

Sailing Class OTW Session 2

First Sailing Outing

**Goals: Practice Basic Sailing Skills
Try to Increase Your Sailing Awareness**

Basic Sailing Procedures to Practice on the Boats:

- Tacking using standard commands
- Helmsman tries hard to stay on the same point of sail
- Captain commands point of sail changes, and helmsman and sail trimmers implement command
- At captain's discretion, do at least one jibe using standard commands
 - Mainsheet sheeted in carefully before jibe
- Try doing one "chicken jibe" (tacking instead of jibing), from a beam reach to a beam reach or from a broad reach to a broad reach.

What Each Participant Should Focus On:

- Strive for constant awareness of point of sail that you are sailing.
 - Look up at the wind vane (at the masthead) occasionally.
- Observe the telltales on the jib and on the mainsail at least once, and preferably occasionally.
- When trimming sails:
 - In "pull mode" (beam reach to a close haul) observe what happens to the telltales on the jib and the mainsail. Try to get the telltales streaming back smoothly as much as possible.
- When helming:
 - Make small course adjustments at a time, maybe 1-2 degrees only, not 10-20 degrees.
 - Look at a object in the distance to help you steer a straight course.
 - When sailing to weather (close reach, close haul) very little course changes are usually required. Try giving NO course change input for a while and see if boat maintains a stable course.
 - Notice if boat has weather helm, and if weather helm increases in gusts.
- Apparent wind: Observe how strength of apparent wind changes on different points of sail.
- Gusts: Observe how direction of apparent wind changes when gusts increase the wind strength, and then when the wind strength eases.

Observe What Goes WRONG:

- Drifting off point of sail, erratic (drunken sailor) steering, working jib sheet not released completely from winch on a tack, too few wraps when grinding new jib working sheet, overrides on winch, releasing main sheet when tacking, turning too far when tacking, not turning entirely through the tack, back-winding the jib and stopping/reversing the tack, not controlling the main well when jibing, etc.
- Come to the next class ready to site things that went wrong, that went right, and what you learned.