

Second in Command

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Boating safely and everyone on-board's safety is so important. I highly recommend investing in knowledge transfer to a spouse, partner or significant other. Knowledge of boating skills, how to start, operate, getting the boat to a dock, and the use of the radio is critical. We vessel captains have this knowledge but if you fall overboard or have a serious injury, who on board can take charge and knows what they need to do in that emergency situation?

In some cases, captains are poor teachers when it comes to knowledge sharing. However, if and when a situation arises, it is too late. Take the time to work with your crew to ensure they will know what to do when they are needed to take command. My wife and I are working on a detailed laminated list of steps needed to get the boat started and moving in an emergency that can be followed quickly. In an emergency many steps are skipped as this is an emergency situation, but several points should be covered.

Operation Key Points:

- What needs to be turned on to run the boat?
- How to start and stop the engine?
- How to put the transmission into gear and what happens? Then how to take it out of gear and what happens?
- Where are fire extinguishers and signal flares plus when and how to use them?
- How to anchor plus retrieve the anchor?

Another laminated list for how to make an emergency call including talking slowly and calmly saying what is needed. Identify the important information that will be needed like our MSSI number, how to get Latitude and Longitude when asking for assistance.

VHF Key Points:

- How to use the radio especially in an emergency?
- Where can you find important information needed about the boat? MMSI, Type of Boat, Color of hull, Location?
- Where are the life jackets and how are they worn?

Learning how to get the boat to a dock and dock the boat. I am not talking about backing into a slip but as they say just "hit the T of a dock" so you can get help. Calling a marina sharing the information and letting them know you will be coming into the dock and need help, even honking the horn to get attention certainly works.

Docking Key Points:

- How do I steer a boat both forward plus in reverse? Understand the time it takes your boat to react to change in course.
- What are the basics of navigation, use of compass, chart plotter, radar plus observation?
- How to tie and untie a boat?
- How do I dock as well as undock a boat?

The process on knowledge transfer is a challenge, many of us are yellers, no one responds to yelling. It's important we ensure knowledge is gained and in the best possible manner. Each boat is different and what is unique about your boat is important.

More Key Points:

- How to remove and reattach the power cable safely?
- Where and how to add fuel plus what kind of fuel?
- Where do I add fresh water?
- Is the Bilge pump working?
- Where is the pump out and how do I use the pump out?

A few hours teaching and investing in someone else, teaching them basic boating skills will be worth so much.

This article is given the courtesy of your local America's Boating Club of the Pamlico. An excellent 2-1/2 hour seminar, **Partner in Command**, is being offered October 24th. To register or learn more information contact Kelly at 551-427-0585 or email pspsed@gmail.com. We also invite you to visit our website to learn about more boating safety and education at <https://pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org>