

Welcome to Spinnaker Sailing - San Francisco

San Francisco Bay is a VERY demanding sailing environment. The combination of high winds (25-40+ knots); large ships (up to 12,000 transits under the Golden Gate each year); and fast moving currents (up to 6+ knots) make the Bay a sailor's dream, or to the uninitiated, a sailor's nightmare. Our rental policies are outlined below, complete with requisite certification. Anyone who feels confident about their sailing expertise is welcome to take a checkout test. This test includes both a two or three stage written exam and a on-the-water evaluation. The process takes usually about 5 hours and must be scheduled in advance.

Spinnaker Sailing Bareboat Rental Requirements

ASA Certification with documented experience and high wind endorsement required for bareboat rental. Important Note: Skippers must prove 24 hours of skippering experience annually to keep current. That means keep a record of all skippering experience. Otherwise, a check out test is necessary. Check outs may be scheduled on weekdays only. Skippers will be allowed to charter boats up to the size he/she is checked out on.

A.S.A. Basic Coastal Cruising - Boats up to 27 feet (with outboards & tillers)

A.S.A. Intermediate Coastal Cruising - Boats up to 32 feet

A.S.A. Advanced Coastal Cruising & Coastal Navigation - Boats up to 50 feet

Overnight Charters - A.S.A. ACC, Coastal Navigation Certification, and/or previous San Francisco Bay documented charters.

Sailing Knowledge (80% pass)

Gear and equipment

1. Identify and describe common parts and equipment.
2. List the "Federal equipment carriage requirements" for a 24' auxiliary powered sailboat.
3. Describe the most important reasons for keeping gear and equipment stowed in assigned places on a boat.
4. Describe different reefing configurations.

Safety

1. Describe purpose of a safety harness.
2. State the purpose of bow and stern pulpits and lifelines.
3. Describe federally required navigation lights on boats.
4. Describe the three stages of hypothermia and treatments for medium hypothermia.
5. Describe methods to reduce heat loss for 1) a person in the water and 2) a group of people in the water.
6. Describe how to prevent undue influences on the compass.
7. Identify the common sources of fire and/or explosion and understand methods for preventing such occurrences, as well as actions to be taken when they do.
8. Describe U.S.Coast Guard refueling precautions.
9. Describe a "diver's flag".
10. Describe the danger involved in setting off flares.
11. Apply the USCG Navigation Rules 11 through 17.
12. Describe actions to be taken during times of reduced visibility.
- 13 Identify the main responsibilities of the skipper and crew.

Seamanship

1. Describe the correct sail combinations to carry under various wind and sea conditions.
2. Describe three dangers of a lee shore.
3. Read and interpret nautical charts and symbols.
4. Describe a good anchorage and suitable anchoring techniques.
5. Describe the immediate action to be taken in emergency situations.
6. Describe common uses of the basic knots.
7. Use of the tide and current tables.
8. Interpret Marine weather forecasts and apply that information to the sailing plans.

Sailing Skills (100% pass)

Systems checkout

1. Check that all systems and equipment on the boat are in working order: engine, electrical system, stove, electronics, sails, hull, deck hardware, ground tackle, and through hulls and demonstrate knowledge of safety relating to them.
2. Perform engine check prior to starting the engine including oil, transmission & coolant.
3. Demonstrate basic use of the VHF radio and emergency procedures.
4. Demonstrate proper use of the marine head and knowledge of holding tank and thru-hull use.
5. Demonstrate proper use of the marine stove.
6. Troubleshooting: What If?

Boat handling under power

1. Maneuver the boat in a confined space.
2. Come to a full stop with the bow one half boatlength away from a given mark.
3. Back & Fill
4. Exit and return to dock.

Boat handling under sail

1. Function as skipper and crew giving correct commands and proper responses while demonstrating control and sail trim on all points of sail and while tacking and gybing.
2. Heave to, reduce main and jib sails by reefing and shake out reef.
3. Proper use of furling system and operation
4. Person overboard drill: demonstrate a skippers actions and commands, perform the figure eight maneuver. Minimum requirements include alertness, life ring marking, lookout, slow, controlled approach and crew control.
5. Demonstrate appropriate actions regarding USCG Navigation rules 11 through 17.

Ashore skills

1. Secure boat to dock limiting movement and set out fenders.
2. Clean up and put the boat away properly.
3. Knots: Bowline, Clove hitch, Reef Knot, Figure eight, Cleat hitch, Round turn and two half hitches.