



Vessel Orientation Program Overview

VESSEL ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Know Your Boat. Set It Up Correctly. Become a Capable Owner.

Buying the boat is only the beginning.

Once the keys are handed over, many new owners are left trying to figure out an unfamiliar vessel on their own. They inherit equipment they did not choose, systems they may not understand, incomplete maintenance records, disorganized storage, unknown spare parts, and a long list of products someone says they need to buy.

The Vessel Orientation Program gives you a structured path to go from new boat owner to informed vessel operator.

Shipshape Society works with you aboard your actual vessel to help you understand what you own, organize it properly, establish practical operating procedures, and build the systems needed to manage the boat confidently over the long term.

WHO THE PROGRAM IS FOR

The Vessel Orientation Program is designed for:

- First-time boat owners
- Owners who recently purchased an unfamiliar vessel
- Sailboat and powerboat owners who want to understand their onboard systems
- Owners preparing for cruising, extended travel, or liveaboard use
- Owners dealing with clutter, incomplete records, unknown equipment, or deferred maintenance
- Anyone who wants a clear ownership system instead of learning everything through expensive mistakes

THE NEW-OWNER PROBLEM

Most boats do not come with a complete operating system for the next owner.

You may receive manuals, maintenance records, loose equipment, spare parts, tools, safety gear, and years of accumulated supplies—but no clear explanation of what matters, what works, what is missing, or how everything should be managed.

Without a structured orientation, new owners commonly:

- Buy equipment they do not need
- Miss important safety or maintenance items
- Struggle to locate tools, spares, and emergency gear

- Operate systems without fully understanding them
- Lose track of service intervals and recurring tasks
- Depend on outside help for problems they should be able to recognize
- Spend months or years trying to develop an ownership system through trial and error

The Vessel Orientation Program replaces that confusion with a deliberate, vessel-specific process.

WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERS

The program is organized around five major phases of vessel ownership.

PHASE 1 — RESET THE VESSEL

We establish a clean and accessible starting point.

This includes reviewing what is currently aboard, cleaning and opening up important spaces, organizing storage, cataloging equipment, and creating a known baseline for the vessel.

PHASE 2 — EQUIP THE VESSEL

We determine what the boat actually needs based on the vessel, its existing equipment, and how you intend to use it.

This may include tools, spare parts, safety equipment, emergency supplies, docking and anchoring gear, cleaning products, auxiliary equipment, and other ownership essentials.

The objective is not to fill the boat with products. It is to build a practical, vessel-specific equipment system without unnecessary purchases.

PHASE 3 — UNDERSTAND THE VESSEL

You are guided through the major systems aboard your boat in straightforward language.

Depending on the vessel, this may include:

- Shore-power and onboard electrical systems
- Batteries and charging equipment
- Fuel and propulsion systems
- Freshwater and sanitation systems
- Bilge and drainage systems
- Steering and control systems
- Anchoring and ground tackle
- Safety and emergency systems
- Sailboat- or powerboat-specific equipment

The focus is understanding what the systems do, how they are normally operated, what conditions should concern you, and when professional service is required.

PHASE 4 — OPERATE THE VESSEL

We develop practical procedures for using and managing the boat.

This may include:

- Arrival and departure procedures
- Startup and shutdown sequences
- Dock-line and fender setup
- Boarding and marina workflow
- Crew communication and responsibilities
- Safety and emergency procedures
- Routine system checks

- Vessel-specific operating checklists

PHASE 5 — MAINTAIN THE VESSEL

We build the documentation and recurring ownership systems needed to keep the boat under control.

This may include:

- Vessel inventory
- Spare-parts inventory
- Maintenance records
- Maintenance schedules
- Tank and pump-out tracking
- Equipment and system labeling
- Owner's binder organization
- Vessel diagrams and reference documents
- Seasonal and annual task planning

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Unlimited guided vessel-orientation support
- Unlimited scheduled meetings throughout the program
- Vessel-specific setup and ownership guidance
- Guided onboard video walkthroughs
- Complete vessel supply and equipment reference list
- Toolkit and spare-parts planning
- Safety-equipment review and organization
- Vessel inventory and spare-parts templates
- Maintenance and tracking-log templates
- Owner's binder organization
- Operating procedures and checklists
- Major onboard systems orientation

- Ongoing questions and consulting as the vessel is organized and documented
 - Access to Shipshape Society as an ownership resource after the program
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HOW IT WORKS

1. APPLY OR BOOK A CONSULTATION

Tell us about your vessel, experience, current concerns, and ownership goals.

2. COMPLETE THE INITIAL ORIENTATION

We review the vessel, available records, known equipment, outstanding work, and how you intend to use the boat.

3. WORK THROUGH THE FIVE PROGRAM PHASES

You complete the process aboard your vessel with guidance, scheduled meetings, templates, reference materials, and clearly defined assignments.

4. BUILD YOUR VESSEL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

As the program progresses, your boat becomes organized, documented, equipped, and easier to operate and maintain.

5. CONTINUE WITH LONG-TERM OWNERSHIP SUPPORT

The program is designed to establish the foundation, but Shipshape Society remains a source of practical education, resources, and support throughout your ownership journey.

THE RESULT

By the end of the Vessel Orientation Program, you should have:

- A cleaner and more organized vessel
- A clear understanding of the boat's major systems
- Essential equipment selected for your actual needs
- Tools and spare parts organized and accessible
- Maintenance records and schedules in place
- Practical procedures for operating and securing the vessel
- Greater awareness of developing problems and maintenance needs
- More confidence making ownership decisions
- A repeatable system for managing the boat over time

You will not know everything—and no responsible professional should promise that you will.

You will, however, understand your vessel far better, know where important equipment is located, recognize more of what you are looking at, and have a clear system for continuing to build your knowledge.

TURN YOUR BOAT INTO A VESSEL YOU ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND

Do not spend the first years of ownership guessing your way through the boat.

Apply for the Vessel Orientation Program and begin building the knowledge, organization, procedures, and ownership systems needed to manage your vessel with confidence.

PROGRAM PRICING

The Vessel Orientation Program is priced at \$50 per foot of vessel length.

Pricing examples:

- 30-foot vessel — \$1,500
- 40-foot vessel — \$2,000
- 50-foot vessel — \$2,500

APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM

<https://www.shipshapesociety.com/book?e=vessel-orientation-program-application>