**JMYS Owner Operator Hands on Knowledge**

As the captain of your own yacht, you are responsible for the safety and well-being of all aboard. You should also realize the requirement for some basic Hands-On skills to keep your vessel operational. Most insurance underwriters require some essential skills for owners to be comfortable with. This is a simple summary of some important aspects you should be acquainted with:

**Ships papers and documentation**

USCG Document, Dinghy registration, personal papers for all crew members, etc.

**Rules of the road**

USCG navigation rules, buoys, lights, crossing situations (overtaking and bow to bow), etc.

**Weather**

How to use NOAA forecasts and other resources to anticipate conditions during your trip.

**Navigation**

Understanding of all navigation and communication equipment. How they are powered, how they are adjusted, set up for day mode and night mode, interactions between radar/plotter/autopilot, etc.

**Safety**

First aid, USCG requirements (flares, fire extinguishers, life jackets, etc.) life raft, EPIRB, abandon ship Ditch bag, etc. Fire suppression gear.

**Diesel engines**

Fuel management, supply and return valves. Racor filters. Belts and Impellers. Coolant. Through hulls and strainers. Oil filters, fuel filters.

**Electrical panel and breakers**

Correct operation, spare fuses, etc. Batteries, inverters, charges, alternators, generators.

**Bilge pumps**

Electric and manual

**Steering**

How your vessel is set up, interaction with autopilot. Hydraulics and air pressure. Emergency tiller?

**Black water / toilets**

Toilet repairs, legal discharge of waste. Tanks, through hulls and valves.

**Emergency procedures**

Man overboard, fire, hard grounding, think about all “worst case situations” and have a plan.

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