

Wildoats Marine Service, LLC
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The Hammock

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From the Shade

Winter is fast approaching so most of the boats are up on the hard with their covers on ready for the foul weather. The Winter 2007/2008 issue of *The Hammock* had an article on things to check during the winter months to protect our boats from damage. If you did not receive a copy, please contact me and I'll get a copy off to you. I thought in this issue I would take some time to pass along some information that has been lying around the desk for long time. So kickback, enjoy the fall sunsets and take heart that boating is just around the corner. Remember be safe, but most of all HAVE FUN!

HYPOTHERMIA – The Cold Killer

Boating can be great this time of year. The winds are good for the sailing and most of the harbors are empty. That one last outing on the boat is always on our minds. Just remember **Hypothermia can kill!** The water temperature in LIS is currently about 40 deg. At this temp the body will feel exhaustion or unconsciousness in 30 to 60 minutes and life expectancy is about 1 to 3

hours. If you find yourself in the water assume the HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Position) which is bringing your knees up to your chin. Much easier if you are wearing a PFD. Keep still, moving only helps to dissipate the warm blood to the outer limbs which quickly loses heat. If you recover a person from the water remember, no alcohol, food or warm drinks. Strip off wet clothing and cover with warm blankets or other covering.

Rules of the Road – Easy Version

Sail has right of way over power – unless you are motorsailing then each is equal.

Crossing – A safe zone is formed on a vessel from the 12 o'clock (directly ahead) to 3 o'clock (90 deg to the right) on each boat. If two vessels are crossing the one that falls into the others safe zone is the "Stand On" vessel while the other is the "Give way" vessel. If you are the "Give Way" vessel allow yourself lots of room to pass behind the other, I've seen boat get caught up in dingy painters.

QUIZ TIME

1. What lights does a vessel being towed, (the length of tow less than 200ft) display?
2. What type of vessel displays a blue light?
3. What is the recommend time interval for changing sanitary hoses on your vessel?

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Setting Standards for Safer Boating

RULES (con't)

Overtaking – The vessel being overtaken has the right of way and should maintain course and speed. If the overtaking vessel communicates its intentions, be sure to answer.

Meeting – When meeting stay to the right if at all possible. Make your intentions known early. Increasing the distance between the vessels will allow for wake crossing after the pass much easier.

DOCKING FUN

Boat/US has a fun game intended for teaching or sharpening your docking skills. It's fun - give it a try at www.BoatUS.com/games

One Particular Harbor

I was pleased to see that Sail Magazine and I agree on beautiful harbors. Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. What a great place with very friendly people and a good anchorage. The town has built a gazebo and dingy dock for the cruisers. It's frequently a meeting place where the locals and cruisers meet to solve the problems of the world or at least where to get boat parts, etc. A short walk to the east is the Atlantic Ocean and beach. A dingy ride and short walk to the west takes you to a West Marine and a SUPER ice cream shop. This place is worth a two or three day stay!

Quiz Answers:

1. Sidelights and a stern light.
2. Vessels engaged in law enforcement.
3. The pros recommend that sanitary hoses be replaced every five years. After this period the hoses begin to absorb the waste odor and permeate it into the cabin. Give Wildoats a call for a quote for replacing or upgrading your sanitary system.

Seacock Maintenance

If you haul your boat for the winter it provides an excellent time to maintenance your seacocks. Newer boats have seacocks that are actually ball valves. These valves require very little in the way of maintenance. The easiest way is to close the valve, remove the associated hose and fill with a vinegar/water mixture. The mixture will help clean the ball and seals. The next time you visit the boat open and close the valve, now add a cap or two of light oil and let sit. Reinstall the hose.

Steering System Checks

Received a call from a client about his steering system failure. The boat was rigged with a cable/chain system common to many of the boats manufactured in the last forty years. These systems tend to fail when the boat is hard over with a great deal of pressure on the rudder. If you have this type of system it should be inspected, cleaned and serviced on an annual basis and replaced every ten years, sooner if you sail hard on the wind. During the inspection, run a cotton pad over the wire looking for fishhooks, the eyebolts/nuts etc should be checked for tightness. The chain needs to be cleaned and lubricated with marine grade grease.

Wildoats Marine Service LLC provides a wide range of services including pre & post purchase consulting, documentation services, seamanship lessons and general maintenance. *Wildoats Marine Service LLC* is fully insured and ready to provide you with the finest service. With our contacts in the marine industry we can provide you with a reference to a reliable expert/technician whom we trust to meet your demands.

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