

Day Skipper Shorebased

A comprehensive introduction to chartwork, navigation, meteorology and the basics of seamanship for Competent Crew. You will find this course invaluable if you want to learn how to start making decisions on board.

Syllabus

Nautical Terms

Parts of a boat and hull
General nautical terminology

Ropework

Knowledge of the properties of synthetic ropes in common use

Anchorwork

Characteristics of different types of anchor
Factors to take into account when anchoring

Safety

Knowledge of the safety equipment to be carried, its stowage and use (see G103 RYA Boat Safety Handbook)
Fire precautions and fire fighting
Use of personal safety equipment, harnesses and lifejackets
Ability to send a distress signal by VHF radiotelephone
Basic Knowledge of rescue procedures including helicopter rescue
Stability

International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

Steering and sailing rules (5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12-19)
General rules (all other rules)

Definition of Position, Course and Speed

Latitude and longitude
Knowledge of standard navigational terms
True bearings and course
The knot

Navigational charts and publications

Information shown on charts, chart symbols and representation of direction and distance
Navigational publications in common use
Chart correction

Navigational Drawing Instruments

Use of parallel rulers, dividers and proprietary plotting instruments



Compass

- Application of variation
- Awareness of deviation and its causes
- Use of hand bearing compass

Chartwork and Navigation - Traditional and Electronic

- Dead reckoning and estimated position, including an awareness of leeway
- Techniques of visual fixing
- Use of GNSS and chart plotters for position fixing
- Use of waypoints to fix position
- Course to steer

Tides and tidal streams

- Tidal definitions, levels and datum
- Tide tables
- Use of Admiralty method of determining tidal height at standard port
- Awareness of corrections for secondary ports
- Use of tidal diamonds and tidal stream atlases for chart work

Visual aids to navigation

- Lighthouses and beacons, light characteristics

Meteorology

- Sources of broadcast meteorology information
- Knowledge of terms used in shipping forecasts, including the Beaufort scale, and their significance to small craft.
- Basic knowledge of highs, lows and fronts

Passage Planning

- Preparation of a navigational plan for short coastal passages
- Meteorological considerations in planning short coastal passages
- Use of and visual confirmation of waypoints on a passage
- Importance of confirmation of position by an independent source
- Keeping a navigational record

Navigation in restricted visibility

- Precautions to be taken and limitations imposed by fog

Pilotage

- Use of transits, leading lines and clearing lines
- IALA system of buoyage for Region A
- Use of sailing directions
- Preparation of navigational plan for short coastal passages

Marine Environment

- Responsibility for avoiding pollution and protecting the marine environment

