



## Seattle Mountaineers Sailing Program

### *Common Terminology Crew Should Know*

#### PERSONNEL

**Skipper:** The vessel owner and individual ultimately in charge of the safety of the vessel and crew.

**Crew:** Individuals on the boat who assist in sailing the boat.

**Passenger:** Individuals on the boat going for a ride.

#### THE BOAT

**Port and Starboard:** Facing forward on the boat, anything on the left is Port. Anything on the right is Starboard. To help remember: PORT has four letters as does LEFT. Another way to remember is this: On boats, Port lines and marks are red and Starboard lines and marks are green. Port is a red wine. Port is Red, Starboard is Green.

**Bow and Stern:** The Bow is the front of the boat, the stern is the back. Anything near the front is referred to as being “forward”. Anything toward the back is “aft” or “astern”.

**Mast and Boom:** The mast is the vertical stick on a sailboat. The boom runs horizontally from the mast toward the stern of the boat.

**Halyard, Line and Sheet:** A halyard is attached to the top of the sail and raises and lowers the sail. Ropes on a sailboat are called Lines. The lines that are used to trim the sail are called Sheets. Sheets are tied to the bottom corners of the sails and control the bottom of the sail. Sheets are used to tack and jibe the boat.

**Mainsail and Jib/Genoa:** The Mainsail is a triangular sail that is connected to the back of the mast and the foot is attached to the boom. The Jib/Genoa is the sail at the bow of the boat. Jibs/Genoa's can be "hanked on" or attached by a roller-furling mechanism.

**Cockpit:** The area where the steering controls for the boat are. Typically, the cockpit has seating for crew.

**Companionway:** The steps leading from the deck of the boat to the interior of the boat.

**Helm:** The Helm is where you steer the boat from. Most of our boats have wheels, but some have “tillers”, which is typically a long wooden stick. Wheels and Tillers are used to control the rudder which directs the boat through the water.

**Keel:** The keel is on the bottom of the boat. The keel helps keep the boat from heeling too much as well as keeps the boat from slipping sideways.

**Cleat:** Device used to secure a line.



**Block:** A pulley which lines pass through.



**Winch:** Deck mounted drum used to trim sails.



## UNDER SAIL

**Point of Sail:** The boat's direction relative to the wind. Refer to pages 12-15.

**Luffing:** The fluttering of a sail when the boat is trimmed to close to the wind.

**Bear Away:** To head away from the wind. Also called "Fall Off."

**Head up:** To head towards the wind. Also called "Come Up or Point Up."

**Heeling:** Heeling occurs when a sailboat leans over in the water. The boat is being pushed over by the wind.

**Port Tack vs Starboard Tack:** Port Tack is when the wind is flowing across the boat from left (port) to right (starboard). Starboard Tack is when the wind is flowing across the boat from right (starboard) to left (port).

**Ready About, Coming About, Helms Alee, Jibe-Ho:** Terminology used to notify crew the boat is about to turn or is now turning.

### **Tack vs Gybe/Jibe:**

Tack has multiple meanings:

1. To change direction by turning the bow of the boat through the wind to head another direction.
2. The course the boat is on. For example, a Port Tack or a Starboard Tack.
3. A part of a sail. On a sail, the tack is the forward most attachment point that is used to attach the sail to the boat.

A Gybe/Jibe is a turn where the stern of the boat crosses through the wind.

**Windward and Leeward:** Windward is the side of the boat closest to where the wind is coming from. The Leeward side of the boat is the side of the boat furthest away from the wind. When sailing, Windward is always the "high" side (the side of the boat most out of the water) and the Leeward is always the "low" side (the side of the boat that is closest to the water).

**Ease:** To let out a line or sail.

**Lazy sheet vs Active Sheet:** The Lazy Sheet is the windward sheet that is not under tension. The Active Sheet is the sheet that is actively controlling the sail.