

U 'Uniform' in phonetic alphabet.
Designated in International Code by square flag quartered red and white, with white quarter being upper quarter at Fly and red lower at Jack. Hoisted in isolation it means: 'you are standing into danger'.

U BOAT A submarine. From 'undersea boat'.

UHF Ultra High frequency for Radio.

ULLAGE Measurement of the distance from surface of liquid to top or upper limit of tank.

ULLAGE HOLE Watertight opening in tank top that allows access to a tank.

ULLAGE ROD Measures Ullage in a tank Vessel. AKA gauging tape.

UNBEND Take off such as Sail from its Yard.

UNBITT Free Rope or Chain from Bitt to which it has been Secured.

UNDER BARE POLES With no Sails Set.

UNDERBODY Part of the Hull that is underwater.

UNDERFOOT Condition that exists when ship's Anchor is under her Bow. May also describe an Anchor which is dropped while the Ship still has Headway.

UNDER POWER With the engine on.

UNDERRIGGED With not enough Sail Set. AKA undercanvassed.

UNDER THE WEATHER (BOW) 1) Feel seasick or ill or to be adversely affected by the weather. From side of ship's Bow that was taking full brunt of head seas in foul weather. If a sailor's station is at weather bow, they may become tired of the pitching of boat and constant spray blown into his face and thus will most certainly be under the weather. 2) Case of the 'blahs'.

UNDERWAY Vessel is this when floating free and not at anchor, moored or affixed or made fast to shore

/ land or aground. Ship in Motion. Vessel may or may not be Making Way.

UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES (UL)

One of the chief testing organizations that helps set the safety standards used in the United States.

UNDER YOUR OWN STEAM A Vessel that reaches port unaided even if under Jury Rig. Form the early days of steamships which frequently ran out of fuel or broke down. The opposite of Taken in Tow. 2) Without assistance.

UNFAVORED TACK Of the two courses when sailing upwind and tacking, the one which makes the least progress towards the destination. See Favored Tack and On the Wrong Tack.

UNINSPECTED PASSENGER Vessel USC Title 46 Section 2101(42) 1) Vessel under 100 Gross Tons which carries; A) Not more than six passengers, including at least one passenger for hire. B) Chartered with crew provided or specified by the owner and carrying not more than 6 passengers. 2) Vessel over 100 Gross Tons which carries; A) Not more than 12 passengers, including at least one passenger for hire. B) Chartered with the crew provided or specified by the owner and carrying not more than 12 passengers.

UNINSPECTED VESSELS 46 USC 2101(42), 46 USC 4105

1) Uninspected Passenger Vessels (UPV) > 100 GT carrying not more than 12 passengers, including at least 1 passenger for hire.
2) Uninspected Passenger Vessels (UPV) < 100 GT carrying six or less passengers, including at least one passenger for hire.
3) Uninspected Towing Vessels up to 200 GT on Coastwise and ocean routes. 4) Uninspected Towing Vessels of any tonnage on rivers, the Great Lakes and inland waters. 5) Documented commercial fishing industry Vessels up to 200 GT. 6) "Uninspected Vessel" does not refer to a recreational Vessel such as a yacht.

UNION JACK Flag consisting of the blue, star studded field found in the corner of our national ensign and flown at the Jacstaff by ships at Anchor.

UNITED STATES NAVY The best of the best, founded in 1794. See Colonial Navy and Continental Navy.

PETER'S NAUTICAL TERMS DICTIONARY & GLOSSARY for BLUEWATER SAILING

UNIVERSAL TIME COORDINATED (UTC)

Universal time standard, referencing time at Greenwich, England. AKA GMT or Zulu time.

UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR (UTM)

Worldwide coordinate projection system utilizing north and east distance measurements from reference point(s). UTM is primary coordinate system used on United States Geological Survey topographic maps.

UNKNOWN STATION RT Prowords for unknown station.

UNREEVE Remove a Line from a Block or Cringle.

UNRIG Remove or disassemble Gear or Rigging from Vessel after it is used.

UNSHIP 1) Remove anything from its working location. 2) A car.

UNSTEPPED CARGO BOOM Cargo boom which has been removed from its nested position.

UP ANCHOR! Get out!

UP AND A DOWNER 1) Disagreeable job on early steam auxiliary ships of erecting a funnel and lowering the screw propeller with the order 'Up funnel, Down screw', probably with some grumbling between the traditional sailors and the new fangled engineers. 2) An argument or fierce row.

UP DRAFT Upward flow of air.

UPPER BRANCH In Celestial Navigation. Meridian half from pole to pole which passes through Zenith. Opposite of Lower Branch.

UPPER DECK (S) Deck or Decks that are exposed to open air; i.e., there are no Decks built above them. Topmost Deck completely planked from Stem to Stern and from one side of Ship to other and exposed in whole or in part to elements. See Bulwark, Gangway, Scupper.

UP PERISCOPE Command for raising Periscope. See Feather.

UPPER WORKS Obsolete term for Freeboard.

UP SLOPE Upward tilted surface causing an upward flow of air over it.

UP-TAKE Enclosed trunk connecting boiler or a group of boilers to smokestack.

UP THE CREEK (WITHOUT A PADDLE) In a bad predicament, on the spot or behind the eight ball. AKA Up Salt Creek. From political campaign song 'Blaine Up Salt Creek' and ease in which it is ease to get stuck. Without paddle, boatman would have no way to pole their way out.

UPWIND Toward direction from which Wind is blowing or to Windward of.

URGENCY SIGNAL International radiotelephone signal which indicates that the calling station has a very urgent message to transmit concerning the safety of a ship, aircraft or other vehicle, or of some person on board or with sight. In Radiotelephony, the international Urgency Signal consist of three oral repetitions of the word Pan pronounced as the French word 'Panne' and sent before the call.

USCG United States Coast Guard, the Federal Maine law enforcement and rescue agency in the U.S. The good guys.

USCG AUX U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

USN United States Navy.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY Best nautical school in town. AKA Annapolis or USNA.

USPS United States Power Squadrons, a private membership organization that specializes in boating education and good boating practices.

USWMS Uniform State Waterway Marking System.

USY United States Yacht Racing Union.

UTC Universal Time, Coordinated. See Coordinated Universal Time.

V 'Victor' in phonetic alphabet. Designated in International Code by square white flag bearing red

saltire or St. Patrick's cross. Hoisted in isolation it means: 'I require assistance'.

v Interpolation Value, Vertex

V (Vertex) When Sail E / W, Vertex Is Somewhere on Course Line; When Sail N / S, Vertex Is Somewhere on Imaginary Extension of Course Line

VALLEY BREEZE Rising warm valley air moving Upslope along mountain surfaces.

VAN The leading group of ships in a battle fleet. Originally 'vant' from the French 'avant'.

VANG 1) Tackle fixed to Boom so it may be pulled down, thus flatten Sail and exposing greater area to wind. AKA Boom Vang. 2) Pull down on Boom with Boom Vang.

VAPOR TRAIL Visible condensation of moisture caused by an airplane's movement through layers of moist upper air.

VARDAR Cold fall wind blowing from Northwest down Vardar valley in Greece to Gulf of Salonica. Occurs when atmospheric pressure over eastern Europe is higher than over Aegean Sea, usually in winter. AKA vardarac.

VARIABLE Unsteady in strength and direction.

VARIATION Compass Error or angular difference between true or geographic Meridian, and magnetic North Meridian at particular location, caused by effects of the earth's magnetic field and resulting from the fact that at most points on the Earth's surface the direction of magnetic lines of force is not toward geographic North or South Pole. It is expressed in Degrees and minutes. depends upon Vessel's location on earth's surface and is recorded or found on Compass Rose of most charts.

V BOTTOM Hull with bottom section in shape of "V."

V-DRIVE Mechanism used with an engine installation that has the normally Aft facing end of the engine facing Forward.

VECTOR Line drawn to represent magnitude and direction, such as Leeway a boat makes in a given time period as a result of Wind or Water Current.

VEHICLE SPACE Space, not on an open deck, for the carriage of motor vehicles with fuel in their tanks, into

and from which such vehicles can be driven and to which passengers have access.

VEER 1) Slack away, let out or pay out Line or Cable, such as an Anchor Line or chain. This would also be done to lines controlling Yards and Sails when wind moved aft (Lift). 2) Clockwise shift or change in wind direction. Wind changes with sun; from east through south, west, etc. Opposite of Back (ing). See Haul. 3) Change, sometimes gradual, in the direction of anything but particularly of Vessel in reference to wind. To swerve.

VEER AND BACK See Back, Veer.

VELOCITY Speed in a given direction.

VELOCITY MADE GOOD (VMG) Rate at which you are approaching destination, based upon current speed and course.

VENDEVALES Strong to gale winds which often sweep coast of Spain from Southwest.

VENT Ventilator or an opening in a boat's ventilation system.

VENTILATE 1) Pump fumes out of bilge via electric blower. 2) When Prop draws in air and loses grip on water.

VENTILATORS Openings that are fitted with Cowls or scoops to direct the flow of air and vapors in or out of Ducts.

VENUS MERCENARIA Common hard shell clam. Often regarded as potent aphrodisiac. From Botticelli's painting 'The Birth of Venus' with Venus standing in large seashell. AKA Venus on the Half Shell. See Quahog.

VERIFY RT Proword for verify with the originator of the message and repeat.

VERNAL EQUINOX Occurs whenever Sun passes over the Equator from South to North Declination.

VERTICAL CENTER OF GRAVITY (VCG) 1) Vertical height of the Center of Gravity of the contents of any tank or compartment above its bottom. 2) Vertical height of the Center of Gravity of the entire Vessel above its Keel.

VERY LIGHT Red, white and gree Flares fired as distress signals at Sea from Very Pistol.

VERY WELL Used by the Captain, Mate or Pilot in reply to the helmsperson, that they understand the situation.

VESSEL Every description of water craft or artificial contrivance, including nondisplacement craft and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water. Any ship or boat or other moving and floating craft. Barge is a Vessel. Float at a Dock is not a Vessel. See Power Driven Vessel and Sailing Vessel.

VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE (VTS) U.S. Coast Guard traffic control service for ships established in designated water areas to prevent collisions, groundings and environmental harm.

VHF / FM RADIO Very high Frequency, Frequency modulated, radiotelephone or electronic communications and direction finding system.

V-HULL Hull shaped in a 'V' or with sharp bottom, designed to split waves and soften ride. AKA vee bottom.

VIGIA Uncertain or hidden danger previously reported in general area. Both existence and position are doubtful.

VIKING 1) Scandinavian pirates who plundered Europe. From Old English, 'vicing', pirate or from Old English 'Wic', camp, since they set up temporary camps while on raiding expeditions. 2) Any sea-roving pirate or bandit.

VIRAZON Regular and prominent sea breeze which blows from Pacific Ocean to coast of Chile.

VISIBILITY Horizontal clearness of the atmosphere, usually measured by the distance at which an object can be recognized by the unaided eye. Distance at which a large white area, illuminated by the sun and skylight, viewed against a black background, can still be distinguished from the background. Thus an intense light source such as a lighthouse, can be seen at a greater distance than a reflected light.

VLCC Very large crude carrier (either an oil tanker or, I suppose, a big person with limited manners).

VLF Very low Frequency.

VOG Combination of volcanic smoke and fog. See Fog.

VOLTURNUS Latin God of the Southeast Wind.

VOLUNTARY SHIP Any ship which is not required by treaty or statute to be equipped with radio-telecommunication equipment.

VOYAGE 1) Round or complete trip Ship makes from one Port to another. Full length of sea journey, made up of one or more Passages 2) Long Passage under Sail. See Safe Passage.

VOYOL Large Rope used to unmoor, or heave up Anchors of ship, by transmitting effort of Capstan to Cables.

W 'Whiskey' in phonetic alphabet. International Code by square white flag with broad blue border and red oblong in center. Hoisted in isolation it means: 'I require medical assistance'.

WAFF Slight puff or air or gentle breeze in Scotland, similar to Cat's Paw in United States.

WAIST Midships, center section or central part of ship's main Deck. Part or portion of upper Deck immediately forward of Poops or Quarter Decks and between Poop and Forecastle.

WAIT RT Proword for I must pause a few seconds.

WAIT OUT RT Prowords for I must pause longer than a few seconds.

WAKE Moving Waves, Track or path in water, disturbance of water or water turbulence ship leaves behind when in motion across waters, resulting from Passage of Vessel's Hull.

WALE (S) Strengthening Planks or Battens laid to protect skin. Horizontal planks or timbers, broader and thicker than rest, which extend along Ship's sides at different heights from Stem to Stern.

WALING See Wales.

WALE, OUTER Strake running below and supporting Gunwale with tapering ends. It may also serve as Fender. AKA Rubber Strake.

WALK Characteristic of certain Vessels that move sideways with their Bow and Stern moving without the use of a Bow thruster based only on the turning of the propellor.

WALK AWAY 1) When the wind helped to swing the Yards while Tacking the Ship, the slack lines came in so easily that the crew simply had to Walk Away in order to keep the rope taut. 2) Outdistance easily or defeat handily.

WALK THE CHALK 1) Custom of walking line of sobriety along straight chalk line drawn along Deck of Ship as test for drunkenness. An Sailor who couldn't walk whole line was adjudged drunk and punished, often by flogging. 2) Obey or follow rules.

WALK (ING) THE PLANK 1) Long planks of light wood, coated in waterproof tar and used as 'life preservers' is ship sank. 2) Forced to walk off Gangway into ocean. No proof that this was ever utilized by pirates. Prisoners were more commonly Marooned.

WALK THROUGH Passageway through windshield via folding section, most often found on bow rider powerboats.

WALLOP 1) Refers to British Admiral Wallop who specialized in raiding French coast and destroying towns, villages and harbors. From Middle English 'wallope', horses gallop, violent heavy movement or heavy, resounding blow. 2) A large hit, sound thrashing or good beating.

WARDROOM 1) Originally was known as Wardrobe Room, place where officers kept spare wearing apparel. It was also space below Great Cabin where any loot secured from enemy ships, was stored. Utilized to store valuable articles taken from prizes. In an effort to have some privacy on crowded ship, officers would sometimes lounge and take their meals in Wardrobe Room, particularly when outward bound when it was empty. 2) Today, it is place on board ship where officers take their meals, relax, and socialize. Officer's messroom.

WARM BRAW Fohn type wind which moves from southerly direction over Schouten Island just northeast of New Guinea.

WAR OF JENKIN'S EAR 1739 conflict between England and Spain pursued by Admiral Vernon (see

Grog). Initiated by master mariner Robert Jenkins claim that Spanish sailors boarded his Brig, rifled her and then lopped off his ear.

WARP 1) Act of moving Vessel or one end of Vessel from one place to another in port, river, or harbor by means of Heaving on warps (ropes or lines) fastened or secured to buoys, anchors, another vessel at anchor or some fixed object or point ashore. 2) Lighter Hawser by which Vessel is moved or used in Mooring operations.

WARM BRAW Foehn wind in Schouten Islands North of New Guinea.

WARM FRONT Wide zone or boundary separating two masses of air where warm air replaces cold air. Leading edge of relatively warmer surface air mass which separates two distinctly different air masses. Gradients of temperature and moisture are maximized in frontal zone. Ahead of typical warm front in northern hemisphere, winds are from southeast and behind Front winds will shift to southwest.

WARM THE COCKLES OF ONE'S HEART
Please someone immensely. Evoke feeling of affection or flow of pleasure. From resemblance of cockleshells to ventricles of heart.

WARM WATER Water where the monthly mean low water temperature is normally more than 59° F.

WASH 1) Surging action of waves or the waves created by the passage of a moving Vessel. Loose or broke water left behind a Vessel as it moves along. 2) What you ought to do with some frequency when in close proximity with others on a Vessel.

WASTERS, WAISTERS Older, less fit personnel, greenhands, broken down seamen or landsmen Pressed into service who could not be trusted to work aloft. They worked or were placed at ship's Waist to do duty not requiring knowledge of seamanship such as mending sails, splicing, cleaning, etc. From Old English 'waest', reference to shape of fruit, especially narrow end of pear then expanded to include middle of ship. Also from Old French 'wastere' and Old English 'guaste', one who ravages or dissipates. 2) Idlers, loafers, no good layabouts.

WATCH (ES) 1) Period of duty served by people aboard Ship at their different posts. On duty. Traditionally, a 24-hour day is divided into seven watches aboard ship. These are:

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midnight to 4 a.m.	0000-0400	middle or mid-watch
4 to 8 a.m.	0400-0800	morning watch
8 a.m. to noon	0800-1200	forenoon watch
noon to 4 p.m.	1200-1600	afternoon watch
4 to 6 p.m.	1600-1800	first dog watch
6 to 8 p.m.	1800-2000	second dog watch
8 p.m. to midnight	2000-2400	evening watch or 1 st night watch

The half hours of the watch are marked by the striking the bell an appropriate number of times. 2) Act of listening on designated frequency. 3) Timepiece.

WATCHING PROPERLY Aid To Navigation in its assigned location which exhibits its advertised Characteristics in all respects according to the Light List.

WATER BALLAST Ballast in the form of water in tanks.

WATERLINE Imaginary line around Hull at surface of water or intersection of Vessel's Hull and water's surface, sometimes marked with trim strip. Line separating bottom paint and Topsides. Line painted on Hull which shows point to which boat sinks when it is properly trimmed. See Lines.

WATERLINES Horizontal, longitudinal slices through hull.

WATERLINE LENGTH See Length on the Waterline.

WATER-LOGGED Vessel so full of water as to be heavy and unmanageable.

WATERMAN Boatman who transported passengers along River Thames.

WATER SAIL Triangular or four sided Sail sometimes set below lowest Studding Sails and very close to water, hence its name.

WATERSPOUT Whirling tornado like storm that occurs only over water, usually warm water. Funnel shaped pendant descends from black cloud and draws up water or anything else from surface of ocean with violent rotating motion.

WATERTIGHT Designed and constructed to withstand a static Head of water without any leakage.

WATERWAYS Line of Deck Planking nearest side of Vessel, generally grooved so as to carry away surface water.

WAVE (S) 1) Undulations of the sea. Height measured from Trough to Crest. Length is the distance between Crests. Period is the time between two successive Crests. 2) Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. Women who served in U.S. Navy during World War II. When asked why he joined the service, a sailor replied 'so I could ride the Waves.' See Spars and Wrens.

WAVE, BIG Any wave that is taller than your craft is long.

WAY Speed, momentum achieved or movement by Vessel through water from thrust of its means of propulsion or residual momentum once that propulsion has ceased. See Headway, Sternway, Steerage Way.

WAY, FRESH Vessel when it accelerates

WAY, GATHERS Vessel when it accelerates.

WAY, LOSES Vessel when it decelerate.

WAYPOINT Permanently stored and named position, usually Latitude and Longitude coordinates of any geographic point you wish to reach, often entered into GPS or Loran receiver memory as a reference point for making navigational calculations.

WEAR (ING) Bring boat onto another Tack by putting Helm up and heading/turning away from wind and putting ship's Stern through wind. AKA Jibing. Common for square rigged ships when Tacking due to their difficulty when Coming About. Opposite of Coming About or Tacking.

WEARING A CHECKERED SHIRT Slang term for having received Flogging after pattern of welts left on victim's back.

WEATHER 1) Side of Vessel facing wind or upwind. AKA Windward Side. Opposite of 'Lee'. 2) State of general atmosphere at certain time and place. Day to day changes in conditions of lower Atmosphere involving movement and interaction of air masses and observable phenomena accompanying them. Climate is what you expect but Weather is what you get. 3) Wind. 4) To survive a storm. 5) Pass Vessel, Cape or Headland to Windward.

WEATHER BOARDS Boards erected in Bows and forward of Cockpit of Sailing Vessels to protect Decks from water coming over side or into Cockpit.

WEATHER BOW Side upon which all the rotten weather is blowing.

WEATHER CLEW Opposite of Clew which is on Leeward side. AKA Tack.

WEATHER COCKING Boat runs up to wind and refuse to Pay Off in either direction.

WEATHER DECK 1) Uncovered deck partially or completely exposed to Weather from above or from at least two sides. 2) Uppermost continuous deck, exclusive of forecastle, bridge and poop.

WEATHER EYE 1) Eye which is specially used for observing the weather. 2) Keen Observation. See Keep A Weather Eye.

WEATHER EYE OPEN See Keep A Weather Eye.

WEATHER HELM Tendency of a Vessel or sailboat to turn or Head Up to Windward or into Wind unless checked by Helm, either Tiller or Wheel, to keep it on course. Normally considered Sailboat safety element. Rudder must be held at an angle with Tiller to Weather in order to keep boat from Rounding Up or turning into Wind.

WEATHERING A STORM Survive in good condition.

WEATHER MODIFICATION Attempts by humans to alter or control certain weather phenomena, usually amount and location of Precipitation.

WEATHER SHIP Vessels stationed at sea to continuously record weather conditions within their observations.

WEATHER SHORE Coast lying in direction from which Wind is blowing. Shore lying upwind. Opposite of a Lee Shore.

WEATHER SIDE Side of a boat upon which the Wind is blowing.

WEATHER TIGHT Item of equipment constructed or protected so that exposure to a beating rain will not result in the entrance of water.

WEDDING GARLAND 1) From the tradition of hoisting some greenery at the Mast when a ship came home safely to the good earth. 2) A signal for women to come aboard. 3) Signifying nuptials as a garland of flowers were flown from the mast top whenever a crew member was married. Garland from the Greek meaning a collection of flowers.

WEEVIL'S DELIGHT Nickname for Hardtack since biscuits bred weevils. It was simple re-baked, then banged against some hard object in attempt to get rid of weevils, generally after dark to avoid sight of them dropping out.

WEIGH ANCHOR 1) Raise the Anchor or lift from ground. From Old English, 'wegan', to carry, move or lift. 2) Depart.

WELL AKA Cockpit.

WELL DECK Section of upper Deck that sits at slightly lower level than Deck area Fore and Aft. Vessel with a Weather Deck fitted with solid Bulwarks that impede drainage of water over sides or Vessel with an exposed recess in the Weather Deck extending more than one-half of the length of the Vessel measured over the Weather Deck.

WELL FOUND Well equipped, supplied and Fitted out. With adequate equipment and stores.

WESTERLIES Temperate zone belt of winds circling the earth and found in both hemispheres from approximately 35 degrees to 65 degrees N/S Latitude, depending on the season.

WET DOCK See Dock, Wet.

WET ONE, A Sailor's talk for Vessel liable to ship water over Bow or Gunwale.

WET SHIP, A British naval slang for Ship that has reputation for heavy drinking aboard.

WETTED SURFACE Portion, area of wetted or water covered part of Hull below Waterline, including Rudder, or area of underbody and appendages, affecting potential speed, buoyancy, lateral and longitudinal stability, behavior in heavy seas.

WETTING (DOWN) A COMMISSION Giving dinner or party for naval officer who had just received their commission or promotion. Hand written, heavy parchment

commission document was formed or rolled into cone or cornucopia with small end folded up to form cup. It was filled with champagne which was then drunk as toast the officer while it was passed from hand to hand. Thus, the new commission was "wetted down." It was also the custom for officer to wear new uniform or stripes for first time at wetting down. Guests would then proceed to christen uniform, occupant, and commission with whatever liquid refreshment (paid for by victim) was available. Over years, Navy life has become more calm, price of gold braid has skyrocketed and literal christening is not usually condoned and might even be considered barbaric.

WETTING DOWN See Wetting (Down) A Commission.

WHALEBONE Misnomer since it is made from substance found in whale's upper jaw and not it's bones.

WHARF Human made structure, built along, parallel or at angle to Shore or Shoreline. Used for Docking, loading, unloading or tying up Vessels.

WHEEL 1) Steering Wheel. 2) Propeller.

WHELM From Middle English, 'whelven, to capsize or turn Vessel upside down. See Overwhelm.

WHEN ITS SUNDAY IN SAN FRANCISCO, ITS MONDAY IN MANILLA Method of remembering which way to change the date when crossing Date Line or International Date Line.

WHEN MY SHIP COMES IN A old legal phrase promising payment. From borrowing of money based on payment when ship returns laden with riches. (Of course I'll probably be at the airport when this occurs.)

WHISTLING FOR A WIND Done during a calm so that wind gods would answer and mighty breath would fill Sails. Ut not permitted when there was too much wind.

WIDE BERTH Large margin of safety. See Berth.

WHIP 1) Secure or tightly bind loose ends of cut Strand of Line with cord to prevent it fraying. Act or result of binding Twine or Strands of a Line's end with Yarn or cord. Tied around rope's end to keep it from fraying or unraveling. Sometimes applied to securing ends with heat, tape or glue. 3) Block fixed Aloft, through which Rope runs, thus forming simple

lifting system. 4) Possible extra-curricular activity for strange, leather clad members of your Crew.

WHIP, DOUBLE Two Blocks, one fixed, other movable.

WHIPPING Thin rope used to Whip another piece of Rope.

WHIPSTAFF Post used to steer ship prior to invention of ship's wheel. It is fastened to Tiller by means of ropes strung through pulleys.

WHIRLY Small but violent storm in Antarctic.

WHISKERS Crosstrees of Bowsprit and Jib Boom, standing at right angles to them and giving increased support by pressure they exert on Bowsprit Shrouds.

WHISKER POLE Spar or pole, similar to a Spinnaker Pole, often adjustable in length, extending from the Mast and used to hold out the Clew of Jib away from the Mast when Sailing Off the Wind Wing and Wing.

WHISTLE SIGNAL Standard communication signal between boats, to indicate change of Course, danger or other situations.

WHISTLING 1) Forbidden or discouraged practice because it can be confused with orders piped on the Bosun's Whistle, it was the signal for the large British mutiny of Nore and because it brings too much wind, a storm. 2) Unlucky for actors and stage hands.

WHISTLING FOR THE WIND 1) A sailor's superstition that he could call up the desired wind by doing this.

WHITECAP Foamy crest on the top of waves.

WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER 1) Legend has it that they only became white when huge, white sailing ship the size of a mountain tried to pass through the Strait and scraped the cliffs that color its passage. 2) Less interestingly, they may be formed by foraminifera plankton.

WHITE FLEET, THE Sixteen battleships and four destroyers which were painted white and sent around the world by United States in 1907.

WHITE SQUALL Sudden, strong gust of wind coming up without warning, noted by whitecaps or white, broken water; usually seen in whirlwind form in clear weather in tropics.

WHOLE NINE YARDS In "typical Square-Rigger" there are three Masts with three yards on each Mast. If you had all of square sails flying on board you would have the whole nine yards in operation, i.e.; everything.

WHOPPER 1) Name invented by sailors who saw the giant West Indies turtles, 'guapas'. 2) Huge.

WHO SHINES THE SHIP'S BELL An old Navy tradition has it that ship's cook shines ship's bell and ship's bugler shines ship's whistle.

WHO WON'T BE RULED BY THE RUDDER MUST BE RULED BY THE ROCK Nautical saying which means those who won't listen to reason must bear the consequences like a ship that runs upon a rock if it will not answer the Helm.

WIDE BERTH 1) An order for the helmsperson to steer well clear of a rock, shoal or whatever danger. 2) A generous margin.

WIDOW MAKER 1) Bowsprits, since so many men were lost from them while trying to shorten sails underway. 2) Synonym for the Sea. Possibly first used by Rudyard Kipling.

WIDOW'S WALK Elevated observatory on dwelling or cupola, often with railing on deck or balcony, and affording good view of ocean. Watchtower where many women walked in vain, waiting for incoming Ships that never came home. AKA walk, captian's walk, observatory or lookout.

WILCO RT Proword for I have received your message, I understand it, and will comply.

WILDCAT Circular steel disk on the shaft of a windlass, containing chain-link shaped depressions (called whelps) which engage and hold the links of an anchor chain.

WIDTH See Beam.

WILLIAMSON TURN Type of crew overboard recovery where ship returns along its original course. Particularly effective when it is uncertain exactly when the person fell overboard.

WILLIWAW Violent gust or sudden blast of Wind, often descending from mountainous coast to Sea such as in Strait of Magellan or Aleutian Islands.

WINCH Hand or power-driven mechanical device, machine or Capstan with one or more revolving geared circular drums, or barrels, turned by a handle, on which fiber or wire Rope such as Halyards, Sheets or other Lines are wound, reeled or unreeled under strain. Used to increase hauling power and aid in Trimming Line. Used aboard ship on Deck, on a Spar or otherwise mounted for Hoisting or Hauling on a Line. If Geared or used with a handle acting as a lever, it provides a mechanical advantage. On some small Vessels winches are used for anchor hankling. Don't confuse a Winch on Board with a wench on Board.

WINCH, CAPSTAN Winch with vertical Axis.

WINCH, COFFEE MILL OR GRINDER Winch with horizontal Axis.

WINCHESTER GEESE Sailors name for prostitutes. So called because prostitution and geese raising were two major Winchester industries and the former seemed almost as common as the latter.

WINCH HANDLE Crank used to do the winding on a Winch. Not to be confused with wench handles.

WINCH STAND Supporting frame for Winch.

WIND Movement of air from area of high pressure to area of low pressure.

WINDAGE Wind resistance.

WIND BAG 1) A nickname for a sailing ship. 2) A talkative or boastful person.

WINDFALL 1) Trees could not be cut down on tracts of land specified as timber reserves for shipbuilding, a critical national interest. However, if tree was felled by wind, owner of land could use timber for their own purposes. Ability of landowners to sell trees which were, luckily for them, blown down in windstorm. Otherwise they were prevented by clause in title from selling Timber which was reserved for building Naval ships. 2) Financial blessing, an unexpected gift of money. 3) Stroke of good luck in form of an unexpected acquisition. 4) Rush of wind from high land.

- WINDFALL PROFIT** See Windfall.
- WIND FORCE** Speed and pressure of wind on Beaufort Scale.
- WINDJAMMER** 1) Horn player. 2) Talkative person or windbag. 3) Name for any ship with sails. From the windy defenders of sailing Vessels who boasted so much about superiority of sail at beginning of age of steamships.
- WINDLASS** Specially designed form of Winch, small Capstan or lifting gear fitted with rotating drum device or Wildcats used in Hauling or handling Anchor Rode, line or chain.
- WIND RODE** Vessel is this when at anchor and heading into the wind.
- WINDSAIL** Tube like funnel made of canvas spread by wooden hoops or wire rings, used to direct or convey flow or current of fresh air below Deck or into tanks for ventilation. It is suspended from a stay by halyards.
- WINDS, THE** Ruled by Aeolus in Greek mythology.
- | <u>Wind</u> | <u>Greek</u> | <u>Latin / Roman</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| North | Boreas | Aquilo |
| South | Notus | Auster |
| East | Eurus | -- |
| West | Zephyrus | Favonius |
| Northeast | -- | Argestes |
| Northwest | -- | Corus |
| Southeast | -- | Volturnus |
| Southwest | -- | Ajerventus, Africus,
Africanus, Libs |
| North (but not due North) | | Thracias |
- WINDSAIL OR WINDSCOOP** A tube like funnel made of canvas spread by wooden hoops or wire rings, used to direct a flow of fresh air below deck or into tanks for ventilation.
- WINDWARD** Upwind or toward direction from which Wind is blowing or toward Wind. Weather side of Vessel wind blows upon. Opposite of Leeward.
- WINDY CAP** Legend that King of Sweden was so familiar with evil spirits that controlled winds that whenever he turned his cap, the wind would blow.
- WING AND WING** Running before Wind on Run or Broad Reach with Sails (Mainsail and Jib) Set on opposite
- sides, both Port and Starboard. AKA Goosewing, Wing the Jib.
- WINGS** 1) AKA Studding Sails. 2) Lateral extremities of Bridge.
- WINTER LIGHT** Light maintained during the winter months when the regular light is extinguished. Winter light has lower candlepower than the regular light but usually has the same characteristic.
- WINTER MARKER** Small lighted or unlighted Buoy, without sound signal, which is established as a replacement during the winter months when other Aids are withdrawn.
- WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN** Deck Log entries used to be recorded on slate usually hung on Binnacle near ship's wheel. At end of watch, the off-going officer of the Deck would take slate below, write up the smooth Log, then return slate to its usual position, having first 'wiped the slate clean'. See Clean Slate.
- WIPING** Energized coil is moved up and down along sides of Vessel to reduce amount of permanent magnetism in Vessel. See Deperming, Flashing.
- WIRE** Individual insulated conductor without an outer protective jacket.
- WIRE ROPE** Consists of a number of separate strands of wire, usually stainless steel or galvanized, that are laid in manner similar to the manufacture of fiber cordage (i.e., rope). Used where wires take the place of rope Yarns in Stays, Halyards, Sheets, and other Gear. The size of wire rope is generally measured by its diameter. Some wire rope has a lubricated fiber core filler that helps to keep the inside of the strands from rusting.
- WISPER** Well defined valley wind of Rhine.
- WISHY WASHY** 1) Any nautical drink that is too weak. 2) Person who is weak, inconstant and indecisive.
- WITHDRAWN** Discontinuance of a floating Aid To Navigation during severe ice conditions or for the winter season.
- WOOLDING** Rope or metal strengthening round Mast or Yard.
- WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST** Unwritten law of sea. From HMS Birkenhead which went down in

PETER'S NAUTICAL TERMS DICTIONARY & GLOSSARY for BLUEWATER SAILING

1852 with 491 men lost but all women and children saved. However, on 1873 British steamer Atlantic, all women were lost as crew saved themselves.

WOODEN WALLS Ships of war since they performed this function for England, keeping out invaders before the advent of ironclad Ships.

WORD AFTER RT Prowords for word after.

WORD BEFORE RT Prowords for word before.

WORDS TWICE RT Prowords for communication is difficult, transmit each word or phrase twice.

WORKBOAT Small Vessel or boat used for such chores as ferrying stores or putting down Moorings.

WORKING SAILS Regular Sails on a boat, usually the Mainsail and non Genoa Jib.

WORK SPACE Space, not normally occupied by a Passenger, in which a crew member performs work and includes, but is not limited to, a Galley, operating station or Machinery Space.

WORLD PORT INDEX Reference book published by the Defense Mapping Agency to give the location, characteristics, known facilities and available services found in ports, shipping facilities and oil terminals throughout the world.

WORM (ING) Fill in spaces in laid Rope, as part of procedure known as Worm and Parcel. Laying tarred, thin, small stuff or Strands of Rope between Strands to prevent moisture from penetrating to the interior of the line and also fills out the roundness of the line to give it a smooth surface for Parceling and Serving. See Seize.

WORTH HIS SALT Someone worth his or her keep. See Salary.

WOULDN'T TOUCH IT WITH A TEN FOOT POLE

1) Distant, proud, reserved. From ten foot poles used by river boatmen to propel boats in shallow waters. 2) Not wanting to get involved in project or having strong distaste for something.

WRECK 1) A serious problem for your boat and your insurance company. 2) Somebody in poor mental or physical shape, probably after your ship has become a Wreck.

WRECK OF THE HESPERUS Poem by Longfellow about wreck on Norman's Woe.

WRENS Women's Royal Navy Service. Name for women serving in British Navy during World War II. See Passion Killers, Spars and Waves.

WRINKLE

WRITE OFF 1) A total loss indicating that the item(s) could be 'Written Off' the insurance policy.

WRONG RT Proword for your last transmission was incorrect, the correct version is . . .

WWV Continuous broadcast time signal station in Colorado.

WWVH Continuous broadcast time signal station in Hawaii.
