

Anchoring Basics  
Lake Pleasant Sailing Club  
April 25, 2015  
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1. Going to cover the basics, what we will encounter at Lake Pleasant.
  - a. If you are going cruising or are dealing with something larger than 30 ft. you have a lot more to know than we will cover here
2. Types of anchors – the basics
  - a. Fluke (lightweight, Danforth, etc.) – good for sand, mud, bad rocks or weeds
  - b. Plow and Scoop - Rocna, CQR, Delta, Bruce, and Claw – best all-around holding in varying conditions
  - c. Manson Supreme is getting good press
  - d. Carry two of different type
    - i. Back up, bow and stern, different bottoms
3. Ground tackle – what is it?
  - a. Your anchor, shackles, chain, rode, swivels, windless, etc.
4. How much should you carry
  - a. Lake pleasant 25-30 foot boat
  - b. Rode
    - i. 150 -200 feet total
    - ii. ½ boat length in chain, rest three strand nylon
    - iii. Why three strand nylon?
    - iv. 3/8 good rode size
    - v. West Marine has some good sizing charts
  - c. Anchor
    - i. 13 lb. for 25-30 footer
  - d. Anchor to chain
    - i. Shackle or swivel – with stainless wire wrap
    - ii. Chain to rode – braided
  - e. Expensive, ground tackle for a 25 foot boat at Pleasant is about \$200-250.
5. Scope
  - a. 4-7:1
  - b. How measure?
    - i. Bow roller to bottom times scope multiple
    - ii. Allow for tides
  - c. Expecting heavy weather
    - i. Two anchors
    - ii. More scope
6. Setting anchor
  - a. Under motor
    - i. Drop sails start motor, make ready anchor and flake rode on deck
    - ii. Assure bitter end tied off
    - iii. Consider scope as to location
    - iv. Consider other anchored boats (bow, stern, two anchors with no swing, etc.), anticipate wind direction during time at anchor
    - v. Motor slowly up to drop point, 1-2 knots into the wind
    - vi. Engine in neutral bump reverse to stop momentum
    - vii. Anchor away
    - viii. Feel when it hits bottom

- ix. Back slowly playing out rode
  - x. Snug a couple times to keep rode off bottom (trees underwater at Pleasant) and begin set
  - xi. When desired rode out cleat the rode, back  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  throttle to set anchor
  - xii. Sight a spot laterally on shore to determine later if you are drifting
  - xiii. Rode initially should be taunt
  - b. Under sail
  - c. Approach on a close reach, and luff up 2-3 boat lengths downwind of the drop point, back wind the main to stop momentum, then drop
7. Communicate!
- a. Couples worst moments
    - i. Yelling not necessary
    - ii. Old guys can't hear (gals too)
    - iii. Use hand signals for forward, stop, back, anchor away, anchor on bottom, anchor up, etc.
8. Retrieving the anchor
- a. Under power
    - i. Start motor
    - ii. Forward 1-2 knots
    - iii. Retrieve rode flake neatly on deck
    - iv. When vertical signal for neutral
    - v. Clean mud before bringing on deck (works at Pleasant)
  - b. Under sail
    - i. You are into the wind generally
    - ii. Bend on Main, Jib
    - iii. They will luff
    - iv. Pull the boat forward as you retrieve the rode (doesn't work on big boats!)
    - v. Try to stay into the wind while you quickly get anchor on deck
    - vi. Backwind the jib to bear off and get underway.
9. Bow and stern?
- a. North south alignment at Pleasant
  - b. Generally, wind will be from north overnight
  - c. Raft ups are most often set North South
  - d. If alone, one anchor is generally good
  - e. If you want bow stern
    - i. Set the bow, let out twice as much rode as necessary
    - ii. Drop stern, pull forward till equidistance between two anchors
    - iii. Alternatively, set bow
    - iv. Use dink to row or motor out stern anchor.
10. Other hints
- a. Store your rode, chain and anchor in a 5 gallon bucket – works great
  - b. But a cheap anchor or used one for Pleasant odds are about 1 in 10 you will lose your anchor to the tree gods.
  - c. Estimating depth – Honeymoon, Porta Potty probably estimating 30-40 feet is a good guess on depth.
  - d. There are neat anchor alarms on iPhone and Android devices
  - e. Chart plotters have anchor alarms
  - f. Sleep well, it will hold!