



Schooner Vocabulary

B

Baggywrinkle:

clumps of frayed rope that protect the sails from chaffing against the lines.

Boom:

free-swinging spar attached to the bottom edge of a sail, riding on the mast.

Bowsprit:

a long spar attached to the bow; used to attach sails which hang out over the ocean.

Bunk:

a sleeping berth.

C

Capstan:

the drum-like part of the windlass, which is a machine used for winding in rope, cables or chain connected to an anchor cargo.

Charley noble:

galley stove-pipe.

Crosstrees:

horizontal pieces of wood that cross the mast up high, acting as spreaders for the shrouds.

D

Davite:

small cranes, usually located aster, that are used to raise and lower smaller boats from the deck to the water.

Ditty bag:

a small bag for carrying or stowing all personal articles.

Dead-eyes:

blocks in the shroud rigging to adjust tension.

F

Fo'c'sle:

contraction of "fore castle" (fore= forward); the living quarters inside the hull of a ship.

Foremast:

the mast in the forepart of a vessel, nearest the bow.

Forepeak:

the crew's quarters, located in the bow.

Foresail:

the lowest square sail on the foremast.

Frames:

the wooden ribs that form the shape of the hull.

G

Gaff:

a free-swinging spar attached to the top of the sail.

Galley:

the kitchen of a ship.

H

Halyards:

lines used to haul up the sail and the wooden poles (boom and gaff) that hold the sails in place.

Hatch:

an opening in the deck for entering below.

Headsails:

any sail forward of the foremast.

Highliner:

the best of its type of fishing boat. Word originates from a time when the crew used to fish from the deck of a vessel. The best fisherman got the highest place on deck, up in the bow, so his line was the highest above the sea.

Hold:

the space for cargo below the deck of the ship (as in “fish hold”).

J**Jettison:**

to throw overboard.

Jib:

a triangular foresail in front of the foremast.

Jumbo:

the larger of the headsails.

K**Keel:**

the timber at the very bottom of the hull to which frames are attached.

Knockabout:

a type of schooner without a bowsprit.

L**Lazyjacks:**

lines from topping lifts to under boom which act as a net to catch the sails when lowered.

Lines:

ropes used for various purposes aboard a boat.

M**Mainmast:**

the tallest mast of the ship; on a schooner, the mast furthest aft.

Mainsail:

the lowest square sail on the mainmast.

Mast:

a large wooden pole used to hold up the sails.

P**Pay out:**

to feed line over the side of the boat, hand over hand.

Pilothouse:

a small cabin on the deck of the ship that protects the steering wheel and the crewman steering.

Planking:

wood boards that cover the frames outside the hull.

Q**Queen topsail:**

small stay sail located between the foremast and mainmast.

R**Rigging:**

the lines that hold up the masts and move the sails (standing and running rigging).

Rudder:

a fin or blade attached under the hull's stern used for steering.

S**Scuppers:**

holes through the ship sides which drain water at deck level over the side.

Sail:

a piece of cloth that catches the wind and so powers a vessel.

Sailing rig:

the equipment used to sail a boat, including sails, booms and gaffs, lines and blocks.

Schooner:

sailing ships with at least 2 masts (foremast and mainmast) with the mainmast being the taller. Word derives from the term "schoon/scoon" meaning to move smoothly and quickly. (a 3-masted vessel is called a "tern").

Sheet:

piece of line fastened to the sail and used to position relative to the wind.

Shroud:

a line or wire running from the top of the mast to the spreaders, then attaching to the side of the vessel.

Sole:

the inside deck of the ship.

Spar:

a pole or a beam.

Stay:

a line or wire from the mast to the bow or stern of a ship, for support of the mast (fore, back, running, and triadic stays).

Stay sail:

any sail attached to a stay.

Stem:

the timber at the very front of the bow.

T**Topmast:**

a second spar carried at the top of the fore or main mast, used to fly more sail.

Transom:

the planking that forms the stern and closes off the sides.

W**Wheel:**

device used for steering a boat.

Widow-maker:

a term for the bowsprit (many sailors lost their lives falling off the bowsprit while tending sails).

Y**Yankee:**

a fore-sail flying above and forward of the jib, usually seen on bowsprit vessels.

Yawl boat:

smaller powered boat used to provide steerage-way when not under sail.