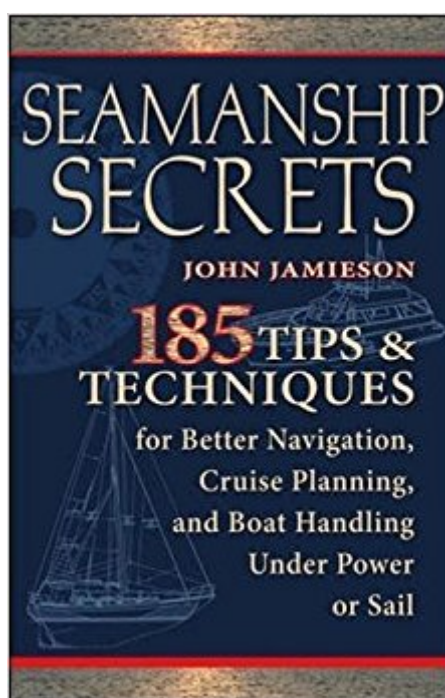


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# Seamanship Secrets: 185 Tips & Techniques For Better Navigation, Cruise Planning, And Boat Handling Under Power Or Sail (International Marine-RMP)



## Synopsis

"Secrets' is the modern Bowditch, written so clearly that navigation and seamanship will be comprehensible to anyone . . ."-- Dave and Jaja Martin, circumnavigators and authors of *Into the Light: A Family's Epic Journey* "It's a great book. The prose is simple and clear . . ." --John Vigor, author of *The Seaworthy Offshore Sailboat* "The nautical tips and techniques presented are encyclopedic, yet the clear explanations demystify the topics . . ."-- Don Launer, contributing editor for *Good Old Boat* magazine "It is a fine piece of work and should be read by anyone contemplating coastal cruising or blue water voyages. It definitely deserves a place in the offshore yacht's library . . ."--Ted Brewer, yacht designer, author, and offshore racing and cruising sailor *Be a Better Skipper* In the night, wind, rain, fog, big seas, strong currents, or congested waters, when there's no time for textbook seamanship solutions, what you need are shortcuts and techniques that work quickly and reliably every time. Distilled from the vast accumulated lore of seamanship and navigation, here are the absolute essentials--185 techniques that work without fail in the pilothouse or the exposed cockpit or flying bridge of a shorthanded sail- or powerboat. John Jamieson shows you how to: Set up a clipboard chart table for cockpit use Avoid hazards with danger bearings or a GPS grid highway Estimate current speeds with the 50-90-100 rule Track other boats in poor visibility using radar plots and bearing drift Sail home without a rudder or get your twin-screw boat home on one working engine Dock or anchor under any conditions And much, much more Even in this age of electronic navigation you need to know how to eyeball your boat through any situation. Each of the techniques in this cut-to-the-chase book has shown itself to be absolutely repeatable. It will work this time, the next time, and the time after that, in conditions fair or foul.

## Book Information

Series: International Marine-RMP

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press; 1 edition (May 14, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0071605789

ISBN-13: 978-0071605786

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #121,404 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in Books > Sports & Outdoors

> Outdoor Recreation > Boating #84 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing #201 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports

## Customer Reviews

John Jamieson served 23 years in the U.S. Coast Guard as a navigator, instructor, search-and-rescue coxswain, and shipâ™s conning officer. He has taught seamanship and navigation for the coast gaurd and navy and helped coordinate search-and-rescue missions from the California-Oregon border to the Yucatan Peninsula, out to 1,000 miles offshore. A nationally certified sailing instructor, he has sailed singlehanded for 13 years and has delivered sailing vessels along the U.S. East Coast. He holds master and mate licenses for power and sail and directed the seamanship and chart navigation department of the internationally renowned Charles F. Chapman School of Seamanship in Stuart, Florida. Visit his website at [www.skippertips.com](http://www.skippertips.com).

This is a good book -- well enough written, engaging and thoroughly informative across a broad range of boating-related areas. I'd be willing to wager that any reader will learn at least one new idea, trick or technique. Definitely worth reading, if you care about your boating skills and safety... and you should! That said, there aren't really many "secrets" or "tricks" here. If you're a boater and this book winds up being cover-to-cover new information to you, you never should have been on the water in the first place -- and you should thank your lucky stars you ever managed to return to port. The idea that I may be sharing the water with someone who doesn't know most of what's contained in this book is rather uncomfortable. Maybe I know more than I like to think I do, but there really wasn't much new information here; in fact, I would suggest this book as a good first read for someone considering taking the giant plunge that is "buying a boat." Bottom line, buy this book and enjoy reading it. Learning something new and useful is -always- a good thing, and reinforcing what you already understood is not the worst idea in the world. However, don't expect 185 "A HA!" moments; figure on maybe five or six, unless you're a newb. If you *\*are\** a newb (or considering becoming one), buy this book and enjoy a good, approachable (if a bit information-dense) introduction to nearly every aspect of boating. Feel free to skip the section on sextants, though, until you're ready to cross a sea. : )

This is a great book for a beginning sailor or motor boater, providing an easily read and accessed reference of basic boating skills and some less than basic "secrets" to effective seamanship. Sure, the other more established and well known references such as Chapman's "Piloting and

Seamanship" and Rousmaniere's "The Annapolis Book of Seamanship" are more comprehensive and complete, but they're HUGE volumes that are not easy to keep aboard for quick reference. This author clearly knows his stuff (having been a captain and in USCG for many years) and provides a number of hints and instruction that will help a beginner gain needed boating skills quickly while still providing some new information for more seasoned sailors.

Very enjoyable easy read.. A lot of good information and a good book to have and keep on the boat...

Very practical information, well worth the money. Five star book except that the organization of the book seems to me considerably disjointed. Also, here and there the author describes a procedure assuming the reader has on hand certain information or understanding that he may or may not have.

even seasoned sailors can pick up some pointers, but a good reference for all.

Really not much in the book that could be considered a secret. If you have been sailing for a while or voyaging in a powerboat there is not much in here that you would not already know. If you are brand new to boating then you would probably learn something.

As a maritime professional, I found this work to be thoroughly researched and well put together by an author who has a resume to back it all up. His presentation to the reader is very straightforward and is very easy to understand. The techniques contained in this book are solid and very easy to apply.....in fact, I'd be willing to bet that it contains more than the 185 tips indicated by the title! I believe this book is very well suited for someone who has some experience on the water and is looking to fine tune his/her skills. It will also enable the more seasoned veteran to brush up on a few areas. Because it contains quite a bit of jargon that may be quite foreign to a novice mariner, I would not necessarily recommend the book for someone who has never before stepped foot onto a boat. I cannot agree more with the author's assessment of the Florida Straits: Given the tremendous volume of fast-moving deep draft cargo vessels, cruise ships, tugs & tows, commercial fishing vessels, and an absolute deluge of recreational vessels, the "Straits" presents a very unique challenge for mariners of all experience levels. I only had a few issues with the entire work. First, on page 148, the author demonstrates a poor interpretation of the nautical rules of the road when he

discusses an overtaking situation between a sailboat and a large supertanker. Basically, the author's guidance is for the sailing vessel being overtaken to quickly maneuver to allow the supertanker to pass. According to the rules, the sailboat is under no obligation to keep clear or alter course (unless operating in a narrow channel or traffic separation scheme, which it is not). In fact, the rules state that the vessel being overtaken shall maintain course and speed. It is the responsibility of the overtaking vessel to keep clear. I believe the point the author was trying to make is that any action one takes to avoid collision needs to be early and substantial....waiting until the last minute is not going to cut it, especially when dealing with another vessel traveling at a high rate of speed. Despite his intentions, the author should have more clearly dissected the situation and discussed each vessel's responsibility to avoid collision. Second, I wish the author had discussed more alongside boat handling techniques and more about forces acting upon boats. I understand this book was not written solely for the purpose of discussing boat handling; however, because boat docking presents one of the toughest challenges for recreational boaters (and seasoned professionals for that matter), I feel the topic warranted a little more discussion than it did in the book. For readers interested in more boat handling techniques, I recommend "Boat Docking" by Charles T. Low. Despite these two small bits of feedback, I believe the work done by the author is truly outstanding. I highly recommend this work for all intermediate to advanced mariners. I will be purchasing another copy of this book for my wife's grandfather who is an avid boater.

I wholeheartedly recommend this book. Not only does it fulfill the promise of give you very actionable strategies to become a better mariner; it also does it with such elegance that it helps with better understand basic and advanced concepts. If you want to improve your seamanship this one is a must. I'd only hope it was more graphically intensive.

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