



Education Challenge

Best Classroom Suggestions

Get Best Practices into Every Classroom

Make Our Classes So Good
EVERYONE Will Want to Take Them

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Flotilla 24



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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" ...



These are NOT the best practices, but they are common errors made by instructors

Go down the entire list with a straight face before letting the class in on the not the correct way to do things



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 ...



For tying knots in the front of a class (or at a public information booth)
Comes apart, place in front of the instructor facing the class
Two-inch PVC all slip joints except the sockets that are Hot-Glued into the base
CAUTION: the instructor will be tying the knots upside down and sort of backwards, so PRACTICE!!



Plain post and Samson Post for tying knots, Two-inch PVC, designed to come apart for ease of transport

The socket was Hot-Glued into the base

Put your favorite stain on the base, looks better and seems to reduce chip and splinters

Navigation Lights



The image shows a cardboard boat model on a table. The boat is white with a black hull. It has a white masthead light on top, a red light on the front, and a green light on the back. The boat is positioned on a white table. The background is a dark blue gradient with a US Coast Guard logo in the top left and a US Department of Homeland Security logo in the bottom left. The text 'Navigation Lights' is written in white at the top. The number '6' is in the bottom right corner. The copyright notice '© 2008 – 2026 captmike.com' is at the bottom center.

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Cardboard boat made out of Foam Core –
Angles match navigation lights on a boat
The white masthead light comes off to demonstrate an unpowered vessel / sailboat
Rotate the boat around so the class can see how the lights change



Bull Rail – 36” Wide





Fake lifeline – glued together with Hot-Melt for the base sockets

Needs to be clamped to a table, some type of different base or attachment could also be made for stability

Nice for demonstrating knots in a classroom, also works nice at a public education booth, the public likes to touch things

The horizontal silver rod is aluminum, it goes through the center stanchion but only through one side of the side stanchions, be careful when drilling the center stanchion to get the hole centered.



**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 ...**





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...

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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 ...



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 ...



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)...**





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...



Give Handouts With Local Knowledge

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



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...





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...**





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...**





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...





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...**



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...**



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 ...**



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



**Send Ideas & Pictures
To
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Seattle
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This Presentation (PPT & PDF)
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More Information: //www.captnmike.com**

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