

BOB'S NAUTICAL

A NAUTICAL DICTIONARY

AND

GLOSSARY

BY ROBERT B. TOWNSEND

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About The Author	v
Foreword	xiii
Nautical Dictionary	1
Vessels And Their Rigs	87
Glossary Of Sailing Vessels	89
Vessels	96
Timber Droughers	96
Stonehookers	99
Steamships	101
Models	103
Ship Models	103
Builders Models	103
Barges	105
Thames River Barges	105
Great Lakes Barges	106
Great Lakes Vessels	108
Big Sailing Vessels	111
Sails And Their Names	112
Square rig sails	112
Jibs	112
Great Lakes Schooner Sails	113
Staysails	114
Schooner Sails	114
Winds	116
Beaufort Scale	117
Theory Of Sail	119
Points Of Sail	119
Tonnage And Displacement	121
Anchors	123
Windlass - Capstan	125
Centreboards	126
Helm - Simplified	129
The Fastest Rig	131

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ropes	132
Definitions Used When Describing Rope	132
Rope When Canvas Was King	134
The Manufacture Of Fibre Rope	135
Modern Ropes	138
Wire Rope	138
Synthetic Ropes	138
Rod Rigging	139
Anchor Line Scope	139
Measurement Rules	140
Tonnage Rule	140
Seawahanka Rule	140
Restricted Rule	140
Universal Rule	141
International Rule Of Measurement	141
Royal Ocean Racing Club (R.O.R.C.) Rule Of Measurement.	142
Cruising Club Of America (C.C.A.) Rule	142
International Offshore Rule (IOR)	143
Performance Handicap Racing Formula (PHRF)	143
International Measurement System (IMS) Rule	144
The Nayru Rating Rule 1973	145
Lake Ontario Rule (L.O.R.)	145
Portsmouth Rating System	146
Navigation	147
Distance Of The Horizon	147
Doubling Angle On Bow	147
Passing Signals	147
Terms Relating To Navigation	148
Navigation On The Great Lakes When Canvas Was King	151
Rules Of The Road	152
Weather	153
What happens as a depression passes	155
What Clouds Mean	155
Waterspout	156
An Old Lake Sailors Saying	156

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Low Water - High Water	157
Lunar Tides	157
Spring Tides	157
Neap Tides	157
Great Lakes Tides	158
How High Is High Water?	159
Wireless	160
Early Wireless	160
Distress Signals At Sea	160
Amateur Radio For Marine Use	162
Requirements Of A License:	162
Maritime Mobile	164
Installation Of Ham Radio & Antenna Radio	164
Antenna	164
Grounding And Groundplane	166
Use Of Amateur Radio While Cruising Offshore.	167
Reciprocal Agreements And Use Of Frequencies.	168
Docks vs Wharves	169
Time Keeping	170
Maritime Stories	171
Shifting A Sheet	171
Story Of A Barque	173
Sailing A Square Rigger	175
Code Of Malacca	179
Perils Of The Sea	180
Instruction For Letters Of Marque	181
Perils Of A Skipper	182
Portrait Of A Skipper	183
What Is A Shellback	184
Alphabet Song	186
The Sailor's Alphabet	187

NAUTICAL DICTIONARY

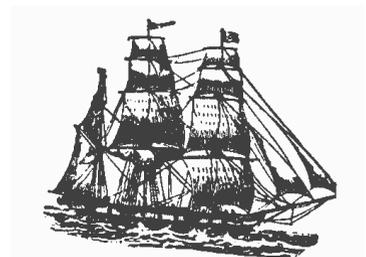
- aback** with sails backed or trimmed to windward; on square sails when the sails are pressured against the mast
- abaft** towards the stern of a vessel; back of; behind
- a-beam** at right angles to the keel; bearing approximately 90° or 270° to the wind
- able bodied seaman** trained and qualified seaman
- ablock** tackle taken in until both blocks come together
- aboard** on a vessel
- about** on the other tack
- abox** when a square rigged vessel maintains a stable position by bracing for and after yards on opposite tacks.
- abreast** along side of
- acrofoil** the power source of a sailing vessel above the deck i.e. the sails are set.
- a-cock-bill** yards at an angle, i.e. one end pointed skyward; anchor hanging loose slamming against the cathead.
- ADM** abbreviation for sailcloth woven to admiralty specifications.
- admeasure** measurement of a vessel for documentation.
- Admiral** specifically is an administrative naval officer of high rank controlling personnel and policy
- Admiral of the blue** in the RN, the seventh level among admirals, who wore a blue flag at the truck.
- adrift** at the will of the wind and tide; without fasts
- afloat** any buoyant object (i.e. a vessel) resting on the surface of water; on the surface of the water
- aft** (after) at, near or towards the stern
- after bow spring line** mooring line fixed to the bow of the boat and leading aft where it is attached to the. This prevents the boat from moving forward in its berth. Its opposite, the forward quarter spring line, is used to keep the boat from moving aft in its berth
- against the sun** counter-clockwise circular motion. Left-handed ropes are coiled against the sun.

<i>aground</i>	when a vessel is touching the bottom
<i>ahoy</i>	a hailing call to a vessel or person
<i>a-hull</i>	lying hull abeam - at sea when the sails are lowered and the hull is lying broadside to the seas and wind
<i>aldis lamp</i>	a hand lamp used to signal i.e. morse code
<i>a-lee</i>	to leeward, away from the wind
<i>alidade</i>	a device mounted over a compass for taking sights.
<i>all a taut</i>	vessel fully rigged, everything in place
<i>all hands</i>	the entire crew
<i>all in the wind</i>	when the sails are not drawing and are shaking in the wind
<i>aloft</i>	above the deck; up the mast or in the rigging.
<i>alongside</i>	close beside a vessel, wharf, pier etc.
<i>alow</i>	below the deck, or the low in the rigging near the deck
<i>alow & aloft</i>	when all sails, including studding sails are set
<i>altar</i>	one of the steps or ledges the flight of which forms the side of a dry dock
<i>ama</i>	the float of an outrigger canoe
<i>ama hulls</i>	the outer (floater) hulls of a trimaran
<i>amas</i>	the outboard hulls of a trimaran.
<i>amidship</i>	at the middle of a vessel
<i>a-weigh</i>	free - i.e. an anchor unhooked from the bottom
<i>avast</i>	stop; cease
<i>an-end</i>	when a mast is perpendicular to the deck
<i>anabasis</i>	military expedition
<i>anchor</i>	(killick) a device for holding a vessel stationary by securing it to the bottom of the body of water. There are many types of anchors, including admiralty, fisherman, C.Q.R. or plough. danforth, bruce, mushroom, folding; anchors are some times referred to as a hook. (See also bower, stream anchor, grapnel anchor and kedge anchor)
<i>anchorage</i>	a designated area where a vessel may anchor; toll or duty assessed for the privilege of anchoring.
<i>anchor ball</i>	a black ball displayed in the forward part of a vessel to indicate she is at anchor.

- anchor chock*** a fitting designed to receive and hold an anchor in a fixed position when not in use.
- anchor hoy*** small vessel used to set anchors
- anchor ice*** ice, of any form, that is aground in the sea.
- anchor light*** a white riding light at the mast head shown when a vessel is at anchor after sunset and before dawn, when anchored at other than an established mooring, or as required by law.
- anchor rode*** small boat's anchor line; the length of an anchor line from the bow of a vessel to the anchor. (rode)
- anchor watch*** crew detailed to watch a vessel anchored at night
- anemometer*** instrument or device that measures wind velocity.
- angle of heel*** the angle of the vessel from the vertical when sailing
- annie oakley*** slang name for a billowing spinnaker
- answer*** the response to a movement of the rudder.
- anti-trip chine*** flared out section a vessel' hull to prevent the hard chine catching a wake or small wave on a sharp turn.
- apeak*** when anchor cable is taut and vertical
- a-peek*** when a vessel's anchor rode is brought taut over the anchor; in a vertical or nearly vertical position; yards are a-peak when they are topped by contrary lifts.
- apparent wind*** the direction from which the wind appears to come once a vessel has started to move.
- appendage*** rudder, keel, centreboard or skeg (on a vessel)
- á portoise*** on the gunwale - (see definition of portoise)
- apron*** curved timber behind the lower part of the stem, above the foremost end of the keel
- arm*** the end of a yard on a sailing vessel (yard arm); to place tallow over the bottom of a lead line.
- aspect ratio*** ratio of the length of the foot of a sail, to the length of it's luff. (a tall narrow sail would have a high aspect ratio)
- astay*** short stay when the anchor cable is in line with the forestay
- astern*** towards the rear
- ata*** supporting brace between the amas (floater hulls) and the vacca (the main hull) of a trimaran.

- astrolabe** forerunner of a sextant; an instrument to determine the altitude of celestial bodies.
- athwart** **athwartship** from one side of a vessel to another; at right angles to the centre line
- athwarthawse** lying across the bow
- a-trip** anchor immediately it is broken clear of the bottom; sails are a-trip when sheeted home; yards are a-trip when they are in place; an upper mast is a-trip when the fid is loose.
- atry** vessel in gale without sails set
- avast** stop; hold fast
- average** apportionment of a loss incurred by a vessel at sea or to its cargo
- average bond** An average bond is an agreement signed by the master, the consignee, or if no consignee, by all the merchants who have cargo on board, binding themselves to pay their proportion of their loss by general average. It should be signed before the cargo is delivered, otherwise the master loses his claim on the goods.
- average** **(general)** General average constitutes that which was voluntarily sacrificed for the benefit of the whole. (The general safety of the vessel). It must be a wilful and deliberate act of the master of a vessel whereby he can save something of greater value than that which was sacrificed. The owners of the vessel, cargo and freight, each pay in proportion to the value saved.
- average** **(particular)** Particular average constitutes that which was taken from you against your will and without your consent, such as masts or rigging being rolled overboard, or boats being washed away, or other particulars being broken by the force of heavy seas breaking on board. Particular average also applies to petty charges, such a towage, which the owner or consignee of goods shipped on board the vessel is bound to reimburse the master or owner.
- awash** just above the surface of the water
- axis of the earth** is the diameter around which the earth daily revolves with uniform motion from west to east - the revolution being completed in 24 hour.
- aye** yes; reply when an officer's orders are understood.
- baby stay** short stay extending from the fore deck to a point on the mast below the head.
- back** counterclockwise shift in wind direction; trim a sail to windward

- backsplice** weave the end of a rope to keep it from unravelling
- backstaff** navigation instrument formerly used for taking altitudes of a landmark while at sea to determine distance off.
- backstay** part of the standing rigging of a sailing vessel running from the top of a mast to the stern
- backwind** wind flowing from a forward sail onto the lee side of an after sail
- badge** ornament or carving formerly placed on vessels near the stern, decorated with windows and containing a window or a resemblance of one.
- baggy wrinkles** old rope ends secured to rigging ropes to prevent chaffing of sails
- bail** band partially circling the boom or mast to which blocks may be attached
- bailer** dish or pump used to remove bilge water out of a vessel; sluice in the bilge of a small dinghy to remove water.
- baldheaded schooner** schooner without topsails
- ballast** heavy material placed in the bottom of a vessel to give it stability
- balsa core** in glassfibre construction, small squares of balsa wood are encased between outer and inner layers of fibreglass
- banker** east coast fishing vessel of large carrying capacity
- barber hauler** block and tackle control device used to change the angle of the athwartship lead of the jib sheet
- bare poles** all sails lowered
- barge** large flat bottomed freight boat used on inland waters being pushed or towed by a tugboat; long, narrow, light boat; flagship's official launch; formerly a vessel or boat of state (i.e. Cleopatra's barge as described by Shakespeare).
- barque** sailing vessel with three or more masts, two of which are in three sections and square-rigged and a mizzen mast fore-and-aft rigged. (Am. bark)
- barque** **Great Lakes** slang term for barquentines and for schooners with fore-and-aft sails on all three masts but on the foremast she would have a yard from which hung a square sail, and above that another yard, with a square topsail and above that again triangular raffles, either singly or in pairs.



barque

barquentine (barkentine) sailing vessel with three to five masts, but only one of which is square-rigged while the others are fore and aft rigged

barratry any wrongful act wilfully committed by a vessel's officers or crew to the prejudice of the owner or charterer of either vessel or cargo without his knowledge or connivance (i.e. sinking of a vessel or stealing the cargo)

bateau - bateau light river boat with flat bottom and tapered ends

batten down secure hatches and loose objects both within the hull and on deck such as during a storm

batten thin strip of wood used by a vessel's carpenters to produce curves or irregular lines of a vessel's hull; light strips of wood or plastic material which slide into pockets in the leech of a sail to keep it flat or give it good roach

batten pockets pockets in a sail where battens can be placed to stiffen the sail

batwings slang term for raffle sails;

bay trader inshore scow sloop with low draft designed for trading in shallow waters

beak (**beakhead**) platform forward of the forecastle; in 17th century, the decorative construction at the bow of a vessel

beam width of a vessel; timber mounted athwartships to support decks and provide lateral strength; large beams were sometimes called baulks.

beam reach sailing with the wind coming from side of the vessel

beams ends when a vessel is lying over so much that her deck beams are nearly vertical. method used to repair or paint hull while in drys.

beam sea (humorous) A situation in which waves strike a boat from the side causing it to roll unpleasantly. This is one of 4 directions from which wave action tends to produce extreme physical discomfort. The other three are: bow waves (waves striking from the front) following sea (waves striking from the rear) and quartering seas (waves striking from any other direction).

bear away; bear off alter course away from the wind, shore or approaching object.

bear up steer towards the wind

bearing direction of an object expressed either as a true bearing as shown on the chart, or as a bearing relative to the heading of the boat

(As described in Falconer's Marine Dictionary of 1760): "*an arch of the horizon intercepted between the nearest meridian and any distinct object, either discovered by the eye, i.e. the isle bore S by W by the*