

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

By Richard Sorokin

Books have been with us since the clay tablets of the Tigris Valley, the papyrus scrolls of Egypt and the paper of China. Books were and are our way to store information. Computers are just now replacing them.

I have my nautical library of books that I would like to share with you. I'm going to present them in the order that I discovered them.

- *Sea Explorer Manual*. I was sixteen when I joined the Sea Scouts. This book has so many offerings. History of the sea, Evolution of ships, Marlinspike Seamanship, riggings, ground tackle, piloting, navigation, Morse code, flag signals and so forth.
- *American Practical Navigator*, by Nathaniel Bowditch (1773-1838)
Bowditch made navigation a science. Up to his time it was a hit or miss situation. I'm talking about the rocks. Most of the charts and tables used were wrong and had to be corrected. He did this and set up the old method of celestial navigation. His book explains it all but is very difficult. As a reference book it's great. The location of all major cities world wide is in the book. You can set your GPS up with the lat. and long. Before hand and watch your progress at sea.
- *Bowditch for Yachtsmen: Piloting by Nathaniel Bowditch*. This book details the most useful piloting information from the old text concentrating solely on information that will be useful to skippers of small vessels, sail or power.
- *Longitude* by Dava Sobel. The true story of a lone genius who solved the greatest scientific problem of his time, longitude. The story of the clock that made navigation work.
- *Simplified Celestial Navigation* by Maxwell Kelch. The best book on celestial navigation. You can really understand it. It uses the new system of yearly texts and the horizon system. New in 1975. I recommend it highly to those who still want to shoot the stars.

For those interested in sailing I use *Sailing Fundamentals* by Gary Jobson and the *Complete Book of Sailing* by Peter Cook and Barbara Webb. There are a lot of books on sailing many are excellent. For those interested in sail boat racing there is only one Book. *Paul Elvstrom explains ...the yacht racing rules.* (the best).

Other books on boating:

- *A Dictionary for Yachtsmen* by Francis H. Burgess
- *Men Ships and the Sea* by Captain Alan Villiers
- *Ships and the Sea, The Oxford Companion* by Peter Kemp (All your ever will want to know about the sea and never dared to ask).
- *Modern Seamanship* by Austin M. Knight {1941} interesting
- For Knot tying I use *The Boy Scout Manual*, *The Sea Scout Manual* and for really fancy stuff *The Marlinspike Sailor* by Herver Garrett Smith
- *Navigation Rules*, U.S. Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard

Last but not the least for I keep three copies of this text: *Chapman / Piloting Seamanship & Small Boat Handling* -This is the best general text on small boating. A must on all yachts! It covers everything.

There are many other books out there Many are excellent. The information you need to be a competent mariner is vast. Having a good reference library can help.