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NW Explorations Power Boat Training Description

PRE-BOARD & ARRIVAL IN BELLINGHAM

- “Welcome Aboard” the training vessel. Students will get familiarized with the boat’s basics and made comfortable.
- Welcome gathering to meet your instructors and other students.
- Dinner is on your own tonight.

DAY 1 - “LEARNING THE BASICS”

Introduction

- Engine room, seacocks, shaft logs, lazarette, oil fills, coolant fills, genset, cleats, chocks, davit, and dinghy.

Practice Docking the Boat & On the Deck

- Plan your work, the Skipper’s job, the Mate’s job, and communication.
- Momentum & inertia: setting up your approach, and why.
- Getting around the boat safely, mooring lines, fenders, throwing & coiling lines.
- Cleat hitches right and wrong, shore power cords.
- Docking practice, preparing lines & fenders, where mate will be.
- Using engines: how much control do we have? What do we do with the rudder(s)?

Trip Planning, Getting Underway & Anchoring

- Trip planning: depths, “passes”, rocks, tides, currents, and time/distance calculations.
- The “Blue Book”, checklists and important numbers on NWE vessels.
- More docking, getting away from the dock in the wind using lines & fenders.
- Travel to a bay for overnight anchor.
- Picking up mooring buoys, anchoring procedures, discussion of shore power and batteries.
- Time to explore, happy hour and dinner on board.
- Evening assignment: Plan trip to a local marina.

DAY 2 - “RUNNING THE BOAT!”

Pre-Trip Conversation

- How’s our trip planning? How’s our weather outlook? “Welcome aboard” talk.
- Checking the engine room: oil, coolant, bilges.

Underway

- Crew handles all routine operation while instructor points out sights and buoys, daymarks, guide book resources, tide rips, logs, keeps group relaxed and having fun, splits time at wheel and “navigating” into the “teams” of two (if number permits), using/learning Rules of the Road, radio communications, GPS, navigation gear use & discussion.

Upon arrival at marina

- Crew deals with radio, slip assignment, tie up, power connection, etc., securing boat, harbor office check in.
- Relaxed discussion about the day over refreshments before dinner.
- Free time to explore & dine. Dinner out in town.
- Overnight assignment: Prepare return route to Bellingham via different route.

DAY 3 - “PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER”

- After breakfast, we will review what we’ve learned.
- The “experienced” crew will work out any procedures as we prepare the boat for departure.
- We will be watching our crew leave the dock and get underway, navigate our course plan, deal with any hazards, practice crew overboard, anchoring, navigating, and have fun!
- We’ll secure the vessel in her slip, have lunch, discuss what we’ve learned, and receive certificates of accomplishment.