



The Totem Line

59 years of yachting – 60 years of friendship



In this issue: The second and third in a series of “Getting to Know You” articles that will be appearing in Totem Line, featuring Lifetime Members Bernie and Clenet Merrifield; and Lifetime Members Rocci and Sharon Blair, along with some questions you might consider answering to help us get to know you better for a future edition of Totem Line. Flyer for Commodore’s Ball. Event Schedule for 2016. Articles on anchoring techniques. Don’t forget – pizza dinner (\$6) and General Meeting Tuesday, February 2nd with a special report about the Daffidil Festival. Please bring raffle items for the Commodore’s Ball.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 2ndPizza Dinner and General Meeting
 Feb. 27thCommodore’s Ball
 March 5thDes Moines Yacht Club
 Commodore’s Ball

Leadership

Commodore.....Mike Holman
 Vice Commodore.....Cathy Betts
 Rear Commodore.....Heidi Merrifield
 Purser.....Sharon Nell
 Yeoman.....Barbara Berntsen

Commodore’s Report



Ahoy from the Bridge,

I want to take a few moments to thank you, the entire club, for your support and help as your 2016 Commodore. I am really looking forward to all of the cruises and activities that the Board is planning for 2016. A number of changes are coming our way. First is a serious emphasis on boosting membership over the course of the year. Once again we will sponsor a booth at the Puget Sound Boat Show in the Tacoma Dome. We will also have a booth at the Maritime Festival. Plus, we will be more active in promoting club events in the local boating magazines. I will be contacting all members over the coming weeks to get their individual input into club activities and management.

I want to urge you to read Ron's Fleet Captain's report. It will give you a good idea of what is coming our way. Cathy Betts, our Vice-Commodore, is busy updating and preparing the new membership book. Rear Commodore Heidi Merrifield is working on increasing communications. And Provi Simpson is working very diligently at club rentals. Our club house is a great facility for events up to 130 people. If you know of anyone who is a boater but isn't a yacht club member, bring them to a meeting. Know anyone needing a meeting space? Introduce them to Provi, she'll take it from there.

Some of the events being discussed by the board are not water/cruising events. We are thinking of holding a road rally event to a great location that will offer us a great driving experience. We also are exploring the possibility of a trip by bus/coach to Washington's wine country or someplace like Leavenworth. We are also planning to hold one or two socials with a live band for dancing. So the board is looking at ways to offer a wider variety of activities for the enjoyment of all. More on this in the next Totem Line.

Under the leadership of Virginia Allard and Joanne Kagey the galley committee has planned out meals for the entire 2016 General Membership meeting schedule. They have done a marvelous job and are on top of feeding all you hungry boaters.

JR Reding is working on a program schedule for our General Meetings. We want to offer a half-hour to 45 minute presentation at each General Meeting that will help you all to have a safer, and more exciting boating experience. Among topics will be cruise planning, boat safety tips, navigating the locks in Seattle, great destinations on the Sound, and the Canadian waters, docking and anchoring out; well, you get the gist of things to come.

For February, we will have a presentation by the Tacoma Yacht Club Daffodil Festival chairman about planned activities, how to register your boat, and previews of many activities at TYC that weekend. We will also start our own planning as a group. The festival at TYC is a blast and I must admit that both Lois and I had a ball last year. This year I am planning on taking my boat and spending the weekend at TYC.

Our Biggest Event of the year is just around the corner. The 2016 Totem Yacht Club Commodore's Ball is Saturday, February 27th, at our club house. Great food, live band for dancing, the best raffle prizes of any ball, and the chance to dress up for a great evening as we open the 2016 year and the 2016 Ball Season. Tickets are \$40.00 per person and well worth it. I guarantee that you will have a great time. Contact Purser Sharon Nell for your tickets. Since we are the kickoff ball this year, we would love a packed house just to show other clubs how it's done. Bar will be "no host."

Finally, Totem is a completely volunteer-run club. As you know, we have no paid employees. That is why your dues can be so low. All volunteer clubs are only as successful as the members make it. So, if I haven't asked you to volunteer to serve on a committee, or to perform a task, or be more active please approach me - by phone, e-mail, text, or in person and let me know what your area of interest is. We need members to work with Ron on fleet activities and cruises, to host cruises, to help with communications, to help with house and grounds maintenance and repairs as needed, with galley activities and especially membership recruiting. Step up, get involved, and let's make 2016 a year in which our club takes a giant leap forward.

My phone number for text and voice is 253-222-4461. I can be reached by e-mail at mike.zboat@gmail.com. Hope to see you all Tuesday evening, the 2nd, as we crank up the engine and get moving.

Smooth sailing,
Mike Holman, Commodore

Vice Commodore's Report

We are off to a good start. Ron and I just got back from a great vacation in Puerto Vallarta. We even did a 14 Line, Zip Line. Check that off my bucket list.

Working on the yearbook. If you have any changes for next year's book, please email me: Cathybetts37@yahoo.com - If any of you have a business or know of one that would benefit from advertising in our book please get hold of me. Full page \$100.00. Half page \$55.00 . 1/4 page is \$35.00.

SWAP MEET March 19th at Des Moines Yacht Club: This is a club fundraiser. Please gather all the boating items you have been saving in your garage and boathouse, and donate them to be sold at the swap meet. Ron and I need help with this. Please let us know if you would like to join us at DMYC for the day to make some money for our club. Let Ron know if you have items, or just bring them to the meeting, or he can pick them up. If you have a large item, we can sell it and share in the profit. I want to thank everyone who helped us last year. When that gate opens up at 9 a.m., it is like a zoo--people all over the place. So, please sign up to help us sell. Last year, we had a spot outside and one inside.

Have a great month. See you at the general meeting Feb 2nd.

Cathy Betts, Vice Commodore

Rear Commodore's Report



Joann Kagey headed up the meal effort in January and introduced us to something special – Cincinnati Chili which was a hit. 37 people participated in the 6:30 meal-time, so we want to keep up that new tradition this year. Lyle Kagey and Val Watson rounded out the galley team. Kudos to all three of you! Nice way to start the year. As a result of discussion by the membership it was decided that meals will remain at \$6 per person. See the Galley Report for the list of menus the team has planned for 2016. A sign-up list will be available at the meeting, too.

Provi already has rentals lined up for the clubhouse on Jan 29, Feb 6, Mar 19 and Aug 6 & 13. I also had someone contact me while I was eating across the street. Be sure to keep your ears open and help promote our club as “a great place to rent for events.” Help get the ball rolling by providing the person either the club website link www.totemyachtclub.com or phone number 253-759-9062, or passing their contact info onto Provi so she can get them scheduled and booked (joe.n.provi@gmail.com)

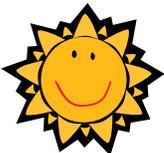
The first repair at the clubhouse was done by Joe Simpson and Mike Holman when it was discovered the men's toilet was shot. Both men had arrived at 9am to install the new galley faucet prior to a rental later that day, and ended up solving the toilet emergency instead. Now the men's head is more beautiful than the women's! Sorry, couldn't resist! Check it out!

Please let me know if you can help with some tasks in February to help beautify the clubhouse for our Commodore's ball. The carpets need to be shampooed and the floors waxed/polished as early in the month as possible. Contact me at 253-219-8108 or heidicmike@comcast.net to volunteer and set up access to the clubhouse.

House and Grounds has been added to the events calendar on Saturday, April 9th and Oct 15th. I'll have more details next month about the first one.

I'm looking forward to Totem's Commodore's Ball on Feb 27th. This will be Cathy's and my first Totem ball as officers and we've decided to wear formal gowns in keeping with the tradition of some of our PC's such as Sharon Nell and Carol Robinson. Officers wear their dress whites uniform, however guests can decide how casual or formal they prefer – there is always a mix of attire for this semi-formal event.

Heidi Merrifield, Rear Commodore



Sunshine Report

No report this month. Guess that means everyone is well. Send Sunshine information to Louise at FBurns5105@aol.com, or call (253) 845-4326.

Commodore's Ball coming soon: The Commodore's Ball is just around the corner, on February 27th. See the flyer for contact information and to buy tickets. If anyone has anything they would like to donate for the raffle please bring it to the February meeting.



Galley Report and Menus for 2016 Meetings

Dinners before the general meetings will be provided for \$6 each month, and Tuesday's dinner will be pizza, salad, and dessert. Here is the planned menu for our club meetings in 2016:

February 2 - Pizza and salad - Misc. desserts. Hosted by TYC.

March 1 - Irish Shepard Pie, salad and mint chocolate chip ice cream. Hosted by Val, Sally and JoAnn

April 5 - Hamburgers, Potato salad, Chips and condiments.

May 3 - Taco night - Hosted by Tim Reding

June 7 - BYOM (Bring your own meat) BBQ with side dishes, salad and dessert.

September 7 - Potato Bar

October 4 - Bratwurst and German potato salad. Hosted by the Merrifield's.

November 1 - Soup Night - Need 10 volunteers to bring soups.

We are looking for volunteers to host any of the non-hosted meals mentioned above. There will be a sign up sheet at February's meeting!

Joann Kagey, Galley Steward

Area Fuel Prices <https://activecaptain.com/fuelLists/fuelIndex.php>

Current wind direction and speed conditions in Puget Sound:

<http://i90.atmos.washington.edu/ferry/Ferryjs/mainframe1.htm>

Webcams showing current coastal water conditions:

<http://www.northwestwebcams.com/washington-web-cams.shtm#coastal>

Fleet Captain's Report

Greetings fellow boaters;

Here we are, well into 2016 already. Where does the time go?! It's time to get serious about that winter maintenance, and get your boat ready for the upcoming cruise season. Our opening season cruise is coming up fast! I'm looking forward to meeting up with many of you at Longbranch Marina March 11-15, for our "Blessing of the Fleet," and Totem's official opening of the Cruising season. Tim Reding is hosting this cruise and will be giving us more info. Tim is also looking for co-hosts for this cruise.

Coming up March 19 is the Des Monies Marine Swap Meet. Totem will again have booths there to sell our club members miscellaneous unwanted, used stuff, have a little fun, and make a few bucks for the treasury. Let me know if you might have things you don't need and will maybe never get garage sale'd your self!

The Tacoma Marine Daffodil parade weekend is April 15-17. It's not too early to register your boat for free moorage at TYC for the weekend (no power). The deadline for registration is March 20, and earlier is better. Go to Tacoma Yacht Club.org/Daffodil 2016. At the January Board Meeting, it was decided Totem will sponsor a flag ship, Tim Reding's *Satisfaction*, and a parade float; Mike Holman's *Zivjeli*. We will be looking for help planning and decorating. There will be more info about Daffodil weekend on the TYC website and at our upcoming meetings, or contact myself, Tim, or Mike.

Seattle opening is May 6-8 this year. It's not too early to start thinking about registering for your boat moorage there as well. First come, first served at Seattle Yacht Club.org/2016 opening. We will have to register a flagship there soon, as well. Anyone interested in volunteering their boat for Flag, please contact myself or Mike Holman.

Hope to see you all soon!

Ron Reding, Fleet Captain

Getting to Know You –

A new feature in Totem Line dedicated to helping us get to know one another. This month we feature “Memories of Our Years with Totem Yacht Club” by Bernie Merrifield, and an introduction of Rocci and Sharon Blair, written by Carolyn Hershberger. We hope everyone will be willing to share a little personal information with us. Included in this issue are some questions you might consider as “Story Starters” as you write about you and your family, or maybe you would like to write about someone in the club who you feel has had a positive effect on you or the club. If you’d like to volunteer, please send me your story at http://totemline@gmail.com

Lifetime Members Bernie and Clenet Merrifield

Bernie & Clenet Merrifield By Heidi Merrifield

Many of Totem’s Past Commodores give Bernie credit for convincing them to serve on the bridge. His encouragement and undying love for the club was contagious. In their initial years with the club they took it slow, only attending an occasional event or cruise, but once they got more involved, they got hooked. Clenet liked to showcase her culinary skills, bringing food to potlucks or desserts for socials. Clenet included family members in club parties whenever ticket sales were low, which gave us our first exposure to Totem Yacht Club. She also invited us to drive over occasionally. Bernie used his talents in many ways and helped to modernize the club by transitioning the Totem Line to a digital/e-mailed newsletter, despite the resistance of those insistent that the rope line graphic (which was dropped) was a necessity. These two have helped shape Totem over half of its history.

Memories of Our Years with Totem Yacht Club By Bernie Merrifield

1. Going through the chairs and being our Commodore in 1993 is something I will never forget.
2. As commodore, I felt a responsibility to put on skit for the Bremerton heavy weather race. Our previous director felt we didn't have time to put together a good skit so I did it myself with a lot of help from other club members including Heidi's father, Al Simmons. We took 1st place, which was very exciting for all the players involved in this "Little Mermaid presentation". Heidi was my daughter-in-law, but not a member at the time. She, along with her brother-in-law, helped dream up this very funny and entertaining skit.
3. I also enjoyed putting together more skits for the next five years.
4. The years that I was in charge of making a decorated boat for the Daffodil float parade brings back fond memories. Our boat the "Clenet" was used twice as the decorated boat. Great times.
5. Our many cruises up north to the San Juans, Desolation Sound, Princess Louisa, and the Gulf Islands were gifts from heaven--being able to do these wonderful boat trips.
6. Poulsbo was one of our favorite cruises every Memorial day. I recall that we had over 35 boats there one year.
7. The Thanksgiving cruise was always so much fun with decorating the boats for Xmas and using the small but cozy party room before they stop letting clubs use it.



8. Fair Harbor, of course, is something special in our hearts because of all the really wonderful times we had there for so many years.
9. Even though boating has been so expensive over the years because of the high cost of moorage, maintenance, and gasoline, we would never have experienced one of the most exciting and pleasurable leisure-time activities that a person can have in life, if we had worried about the cost of boating.
10. Clenet and I are grateful for being able to be a part of this wonderful club for so many years.
11. I started boating by getting and restoring a old boat my brother found down in Coos Bay Oregon. It was a old Chriscraft we bought, and I bought my brother out. I sold it after enjoying it for 7 years, and then bought a sunken Bayliner Saratoga and fixed it up. The Tollycraft that I purchased was in good condition and had low hours on the engines. The reason that I mention this is that I have a history of buying damaged things, such as old Corvettes, and restoring them.
12. Now (in my older days) I purchased a old 1987 Cadillac Allante sports car to play with. Our Totem editor, Patty Chastain, also owns one and she thought I should mention it because it's got me all excited about bringing it up to top-notch condition. We are still down in Arizona until April but it gives me another reason for getting back to our family and friends in the beautiful Northwest.

Lifetime Member's Rocci and Sharon Blair By Carolyn Hershberger



Life Members Sharon and Rocci Blair joined Totem Yacht Club in 1978. Over the years they cruised with a 26 foot Reinell and a 26 foot Tolly, both named Pelican. When they first joined, they were the youngest members in the club, with three young children. As happens with so many new members, they were immediately taken under the wing of seasoned and experienced members, who showed them the “ropes” of boating.

Rocci and Sharon were Boating Family of the Year in 1982 and 2012. Rocci has served on the Board, as Fleet Captain, Bar Steward and Sargent of Arms. Sharon served as Yeoman, Galley Steward, and Totem Line Editor. She was Member of the Year in 2008. One of their favorite memories of the club was the summer after they first joined. They cruised with several members up to the San Juan Islands for a week. There was crabbing at Saddlebag Island, with member Jean Hayes cooking everyone's crab in her pressure cooker on board her boat. They sat around all evening eating fresh cooked cracked crab. A couple of days later they were at Friday Harbor catching Shrimp from the docks using old pantyhose!

They have loved the many years of cruising the South Sound, of participating in all the Social activities of the Club and especially the New Year's Eve prime rib dinner they helped put on at the Club. Sharon and Rocci would like you to know that they appreciate every one of the members of Totem, both past and present, and the effort everyone has put into the Club to make it great. “The fellowship and wonderful memories we have had with members of Totem has made us want to stay in the Club this long. We are very proud to be members of Totem Yacht Club.”

Possible outline or “Story Starters” for getting to know you, or another Totem member you would like to write about:

1. Name and family members
2. Position in the Club, if any (include any past positions you have held, if you want) This could include leadership positions, or maybe you were in charge of the galley, clubhouse maintenance, Totem Line, etc. Any “traditions” you were involved in starting?
3. Boat name (if any) and some information about your boat (including “interesting boating experiences”) or past boats or other boating information or experiences you'd like to share. How did you get into boating?

4. Membership in Totem Yacht Club – how long? How did you learn about TYC, or what attracted you to TYC?
5. Hobbies or interests outside of boating you'd like to share? How did you get interested/involved in them?
6. Career or job information you'd like to share?
7. How about some personal story or anecdote(s) that would help us get to know you as an individual? As possible starters, what's the wackiest thing you've ever done, on or off a boat? What's your all-time favorite book or movie, or a recent book or movie you'd like to recommend? What's the best "fish story" or joke you've heard lately? What is something no one would guess about you? How about some boating advice?

2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

February 27	Totem YC Commodore's Ball
March 5	Des Moines YC Commodore's Ball
March 11-13	Opening Day Cruise – Longbranch Marina
March 17-20	Puget Sound Boat Show – Tacoma Dome
March 19	Des Moines YC Swap Meet
April 2	Tacoma Outboard Association Commodore's Ball
April 9	House & Grounds
April 15-17	Marine Daffodil Weekend & Parade - Tacoma YC
April 23	Fox Island YC Commodore's Ball & Anchor Out
May 6-8	Seattle Opening Day & Parade – Seattle YC
May 13-15	Boy Scouts Work Party Cruise – Blake Island Marina
May 27-30	Memorial Day Cruise – Port of Poulsbo Marina
June 3-5	Blessing of the Fleet – Gig Harbor Anchor Out
June 24-26	Taste of Tacoma Parking Fundraiser
July 1-5	Independence Day - Quartermaster Harbor Anchor Out
TBD	Summer Cruise – San Juan's – 2 weeks
July 16-17	Tacoma Maritime Fest – Foss Seaport
July 22-24	Commodore's Cruise – Port Orchard Marina
July 24-July 29	North Sound Cruise – TBD – 1 week
July 29-31	First Mates Cruise – Bell Harbor Marina, Seattle
August 12-14	Kid's Cruise - Des Moines, Marina
August 26-28	Penrose State Park Anchor Out
August 28-September 2	South Sound Cruise – TBD – 1 week
September 2-5	Labor Day – Arabella's Landing, Gig Harbor
September 24	Carling YC Commodore's Ball
October 1	Viking YC Commodore's Ball
October 7-9	Halloween Cruise w/DMYC - Port Orchard Marina
October 15	House & Grounds
November 1	Soup Night & General Election
November 25-27	Turkey Cruise – Des Moines Marina
December 3	Special People's Cruise - Foss Waterway

December 3
December 16-18

Christmas Party
Lighted Boat Parade Cruise – Dock Street Marina, Tacoma

Dates	Cruise - Destination	Reserved #	Details
Mar 11-13	Totem Blessing of the Fleet Lonbranch Marina, Longbranch	Demere n=10	March 11,12,13,NO RES. NEEDED
Apr 15-17	Marine Daffodil - Tacoma Yacht Club		Reserve slip by Fri, Mar xx - see form at www.tacomayachtclub.org (click on Daffodil logo). Moorage is complimentary ; optional meal deal \$xx per person for the weekend)
May 6-8	Seattle Open - Seattle Yacht Club		Reserve slip by Thurs, Apr xx - see form at www.seattleyachtclub.org (click on Opening Day logo). Moorage is complimentary .
May 13-15	Boy scouts - Blake Island Marina		Fleet Captain coordinate Totem participants with scouts
May 27-30	Memorial Day - Port of Poulsbo Marina	Gallington n=15 slips?	Fleet Captain coordinates Totem slip reservations . Slips \$0.90/ft (min 30'); (Activity float free if 20 boats); 360-779-9905 ext1 (PREPAID \$5 per boat fee for 2016 n=15?)
June 3-5	Blessing of the Fleet - Gig Harbor (<i>Anchor Out</i>)		ANCHOR OUT http://www.gigharborchamber.net/index.php/about-us/chamber-annual-events/maritime-gig-festival
July 1-5	Independence Day - Quartermaster (<i>Anchor Out</i>)		ANCHOR OUT (Independence Day is on Monday)
TBD	San Juan's Cruise - TBD		Two week cruise in July (back by July 22 for Port Orchard Commodore's cruise?)
July 16-17	Tacoma Maritime Festival - Foss Waterway		(Foss waterway event - membership booth)
July 22-24	Commodore's - Port Orchard Marina	Holman n=10	360-876-5535 to confirm 48 hours prior ; \$36 per night + \$0.90/ft >40ft; \$5 per boat fee
July 24-July 29	Summer Cruise - TBD		TBD in vicinity of Port Orchard to Bell Harbor
July 29-31	First Mates - Bell Harbor Marina, Seattle	Merrifield n=10	206-615-3952 to prepay first night by June 29 , \$1.35/ft; (PREPAID \$5 per boat fee for 2016 N=10)
Aug 12-14	Kid's Cruise - Des Moines, Marina	n=8	206-824-5700 for Moorage: 0'-30'=\$20; 31'-50'= .75/ft; (\$5 per boat fee due month prior N=8) (Cabana free w/5 boats)
Aug 26-28	Penrose State Park (<i>Anchor Out</i>)	Tim Reding	ANCHOR OUT
Aug 28-Sept 2	South Sound Cruise - TBD		
Sept 2-5	Labor Day - Arabella's Landing, Gig Harbor	Cathy & Ron	\$1.50/ft; no res fee (\$100 for net shedx2 Sat/Sun) members confirm week prior
Oct 7-9	Halloween w/DMYC - Port Orchard Marina	n=5	360-876-5535 to confirm 48 hours prior ; \$36 per night + \$0.90/ft >40ft (DMYC paid fees)
Nov 25-27	Turkey Cruise Des Moines Marina	Allard n=10	206-824-5700 for Moorage: 0'-30'=\$20; 31'-50'= .75/ft; (\$5 per boat fee due month prior, Cabana free w/5 boats)
Dec 2-4	Special People's - Dock Street/ Foss Waterway (event Dec 3)		Fleet Captain coordinates Totem participants w/Tacoma and Day Island YC
Dec 16-18	Lighted Boat Parade - Dock Street Marina, Tacoma		Fleet Captain coordinates Totem participants w/Tacoma YC



*Totem Yacht Club
cordially invites you to attend our*

2016 Commodore's Ball - A Night in Bermuda Honoring Commodore Mike Holman



Saturday, February 27, 2016 - 6pm to Midnight

\$40 per person

Totem Yacht Club • 5045 North Highland • Tacoma, WA 98407

6:00 pm No-host cocktail hour

7:00 pm Introduction of Commodore's

7:30 pm Dinner catered by Picasso

9:00 pm to Midnight dancing to the Whirlies

Bring cash to purchase beverage and raffle tickets

Semi-formal attire for guests and dress whites for officers

Please RSVP by Feb 17 and send check (payable to Totem Yacht Club):

c/o Purser Sharon Nell

12317 103rd St, KPN, Gig Harbor, WA 98329

Contact: Sharon Nell 253-857-4431 or rosesharon22@comcast.net



Totem YC will have two booths at the

17th Annual Indoor & Outdoor

Marine Swap Meet

Saturday March 19, 2016

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

The largest Indoor Marine Swap Meet in the Northwest

Buy / Sell / Swap / Browse

Marine Equipment, Accessories, Electronics, Tools,
Boats, Trailers, Dinghies, Books, etc.

Des Moines Yacht Club 22737 Marine View Drive
I-5 Exit 149 to Des Moines



This will be a fund-raiser for Totem YC. If you have any marine or nautical items in serviceable condition you would care to donate, we will do our best to sell them, with the proceeds going to Totem. Articles that do not sell may be returned to donor. To arrange delivery or pick-up or if you have any questions contact Ron Reding at
253-279-0314 or r_reding@comcast.net
And be sure to stop by the Swap Meet at Des Moines YC on March 19.

TIPS FOR PROPERLY SETTING AN ANCHOR: Basic boat anchoring ideas and tips

By Joe Friedman, Posted January 27, 2014 at <http://www.boatingmag.com/how-to/tips-properly-setting-anchor>

There's a big difference between tossing a "lunch hook" over the side for a quick dip and securely anchoring for an overnight stay. Whole books have been written on the subject, and it gets a complete chapter in Chapman Piloting & Seamanship, the venerable guide to small-boat handling. Here's a quick rundown on some solid, basic anchoring ideas and tips.

1. Ease Up, Sneak Back

The proper technique for anchoring starts with easing the throttle so that the boat is basically standing still at the point where you want the anchor to drop. Let it go, sneak back under power, and slowly pay out the line.

2. Scope It Out

You'll need to know about how much scope to use, since this will affect where the boat will lie once the hook is stuck. Experience and local knowledge of the bottom are the best teachers, but plan on about an 8-to-1 ratio of scope to water depth.

3. Head Up

At dead-slow speed, head the boat up into the wind or current, beyond the spot where you want the boat to lie, at a distance equal to your estimated scope. Come to a stop. In rough conditions, it can pay to drift back without dropping anchor first, so that you can see where the boat will end up when you do deploy the hook.

4. Set It

When enough rode is out to equal the desired scope, snub up on the cleat. Allow the stretch to come out of the line and see if you are holding. A shot of reverse gear can often help set the hook but, if done prematurely, can cause the anchor to skate across the bottom without catching.

5. On Watch

With the hook set, cleat it off securely and run the rode through chocks to ensure that navigation lights and other deck equipment don't get "swept" by the rode as the boat swings on the line. Line up with two landmarks, or use your radar, GPS or depth sounder to monitor your position and ensure that you are not dragging the anchor.

6. Know Thy Bottom

Your chart or plotter will generally show what to expect, but pockets of the unexpected do occasionally show up in an otherwise defined bottom to make life exciting. The most common bottoms are sand, mud, clay and grass (or weed). Most of the popular anchor styles (Danforth, CQR, Delta, Spade, Bruce, Rocna) are considered to be workable for all of these conditions. That said, plow anchors — like a CQR or Delta — hold best on a rocky bottom, a Danforth holds best in mud, and heavier anchors hold best in grass.

7. Size Does Matter

The anchor should be correctly sized for your boat. For instance, a typical 32-foot medium displacement boat could put out a 25-pound CQR or a 22-pound Delta and be comfortable in 30 knots of wind. A 12-pound Hi-Tensile Danforth is another option. One size up would be nice, especially if you have a power windlass to do all the work. Check the anchor manufacturer's guide for your boat's length, displacement and hull type.

8. Rode: Rope or Rope/Chain?

A properly sized all-nylon rode, either twisted or braided, is fine for light-duty anchoring. More common would be to add 6 to 8 feet of chain between the anchor shank and the rode. But for overnighing or extended anchoring, a one-half boat length's worth of chain is a good rule of thumb to help an anchor's holding power. The chain will aid in setting the anchor and keeping it set by lowering the angle of pull, thus helping to absorb the shock of a tossing boat due to wind or sea conditions and reducing chafe due to rocky or shelly bottom.

9. Scope It Out

Scope is the ratio of the depth of water (plus the height to the bow or pulpit) to the total length of rode deployed. The most recommended scope is 8-to-1, meaning, in 10 feet of water with a 4-foot height to bow from the water, you stream out 122 feet of rode. With more chain and an oversize anchor, you may be able to ride reliably to a 4-to-1 scope, whereas poorly holding bottom and/or strong wind and/or strong current may require a 10-to-1 scope.

10. Be a Good Neighbor

If you're the first or only boat in the anchorage, you've got priority. Otherwise, choose your spot carefully so as to

allow enough swinging room to stay clear of the others. Remember that big boats swing slower and tend to have a bigger arc than smaller ones. Boats with a lot of windage (big canvas enclosures, large cabins, high freeboard and almost all sailboats) will swing faster in high winds. Be sure to continue to check reference points, and watch to see that your position doesn't change. Set the anchor alarm on your GPS, if yours has one, to alert you if something changes while you're asleep or occupied. Then break out the sandwiches and enjoy the view.

Windlass 101

The techniques in anchoring are the same, with or without a windlass. Keep in mind that a windlass is not a cleat and shouldn't take the load of your boat under anchor. Neither is it the raw muscle to pull the anchor. Instead, take up the slack as you slowly motor forward to break the anchor free. Secure anchors hauled with windlasses with a trace of line or a chain stop.

HOW TO FREE A FOULED ANCHOR: Avoid losing your ground tackle to gnarly bottom

By Jim Hendricks Posted May 15, 2012 at <http://www.boatingmag.com/how-to/how-to-free-fouled-anchor>

The windlass groans under the strain as the rode stretches taut. "Freakin' anchor's hung," I hiss. We struggle to extricate it in a dicey tug-of-war with the ocean floor. I have tricks, but no guarantees. We finally free it, and I vow, "Never will I let this happen again." But I know it will.

Wired for Action

If, like me, you engage in risky behavior in pursuit of fish, or need to anchor over "sticky" bottom while cruising, try trip-wiring the anchor. Many anchors have a hole in the forward part of the shank for this purpose. Drill a hole if your anchor doesn't have one in the crown. Shackle the bitter end of the chain here, and then run it back along the shank, wiring a link to the normal shackle point. A length of thick, solid copper wire, like stripped residential wire, works; nylon tie-wraps also do the job. If you foul the anchor, the wire or wraps will break under enough pressure, allowing you to pull the anchor out by the crown rather than the tail of the shank. Have extra wire or wraps aboard to re-rig. You can also get a commercially made setup called the Anchor Saver (\$109.99 to \$159.99, shop.anchorsaver.com) that works on the same principle.



New Angle

With or without a tripwire or Anchor Saver, try retrieving a fouled anchor from different angles. For example, if you were scoped out with the bow at 180 degrees, try pulling the anchor out backward by pulling on the rode from 0 degrees. Be careful not to foul the anchor line in a prop as you reposition, and be cautious not to swamp the cockpit if you are backing into seas.

Rubber-Band Trick

Many years ago, an old salt taught me the rubber-band trick, but it works only in calm conditions with relatively light, three-strand anchor lines that you can manhandle. It helps to wear a pair of gloves, and avoid wrapping the line around your hands. Pull up by hand on the fouled line, stretching it as tightly as possible, like a rubber band, and then let go. Powered by the sudden recoil, the anchor often shoots away from the snag. It might take a few tries, but it has worked for me at depths below 100 feet.

Cut Your Losses

If you foul the anchor in rough conditions, the best bet is to cut your losses — literally — and head back to the harbor. Things can go wrong quickly in heavy seas, especially in a small boat, so it's prudent to have a sharp knife handy so you can immediately cut free. New ground tackle is relatively inexpensive, especially compared with the safety of your crew.