

## Sailing Glossary

### Pewaukee Lake Sailing School

**Bailer:** A bailer is a required piece of equipment for a Sabot. It is used to remove water from the boat, especially after capsizing. It is easy to make a bailer out of an old bleach bottle. Simply cut out the bottom and make sure the cap is tightly fastened.

**Batten:** Thin fiberglass slats that are inserted in the leech of the sail for added support.

**Block:** A pulley that is encased in its own housing. A block will help to add purchase when pulling on a line.

**Boom:** Horizontal spar that supports the bottom of a sail.

**Boom Vang:** A line that runs from the boom to the base of the mast. The boom vang helps pull the boom down.

**Bowline:** Essential knot for all sailors. Used to create a loop (eye) of fixed diameter that does not slip. Can support large loads and still be untied (broken).

**Centerboard:** a pivoted board that can be lowered through the keel of a sailboat to reduce sideways movement.

**Class:** Similar boats are grouped together to form a class.

**Cleat:** Fitting in which a line can be secured.

**Clew:** The outermost lower corner of a sail is the clew. It is where the foot and the leech of the sail meet. The outhaul is attached to the clew.

**Corinthian Spirit:** Displaying good sportsmanship, honoring the game of sailing and playing by the rules.

**Course Chart:** A description of the course that will be sailed in a particular race.

**Dolly:** A trailer that is used to transport boats around the boatyard.

**Downhaul:** A line attached to the tack of the sail that pulls the luff of the sail down. It is also the Cunningham.

**Foot:** The bottom edge of the sail between the tack and the clew.

**Gooseneck:** A hinged fitting on the mast that connects the mast to the boom.

**Grommet:** A metal ring in a sail that allows lines to be connected to the sail. Both the clew and the tack have grommets.

**Head of the Sail:** The top of the sail. It is the part of the sail where the luff meets the leech.

**Hiking:** The action of hanging over the side of a boat in order to keep it from heeling over while sailing.

**Hiking Strap:** A nylon strap in the center of the boat to secure your feet while hiking.

**Leech:** The edge of the sail where the battens are. This part of the sail controls the amount of twist.

**Luff:** The part of the sail next to the mast. This part of the sail controls the depth of the sail.

**Mast:** The vertical spar that supports the sail.

**Mast Can:** A tubular shaped can in the bottom of the boat into which the mast fits.

**Notice of Race:** An advertisement about upcoming races. The NOR has information about the entry fee, date and location of the regatta.

**Outhaul:** The line that pulls the sail to the end of the boom. The outhaul is connected to the clew of the sail.

**Painter:** A piece of line attached to the bow used to tie up to a dock and for towing. Also called a bow line.

**Port:** Port refers to the left side of the boat. Port also refers to which tack the boat is on. If a boat is on port tack then the wind is coming over the left hand side of the boat. The color red also indicates port.

**Ratchet Block:** One way turning block that uses friction to decrease load. Ratchet blocks are commonly used for the mainsheet and jib sheets.

**Rudder:** A foil on the transom that steers the boat.

**Shackle:** A “U” shaped hook containing a pin which is used to connect objects or lines together.

**Sheets:** All the ropes or lines on boats which are adjust sail trim.

**Starboard:** Starboard refers to the right side of the boat. Starboard also refers to which tack the boat is on. If a boat is on starboard tack then the wind is coming over the right hand side of the boat, and starboard has right of way over those boats on port tack. The color green also indicates starboard.

**Square Knot:** Essential knot for all sailors, used for joining 2 pieces of line of equal diameter.

**Tell Tales:** Tell tales are small pieces of yarn that are attached to both sides of the sail on the luff. They indicate wind flow over the sail and aid in both steering and sail trim.

