



Education Challenge

Best Classroom Suggestions

Get Best Practices into Every Classroom

**Make Our Classes So Good
EVERYONE Will Want to Take Them**

Revised 2026
Revised May 09, 2026

Mike Brough
Flotilla 24

© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com / Mike Brough

1




Keep the Class Interesting




- Tell Lots of Sea Stories
- Keep the Class on the Edge of Their Seats
 - Talk Softly & Mumble
 - Just Read the PowerPoints
- Read the Colregs for the Rules of the Road
 - Read The Instructor Notes To The Class
- OK - THESE ARE NOT “BEST PRACTICES” ...




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



Keep the Class Interesting For Real



- Use the Teaching Kit
- Use Teaching / Class Aids
- Rotate Instructors
- Borrow Instructors from other Flotillas
(Remember to Say Thank You!!)
- Division Sponsored / Multi-Flotilla / Non-
Instructor POC ...



© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



Marlinespike

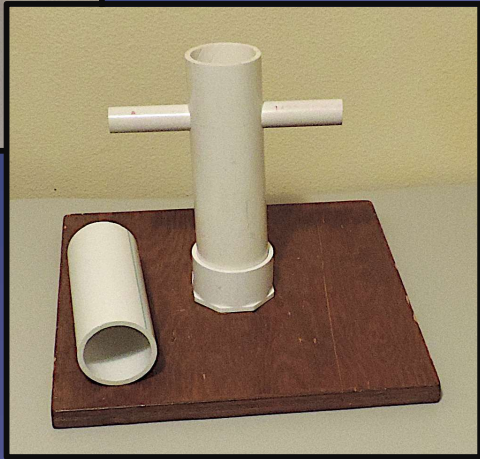


4

© 2008 – 2026 captmike.com



Sampson Post & Post



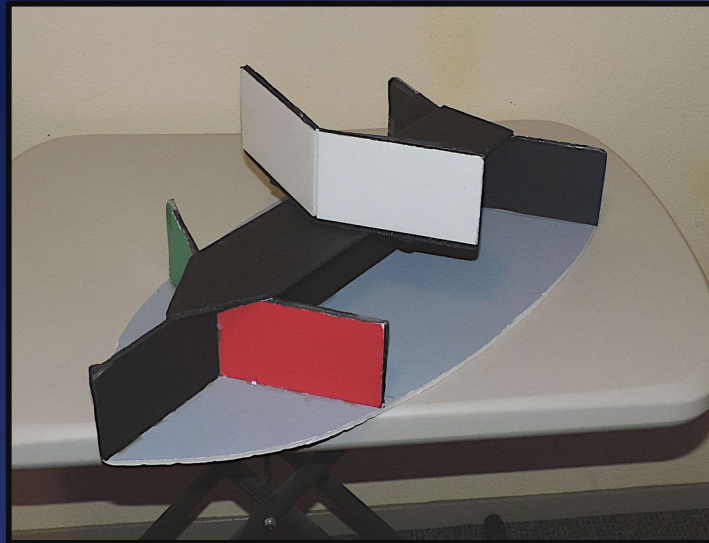
5

© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com





Navigation Lights



© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



Bull Rail – 36” Wide



© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



Lifeline – Clamp to Table




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




**Delta / Lewmar Bottle Opening Anchor
25 Inches Of Chain From Hardware
Store, Link Chain to Anchor, Six Feet Of
3/16-inch line, Backsplice To Chain,
Backsplice Bitter End ...**




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




More Keep the Class Interesting




- Use Your Best Instructors
- Use Every Instructor That Wants to Help
- If an Instructor Volunteers – USE THEM
- Use the Strengths of Your Instructors
- Use the Whole Flotilla...




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




Instructor Preparation




- Review the Material
- Practice speaking class material out loud
- Review the Material of the other Instructors
- Personalize the Instructor Guides
- Visit Other Classes - Borrow Good Ideas ...




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




Instructor Preparation




- **Gold Star Slides** you want to emphasize
- **Add / Revise Slides** for Problem Concepts
- **Check List of What to Bring to Class**
- **Set Items out the Night Before**
- **Chapter 3 Rules & ATONS**
Combined National & Local Slides
Added a few Slides
Doubled Instructor Notes ...




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




Instructor Preparation III




- **Have Backup Computer & Projector**
- **120v Extension Cord & Splitter**
- **Have The Class on a USB Stick**
- **USB Splitter**
- **HDMI Extension Cable**
- **Spare Dry Erase Markers (Markers in some rooms are dried out)...**




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




Customize the Power Points & Class to Your Area




- Columbia River
- Lake Union, Lake Washington
- VTS Lanes - Handouts
- Bridges
- Ballard Locks
One of the Best Free Shows in Town
Locks Handouts
Locking Through Class
Web Site With Videos...




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




Give Handouts With Local Knowledge




- Important Seattle Area Boating Information
- Lake Washington, Lake Union and Speed Zones
- Bridges in Seattle
- Visit: [//www.captnmike.com](http://www.captnmike.com)
- Make Your OWN Local Information ...




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com




Teach Other Classes




- Use ABS to Interest Students in other Classes
- 4 Hour Basic Navigation Class with Local Charts
- GPS For Mariners
- How to Read a Nautical Chart
- You Can Have A custom Local Class
- Intro To Rules Of The Road (See My One Page Summery With Test...




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



In the Classroom




- **Ration the Handouts**
One Set per Person or Family Whichever is Less
- **Extra Copies For: Friends, Relatives, Coworker**
- **Make Every Handout an Advertisement for Our Classes**
Sticker Identifying U.S. Coast Guard Aux
- **Give out Handouts and Supplies BEFORE the Class Starts...**




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com


17




In the Classroom II




- **Learn & Know the Students Names & Boats
What do they Want from the Class??**
- **Flow Smoothly –
Don't Stomp on Other Instructors**
- **Don't be a “Speed it Up Cowboy”**
- **Use a Wireless “Presenter”
Untether Yourself from the Keyboard...**




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



In the Classroom III




- **Put Laptop Between You and the Class**
- **Watch the Laptop NOT the Room Screen
DON'T Talk Over Your Shoulder**
- **PowerPoint Has Presenter Mode, Shows next Click & Instructor Notes**
- **Use PowerPoint Fake Laser Pointer if You Are Sitting at the Laptop**
- **Speak Up And Speak Clearly**
- **Listen To Yourself Especially If On A Mic...**




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com


19



In the Classroom IV




- **Quiz: Don't Read All The Answers – Read The Question Then Ask Class For The Answer THEN: Read Out Loud The Correct Answer**
- **Only Want The Students To Hear Correct Answers**
- **If There Is A Problem with A Question / Answer Discuss The Confusion**
- **FOLLOW The Material, DON'T Wander Around Confuses The Class & Blows The Timing...**




20


© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



In the Classroom IV




- **If A Slide Is Wrong / Inconvenient / Confusing
Fix The Slide And Pass The Information Along**
- **Don't go longer than One Hour Between Breaks
Even if The Break is Only Five Minutes, Students
Will Start To Fade and Some Need A Restroom
Break**
- **Some Groups Will Bring Coffee, Juice, Pastries
Etc. For The Class...**




© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com

21



Internal Feedback

- **Keep Track of Which Questions are Answered Wrong**
- **Why are Some Questions Always Missed??**
- **Do Instructor Critiques or Feedback**
- **Feedback Forms by Students**
- **REPORT THE HOURS
REPORT THE CLASS
DO THE 7030 FORM ...**



© 2008 – 2026 captnmike.com



**Do You Have a Good Idea?
Someone in Your Flotilla Have a helpful Tip?**



**Send Ideas & Pictures
To
Mike Brough
Flotilla 24
Seattle
mikeb @ zipcon.com
This Presentation (PPT & PDF)
2026-Revised-Best Practices-2026-04-23
More Information: //www.captnmike.com**



...

© 2008 – 2009 captnmike.com