**PETER'S HUMOROUS SAILING & BOATING DEFINITIONS**

(Please see Bluewater Staff for more accurate [and possible true] explanations)

**Aboard**
1) A piece of construction lumber. 2) What one becomes when one is a-uninterested.

**Abreast**
1) An object searched for by male lookouts.
Only one?

**Afterguy**
Last guy out of the bar

**American Practical Navigator (Bowditch)**
Ancient nautical treatise, generally thought to deal with navigation, which to the present day has resisted all attempts to decipher it. Often found on board ship as a decorative element or paperweight.

**Amidships**
Condition of being surrounded by boats.

**Anchor**
1) Device designed to bring up mud & weed samples from the bottom at inopportune or unexpected times. 2) Thing rotting in the bilge of every racing yacht (unseen). 3) Any of a number of heavy, hook-shaped devices that are dropped over the side of the boat on end of length of rope and/or chain, and which is designed to hold vessel securely in place, until a) wind exceeds 2 knots, b) owner and crew depart or c) 0300.

**Anchor Light**
Small light used to discharge the battery before daylight.

**Azimuth Bar**
Where Azimuths hang out.

**Backstay**
Last thing to grab as your falling overboard

**Baggywrinkle**
Effect of sun and salt spray on your face.

**Bar**
1) Long, low-lying navigational hazard, usually awash, found at river mouths and harbor entrances, where it is composed of sand or mud, and ashore, where it is made of mahogany or some other dark wood. Sailors can be found in large numbers around both. 2) Land based nesting and pre-mating natural habitat frequented by sailors when they force themselves to go ashore.

**Bar Buoy**
What you will be looking for to lead you to a good time.

**Bare Boat**
Clothing optional or sailing naked.

**Bare Poles**
Sailing with unclothed persons from Eastern Europe.

**Battery**
Electrochemical storage device capable of lighting a lamp of wattage approximately equal to that of a refrigerator lamp for a period of 15 minutes after having been charged for two hours.

**Beating to Windward**
Method of flogging crew to increase upwind performance when racing.

**Beam Sea**
Situation in which waves strike a boat from the side, causing it to roll unpleasantly. This is one of the four directions from which wave action tends to produce extreme physical discomfort. The other three are `bow sea' (waves striking from the front), `following sea' (waves striking from the rear), and `quarter sea' (waves striking from any other direction).

**Berth**
1) Any horizontal surface whose total area does not exceed one half of the surface area of an average man at rest, onto which at least one liter of some liquid seeps during any 12-hour period and above which there are not less than 10 kilograms of improperly secured objects. 2) Little newborn addition to the crew. 3) Sometimes the result of removing the last article of clothing.

**Bifurcation Buoy**
Buoy that you can’t tell if its coming or going.

**Bitter End**
1) Finish of a race when you are last over the line. 2) Wrong end of a siphon hose. 3) Time to alert the bartender in the English pub.

**Boat**
Break Out Another Thousand
**Boat Ownership** Standing fully-clothed under a cold shower, tearing up 100-dollar bills

**Boom** 1) Laterally mounted pole to which a sail is fastened. Often used during jibing to shift crewmembers to a fixed, horizontal position. 2) Loud noise made during a surprise jibe sometimes quieted by a grinder before swimming. 3) Called for the sound that's made when it hits crew in the head on its way across the boat. For slow crew, it's called 'boom, boom.' 4) Sound produced when an alcohol stove is used to convert a boat into a liquid asset.

**Boomkin** Small, very young boom, less than one year old.

**Bottom Characteristics** With regard to human beings, the definition speaks for itself.

**Bottom Paint** 1) Paint found on a pair of pants after the cockpit seats are freshly painted. 2) The most dent ed can of paint.

**Bow** 1) Gesture from the helmsman as he crosses the finish line first. 2) Part of the boat that no one should have to work on. 3) Best part of the ship to ram another with. 4) Front part of catamarans often found underwater. 5) What you do after performing an outstanding docking maneuver.

**Boxing The Compass** What you might attempt to foolishly do after drunkenly returning to the ship.

**Broach** Piece of jewelry that you would not want to wear in heavy weather at sea.

**Broad Reach** How a lady of the evening might grab at you as you walk down a dimly lit pier.

**Bulkhead** 1) Uni-sex bathroom. 2) Discomfort suffered by sailors who drink too much. 3) Boater with a very large cranium.

**Bunk** 1) Small uncomfortable area for wet sailors to attempt sleep. 2) Location to store unused sails.

**Buoy** 1) Opposite of girlie or flying gull. 2) Navigational aid. There are several types and colors of buoys of which the most numerous are: -green can (seen as a fuzzy black spot on the horizon) -red nun (seen as a fuzzy black spot on the horizon) -red or green day beacon (seen as a fuzzy black spot on the horizon), and -vertically striped black-and-white channel marker

**Calm** Sea condition characterized by the simultaneous disappearance of the wind and the last cold beverage.

**Canvas** An abrasive sailcloth used to remove excess skin from knuckles

**Can Buoy** (Pronounced Can BOY) Male with diarrhea.

**Capsize** Interior diameter of any piece of headgear, usually expressed in inches [sometimes kilometers].

**Captain** See Figurehead.

**Cathead(s)** Popular menu item in some overseas food stores.

**Caulk** Any one of a number of substances introduced into the spaces between planks in the hull and decking of a boat that give a smooth, finished appearance while still permitting the passage of a significant amount of seawater.

**Celestial Fix** What you need every day.

**Chart** 1) Large piece of paper that is useful in protecting cabin and cockpit surfaces from food and beverage stains. 2) Type of nautical map which tells you exactly where you are aground or what you just hit.

**Chine** 1) Word used after, "rise and ..." 2) What the sun does.

**Chock** 1) Full right up to here... 2) Sudden and usually unpleasant surprise suffered by Spanish seaman.

**Circuit Breaker** Electro-mechanical switching unit intended to prevent the flow of electricity under normal operating conditions and, in the case of a short circuit, to permit the electrification of all conductive metal fittings throughout the boat. Available at most novelty shops.

**Clew** 1) Evidence leading to recovery of a missing sail. 2) Indication from the skipper as to what he might do next. 3) Oriental crewmember. 4) What a new sailor often doesn’t have any of.

**Cloud Bank** Where you store clouds, which gather interest for future use.
COB  Cash Over Board

Coiled:  Relatively mild upper respiratory ailment commonly contracted at sea by sailors from Brooklyn.

Comfort  Another term not used in conjunction with racing yachts.

Command  Mnemonic used to remember how orders at sea are to be given: Confuse Obscure Mispronounce Mumble Abbreviate Nasalize Drool.

Companionway  1) Double berth.  2) Another name for a hole to fall into.  3) Narrow channel.

Compass  Navigational instrument that ... indicates the presence of machinery and magnets on board ship by spinning wildly.

Co-Tidal Hour  Not to be confused with coital hour, which is something entirely different and probably more fun.

Course  Direction in which a skipper wishes to steer his boat and from which the wind is blowing. Also, the language that results by not being able to.

Cruising  1) Fixing your boat in exotic locations.  2) Waterborne pleasure journey embarked on by one or more people. It may be considered successful if the same number of individuals who set out on it arrive, in roughly the same condition they set out in, at some piece of habitable dry land, with or without the boat.

Crew  Heavy, stationary objects used on shipboard to hold down charts, anchor cushions in place and dampen sudden movements of the boom.

Cruising Waterborne pleasure journey embarked on by one or more people. A cruise may be considered successful if the same number of individuals who set out on it arrive, in roughly the same condition they set out in, at some piece of habitable dry land, with our without the boat.

Cunningham  Very sly or clever pig.

Current  Tidal flow that carries a boat away from its desired destination, or towards a hazard

Dangerous Waters  Lying to your spouse.

Dead Reckoning  1) Course leading directly to a reef.  2) What a Southern Doctor pronounces after a sailor goes to Davy Jone's Locker.  3) Using a map instead of a chart.

Deadrise  Getting up to check the anchor at 0300 or waking up before sunrise.

Deviation  1) Any departure from the Captain’s orders.  2) Shipboard orders given by a landlubber.  3) A ship full of deviates.

Dinghy  1) Ideally it should have sufficient stability to carry the entire crew at least 50 boat-lengths away from their vessel before foundering...  2) Sound of the ship’s bell.  3) Dark, dirty place.

Displacement  Accidental loss. Occurs when you dock your boat and can’t find it later.

Distress Signals  International signals which indicate that a boat is in danger. For example, in American waters: the sudden appearance of lawyers, the pointing of fingers, and repression of memories; in Italian waters: moaning, weeping, and wild gesticulations; in French waters: fistfights, horn blowing, and screamed accusations; in Spanish waters: boasts, taunts, and random gunfire; in Irish waters: rhythmic grunting, the sound of broken glass, and the detonation of small explosive devices; in Japanese waters: shouted apologies, the exchange of calling cards, and minor self-inflicted wounds; and in English waters: doffed hats, the burning of toast, and the spilling of tea.

Dock  Where you take a sick boat.

Dockline  Direct telephone access to a physician.

Draft  What you might want to avoid for cold viruses or the military.

Eight Bells  Are heavy.

Emergency Mooring Lines  Old ropes too rotten to use regularly but too good to throw away.

Engine  Sailboats are equipped with a variety of engines, but all of them work on the internal destruction principle, in which highly machined parts are rapidly converted into low-grade scrap, producing in the process energy in the form of heat, which is used to boil bilge water; vibration, which improves the muscle tone of the crew; and a small amount of rotational force, which drives the average size sailboat at speeds approaching a furlong per fortnight.
Equator
Line circling the earth at a point equidistant from both poles, which separates the oceans into the North Danger Zone and the South Danger Zone.

Estimated Position
Place you have marked on the chart where you are sure you are not. (common after multiple rhumb lines.)

Etiquette
Marine custom establishes a code of social behavior and nautical courtesy for every conceivable occasion. For example, a boat belonging to another boatman is always referred to as a "scow", a "tub", or a "pig-boat". When one skipper goes aboard another’s boat, he does not hesitate to tell him frankly about any drawbacks or disadvantages he finds in comparison to his own craft. Sailors welcome every opportunity to improve their vessels, and so he knows that his remarks will be greatly appreciated. When one sailboat passes another, it is customary for the captain of the passing boat to make a bladderlike sound with his lips and tongue, and for the captain of the passed boat to return the courtesy by offering a smart salute consisting of a quick upward movement of the right hand with the second digit extended.

Figurehead
Decorative dummy found on sailboats. See Captain.

First Mate
Crew member necessary for skippers to practice shouting instructions to.

Fix
1) The estimated position of a boat. 2) True position a boat and its crew in are in most of the time.

Flag
Any of a number of signaling pennants or ensigns, designed to be flown upside down, in the wrong place, in the wrong order, or at an inappropriate time.

Flashlight
Sometimes waterproof tubular metal container used on shipboard for storing dead batteries prior to their disposal

Fluke
1) Portion of an anchor that digs securely into the bottom, holding the boat in place. 2) Any occasion when this occurs on the first try.

Flying Bridge
Type of card game played on a sea plane.

Flying Jib
Any jib when the sheets have gone overboard.

Foreguy
First guy to the bar

Foul Wind
1) Breeze produced by flying turkey or goose. 2) An odor.

Freeboard
1) Food and liquor supplied by the owner. 2) Free lumber. 3) Cruise on a vessel you don’t pay for.

Fuel
Sailboats without auxiliary engines do not require fuel as such, but an adequate supply of a pale yellow carbonated beverage with a 10 percent to 12 percent alcohol content is essential to the operation of all recreational craft.

Fuel Tanks
Giving thanks for having enough fuel on board.

Galley

Gimbals
Movable mountings often found on shipboard lamps, compasses, etc., which provide dieting passengers an opportunity to observe the true motions of the ship in relation to them, and thus prevent any recently ingested food from remaining in their digestive systems long enough to be converted into unwanted calories.

Give Way Vessel
The boat which, in a collision situation, did not have the right of way.

Great Circle
1) Ship's course when the rudder is jammed or stuck. 2) Depression left in a seat cushion. 3) Mark around your eye after sailor’s pub brawl.

Grinder
Crewmember stationed near the boom and who enjoys swimming. (see boom).

Gybe
Common way to get unruly guests off your boat.

Gybe Set
Great way to end up on Port Tack right in front of the whole Fleet that's approaching the mark on Starboard

Halyard
1) Something that only breaks or jams when you're winning. 2) Measurement according to Hal.

Hanging Locker
Small, enclosed space designed to keep foul weather gear wet and to turn all other clothing green.

Hatch
1) Opening on a boat made to fall in. 2) Container on board in which to keep or store eggs. 3) What lookout wears on his head while cruising polar regions.
Hazard 1) Any boat over 2 feet in length. 2) Skipper of any such craft. 3) Any body of water. 4) Any body of land within 100 yards of any body of water.

Headway 1) What you are making if you can’t get the toilet to work. 2) Desert the cook makes, similar to “curds ’n whey”.

Head Up Leaving the boat toilet seat up. When boat skipper is female, leaving the head up is a serious offense.

Heave-Ho What you do when you’ve eaten too much Ho.

Heave To 1) Second person to get sick. 2) Newcomers quite often find themselves heaving too.

Heaving Line Rope used to hold on to while being sick, often found after making headway. 2) Location next to a rhumb line.

Helmsman 1) Nut attached to the rudder through a steering mechanism. 2) One who might actually listen to the tactician. 3) Crew member who might enjoy an uncontrollable jibe. (see Boom).

Inside Overlap Part of a race that resembles a political debate.

Interior Term not used in conjunction with racing yachts.

Jack Lines ‘Hey baby, want to go sailing?’

Jibe Either you like it or you don’t and it gets you.

Keel 1) Term used by 1st mate after too much heel by skipper. 2) Very heavy depth sounder or gauge, primarily used on Unamarans (monohulls)

Ketch 1) Disagreeable clause in boat-purchase contract. 2) Sailboat with good wine in the cabin.

Knot Connection between two or more ropes... having the property that the link cannot be parted or broken in any way other than severing it with a knife, except if it is subjected to steady stress in the course of normal use.

Knot Meter Instrument for measuring the speed with which any line will become tangled.

Landlubber 1) Anyone on board who wishes he or she were not. 2) Anyone on board who shouldn’t be.

Latitude Number of degrees off course allowed a guest at the helm.

Lazy Guy Most sailors when they’re not Racing.

Lazy Jack 1) Title given to the guy who’s crewed on other boats one time only. 2) Item found in trunk of car that has very good tires and/or often left at home by trailer sailors.

Leadership In maritime use, the ability to keep persons on board ship without resorting to measures which substantially violate applicable state and federal statutes.

Leak Situation calling for Leadership.

Leech Crewmember who’s always broke an never seems to have a dime when its time to pay for drinks or meals.

Life Line Phone Call.

Life Preserver 1) Mildewed device for emergency use, stowed under extra lines and anchors. 2) Any personal flotation device that will keep an individual who has fallen off a vessel above water long enough to be run over by it or another rescue craft.

Lubber Line Two or more guests waiting to get ashore.

Luff Front part of a sail that everyone but the helmsman seems to pay attention to (see also Telltales)

Luff Up Something racers do to each other to catch the back of the fleet Head.

Marina Commercial dock facility. Among the few places, under admiralty law, where certain forms of piracy are still permitted, most marinas have up-to-date facilities for the disposal of excess amounts of U.S. currency that may have accumulated on board ship, causing a fire hazard.

Marine Flashlight Waterproof place to store dead batteries.

Mast Religious ritual used before setting sail.
Mile, Nautical  Relativistic measure of surface distance over water - in theory, 6076.1 feet. In practice, a number of different values for the nautical mile have been observed while under sail, for example: after 4 p.m., approximately 40,000 feet; in winds of less than 5 knots, about 70,000 feet; and during periods of threatening weather in harbor approaches, around 100,000 feet.

Mizzen  1) Object you can’t find.  2) Lost.

Mooring  Act of bringing a boat to a complete stop in a relatively protected coastal area in such a fashion that it can be sailed away again in less than one week's time by the same number of people who moored it without heavy equipment and no more than $100 in repairs.

Motor Sailer  Sailboat that alternates between sail/rigging problems and engine problems, and with some booze in the cabin.

Naval Warfare  Two bellies rubbing.

Noserly  What to call the wind direction when it comes from where you're going.

Nun Buoy  (pronounced Nun BOY) A religious transvestite.

Oar  Sea-going woman of ill repute

Oar Lock  Security device that sea-going women of ill repute have on their doors.

OD Paint  Paint applied Over Dirt.

Oil  Thick viscous substance poured by sailors on troubled waters in former times, but now more frequently on troubled beaches, troubled marshes and troubled seabirds.

Painter  Line you use to tow the dingy... also especially useful for preventing Tack.

Passage  Long voyage from A to B, interrupted by unexpected landfalls or stopovers at point K, point Q and point Z.

Passenger  Form of movable internal ballast which tends to accumulate on the leeward side of sailboats once sea motions commence.

Permanent Mooring  Sunken boat, anchored.

Points  Traditional units of angular measurement from the viewpoint of someone on board a vessel. They are: Straight ahead of you, right up there; Just a little to the right of the front; Right next to that thing up there; Between those two things; Right back there, look; Over that round doohickey; Off the right corner; Back over there; and Right behind us.

Pop the Chute  Sound a Poly Chute makes just as it blows apart.

Port  Fine red wine, always stowed on the left side of the boat.

Porthole  1) Glass-covered opening in the hull designed in such a way that when closed (while at sea) it admits light and water, and when open (while at anchor) it admits, light, air, and insects (except in Canadian waters, where most species are too large to gain entry in this manner).  2) Are also found on the starboard side!

Portside  Is reserved for red headed sailors only.

Pratique  Technical maritime term for customs procedure on entering foreign waters. When passing through customs, particularly in the tropics - it is customary to display a small amount of that country's official currency in a conspicuous place and to transfer it to the officer who examines the boat's documents during the parting handshake. Incidentally, these inspectors are justly proud of their educational attainments, and the savvy boat owner can win some fast friends by remarking with surprise and admiration on their ability to read and write.

Prop  What you use your arm for to support your chin.

Propwash  Works best on bright work.

Propeller  Underwater winch designed to wind up at high speed any lines or painters left hanging over the stern.

Pulpit  Somewhere you pray you are going to pick up a mooring buoy.

Queeg  Affectionate slang term for ship's captain

Racing  Popular nautical contact sport

Ram  Intricate docking maneuver sometimes used by experienced skippers.

Rapture of the Deep  AKA nautical narcosis. Its
symptoms include an inability to use common words, such as up, down, left, right, front, and back, and their substitution with a variety of gibberish which the sufferer believes to make sense; a love of small, dark, wet places; an obsessive desire to be surrounded by possessions of a nautical nature, such as lamps made from running lights and tiny ship's wheels; and a conviction that objects are moving when they are in fact standing still. This condition is incurable.

**Reef Point**
Part of a rock sticking out of the water.

**Rhumb Line**
Two or more crewmembers waiting for a drink. Spelling is archaic.

**Ring Buoy**
Otherwise known as a ring bearer in weddings.

**Rope Ladder**
Ladder designed to get you into the water but not back out.

**Round Down**
Bad, bad thing for a bowman out on the spinnaker pole.

**Round Rigger**
1) Opposite of a square rigger. 2) Crew member who hides in a rum barrel.

**Round Up**
Easiest way to get the oncoming watch on deck.

**Rudder**
1) Large, heavy, vertically mounted, hydro-dynamically contoured steel plate with which, through the action of a tiller or wheel, it is possible, during brief intervals, to point a sailing vessel in a direction which, due to a combination of effects caused by tide, current, the force and direction of the wind, the size and angle of the waves, and the shape of the hull, it does not wish to go. 2) Name for people having ruddy complexions.

**Running free**
Cruising without using the engine.

**Sailboat Race**
Two sailboats going in the same direction.

**Sailing**
Fine art of getting wet and becoming ill, while going nowhere slowly at great expense (equivalent to standing in a cold shower, fully clothed, throwing up, and tearing up $100 bills, while a bunch of other people watch you).

**Schooner**
Sailboat with a fully stocked liquor cabinet in the cabin.

**Scupper**
1) Meal after lunch. 2) Place where you eat dinner.

**Seabag**
Aging mermaid.

**Seacock**
1) Nautical rooster. 2) Male sailor's most important piece of equipment.

**Sea Monster**
Mythical giant sea creature... Obviously a preposterous superstition...

**Sewerman**
Sailor that has a fetish for wet soggy nylon

** Sextant**
1) Entertaining, albeit expensive, device, which, together with a good atlas, is of use in introducing the boatman to many interesting areas of the earth's surface which he and his craft are not within 1,000 nautical miles of. 2) Brass device for detecting the nighttime activity of guests. 3) Canvas shelter devices used while camping when the kids are in school.

**Sheet**
1) Cool, damp, salty night covering. 2) Line made to make gloves fail or rip hands apart. 3) Something with the ability to tangle on anything.

**Shipshape**
Boat is said to be shipshape when every object that is likely to contribute to the easy handling of the vessel or the comfort of the crew has been put in a place from which it cannot be retrieved in less than 30 minutes.

**Ship-to-shore Radio**
Combination radio transmitter/receiver that permits captains and crew members to obtain wrong numbers and busy signals while at sea.

**Shoreline**
Used to dock boats.

**Shower**
Due to restricted space, limited water supplies, and the difficulty of generating hot water, showers on board ship are quite different from those taken ashore. Although there is no substitute for direct experience, a rough idea of a shipboard shower can be obtained by standing naked for two minutes in a closet with a large, wet dog.

**Shroud**
Equipment used in connection with the wake.

**Skeg**
What sea-going beer comes in.

**Slip**
Next to last article of clothing a woman removes

**Sloop**
Sailboat with beer and/or wine in the cabin.
Sonic Boom  Fast jibe.

Spanner Wrench  One of the most useful tools for engine repair; in some cases, the only suitable tool. Not currently manufactured.

Spinnaker  1) Large sail used in dead calms to keep the crew busy.  2) An extremely large, lightweight, balloon-shaped piece of sailcloth frequently trailed in the water off the bow in a big bundle to slow the boat down.

Splice  Method of joining two ropes by weaving together the individual strands of which they are composed with resulting connection stronger than any knot. Splicing is something of an art and takes awhile to master. You can work on perfecting your technique at home by practicing knitting a pair of socks or a stocking cap out of a pound or so of well-cooked noodles.

Spring Line  1) Line purchased at the beginning of the season.  2) Coils of metallic rope.

Square Rigger  1) Rigger over 30.  2) Sailor who goes to sleep early.  3) Opposite of a round rigger.

Stand On Vessel  Vessel that in a collision was "in the right". If there were witnesses, the owner could bring an admiralty court case - know as a "wet suit" or a "leisure suit" - against the owner of the other boat, and if he proves "shiplash", he could collect a tidy sum.

Starboard  1) Special board used by skippers for navigation (usually with "Port" on the opposite side.)  2) Listless movie actor.

Stem Fitting  Hole made in a competitors boat when your helmsman misjudges a Port /Starboard crossing

Stern  Way you feel after bashing the dock.

Strut  Peculiar way of walking

Submarine  Long sandwich.

Swell  1) Wave that’s just great.  2) Best of something.  3) Mound made by mosquitoes you’ll probably scratch.

Tabernacle  Something similar to pulpit, but a different religion.

Tack  1) Maneuver the skipper uses when telling the crew what they did wrong without getting them mad.  2) Common sticky substance left in the cockpit and on deck by other people's kids, usually in the form of foot or hand prints.  3) Shift the course of a sailboat from a direction far to the right, say, of the direction in which one wishes to go, to a direction far to the left of it.

Tactician  1) One who counts screws and nails.  2) The luckiest or sorriest member of a crew.  3) Kind term for a Smart Ass or Arrogant SOB or Dumb Ass or Lucky SOB

Tell-Tale  1) Talk about last night on shore.  2) Crew member who lets the guests know that the skipper usually gets seasick.

Throw Line  Excuse used by baseball pitcher after blowing it.

Toe  Stub your "toe"? Well then, it's time to brush up on your nomenclature! In nautical terms, a toe is a catchcleat or snagtackle. A few others: head - boomstop; leg - bruisefast; and hand - blistermitten.

Uniform  As worn by yacht club members and other shore hazards, a distinctive form of dress intended to be visible at a distance of at least 50 meters which serves to warn persons in the vicinity of the long winds and dense masses of hot air associated with these tidal bores.

Union Jack  Cousin to Uncle Sam.

Vang  Name of German sea dog.

Variation  Change in menu effected when the labels have soaked off the canned goods.

Varnish  High-fiction coating applied as a gloss over minor details in personal nautical recollections to improve their audience-holding capacity over frequent re-tellings.

Wake  Similar to an Irish burial.

Weather Helm: Marked tendency of a sailboat to turn into the wind, even when the rudder is centered. This is easily countered by wedging a heavy object against the tiller. See Crew.

Wharf  Sound made by Vang when he wishes to be fed.
Whelk  Sound made by Vang to show that he
doesn't like that dry, lumpy dog food you put in his dish.

Windlass  Condition resulting from successful
treatment in a windward.

Windward  Section of hospital for boaters with chronic
gas problems.

Yacht Broker  Form of coastal marine life found in many
harbors in the Northern Hemisphere generally thought to
occupy a position on the evolutionary scale above algae, but
somewhat below the cherrystone clam.

Yacht  Commonly used to describe any boat prior
to its purchase, and by many boat owners to describe their
vessel to persons who have never seen it and are likely
never to do so.

Yacht Club  Troublesome seasonal accumulation in
costal areas of unpleasant marine organisms with stiff necks
and clammy extremities. Often present in large numbers
during summer months when they clog inlets, bays, and
coves, making navigation almost impossible. They can be
effectively dislodged with dynamite, but, alas, archaic
federal laws rule out this option.

Yawl  1) Sailboat from Texas, with some good
bourbon stored down yonder in the cabin  2) Southern
version of *ahoy*.

Wake  Similar to an Irish burial.

Winch  A thing you grind till it squeals or groans.
Not to be confused with ‘wench’, which has a similar
definition.

Zephyr  Warm, pleasant breeze. Named after the
mythical Greek god of wishful thinking, false hopes, and
unreliable forecasts.