Cargo Boom or supports Derrick Boom. 2) Not to be confused with large appendage on Biblical figure.

**SANTA ANA** Fohn type, strong, hot dry wind blowing out into San Pedro Channel from Southern California desert through Santa Ana Pass. North and east winds flow from deserts and plateaus of lower eastern California, cross Coast Ranges and descend through passes to reach coast as hot and dry winds, often laden with piercing particles of dust.

**SAR** Search and rescue. Here it is better to give than receive this type of attention.

**SATELLITE CONSTELLATION** Placement in space of group of satellites.

**SATELLITE NAVIGATION** Form of position finding using Radio transmissions from satellites with sophisticated on board automatic equipment.

**SATURATION** 1) Process of veing filled to the limit of capacity. Air is saturated when it can hold no more water. 2) What your alcohol laced body might achieve after an over indulgent 'night on the town'.

**SAVE A SAILOR** Old naval superstition that states when glass 'rings' in bar or at table, a sailor

will be drowned unless finger is placed on glass to stop ringing and someone cries out this phrase.

**SAXBOARD** Uppermost Strake in open Boat.

**SAY AGAIN** RT Proword for repeat.

**SCABS** Outboard barges in a Tow.

**SCALE** See Chart Scale.

**SCANDALIZE** 1) Spill wind out of Sail. 2) Yards are this when they are Cocked Up. 3) What you may do to your neighbors if you use secondary definition of Bareboat.

**SCANTLINGS** Refers to the dimensions or measurements of all structural members or parts such as Frames, Girders and plating used in building a Vessel.

**SCAVENGING** Removing exhaust gases from the cylinders of a diesel engine.

**SCHILLERLOCKEN** German dish contining curled chips of smoked fish named after poet von Schiler.

**SCHIST** Crystalline rock of a finely laminated nature.

**SCHOONER** Sailing Vessel with two or more Masts (up to 7) Rigged Fore & Aft with Main or Aftermost Mast equal or usually taller than Forward or Fore Mast. From 'oh, how she scoons' comment from an on-looker when first of these was Launched. From Scottish, 'scon', skip flat stone over water.

**SCHOONER, TOPSAIL** Fore and Aft rigged on Mainmast and Foresail but carries square Topsails on her Foremast.

**SCIATIC STAY** See Triatic Stay.

**SCHOOL** Collective or plural name for fish in general, porpoises or whales. See Gam or Pod.

**SCOOP** See Baler.

**SCOPE** Ratio between amount or length of anchor rode in use or line let out and depth of water or vertical distance from bow to bottom of water. Usually seven to one for calm weather and more scope in storm conditions.

**SCORIA** Rough, cinderlike Lava.

**SCOTCHMAN** 1) Piece of wood or metal placed over those parts of Yard or Mast which show signs of cracking. 2) Similar pieces of wood or stiff leather which are attached to Standing Rigging to prevent Chafing on metal parts.

**SCOW** 1) Ferryboat or lighter. From Dutch, 'schouw', large flat-bottomed pole boat or river boat. 2) Fast, flat bottomed, blunt Bowed Daysailer primarily raced on lakes.

**SCRAPING THE ( BOTTOM OF THE ) BARREL**  
1) What hungry cook and crew did in order to extract fat which had hardened and stuck to edge, sides and bottom of food cask or wooden barrel when meat was gone. Meat supply was preserved in or soaked in salt or brine. Congealed, salt hardened fat on meat became stuck and was not wasted but used as food, lubricant and preservative for leather gear aboard ship. See Chew The Fat, Slush Fund. 2) To use very last and sometimes inferior or low quality.

**SCREW** 1) Boat's Propeller. Sometimes called a wheel. 2) Also, it's a . . . . , never mind.

**SCREW POST** Equivalent of Stern Post on Vessels with Propellers.

**SCREW RACE** 1) Framework within which main Propeller of screw driven ship is lodged. 2) Speedy orgy.

**SCRIMSHANDER** 1) Another word for Scrimshaw. 2) Any good piece of mechanical work.

**SCRIMSHAW** 1) Carved, ornamental objects made from shells, ivory or remains of birds and mammals, most commonly whale bones. Popular hobby involving little noise but was also indulged by men on duty. From French, 'escrimer', fight with a sword or to make flourishes. 2) Military slange for malingering or evading duty, be a shirker.

**SCROD** 1) Immature cod, haddock, cusk or pollack of 1.5 - 2.5 pounds. From Dutch, 'Schrode', strip or shred. 2) This has nothing to do with male testicles in cold water.

**SCROLLWORK** Carving, often gilded, which adorned Sterns of old Sailing Vessels. See Gingerbread.

**SCRUB ROUND IT** Traditionally, when sailors hollystoned decks, if they encountered an obstruction placed on deck they would this.

**SCUBA** Acronym for 'self contained underwater breathing apparatus'.

**SCUD ( DING )** Running before Wind in Gale or Tempest, often under Bare Poles.

**SCULL ( ING )** 1) Action of propelling boat Foreward with one Oar or Rudder over Stern by moving or swinging Helm and Ruder rapidly back and forth. 2) Popel small boat with pair of Oars.

**SCULLING AROUND** 1) What doubtful traders, opportunists and Bumboats did to plague ships at anchor. 2) An article left lying about, or a person idly employed. over sides.

**SCUPPER ( S )** Overboard deck, sole or cockpit drain holes with drain pipes, tube at least 1.25" in diameter, waterways, apertures or gutters at edge of or in deck (with drain pipes), toe rail or through bulwarks or hull, used to drain limited amounts of water and allow it to escape . From Dutch, 'schepen' to draw off. See Freeing Port.

**SCUPPERED** 1) Someone knocked over or swept off feet by large wave breaking or sweeping across Deck (likely ending up in the scuppers). 2) Nonplused or at a loss.

**SCURVY** Medical condition brought about by lack of fresh foods and vitamin C. See Limey.

**SCURVY TRICK** Anything mean, underhanded, low, dirty, etc.

**SCUTTLE** 1) Act of deliberately sinking a ship, often by opening seacocks. Cut or make hole in ship's hull or bottom causing her to sink. 2) Small rectangular or square hole cut into deck or side of ship, usually for light, ventilation, and sometimes communication between decks. From Old French 'escoutilles', small hole cut in hatchcover or in side of ship to admit light and air. 3) Round opening or accessway through larger hatch, often small Ports provided with covers. 4) Abbreviation for Scuttlebutt. 5) Running with short, hurried steps. 6) Abandon or destroy.

**SCUTTLEBUTT** 1) Butt or cask, usually wooden for ship's daily water ration or other liquids and

lashed in convenient place to hold water for present use. It was refilled daily but built with scuttle or small hole drilled or sawed in side for tapping cask at half-full mark to ensure that only half butt water ration would be available for use each day and crew would not drink whole, two day Butt supply in one day. It might also have square piece sawn out of its Bilge. Combination of Scuttle and Butt. AKA Navy term for drinking fountain. AKA Scuttled Butt. 2) Place to get a drink. 3) Slang, gossip, nautical rumors or to exchange rumors or pass time by water supply while waiting to get a drink.

**SCUTTLED BUTT** See Scuttlebutt.

**SEA** 1) A wave. 2) Body of salt water smaller than an ocean but larger than a sound, Gulf or Bay.

**SEA ANCHOR** 1) Any device streamed or used to act as drag from Bow or Stern and slow or reduce Drift of Boat. AKA Drogue or drift Anchor. 2) Canvas shaped like parachute to keep Bow of boat to seas in open water and reduce Drift to a minimum. It is not a means of anchoring.

**SEA BAT** Special type of very rare (actually mythical) flying, nautical animal usually caught and kept at the bottom of a 55 gallon drum for observation by young sailors who must lean over the lip of the barrel to peer in, thus exposing their backsides to the flat part of a swinging broom swung by a practical joker.

**SEABEACH** Beach along margin of Sea.

**SEABEES** Phonetic acronym for the initials of Construction Battalions (CB) with 'c' spelled Sea since they were in the Navy.

**SEA BOOT** Rubber boot with a non-slip sole.

**SEA BREEZE (S)** Wind blowing from the relatively cool water to warmer land, drawn ashore, usually during the day, by rising heated, warmed or thermal air currents caused by the heating of adjacent land. See Land Breezes.

**SEA BUOY** First Buoy encountered in arriving from seaward that marks the Channel or entrance to a Harbor.

**SEA CHANGE** Marked transformation or change.

**SEACOCK** 1) Valve which opens or closes a pipe through hull. Through hull fitting or valve operated by movable handle that restricts or controls flow of water in line, and acts as a shutoff on a plumbing or drain pipe between the Vessel's interior and the sea. Shut off on a plumbing or drain pipe between vessel's interior and sea. AKA Sea Cock. 2) Male sailor's most important piece of equipment.

**SEA CONDITION** Size and shape of the waves.

**SEA DOG** Seasoned sailor. AKA Salty Sea Dog.

**SEA FOG** Common Advection type Fog caused by the cooling of air to its dewpoint when warm, moist air moves over colder land or water surfaces. See Fog, Sea.

**SEA HORSE** Fish which swims upright with head and arched neck very horselike in outline.

**SEA KINDLY** Comfortable in rough seas, moving through the water without undue motion or strain. Said of a Vessels Hull design.

**SEA LAWYER ( S )** 1) One who professes (usually incorrectly) to know all the answers. 2) Attempt to make up answer or excuse. 3) Belligerent sailor who enjoys (temporarily) arguments against authority or questions naval laws, rules and regulations. 4) Idle litigious long-shorer or argumentative sailor, more given to questioning orders than obeying them. One of the pests of the navy as well as mercantile marine. AKA lawyers of the foc'sl. 5) Tiger shark.

**SEA LEGS** 1) Legs that are used to Pitch and Roll of Ship at sea. Sailor has found these when they are able to walk upright, comfortably and without seasickness on Deck of rolling Ship. 2) Ability to function with ease.

**SEAM** Lengthwise side joint of any Plating. See Butt and Bevel.

**SEAMANSHIP** All the arts and skills of boat handling, ranging from maintenance and repairs to piloting, sail handling, marlinspike work and rigging,

**SEA PAINTER** 1) Long line leading from the Forward Thwart of a lifeboat to the Deck. Used to steer the lifeboat clear of the ship's side as the ship makes Way

through the water or to attach the lifeboat to the ship. 2) One of the trigger mechanisms used to inflate a liferaft.

**SEA-PIE** Favorite dish for crew. Almost anything could go into it, but proper dish consisted of layers of meat, vegetables and fish separated in layers by crusts of bread or broken biscuit. By number of layers, it was known as a two- or three-decker.

**SEA PLANE** Any aircraft designed to maneuver on the water.

**SEARCH THE SKY** Message sometimes shown when GPS receiver is gathering data from satellites to compute position, without almanac data.

**SEA ROOM** Enough or safe distance from shore, sea wall, shoals or other obstruction or hazards for safe sailing.

**SEA SICK** Two phases: first you're afraid you're going to die and then you're afraid that you won't. See Nausea. The only sure fire cure: sit under a tree for 30 minutes.

**SEA SMOKE** See Steam Fog. AKA frost smoke.

**SEA TANGLE** Any of several species of seaweed, especially those of large size.

**SEA URCHIN** Spiny creature named for its resemblance to urchin which was a synonym for hedgehog, 'hurcheon' in French. AKA sea hedgehog.

**SEAWAY** 1) Navigable portion of the sea. 2) Area with rough or moderate waves and water or where a moderately heavy sea is running.. 3) Progress a Vessel is making through the water.

**SEAWORTHY** Boat or boat's gear able to meet usual sea conditions or survive heavy weather.

**SECANT (SEC)** Secant =  $\text{Sec} = 1 / \text{Cos}$

**SECOND** 1) Angular measurement with 60 of them in one Minute. 2) Timely measurement with 60 of them in one Minute.

**SECONDARY AID** Major light of less strategic importance and usually less intensity than a primary Aid. Secondary Aids are usually located in bays and at entrances to Harbors.

**SECONDARY STATION** General designation of the two to four secondary transmitting stations in a Loran Chain. Secondary stations transmit electronic pulses in sequence following the master station at a fixed, predetermined interval.

**SECURE** 1) Make safe, make fast, fasten or cleat. 2) Signal to stop engines. 3) Order given on the completion of an operation. 4) Stop or put away.

**SECURITE** RT safety message, safety of navigation or weather Safety Signal for less serious situations that do not warrant broadcasting a distress or Mayday message. It is lower in priority than an urgent or Pan signal. From the French word for security

**SEELONCE** RT signal to impose silence. Can be used by itself or with Mayday or distress. From the French for 'silence'.

**SEELONCE FEENEE** RT signal to lift the imposition of Seelonce.

**SEICHE** Long wave or oscillation of the surface of a lake, Bay or landlocked sea that rhythmically sloshes back and forth as it reflects off opposite ends. It varies in Period from a few minutes to several hours.

**SEIGE** Collective or plural name for herring.

**SEISTAN** Another name for wind of 120 days or Bad-i-sad-o-Bistroz.

**SEIZE** Bind or Secure two Lines together, or Rope to Spar and so on, using Light Line.

**SEIZING** Name for thinner Rope or Line used to Seize.

**SEIZING STUFF** Finished, machine made rope with three strands with a right hand Lay. Used for strong, neat, finished work and has 2, 3 or 4 threads to the Strand making a final product of 6, 9 or 12 threads.

**SELECTIVE AVAILABILITY (SA)** Random error which government intentionally adds into GPS signals so that accuracy, for civilian use, is degraded. Level of SA is subject to accuracy degradation to 100meters, 2DRMS.

**SELECTIVE CALLING** Means of calling another station where signals are transmitted in a prearranged

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(digital) code to trigger an automatic attention device at the station whose attention you are seeking.

**SELF BAILING** Automatically draining.

**SELF BAILING COCKPIT** Cockpit with watertight sides and floor or Sole which is designed to free itself of water by gravity drainage through Scuppers.

**SELF DRAINING** Drains automatically

**SELF STEERING** Automatically steering without a Helmsperson.

**SELF STEERING GEAR** Vang mounted over stern of Yacht that acts independently based on direction of wind or with assistance of electric motor either directly upon Vessel's Rudder or indirectly through tab fixed to it via system of gears and shafts. See Single Handers.

**SEMI-DIURNAL TIDE** Tide with two high waters and two low waters each tidal day or every 24 hours and 50 minutes.

**SENTINEL** Weight suspended from the Rode to help keep the pull on the Anchor as horizontal as possible to prevent dragging in rough Weather. AKA and see Kellet.

**SEPARATOR** Component in a Diesel fuel system used to separate water from fuel.

**SERVE / SERVING** Bind, covering and protect portion of Line, to prevent wear and forming stiff protected covering for Line. Wind or wrap Marline or other small stuff tightly around fiber or wire Rope to protect it against weather and chafe. It may be as simple as Whipping (small stuff wrapped around) or more elaborate, with prior Worming, Parceling and addition of waterproofing.

**SERVING MALLET** Hardwood tool used to apply Serving to heavy ropes.

**SET** 1) To raise such as a Sail. 2) Direction towards which a tide, tidal current or current flows. 3) Direction of the Leeway of a Vessel.

**SET ONE'S CAP AT, TO** Set the Head or cap of ship at particular point and sail straight for it.

**SET SAIL** 1) Letting go the gaskets which tied the sails to the yards thus allowing the sails to fill with wind. 2) Get started.

**SETTING A BUOY** Act of placing a Buoy in its assigned position or 'on station' in the water.

**SET UP** To rig.

**SEVEN SEAS** Traditional, colloquial and slightly incorrect expression relating not to seas but to oceans: Arctic, Indian, North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Antarctic (whose surrounding waters aren't even a true ocean). In reality, there are more than seventy five seas around the world.

**SEWN UP** Reference to dead who were sewn inside old piece of sail or canvas or their Hammocks before committed to deep. Done out of respect but also to ensure cannon balls or ballast weights did not slip out. When Sewing Up, last stitch was through nose in order release soul but more importantly to ensure corpse was really dead. AKA All Sewned Up. See Lassie.

**SEXTANT** 1) Precision navigating instrument, used for measuring angles, as in celestial navigation when the Altitudes of heavenly bodies are taken, or in Piloting, when the known heights of objects ashore or the Known distance to two objects from each other can be used to find distance. See Astrolabe. 2) Fun in a cloth covered enclosure.

**SEXTANT ALTITUDE** See Altitude, Sextant.

**SFT MD** Chart abbreviation for soft mud.

**SHA** See Sidereal Hour Angle.

**SHACKLE** Metal hook, link, U shaped connector piece of iron or steel. It has Eyes in ends or metal link fitting with pin or bolt across throat or opening closed by Shackle Pin. It Secures or joins Line to Fitting, Line to Sail or Fitting to Fitting or Rode to Anchor or Fasten Blocks to Spar in Rigging.

**SHAFFLE** Ring round Mast into which fits Gooseneck.

**SHAKE A LEG** 1) Men were often Press Ganged so they couldn't be given Shore Leave lest they desert. Women were thus allowed On Board in Port for Boarding or other bawdy purposes. However, routine work occurred whether women were aboard or not. Mariners were roused out of bulging Hammock by shout of "show a

leg!". Petty officer or ship's master could tell the gender of person by hairy leg or covered stocking displayed whether to rouse person for duty or to permit 'wife', 'sweetheart' or 'girlfriend' to sleep on. Anyone too slow to "Shake A Leg" would find themselves on deck as hammock was simply flipped over to get tardy sailors moving. AKA show a leg, show a leg or a stocking. 2) Get up from bed, get started, hurry up, be alert or get a move on.

**SHAKE OUT** Let out a Reef and Hoist the Sail.

**SHAKING A CLOTH IN THE WIND** Being only slightly drunk. See Three Sheets To The Wind.

**SHAKINGS** Ends of old rope and canvas to be unpicked for making Oakum.

**SHAMAL** Summer northwesterly wind blowing over Iraq and Persian Gulf, often strong during day, but decreasing at night.

**SHANGHAI ( ING ), TO** 1) Shortening of expression 'to ship a man to Shanghai.' Pressing or forcing men into involuntary service aboard ship in need of crew. Press Gangs forcibly took men from streets and homes, sometimes getting them drunk, drugged or blackjacked, knocking them unconscious, kidnaping and impressing into service aboard Ship in need of crew. Anyone seized or force to work unwillingly but also occurred in ships employed in the China trade. See Hijack. 2) Coerce into situation against one's will.

**SHANK** Central shaft of Anchor.

**SHANK PAINTERS** Two lengths of Chain attached to sides or Deck of Vessel below Cat Tackle and employed to Secure Shank of Anchor on Bill board after it has been Catted and Fished.

**SHANTY** See Chanty.

**SHAPE UP** 1) What a ship does to her course in order to reach her destination if she is out of position. The navigator first draws or 'shapes' a course around a headland, a danger or an obstruction. 2) Look smart, improve oneself.

**SHARK** Great carnivorous fish. From German 'schurke', greedy parasite.

**SHARKI** 1) Southeasterly wind which sometimes blows in Persian Gulf. 2) How you call a shark, as in "here, little ...".

**SHE, SHE FOR A SHIP, SHIP REFERRED TO AS "SHE"**

1) Customary to personify certain inanimate objects and attribute to them characteristics peculiar to living creatures. Thus, things without life are often spoken of as having a sex. Some objects are regarded as masculine, such as sun, winter, and death. Others are regarded as feminine, especially those things that are dear to us such as the earth as mother Earth is regarded as the common maternal parent of all life. In languages that use gender for common nouns, word for boats and ships almost invariably use a feminine form or gender. Early seafarers spoke of their ships in the feminine gender for the close dependence they had on their ships for life and sustenance. 2) Possibly because older sailors always felt it was so much work to keep them in paint and powder.

**SHEAR PIN** Safety device, used to Fasten Propeller to its shaft. Soft metal pin breaks when Propeller hits solid object or obstruction, thus preventing further damage to Prop or gears.

**SHEAVE ( S )** Moving pulley wheel, roller, or grooved wheel, which is part of pulley or Block through or over which Line, Rope or Rigging wire runs or passes. It rotates on the Sheave Pin or center pin and is used to change the direction of force. They are often parts of Blocks.

**SHED A TEAR FOR ADMIRAL NELSON** Go to the Head.

**SHEEPSHANK** Knot used to shorten a line or strengthen a weak section even if its ends are not accessible.

**SHEER** 1) Vertical Fore and Aft upward curve of Deck or Rail from Bow to Stern, seen from alongside. Allows ship to ride waves with drier decks. 2) Sudden change or turn off course, from poor helmsmanship or difficult Steering. Swerve or deviate from course, or cause a Vessel to do so. 3) Swing, on a Moored boat.

**SHEER LEGS** Stout Beams used as makeshift crane for hoisting heavy weights.

**SHEER OFF** Move away from.

**SHEER, STRAIGHT** Deck which does not curve.



**SHEERSTRAKE ( S )** 1) Topmost Plank or Strake on side of wooden planked boat. One that shows Sheer of the Deck. 2) Line of planks immediately below Sheer along side of Vessel. See Strake.

**SHEET ( S )** 1) Primary Sail control Line used for Trimming Sail's lateral movement whether directly by pulling Sail in and out or by limiting the movement of a Boom or other spar. Head sails have two; Lee and Weather side Sheet. 2) To Trim. See Bow Sheets and Stern Sheets. 3) Cool, damp and salty night covering.

**SHEET ANCHOR** 1) Large or largest spare anchor carried for emergency lest either of main anchors should be lost or fail to hold ship in heavy weather. Carried in waist, as far forward as convenient, and kept ready for use in an emergency--the mariner's last refuge. From 'shoot', because if emergency occurred the anchor had to be 'shot' out, or dropped quickly 2) Quintessential reliability.

**SHEET BEND** Knot useful for Bending Line to Eye or to join two Lines of different diameters or unequal sizes. AKA Becket Bend.

**SHEET CLIPS** Fittings which take place of Cleats and holds Sail in required position on Horse or holds Sheets until released. Can be used in conjunction with Pawls to allow Sheet to run in one direction but prevent it from running back in other.

**SHEET HOME** Strain or haul in Sheet as taut as possible until the foot of a sail is as straight and as taut as possible and Belay it, as when sailing Close Hauled.

**SHEET IN** Harden up or pull in Sheet.

**SHEET OUT** Ease, let out or Pay Out Sheet.

**SHELL ( S )** Outer portion or sides of Block, made of wood, metal or synthetic resin, containing Sheaves which revolve on Pins and bound by Strop.

**SHELLBACK** Seasoned sailor who has crossed the Equator by sea.

**SHELL PLATING** Outer plating of a Vessel.

**SHENANGO** Specialized Longshoreman, one who handles Cargo on railroad Barges. From Chenango county in upstate New York, home of many early Shenango. See Longshoremen and Stevedore.

**SHE WON'T WEAR IT** When ship won't Wear due to high seas, etc.

**SHF** Super High Frequency, used for Radar.

**SHIFT THE RUDDER** Change the Rudder the same number of degrees in the opposite rudder direction.

**SHIFTY** Frequently changing direction.

**SHINGLE** Consists of small, rounded, waterworn stones. Similar to Gravel but with the average size of stone generally larger.

**SHIP** 1) Full Rigged Ship with at least 3 Masts (Mizen, Main, Fore) with all sails Square Rigged. AKA Full Rigged. 2) Relatively large sea going Vessel usually thought of being used for ocean travel. It will be able, may or may not carry boats on board. From Old English, 'scip', shape, referring to the task of shaping Ship out of trees to enable it to glide safely and smoothly through water or Middle English 'schip', boat. 3) Take something Aboard, such as water in rough seas. 4) To place Gear in place such as to Ship a Rudder or to Ship Oars, to bring them Inboard when not in use. 5) Object that can be navigated through obstacle course to place of safety, strength or accomplishment. 6) A hole in the water into which you pour money. AKA Vessel.

**SHIP BISCUIT** Hard bread, much dried, consisting of flour, water or milk, salt, which does not deteriorate when stored for long periods and therefore is suitable for use on board ship for up to a year after it was baked. AKA Hard Tack.

**SHIP CARGO** Get it on board.

**SHIPMATE** Loyal friend, ally, partner. Someone who can be relied upon.

**SHIP NAMES** There never has been any universal system for naming ships except that they should not be named after portents of disaster or famous ships that were sunk.

**SHIP OF FOOLS** 1) Real riverboats used to imprison insane and thus clear city streets. They plied the Rhine River in Germany carrying their cargoes of madmen who were thought to have lost their souls. 2) Fictional books in 15th and 20th Centuries.

**SHIP OF THE LINE** Warship used in line of battle. In early eighteen century, this meant anything from fourth-rate, fifty guns, to first-rate, one hundred or more guns. HMS Victory had three entire Decks of Cannon.

**SHIPPING ARTICLES** See Articles.

**SHIPPING FORECAST** Radio transmission from different Weather Bureaus and Meteorological Offices advising shipping of weather conditions and warning navigation of imminence of storms and gales.

**SHIPPING LANES** Portions of open water reserved for commercial shipping and designated as such on a Chart. Recommended by LT Maury, USN in 1854 and published in "Sailing Directions".

**SHIPPING LINE** Shipping company, which includes personnel, ships, shore installations and service.

**SHIP RADIO STATION LICENSE** Authorization issued by the FCC to operate a radio station on a Vessel.

**SHIPSHAPE** Tip top or good order, neat clean, good condition or order, properly Rigged and ready, everything neat and tidy. AKA Bristol Fashion or Shipshape and Bristol Fashion.

**SHIP'S BOAT** Any smaller Boat carried on another Vessel for whatever purpose, from Pram or rubber Dinghy of Yacht to Ship's Launch.

**SHIP'S PAPERS** Whole range of documents and certificates carried on board Ship, including bills of lading and cargo manifests, musters of ship's company, passenger lists, and Logs of engine room, wireless room, etc.

**SHIP'S STORES** Food, water, fuel, spares, etc. required on Voyage.

**SHIP STATION** Mobile station (other than a survival craft station) in the maritime mobile service located on-board a Vessel which is not permanently moored.

**SHIP'S SERVICE LOADS** Services necessary to maintain the Vessel in normal operational and habitable conditions. These loads include, but are not limited to, safety, lighting, ventilation, navigational, and communications loads.

**SHIPS THAT PASS IN THE NIGHT** Passing in darkness and silence.

**SHIP, TO** Prepare for Sea.

**SHIPWRIGHT** Skilled craftsman employed in shipbuilding.

**SHIVER** Reaction of Sails when wind is taken out of them. This action is preparatory to Furling or Striking Sails.

**SHIVER ME TIMBERS** 1) Allusion to Ship striking rock or shoal so hard that her timbers shiver. 2) Nautical slang exclamation or expletive denoting surprise or disbelief or possibly with no real meaning. AKA Shiver My Timbers.

**SHOAL** 1) Dangerously shallow water which is hazard to navigation, usually at depth of 16 Fathoms, 30 meters, 96 Feet or less. Usually made of unconsolidated material, sand or mud. See Reef. 2) Collective or plural name for bass or some other fish species.

**SHOALING** Chart indicator meaning Currents and waves create unpredictable movement of bar.

**SHOCK CORD** Elastic Line or "Rope", useful in limited Rigging or stowage situations. AKA bungee cord.

**SHOD** Anchor is 'Shod' when it is covered with mud or clay and cannot set itself.

**SHOOT (ING) A BUOY** Make an approach and tie up at a Mooring Buoy. Should be done only when these Buoys are in season.

**SHOOTING A LINE** 1) Done by a fishing boat with its nets and lines. 2) Story telling.

**SHOOT INTO THE WIND** Head directly into the Wind.

**SHORT BLAST** 1) Whistle blast of about one second's duration. See Prolonged Blast. 2) Small drink for the road.

**SHORTEN DOWN** Set a smaller Sail.

**SHORTEST AND LONGEST NAMED BODIES OF WATER**

**SHORTHANDED** With a small Crew.

**SHORT INTERNATIONAL VOYAGE**

International Voyage where; a) Vessel is not more than 200 nautical miles from a port or place in which the Passengers and crew could be placed in safety and b( total distance between the last port of call in the country in which the Voyage began and the final port of destination does not exceed 600 nautical miles.

**SHORT SPLICE** Strong but bulky quick splice, such as Securing end of two Lines together. It is moderately strong and stronger than Knot but will not always run through a Block or Fairlead, because of its bulk. See Long Splice.

**SHOT ACROSS ITS BOWS, A** Cannon fire as a warning to stop a Vessel.

**SHOTTEN HERRING** Worthless or spiritless persons because they resemble fish of same name that have 'shot off' or ejected their spawn and are thus weak, tired and worthless.

**SHOVE OFF** 1) Push or move boat away from dock, ship's side or Quay and get underway. 2) Go away or leave. Get lost.

**SHOW A LEG** See Shake A Leg.

**SHOWERS** 1) Precipitation which varies considerably in its size, amount, and rate of fall. 2) Something you should share with a friend.

**SHOWS HIS TRUE COLORS** Early warships often carried flags from many nations on board in order to elude or deceive enemy. Rules of civilized warfare called for all ships to hoist their true national Ensigns before firing shot. Someone who finally did this is acting like man-of-war which hailed another ship flying one flag, but then hoisted their own when they got within firing range. See True Colors.

**SHRIMP** From Middle English, 'shrimpe', a small, puny person.

**SHROUD ( S )** 1) Strong, fixed Standing Rigging, Vertical support wires, ropes or lines extending on each side of Masthead to sides of ship. They laterally hold or support Mast upright from either of Port or Starboard sides or Athwartships. Characterized or named from Masts or spars supported; 'lower', 'upper', 'Topmast', 'Mizzen', etc. 2) Infrequently called side Stay. 3) Permanent sleeping bag for a less than active crew member if they are

careless enough to fall from the item of the same name.. 4) Equipment used in connection with a wake.

**SHROUD PLATES** Plates fitted to sides of smaller sailboats that perform function of Channels.

**SICKBAY** Medical ward or shipboard hospital. It is customary to uncover when entering, out of respect to those being healed, dying and dead.

**SIDE BOYS** Honor guard crew of two to eight persons using Boatswain's Pipe signals and salutes, manning Quarterdeck or side of ship in honor of visiting officers, very important people or distinguished officials. Historically used to manually haul or hoist visitors over side with Block & Tackle and Boatswain's Chair since there was no easy way to bring visitors on and off ship and there was no dignified way for high ranking officer to scurry up or down Rope Ladder hanging down side of Ship. More Side Boys were assigned to more senior visitors since they were usually heavier ( meaning fatter ). Number of "strong backs" needed to bring visitor aboard depended upon size of "load" being hoisted. It was noted that the more senior visitor's rank, more Sailors were needed to "man the side."

**SIDE LADDER** Portable rope ladder let down over side of Vessel or from Davit on Deck.

**SIDEREAL HOUR ANGLE ( SHA )** Angular distance west of Vernal Equinox or Aries measured from 0° - 360°. See Right Ascension.

**SIDELIGHT ( S )** Red and green navigation lights illuminated at night on Starboard and Port Sides, respectively, visible from forward of or on Beam. They allow ships to determine each other's Bearing, Course and Speed at night. See Running Lights.

**SIDEMARK** Lateral Buoys or Beacons which, by their location and color, advise mariner to stay to one side of them.

**SIGNAL FLAGS** Used by Ships to transmit visual signals and are regulated by International Code.

**SIGNAL HALYARD** Halyard or light Line used for Hoisting signal flags and Pennants up a Mast.

**SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO ( SNR )** Comparison of a GPS or Loran signals level to the level or background noise.

**SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT** 1)  
Average height from Trough to Crest of 1/3rd highest waves. An experienced observer will most frequently report highest 1/3rd of the waves observed. 2) Any wave higher than 1/2 length of your Vessel.

**SILENCE** RT Proword signaling emergency silence sign. See Seelonce.

**SILENCE LIFTED** RT Prowords for resume normal transmission. See Seelonce Feenee.

**SINE ( SIN )** Trigonometric function expressing the length of the opposite side divided by the length of the longest side or hypotenuse of a right triangle.  $\text{Sin} = Y (\text{vertical}) / Z (\text{hypotenuse}) = \text{Opposite} / \text{Hypotenuse}$

**SIN<sup>-1</sup>** Arcsine =  $1 / \text{Sin}$  or  
Arcsine = convert decimal to degrees

**SINGLE ENDED BOILER** Boiler having fireboxes or furnaces at only one end.

**SINGLE FLASHING LIGHT** Flashing Light in which flash is regularly repeated at rate of less than 50 flashes per minute.

**SINGLE HANDED** Solitary.

**SINGLE HANDER** Yachtsman who sails Single Handed.

**SINGLE FLASHING** Flashing Light in which flash is regularly repeated at rate of less than 50 flashes per minute.

**SINGLE OCCULTING** Occulting light in which an eclipse is regularly repeated.

**SINGLE WHIP** System employed to hoist weights. Consists of one single Sheave Block fixed to a support with rope passing over Sheave of Block which is then attached to weight. See Runner, Whip.

**SING OUT** 1) Chant by which sailor on Bow proclaimed depth soundings with each cast of Lead Line. 2) Articulate words brskly.

**SIREN ( S )** Three birds with heads of woman and daughters of Greek sea god Phorucu or Achelous. From Greek mythology where they had a fascinating but deadly

charm. They would lure passing sailors with their siren song or singing. It had such effect that men dove into Sea, crashed their Ships against rocks or were rooted to a spot and eventually perished from hunger. Odysseus had himself tied to Mast so he could listen but plugged ears of his crew with wax.

**SIROCCO** Warm wind of Mediterranean area, either Foehn or hot southerly wind in advance of low pressure area moving from Sahara or Arabian deserts. AKA Leveche.

**SISTER**

**SISTERSHIP ( S )** Boats of the same design.

**SIX** Area immediately to rear of your Ship or aircraft. AKA Six O'clock.

**SIX OF ONE AND A HALF DOZEN OF ANOTHER**  
Naval slang meaning nothing to choose between or one and the same.

**SKEDADDLE** To run off or away or leave in a hurry as in sneaking away from a work party aboard ship.

**SKEG** 1) Knee timber connecting Stern Post and Keel.  
2) Small, fixed fin, wood or metal arm attached to underbody near Stern or continuation of Keel Aft, extending Aft at Keel with a Bearing at its after end. It sometimes connects to Heel of Rudder or acts as support for Rudder or upon which Stern post rests. It also protects Propeller.

**SKEIN** Collective or plural name for geese in flight. See Gaggle.

**SKELETON TOWER** Tower, usually of steel, constructed of heavy corner members and various horizontal and diagonal bracing members.

**SKIFF** Lightweight all-purpose vessel. See Coxswain.

**SKIPPER** Person in charge or Master of Vessel, merchant ship or Yacht. Leader or boss. AKA Ship's Captain. From Old English, 'scip', ship and 'scipper', ship's captain or Dutch 'schipper', captain..

**SKIPPERED CHARTER** Rent a Vessel with a Captain and/or crew that will be responsible for actually sailing the boat. See Charter. Opposite of Bareboat.

**SKIPPER SWALLOWS THE ANCHOR** 1)  
Usually means Captain or Skipper has retired. 2)  
Occasionally indicates death. See Swallow The Anchor.

**SKYLARK ( ING )** 1) Originally described antics of young Navy men who climbed and slid down backstays for fun or while playing 'follow the leader', hurling themselves about upper rigging. Since ancient word 'lac' means 'to play' and games started high in Masts, term was skylacing." Later, corruption of word changed it to "skylarking." It is generally looked upon with disfavor both onboard ship and ashore. 2) Frolic.

**SKYLIGHT** Wooden framework provided with glass lights, often strengthened with Grilles, set at angle to allow rainwater and seawater to drain off. It can be opened and shut, used to cover aperture in Deck and to allow light and air below.

**SKY PILOT** A chaplain.

**SKYSAIL** Uppermost light weather sail set on Square Rigged Ship when wind was steady and favorable.

**SKYSCRAPER** 1) Highest triangular shaped sail on ship, except for occasionally Moonrakers, angel's foot stools and Stargazers which were only set in dead calms. Skyscraper was set above skysail and Royals and used to maximize advantage of light, favorable wind. Made of very light cloth and used only in moderate weather. Occasionally Moonrakers, angel's foot stools and Stargazers were set above Skyscrapers. 2) High building.

**SKYSAILS** Generally topmost or highest sails on Square Rigged Ship whose height were only exceeded by Stargazer, Skyscraper, Moonraker and Jumpersails. Set on Royal Mast and carried above Royal Sails.

**SKYSCRAPER** 1) Triangular sail high above square sails on ship. 2) Tall building.

**SKYWAVE** Indirect radio wave that reflects off the Ionosphere, rather than traveling a direct path from transmitter to receiver.

**SLAB REEF** See Jiffy Reef.

**SLACK** 1) Not moving. 2) Not fastened, loose or loosen. 3) To Ease. 4) Liquid tank which is not completely full. See Pressed. 5) Length of Rope or chain in excess of that required to perform its duty, the loose part. It must be taken in before that duty can be performed.

**SLACK WATER** Short Period of little or no Current or water movement between Flood and Ebb Tidal Currents when a Reversing Current changes directions. It does not necessarily occur at same time as Stand.

**SLAT** Roll in a Calm with the Sails slapping back and forth noisily.

**SLEEP IN** To sleep through one's watch on deck, to sleep all night if not caught by the Chief Mat.

**SLEET** Rain which freezes on impact. Same as and see Freezing Rain.

**SLEWED** 1) Turn any cylinder or conical piece of timber about its own axis without removing it. 2) Spinning around, intoxicated such as twisting, spinning nautical procedure.

**SLEWING** Action of Yawing or swinging rapidly from side to side while at Anchor or while being Towed. 2) When a Boom, Spar sways or swings on a fixed point.

**SLICKER** 1) Foul Weather jacket. 2) Someone from the city.

**SLIDERS** Nickname for Hamburgers.

**SLIDING HATCH** Hatch mounted on slides.

**SLING** Ropes, Chains, Canvas or leather bands which are swathed round or under object preparatory to Hoisting. Netting is used for same purpose so that object may be hung, hoisted or supported and still retain certain amount of freedom.

**SLING YOUR HOOK** Urge a quick departure. A reference to sailor's hammock and the suggestion that he slings it on another hook elsewhere. See Shove Off and Beat It.

**SLIP ( S )** 1) Dock or Berth area for boat between two Piers, Floats, Wharves or Piles in a Marina. See Slipway.  
2) Drop or let go Rope or Cable purposely, such as 'Slip the Anchor' or 'Slip Moorings'. 3) Percentage difference between theoretical and actual distance that Propeller advances when turning in water under load. Caused by propeller rotating in yielding medium. See Positive Slip and Negative Slip. 4) An under garment best removed at sea.  
5) What you want to avoid on Deck.

**SLIPPED HIS CABLE** Sailor has died. From practice of doing this if ship wanted to get away in a hurry such that they were willing to leave anchor and part of line on sea floor.

**SLIPWAY** Marine railway built to haul small vessels out of water for repairs.

**SLOOP** 1) Small vessel with four to twelve cannon on upper deck, sixth rate, and rigged with up to three masts.  
2) Vessel with one or single Mast, Fore & Aft rigged with triangular Mainsails and Foresails. It that flies one Foresail, Jib or Genna at a time. AKA Bermudian or Marconi Rig.

**SLOP** Confused Seaway.

**SLOP CHEST** 1) Locker in which Slops or baggy, one size fits all clothes were kept. 2) A ship's store of tobacco, candy, beer and miscellaneous supplies.

**SLOPS OR SLOPPY** Clothing that British Navy ordered be available for sale to seamen by ship's purser as a replacement for their rags. From Middle English 'sloppe', loose fitting garment which were seaman's standard dress. Garments were generally overpriced, ill-fitting, untidy and carelessly done as well as squashed in storage, thus, 'sloppy'.

**SLUG** See Sail Slug.

**SLUSH** 1) Waste or surplus fat or residual grease from Galley or scraped off top of barrels of meat. It was jealously guarded for use to grease the masts to make sail hoisting easier and for preserving leather fittings. 2) Liberally paint or swab with grease or preservatives.

**SLUSH FUND** 1) Cook's practice of secreting or hiding Slush so crew couldn't use it. Small, usually illegal fund, seen as perquisite by cook or raised by sailors by misappropriation and sale of grease, rope ends and such. Slush was sold for lubrication, candle and soap makers. Monies raised were used to pay for luxuries or small, hard to explain expenses like those necessary for an extra ration of rum. 2) Contingent fund set aside by Congress from an operating budget or general fund fro small luxuries. 3) Money or secret fund used for bribery, political pressure or other corrupt purposes.

**SLUSHING** Apply any greasy mixture (See Slush) used as a lubricant or preservative to protect from corrosion.

**SMACK** Collective or plural name for jellyfish.

**SMALL BOAT** Daysailer less than 30 feet long.

**SMALL BOWER** Starboard Bower Anchor.  
See Best Bower.

**SMALL CIRCLE** Intersection of a sphere and plane which does not pass through its center. See Circle, Small.

**SMALL CRAFT** Vessel without any of the following: a self draining cockpit or watertight below decks cabin.

**SMALL DIURNAL RANGE** Difference in height between Mean Lower High Water and Mean Higher Low Water.

**SMALL FRY** 1) Young of salmon, herring and other fish. From Norse, 'frae', seed, meaning berry or seedlike masses of egg produced by fish. 2) Children.

**SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL** 46 CFR Subchapter T Section 2101(35). Vessel less than 100 Gross Tons which;  
1) Carries more than six passengers, including at least one passenger for hire. 2) Chartered with crew provided or specified by the owner and carrying more than six passengers. 3) Chartered with no crew provided or specified by the owner and carrying more than 12 passengers. 4) That is a submersible Vessel carrying at least one passenger for hire

**SMALL SCALE CHART** Chart covering a relatively large area. See Large Scale Chart.

**SMALL STUFF** Cordage such as Marline, spun yarn, sail twine, primarily used for Whippings and Servings. Usually less than 1.75 inches in circumference, 0.5 inch in diameter or 24 thread. Certain small stuff carry descriptive names such as Marline, Houseline, Seizing Stuff or Ratline Stuff.

**SMOG** Combination of smoke and fog, usually associated with heavy industrial regions. See Vog.

**SMOKE FLARE** emits flame and considerable quantity of smoke, It helps rescuers pinpoint persons to be save. Carried on Life Jackets, Life Rafts and Life Boats.

**SMOKING LAMP** Safety measure devised to keep fire hazard away from highly combustible woodwork and gunpowder. Usually, it was located in Forecastle or area directly surrounding Galley indicating that smoking was permitted in this area. Even after invention of matches, it was item of convenience to smoker. When particularly hazardous operations or work required that smoking be curtailed, unlighted lamp relayed message. "The smoking lamp is lighted" or "the smoking lamp is out" were expressions indicating that smoking was permitted or forbidden. It has survived only as figure of speech. When officer of the deck says "the smoking lamp is out" before drills, refueling or taking ammunition, that is Navy's way of saying "cease smoking."

**SMOLT** Young salmon. AKA Grilse or Parr .

**SNAFU** Situation Normal, All Fouled Up.

**SNAIL'S PACE** Exceedingly slow. From speed of actual snails.

**SNAP HOOK** Spring loaded hook used as a Hank and for other small jobs.

**SNAP SHACKLE** Fast opening fitting used for many purposes such as attaching the corner of a spinnaker to a control rope.

**SNARLED** Rope or Chain is this when it tangles and twists and will not run freely.

**SNATCH BLOCK** Special Block which can be opened on one side to receive Bight of Rope and so that Rope does not have to be Reeved

**SNO** 1) Cold, swift morning air currents which fill Scandinavian valleys in winter from highlands, attaining considerable velocities. 2) Poorly spelled white stuff.

**SNORKEL** 1) retractable tube that ventilated a submarine cruising slightly below surface. From German, 'schnorchel', air intake. 2) Tube one breathes through while swimming facedown in water or slightly below surface.

**SNOTTER** Rope loop to prevent anything to which it is attached from slipping.

**SNOW** Water vapor which condenses in the form of white or transparent crystals or flakes.

**SNOW BLINK** Blink caused by snow covered surface, which is whitish and brighter than yellowish-white glare of ice blink. See Land Sky, Sky Map and Water Sky.

**SNUB, SNUB A LINE** 1) Quickly cut short, halt or stop ship's progress, by dropping Anchor onto bottom to act as brake, by wrapping Line around Winch or Cleat or by holding onto any Lines/Cables which might connect the ship to shore so that most of the Line's pull is absorbed. From Middle Scandinavian 'snubba', short stemmed pipe. 2) Check or suddenly stop Line from running out quickly, usually by tension via taking a turn around a Bitt or Cleat. 3) Applied to members of a crew or to a particular person. Meant to humiliate them with a curt remark or to ignore them. 4) Be rude to a Line.

**SNUG** 1) Trim, tight, neat and protected from bad weather. 'To snug down' is to Batten Down Hatches, furl the sails, stow movables and lower Topmast. 2) Being comfortable or warm and cozy.

**SOFT PATCH** Plate that is bolted over a break in the Hull and made watertight with a canvas and red lead gasket.

**SOFT TACK** Seaman's term for leavened or biscuit bread as distinguished from Hard Tack or biscuit.

**SOLANO** Oppressively warm and dusty east wind which blows over Gibraltar and southeast Spain.

**SOLAR RADIATION** Heat energy sent out or emitted by the sun in the form or rays.

**SOLAR TIDE** That portion of the tide caused solely by the gravitational force of the Sun. See Lunar Tide.

**SOLAS** Safety of Life at Sea Convention.

**SOLD DOWN THE RIVER** 1) Perpetual threat against slaves in the border states that this would happen to them if the misbehaved. 2) Cheated, hoodwinked, taken for a ride.

**SOLDIERING** Loafing on the job. From wartime transport of soldiers on board ship where they did not want to work.

**SOLDIER'S BREEZE OR WIND** Wind that is equally forcible going or coming. When wind is about abeam going out and coming back into Harbor, it takes little ability to sail: even a soldier or contemptuous landlubber could do it.

**SOLE** 1) Floor of cabin, saloon or cockpit deck.  
2) Timber extensions on the bottom of the rudder.

**SO LONG** Voyaging sailors imperfectly repeated 'salaam' from East India and used it for 'good bye'.

**SONAR** Acronym for Sound Navigation Ranging. It is underwater echo-ranging equipment, originally for detecting submarines by small warships.

**SONOBUOY** Buoy with equipment for automatically transmitting radio signal when triggered by underwater sound signal.

**SON OF A GUN** 1) Complimentary term for sailor suggesting they were natural born to job or more precisely born on job. When women lived and traveled aboard British man-of-war during peacetime, they slept in hammocks slung between cannons on gun decks and babies were born in this area. Woman would give birth between guns in order to keep walkways clear. 2) Derogatory term if baby's father or paternity was unknown or uncertain, they were entered in ship's Deck Log as Son Of A Gun. AKA sailor's bastard. 3) Being conceived alongside gun, since hammock wasn't as convenient (as we all know). 4) Baby born with gunfire to assist labor and delivery or in post birth celebration. 5) Any child born at sea. 6) Exclamation, expletive or euphemism for stronger language or term of affectionate regard.

**SON OF A SEA COOK** 1) Ambivalent meaning either good guy or mean SOB depending on context. From American Indian land not sea tradition, 's'quenk', skunk, originally pronounced 'sea-konk' or 'seagonk' by English colonists but migrated to current form. 2) Term of not so affectionate regard for first rate stinkers. 3) Possibly a corruption of 'seacock' meaning bold sailor or sea rover but not often used in this fashion.

**S.O.S.** International morse code radio telegraph signal for distress (3 short, 3 long, 3 short). Letters chosen because their morse code characteristics were simple, distinctive, unmistakable easy to remember

and to generate. AKA incorrectly as 'save our ship', 'stop other signals' and 'save our souls'. See CQD and Mayday.

**SOUL SHIPS** Legendary ships believed to sail to Bay of Souls and collect recently deceased Sailors for journey to fabled Isles of the Blessed.

**SOUND ( ING )** 1) Evaluate or measure water depth and bottom composition with sounding line, lead or echo depth sounder. From Anglo Saxon 'sund', messenger or water, sea, swimming. See Off Sounds and On Soundings. 2) Act of determining the depth of fluid in a tank by using a gauging tap, measuring stick, pneumercator or electronic gauging device. 3) What a whale does when it dives deeply.

**SOUND ( ING ) OUT** 1) Process of taking a sounding or determining sea depth in vicinity of ship. From Old English 'sund-gyrd', sounding pole or line. 2) Search and enquire or seek information such as in public opinion polls or determine depth of issue or person.

**SOUTHEASTER** Strong winds from southeast, sometimes of gale force, which blow near extreme southwest end of Cape of Good Hope, usually in winter.

**SOUTHERLY BURSTER** Cold, strong to gale force winds which move in from polar zones northward over New South Wales, Australia.

**SOUTHERN LIGHTS** See Aurora.

**SOUTH TERRESTRIAL POLE** South rotational pole of the Earth.

**SOUTH POLE ( Ps )** South rotational pole.

**SOU'WESTER** 1) Abbreviation for south westerly wind, one which often brings rain. 2) Sailor's oilskin cap or wide brimmed waterproof hat which fastens under chin and is worn in bad weather.

**SPACE SEGMENT** Satellite portion of complete GPS system

**SPAN** Length of timber.

**SPANISH BOWLINE** Knot also used to form two loops, neither of which will slip.

**SPANKER** 1) Gaff Sail on Mizzen Mast of Ship.



2) Sternmost Mast of Five Masted Ship. 3) Fun for some people.

3) There once was a girl name Bianca, who slept while her ship lay at anchor. She awoke with dismay, when she heard the first mate say; "Hi! Hoist up the Top Sheet and Spanker!"

**SPANNER** Special purpose wrench used to couple fire hoses.

**SPAR ( S )** 1) General term for round piece of timber, very long in proportion to its diameter, used for Mast, Boom, Gaff, Yard, Bowsprits or Pole such as a Spinnaker Pole used in Sailboat Rigging. Made of wood, aluminum extrusions and synthetic composites. 2) Semper Paratus, Always Ready. Coast Guard motto and acronym for Woman's reserve during World War II. See Waves and Wrens.

**SPARE BOILER** One who is generally ineffectual.

**SPEAK SLOWER** RT Prowords for your transmission is too fast, reduce the speed of transmission.

**SPECIAL CHARTS** Various scales cover the intracoastal waterway and miscellaneous small craft areas. See Coastal, General, Harbor and Sailing Charts.

**SPECIAL MARK OR SPECIAL PURPOSE BUOY** Buoy with no Lateral system significance that conveys special meaning which you can determine by consulting the appropriate nautical Chart or publication.

**SPECIFIC GRAVITY** Ratio of a body's density to the density of pure fresh water at a temperature of 4° C (most dense state at that temperature). Specific gravity of salt water = 1.026 = 64 lbs per cubic foot salt water / 62.4 lbs per cubic foot of fresh water.

**SPEED MADE GOOD ( SMG )** Boat' Speed as measured by her progress relative to her destination.

**SPEED OF ADVANCE ( SOA )** Speed that you expect to make good over the ground or bottom.

**SPEED OVER GROUND ( SOG )** Boat's Speed that Vessel actually makes good over the ground or bottom as measured by her progress relative to land. It may differ from nautical speed, due to factors in her Speed through the water as affected by sea conditions, winds and currents.

**SPELL** Period of time, not necessarily turn of duty. See Trick, Watch.

**SPEO** Nereid of Greek Mythology meaning 'swift'.

**SPIC** Spike or nail.

**SPIC AND SPAN** In pristine condition originally referring to a newly built ship. See Spic and See Span.

**SPICULES** Small skeletons of various marine animals such as sponges.

**SPIDER HOOP** 1) On Square Rigged ships, it is Mast ring below Futtock Plates which holds Shrouds. 2) Metal band round Mast of Yachts and other smaller craft to hold shuffles of Gooseneck.

**SPIKE** Young Mackerel. AKA Blinker or Tinker.

**SPILL** Maneuver on Square Rigged Ships to cause lower Sails to cease action by letting go Sheets and Tacks.

**SPIN A YARN** 1) Telling tall tales or long, often incredible stories, often while working small winch necessary to spin (loosely twisting) yarn and other rope work from untwisted yarn of rope and which required two seamen to operate. They enlivened tedious task by chatting aimlessly and interminably. See yarn. 2) To spin correctly, material must be continually stretched. Story (yarn), especially one that seems exaggerated or hard to believe. It can be likened to someone stretching truth.

**SPINNAKER** Huge, three cornered triangular, parachute or balloon like Sail of light, stretch cloth, usually nylon. Used for sailing or running or Off the Wind on Downwind Course or some Reaching. It was first broken out in 1866 by HMS Sphinx or private racing pleasure vessel of same name. Ship was sometimes mispronounced as spinnicks. Sail formerly known as Spinnicker's Sail or 'Sphinx's Acre'.

**SPIT** 1) Small Cape. 2) Expectorate.

**SPIT AND POLISH** 1) Meticulous cleaning and smartness of appearance were demanded of sailors. Men didn't like it too much when that had to apply ones' spittle as polishing agent and much elbow grease to make object shine. 2) General pejorative term for finicky, wasteful work.

- SPITKIT** Sea going cuspidor.
- SPLICE** 1) Join or link two Lines or Ropes together by first unraveling strands at two ends then interweaving, interlocking or Tucking Strands together, usually permanently. Braided rope that has a core and a cover is usually Spliced by tucking one inside other. It creates stronger and smoother joint than Knot but is less trustworthy than before. See Long Splice, Short Splice. 2) Make an Eye in the end of a Line.
- SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE** An extra tot of rum served only on rare, special occasions. Indulge in Happy Hour or to take a drink. From implication that a good drink braces one? Rare occasion since main brace was usually replaced only when worn since it was too important a rope to be Spliced and thus weakened. See Mainstay.
- SPLICING FID** Pointed tool used to unpick Ropes.
- SPONSON** Projecting structure or platform on the Hull of a ship.
- SPOON BOW** Full round Bow that is shaped like bowl of a spoon.
- SPOIL AREA** Areas where dredged material is deposited.
- SPOILS OF THE CONQUERED OCEAN** Term when Caligula had his legions gather seashells and return home in 'triumph' rather than march on Britain.
- SPOIL THE SHIP FOR A HA'P'ORTH OF TAR** Practice of applying bitumen or tar to sheep's feet to prevent them from contracting disease. 'Sheep' was misquoted as 'Ship'.
- SPONGE** Long wooden pole with piece of fleece at end.
- SPONGE OUT** Clean barrel of muzzle loading gun after each shot.
- SPRAY RAILS** Longitudinal strakes running along bottom to deflect water away from bottom area above rail thus reducing wetted surface. They may also add certain amount of lift and stiffen boat's bottom structure.
- SPRAG** Young codfish. AKA Codling.
- SPREAD EAGLE** 1) Person bound by his wrists and ankles in preparation for a flogging. 2) Someone who falls flat on his face with arms and legs askew.
- SPREADER (S)** Athwartshps support or strut that holds the Shrouds out away from the Mast and provides lateral support.
- SPREE** 1) Liberty ashore which usually ended up as a drinking bout. 2) A lively, noisy frolic, a period of drunkenness.
- SPRING** Generally name given to lighter Ropes used in Mooring and Berthing operations for which heavier Cables are substituted when those operations are completed.
- SPRING LINE (S)** 1) One of standard dock lines used when vessel is docking and undocking. Used to control fore and aft movement or motion of boat while made fast to dock and to pivot ship. Pivot line tied from Boat running diagonally to keel and at opposite angles to bow and stern Lines to keep her from moving forward and aft while made fast to pier, dock, slip or float. See Breast Line. 2) Verbal attempt to pick up opposite sex in first few months of year.
- SPRING TIDE** Semidiurnal Tides which occur when moon and sun are in line. Occurs just after there is new moon, with the sun and moon in conjunction, or just after full moon, with moon and sun being in opposition. Combined gravitational forces pull together and cause High Tides higher than normal, and Low Tides lower, thus Tidal Range is greater. See Neap Tide. It has nothing to do with the season. From tides which "spring up". Opposite of Neap Tide.
- SPRIT** Pole set diagonally across Fore and Aft Sail or SpritSail to extend that Sail at Peak.
- SPRITSAIL** 1) Square Sail attached or carried on Yard below Bowsprit. It has large hole at each of its lower corners to evacuate water which fills its cavity by surge of sea when ship pitches. 2) Fore and Aft Sail with Sprit se diagonally across.
- SPRUNG** Occurs when Mast or Yard loses its strength and elasticity through warping or twisting with damage to wood or material from which it is made.
- SPURLING PIPE** Spill pipe leading from the Windlass to the Chain Locker.

**SQUALL ( S )** Usually brief and violent or gusty wind Storm that arrives suddenly, often accompanied by strong rain or snow showers. Sudden wind increase characterized by duration of minutes and followed by sudden decrease in winds. Line squall or line of Squalls often accompanies immediately ahead of an advancing Cold Front.

**SQUAMISH** Strong and often violent wind occurring in many of British Columbia Fjords oriented in Northeast-Southwest or East-West direction where cold polar air can be funneled westward. They lose their strength when free of confining Fjords and are not noticeable 15 to 20 miles offshore.

**SQUARED AWAY** 1) All Braces and Sails on Square Rigger are set in this fashion so ship will run with wind. 2) Ready to begin some specific task or job.

**SQUARE KNOT** Useful for tying or joining two ends of similar sized line together, as around an object. Not a good knot to use when fastening two lines where strain will be intermittent or for tying together two rope ends of different size, texture or stiffness. Also used as a bending Knot to Reef and furl sails. AKA Reef Knot.

**SQUARE MEAL** From the British navy habit of serving meals at sea on square, wooden plates that would stack and store easily in a rack on a rolling ship.

**SQUARE RIG (GED)** Vessel Rigged with square shaped Sails hung on Yards set at right angles to ship itself by horizontal Yardarms secured to Mast, laterally or Port and Starboard. Sails are extended by yards slung Athwartship and trimmed with braces. Theoretical center of effort of sail plan is situated forward of center of lateral resistance, or opposite of that in Fore-and-Aft rig, and is done to facilitate paying off in any sudden change of wind and thus to prevent the sails from being taken aback. Opposite of Fore and Aft Rigging.

**SQUARE RIGGER** Vessel that is Square Rigged. 2) Rigger over the age of 30.

**SQUARE UP** 1) The custom of ships in harbor 'squaring' their yards horizontally to the Deck and at right angles to the Fore and Aft line. 2) To repay debts, to square with somebody, the state of being normal and correct.

**SQUAT** For a vessel underway, the bodily sinkage and change of trim which are caused by the pressure distribution on the hull due to the relative motion

of water and hull. The effect begins to increase significantly at depth to draft ratios less than 2.5. It increases rapidly with speed and is augmented in narrow channels.

**SQUEEGEE** Device used to scrape water from a wet Deck or window. Usually a hoe shaped, wooden implement fitted with a rubber edge.

**SQUID** What Gyrenes call Sailors.

**SSB** Single Side Band, Radio term for a short wave communications technique.

**STABILITY** Tendency, state or property of a Vessel to resist change or of tending or returning to an upright or original position/conditions after being disturbed. Three possible states of stability; stable, neutral or unstable. Opposite of instability.

**STABILIZERS** Appendages fitted to Hulls of ships, but not extending below Keel nor beyond Beam, which considerably reduce angle of vessel's Roll, increase length of time between Rolls, and accelerate recovery from rolling.

**STACK** Label on nautical chart which indicates tall smokestack or chimney. Term is used when stack is more prominent as landmark than accompanying buildings.

**STADIMETER** Instrument for determining the distance to an object of known height by measuring the vertical angle subtended by the object. The instrument is graduate directly in distance. See Range Finder.

**STAGE** Platform or scaffold, such as one suspended over the ship's side for seamen to perform work on such as chipping, painting, cleaning or caulking.

**STAGE HITCH** Used to rig a platform or stage to stand on while working over the side.

**STAIRWAY** Inclined means of escape between two Decks.

**STANCHION ( S )** Fixed, upright, pole, wooden pillar or metal post, often set along edges of open Decks. Used for various purposes to hold items such as Lifelines along Deck, nettings, awnings, quarter rails or to support Deck or Overhead.

**STAND** 1) Period of time at low or high water when vertical Tide movement has stopped and there is no noticeable rise or fall of the water level. It does not necessarily occur at same time as Slack Water. 2) Ships will Stand In towards the land and Stand Off a port, Stand In with another Vessel when sailing together and Stand By in case of trouble. 3) Stand by, stand their ground, stand in favor, become stand offish or like to know how they stand.

**STAND ALOOF, TO** 1) Luff or bear to Windward. From Dutch, 'loef', windward. This can not be done except by heading Ship away. 2) Keep away from, to be standoffish. See Aloof.

**STANDARD TIME** Legally established time for a given Zone. Standard Time within each Zone is the Local Mean Time at the Standard Meridian that passes through the center of the Zone.

**STANDING END** Part of Rope which is part made fast to something as opposed to running part which is part hauled upon.

**STANDING LINE** Main part of Line, part not used in Knot.

**STANDING PART** 1) Portion of line made fast or not used in making knot. Part of line around which knot may be tied. Main part of line as distinguished or opposite of bight and bitter end. 2) In a block and tackle, part of the purchase or falls made fast to one of the blocks and that does not move when power is applied to hauling part.

**STANDING RIGGING** Part of ship's Rigging, Ropes, Chains, Turnbuckles, Deadeyes with their Lanyards, Stays, Shrouds, Spreaders as well as some other Rigging parts. Used mainly to support and 'stay' or hold up the Mast, Bowsprit or Jib Boom and take the strain of the Sails. Also provides crew a means to climb and work with reasonable safety aloft. They are permanently Secured and not movable, including the headstay, forestay, shrouds and backstay. Although necessarily somewhat adjustable, they are not continually changed as is Running Rigging.

**STAND ALOOF** Bear to Windward or Luff, from Dutch 'loef' meaning Windward. See Aloof.

**STANDARD COMPASS** See Compass, Standard.

**STANDING RIGGING** Rigging fixed in place and semi- permanent once set up. lines that secure

the yards and sails in place. They are not normally adjusted while ship is sailing. Includes Spars, Stays and Turnbuckles. See Rigging, Running Rigging.

**STAND ON VESSEL** Vessel that has the right of way under rules of the road. Vessel which continues its course in same direction and same speed during a meeting, crossing or overtaking situation, unless collision appears imminent. Opposite of Give Way Vessel. See Burdened Vessel, Privileged Vessel.

**STAND THE GAFF, TO** Endure goading or kidding by someone. See Gaff.

**STARBOARD** 1) Right side of Vessel when facing Forward or toward Bow. From 'steorboard', 'steer board' or 'stern board' on Viking and Old English ships. Primitive rudder or steering paddle, mounted on and used from right-hand side of Ship. Single right-side device such as steering Oar ('star'), board ('bord') or paddle used to steer (steor) or 'steor' from helm or rudder and 'bord' meaning side. 2) Right-handed. 3) Discontinued term (due to confusion) given to turn tiller or when wheels were first introduced to this direction in order to turn the Vessel to Port. See Larboard and Port. 4) Special board used by skippers for navigation (usually with "Port" on the opposite side.)

**STARBOARD TACK** Sailboat's course with the Boom and Sails trimmed on the Port side and, when not Running Free directly Downwind, the Wind coming over the Starboard side.

**STARGAZER** Occasionally the highest sail in the ship. See Skyscraper.

**STATEROOM** Sleeping quarters for guests or Captain.

**STATION** 1) Authorized location of an Aid To Navigation. 2) On or more transmitters or a combination of transmitters and receivers, including accessory equipment, necessary to carry on radiocommunication services at one location. 3) Vessel's position in relation to another.

**STATIONARY FRONT** Front that has not moved appreciably from its previous analyzed position.

**STATION BUOY** Unlighted Buoy set near a lightship, Large Navigation Buoy or other important Buoy as a reference point in case the Primary Aid is moved from its assigned position or is drifted off Station.

**STATUTE MILE** 1) A land, not nautical measurement except on some fresh water charts of the Great Lakes. 2) 5,280 feet. See Mile and Nautical Mile.

**STAUNCH** 1) Watertight. A Vessel which had no leaks. From French 'estanche' meaning tight, watertight or impervious to water. 2) Firm, reliable, strong or standing firm to principle..

**STAVE** Operation of braking the planks of a boat.

**STAVE OFF** 1) To thrust a boat away or fend off from stone quay or ship's side with a boathook or spar to prevent her from being damaged. See Stave. 2) Putting off a problem.

**STAY ( S )** Part of Standing Rigging, generally strong Lines of wire, metal rod, strong rope, hemp or iron, used for supporting Mast or funnel from Fore and Aft, specifically Forward; the Headstay, Forestay or Jackstay extending from upper Mast on fore part towards fore part of ship and specifically Aft; Backstay and Running Backstay. Any support to Mast, Yard or Spar. Sometimes used to carry certain Sails. See Bobstay, Hound, Shroud, Fore and Aft Stay, Head Stay, Intermediate Stays and Jumper Stays.

**STAYSAIL** 1) Sails carried on Stays of Masts other than Foremast. See Jib Sail. 2) Usually small triangular Sail or Foresail carried on an Inner Forestay Forward of Mast but inside a Headsail or Jib, used on a Reaching course.

**STEADING SAIL** Sail Hoisted more for steadying effect of the Wind on it than for propulsion.

**STEADY OR STEADY AS SHE GOES** Steady the ship on the Course she is heading at the time of the command. Order usually given when the ship is turning or swinging.

**STEALER PLATE** Single plate joined at the end by two other Strakes which are tapered. Used to reduce the number of Strakes at the Bow. See Drop Strakes and Through Strakes.

**STEALING THE WIND FROM HER SAILS**

If one ship was engaged in battle with another, and can get upwind of it, they can spread their sails out full to catch all wind and becalme other ship leaving her Dead in water. With full sails pushing them toward becalmed ship at maximum speed, they can ram it, literally cut it in half and sink it.

**STEAMBOAT** Oddly enough, a Boat run by steam.

**STEAM FOG** Advection Fog caused when cool or extremely cold air usually from shore moves or passes over warm water surfaces. AKA Sea Smoke or frost smoke.

**STEAVE ANGLE** Angle of Bowsprit above Waterline, approximately 20°.

**STEERAGE** 1) Passage below Decks near Ship's steering gear. 2) Common term for Third class, originally referring to location of accommodations.

**STEERAGEWAY** Vessel has enough or sufficient Speed or momentum to permit Rudder to act, Headway or motion through water to allow efficient Steering, enable Vessel to answer bells and respond to its Rudder.

**STEER BY** Use as a guide when steering.

**STEERING BOARD** See Starboard.

**STEERING COMPASS** See Compass, Steering.

**STEERING GEAR** Equipment needed to impart movements of wheel to Rudder when latter is not subject to direct manual operation.

**STEER NOTHING TO THE RIGHT (OR LEFT)** Order to helmsperson to keep the ship from swinging past the course in the direction they have been warned against.

**STEEVE** 1) Angle which Bowsprit makes with horizontal plane. 2) A guy that works on the Bow.

**ST. ELMO'S FIRE** See Saint Elmo's Fire.

**STEM** 1) Forward edge or foremost part of vessel or bow, member of hull or timber at extreme Forward part of boat. Vertical or nearly vertical forward extension of Keel to which Forward ends of Strakes or Planks or shell plating are attached. It is secured to Forward end of Keel and supporting Bow planks or corresponding portion of Hull in composite construction. Circular piece of timber, into which two sides of ship are united at fore end. Lower end of it is scarfed to keel, and Bowsprit rests on its upper end. 2) Make Headway against.

**STEM BANDS** Joins Stem Post to Keel.

- STEMMING THE CURRENT** Heading into the Current.
- STEMM POST** Essential structural element on Stem, joined externally to Keel by Stem Bands and joined to Strakes by Breast Hook.
- STEM TO STERN, FROM** 1) Everything from beginning to end. Throughout. From the forward vertical timber of the Keel supporting the bow planks to the after end of the ship. See Keel To Truck. 2) From one end to the other.
- STEP** 1) Install, set up or raise Mast in boat and put it in place. 2) Special Frame, stout wooden block with hole in it mounted on Keelson, or part of boat into which Heel or base of Mast is set, fits or stops. See Tabernacle
- STEPPED** Secured to Deck or Keel, referring to Sailboat Mast as Keel Steeped or Deck Stepped.
- STEPENWIND** Cold northeast wind which sometimes sweeps over Germany from steppe regions of Russia.
- STEPPING THE MAST** Place good luck coins under Mast about to be Stepped. Coins pay Charon, mythical ferryman, for transporting dead men across River Styx.
- STERN** Aftermost part, or back end portion of hull or section of boat.
- STERN-CHASER** Cannon that fires directly back from ship's Stern to discourage pursuit by pirates. Since cannon ball is fired right at the water line, it can "skip" across surface of water and travel much further distance than usual.
- STERN DRIVE** Inboard / Outboard engine system, with motor inside Hull. Steering is done by turning Outboard Propeller unit.
- STERN FRAME** Furnishes support to Rudder, Propeller Shaft and Transom frame. Collective name for Screw Post, Rudder Post and associated structural elements.
- STERN LIGHT** Navigation light illuminated at night on the Stern and visible over an arc of 12 Points or 135°.
- STERN LINE ( S )** 1) Dock or mooring line that runs away or leads from stern to pier, float or pile. 2) Cables leading from Aft on a Towboat to the Face Barge or to an outboard barge. AKA Backing Wires.
- STERNPOST** Timber at Stern held in place by Transom. It supports Rudder.
- STERN SHEETS** Aftermost seating of a lifeboat.
- STERN WALK** Kind of railed balcony at Stern.
- STERNWAY** Backward motion Astern or having reverse motion through water. Movement of a Vessel being carried or propelled backward. Opposite of Headway.
- STEVEDORE** From Spanish, 'estibador', one who packs things. See Longshoreman and Shenango.
- STICK IN THE MUD** 1) A run aground boat. 2) A person who resists change, progress or new ideas.
- STICK TO THE BITTER END** Derivations of nautical term Bitter End and refers to anyone who insists on adhering to a course of action without regard to consequences.
- STIFF** Vessel with a large Metacentric Height and large Righting Arm. Vessel resists Heeling, snaps back to an upright position with a sharp response to wave action that may produce a very uncomfortable ride with difficult footing on Deck and may strain Fittings or the Hull. See Tender.
- STIKINE** Strong and gusty wind of extreme southern coastal areas of Alaska.
- STILL WATERS RUN DEEP** Someone quiet on outside is more worthwhile or dangerous than a big mouth.
- STINKPOT ( S )** 1) Insulting term for form of chemical warfare bomb used by Greeks, Romans and pirates where earthenware pots filled with sulphur, saltpeter, limestone, asafetida, dead fish and slow burning fuse were lit and dropped from Yardarm or thrown onto opponent's Deck. Once ignited, mixture produced intolerable, nauseating stench and clouds of black smoke used as diversion when attacker closed alongside and prepared to board while affected crew was discouraged

from fighting or at least had weakening resistance. From Old English, 'stincan', to disperse or emit. 2) Foul, noxious. 3) Power boat.

**STIRRUP** Length of Rope which attaches Horse or Foot Rope to Yard.

**STOCK BOAT** Boat with many Sisterships built by the same manufacturer from the same design instead of a Custom boat.

**STOCK ( S )** 1) Keel stocks or heavy baulks of timber which support Hull while ship is being built. 2) Run out at right angles to Anchor Shank.

**STOP** 1) Tie up temporarily with Ropes or Chains 2) Rope, Chain or Sail Tie used for this purpose. See Furling Lines, Gaskets.

**STOPPER** 1) Method of checking or holding fast an line. 2) Short length of Line secured at one end while the other end temporarily holds or checks the same or another running Line and prevents it from moving.

**STORES** Supplies of food, drink, fuel, spares, etc. taken on board Vessel for Voyage.

**STORM** Extratropical low or a area of sustained winds in excess of 48 knots (55 mph).

**STORM JIB** Small, strong, triangular Headsail that is used in Heavy Winds.

**STORM SAILS** Small Sails of very stout Canvas carried in bad Weather such as Trysails, Storm StaySails, Storm Jibs, etc., often used when Vessel has to Lie To.

**STORM SURGE** Abnormal rise in the sea level caused by high winds like those in a tropical hurricane.

**STORMY PETREL** See Petrel.

**STOW** Put an item away in proper place or secure spot. Pack or store away; especially, to pack in an orderly, compact manner.

**STRAIGHT AS THE CROW FLIES** Crows detest water. Sailing ships would keep cage of crows while traveling up and down Coast. When fog was too thick to see through, they would release crow, which would fly

straight to land. This is also why lookout perch is known as Crow's Nest rather than simply bird's nest.

**STRAIGHT LINE NAVIGATION** Act of going from one waypoint to another in the most direct line and with no turns.

**STRAIN BAND** Extra band of Canvas sewn on large Square Sails to reinforce them.

**STRAINER** Filtering device used to remove solid debris from cooling water or other liquids.

**STRAKE ( S )** Any row, single Line, course, range or line of horizontal planks or plates in Hull, shell or other plating, planking abutting against each other and running along Vessel's side from Stem or Bow to Stern extending whole length of ship. See Garboard Strake, Sheer Strake.

**STRAND ( S )** 1) Twisted together to form Rope. Composed of number of Yarns twisted to together. Largest elements of rope, spun right-handed to form Rope itself. See Fibers, Yarns. 2) Beach composed of sand.

**STRANDED** 1) Sail of Rope when one or more Strands become broken or worn. 2) Occurs when Vessel is left high and dry by falling of Tide. See Ground. From Old English 'strand', land bordering on sea and Dutch 'stranden' to drive ashore or run around. 3) Unfavorable position.

**STREAM** 1) Place overboard and secure, such as to 'stream a log' or 'stream a sea anchor'. 2) Current in the sea formed by the action of the wind.

**STREAM ANCHOR, STERN ANCHOR** Anchor stowed at the Stern and used along with a Bower Anchor in narrow waterways where there is no room for the Vessel to swing.

**STRETCHER** Small, often adjustable, piece of wood or metal on which an oarsman braces their feet to give them adequate leverage or better footing while rowing, usually a lifeboat.

**STRATUS CLOUDS** Smooth, shapeless gray clouds with very little vertical motion.

**STRENGTH** Maximum speed of the Current between two Slack Water periods.

**STRIKE** 1) Lower. Such as Ship's Sails, Mast, Yards, flag. 2) Method of protest against low wages, poor conditions, etc. where the crew would do this to cease work and immobilize Ship. Short for 'Strike Work'. Yields connotation for labor Strike. Particularly done in Port and not at sea which would be Mutiney. See Strike Sail, To.

**STRIKE A FLAG** Lower it permanently, sign of surrender.

**STRIKE ME BLIND PUDDING** Extra delicacy served on Sundays and holidays and similar to Plum Duff.

**STRIKE SAIL, TO** 1) Let down ship's Topsails when in combat, thus acknowledge defeat, submit to enemy or eat humble pie.

**STRIKE THE BELL** Expression used at sea to denote divisions of daily time from their being marked by bells which are struck every half hour. Term "bell" being employed aboard ship as "o'clock" is ashore.

**STRINGER** Fore and Aft structural girder.

**STRINGER STRAKE** Fore and Aft run of deck plating which strengthens the connection between the beams and the frames and keeps the beams square to the shell.

**STRIPPER BAR** 1) Prevents Anchor Chain from fouling the Wildcat by stripping the Chain off of the Wildcat prior to insertion in the Hawse Pipe. 2) Favorite sailor location with small drinks, small clothing but large overhead fees.

**STRONG AIR** Wind of about 23 - 27 Knots.

**STRONGBACK** 1) Boom or Spar against which a small boat is secured when it is swung out for use. 2) Portable beam supporting a hatch cover. 3) Ridgepole serving a raised spreader or support for a small obat or lifeboat cover or awning. 4) Bar used to secure a cargo port.

**STROP** Piece of Rope or metal bracket which bounds Shell of Block.

**STRUCK** Masts deliberately taken down for refitting, etc. See Dismast.

**STRUT** Metal fitting that supports and aligns the Aft portion of a Propellor shaft.

**STUD LINKS** Anchor chain link with crossbar to strengthen link. 2) Popular Internet site.

**STUDDING SAIL ( S )** Four sided square Sails set or extended outboard on special Spar and on either side of regular Sails of Square Riggged Ship in fine weather for added sail area and to increase her Speed before favorable wind. AKA Stun's'l.

**STUDSAIL** Extra strip of Canvas carried at Leech of Fore And Aft Sail to act as Studding Sail. AKA Ringtail.

**STUN'S'L)** See Studding Sail

**STUFFING BOX** Through Hull Fitting, watertight mechanism or packing gland for the propellor drive shaft or Rudder Post that seals and lubricates the Propellor shaft in the area where it protrudes through the Hull. AKA Gland.

**SUBMARINE HEADLIGHTS** They can be found in the Head.

**SUBORDINATE STATION** Location near a Reference Station whose daily tidal information is recorded in the Tide Tables.

**SUBSTELLAR POSITION** AKA Geographic Position.

**SUCK THE MONKEY** 1) Drinking rum out of small holes in coconuts which had been smuggled aboard, sometimes in small wooden casks. 2) An insult.

**SUESTADO (Sudestades)** Storm with southeast gales, caused by intense cyclonic activity off coasts of Argentina and Uruguay, which affects Southern part of Coast of Brazil in winter.

**SUHAILI** Strong wind from southwest which blows over Persian Gulf, bringing thick clouds and rain.

**SUIT** 1) Full complement or outfit of Ship's Sails is know as it's Suit of Sails. From early 1600's. 2) Ship's complement of electronics could be referred to as its electronics Suit, and its total armament might be called its weapons suit. Word is sometimes incorrectly spelled "suite."

**SUITE** See Suit Of Sails.



**SUMATRA** Squall with violent thunder, lighting, and rain, which blows at night in Malacca Straits, especially during Southwest Monsoon. Intensified by strong mountain breezes.

**SUN IS OVER THE YARDARM** It's time for a drink! North Atlantic ship passengers had to wait until this occurred (around midday in those latitudes) before they could get a drink. This coincided with forenoon 'stand easy', officers would also take advantage of break to go below for their first tot of spirits for day. AKA Sun over the yardarm or sun is over the foreyard.

**SUPERSTRUCTURE** Any part of ship, cabins or other structures rising above the uppermost continuous Deck (Main Deck) and built on top of Hull which actual load-bearing structure of ship. Raised Quarter Deck, Forecastle, bridge house and Poop Deck are considered Superstructure.

**SURAZOS** Cold polar winds of Andes Plateau in Peru.

**SURF** 1) Waves breaking on a Shore, Reef or Bar. 2) Slide down the face of a Wave with yourself, your board or your boat.

**SURGE, SURGING** Slacken rope suddenly, Ease turns on Line, on Capstan, Bitts or Winch as in reducing or maintaining tension or slacken a line while Heaving on it so it does not rotate with the Gypsy Head.

**SURVEY** Inspection for purposes of Purchase or insurance by a marine surveyor.

**SURVEYOR** Professional who surveys or examines boats and ships for insurance purposes or prior to a purchase.

**SURVIVAL CRAFT** Lifeboat, rigid life raft, inflatable Life Raft, life float, inflatable buoyant apparatus, buoyant apparatus or a small boat carried aboard a Vessel.

**SURVIVAL CRAFT STATION** Mobile station in the maritime mobile service intended solely for survival purposes and located on any lifeboat, liferaft or other survival equipment.

**SWAB** 1) Merchant seaman. From Dutch, 'swabbe', mop in reference to Sailors swabbing or mopping Decks. 2) Mop up.

**SWAB DOWN** Wash down the decks. To clean up.

**SWABBER ( S )** Sailors who cleaned Decks.

**SWABBIE** See Swabby.

**SWABBY** A sailor. AKA Swabbie.

**SWALLOW A GUDGEON** AKA Hook, Line and Sinker.

**SWALLOW THE ANCHOR** 1) Go ashore permanently, give up life at sea and settle down on land. Get a shore job. See Skipper Swallows The Anchor. 2) Die.

**SWAMP ( ED )** 1) Fill up or be filled with water, in danger of sinking, but not settle to bottom. Occurring not from a leak but from water coming over Deck and Gunwales, often prior to sinking. Not a good thing. 2) Where you might be sailing if your coastal navigation isn't as good as it should be. Evidenced by slow speed, alligators and Buoys which look like (and are) cypress trees.

**SWASHBUCKLER** 1) Swaggering show-off. From Old English 'swash' meant to dash against or drum and 'buckler' was a small hand held shield used to catch sword blows of opponent. They dashed or beat own shield or beat sword against shield to create drumming sound prior to fight to intimidate enemy or while they walked through streets, but weren't always good swordsmen. Also had reputation for taking money to defend someone and then running when going got tough. 2) Action packed, romantic film, novel or work of fiction featuring adventurous characters and much swordplay, especially about pirates.

**SWASH BULKHEADS OR SWASH PLATES** Non-tight Bulkheads pierced by drain holes or Lightning holes. Fitted in tanks to obstruct the flow or sloshing of the liquid and minimize Free Surface Effects.

**SWAY** Hoist.

**SWEATEX** Any busy, tense exercise.

**SWELL ( S )** 1) Long, sometimes large wave(s) or low undulations of the sea that do not crest. Remnants of faraway storm from such distance that Wind causing them is not apparent locally or created by prevailing winds. Wind waves that have moved out of their Fetch or wind generation area. Waves generated by Swell exhibit

regular and longer period than wind waves. AKA Groundswell. 2) Wave that's just great.

**SWEET FANNY ADAMS** 1) British term for tinned meat. From a girl brutally murdered and dismembered with her parts found in a kettle or trunk near a British Navy Yard at the same time of the switch to tinned meat. See Fannies, Fanny Adams, Harriet Lane. 2) Being dispossessed with an empty Fanny after completed meal.

**SWELL IN** Become watertight. Required of wooden boat which has been laid up for any length of time when it then needs to be placed in water to allow her Planks to Swell In.

**SWIFTERS** Extra Stays generally forward of those which they reinforce.

**SWIM** Used to describe progress of ship through water. Ship would "swimme well" or "swimme ill", according to her speed under sail.

**SWIM PLATFORM** Platform installed at the Transom for ease of Boarding.

**SWINGING THE LEAD** 1) Ascertaining the depth of water with a Lead Line by making a continuous number of casts by twirling the line around your head and letting it fly ahead so that by the time the lead had sunk to Bottom, ship's headway would have brought the line perpendicular and correct depth could be seen. Less competent Leadsman would twirl but be unable to read the depth correctly, thus only pretending to work. 2) Lazy. Many who watched the Leadsman considered it such effortless work that they borrowed the term.

**SWITCHBOARD** Electrical panel that receives power from a generator, battery, or other electrical power source and distributes power directly or indirectly to all equipment supplied by the generating plant.

**SWITCHEL** Thirst quenching drink of molasses and water, seasoned with vinegar and ginger (yum!). It could also contain rum.

**SWIVEL** Pair of hoops or links joined by pin where provision is made for circular movement by means of Shank and collar, thus both may revolve. Used in Anchor Chain near Anchor connection to prevent Snarling and allow Chain to straighten out its kinks while Vessel swings at Anchor or when Anchor is Hoisted.

**SWORD SALUTE** Generally thought to be derived from oriental custom of junior raising sword and shading his eyes from 'magnificence' of the superior.

**SYMAETHIS** Naiad of Greek Mythology who gives life to water.

**SYNOPTIC** Refers to large area, often in connection with weather charts.

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