

OFFSHORE CRUISING ONLINE COURSE

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You still have time to save 20% when you sign up for Offshore Cruising: Preparing Craft & Crew with code PILOTHOUSE20—but you have to act today!.

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Labels and blue tape are one of the organization secrets Jeff Merrill imparts in **Offshore Cruising: Preparing Craft & Crew**. “You don't know what is normal until you spend time learning and going all through your boat. As you become more familiar you understand the baselines and it is easier to tell if something is starting to deteriorate or fail,” Merrill says. One of the tricks that he recommends—particularly to new owners—involves going from bow to stern and mast to keel and identifying every component.

Boats are a different than houses and cars. You know how things work in a house. You turn on lights at the wall switch and have unlimited water at each sink. Boats have electrical panels with breakers to help conserve battery banks and they have water tanks that are quite limited. Which switch to flip or which valve to turn can be complicated. Start with a roll of blue tape and a sharpie, Merrill says, and make labels to remind you of the right way to do things. Eventually you might want to make some of these permanent with a label maker.

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