



## U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY LAKE NORMAN

### Wind Sense~

"To know the laws that govern the winds, and to know that you know them, will give you an easy mind... Otherwise you may tremble at the appearance of every cloud." - Joshua Slocum

No matter how experienced of a boater you are, wind can pose a threat at any time in any type of weather. Simply said, you need to know from where and how strong the wind is blowing. An old Irish saying says a man's best friend and worst enemies are fire, rain and wind. To better understand the laws that govern it, less of a mystery the wind will be.

Winds are named from which they blow. A wind blowing from the north toward the south is a north wind. Clues to the wind can be seen on the water's surface. Ripples on the surface show the winds current direction where larger waves could have been generated hours ago by a distant force. Leaves being blown or boats being moored are easy and simple clues to the direction of the wind. Install a flag on your vessel for a simple indicator of the wind. If you are truly up for sensing the wind, face the wind and slowly turn your head from side to side noting the change in sensation on your ears. The slightest bit of draft creates turbulence, position your head with equal turbulence or noise on each ear this indicating the direction of the wind blowing.

Let's quickly discuss a few terms that may blow across you while operating on the water:

Windward~ Indicates anything upwind of you.

Leeward~ indicates anything downwind of you.

Weather/Lee Shore~ a weather shore gives protection from the wind, but a weather side of a vessel is exposed to it. On the contrary, a Lee shore is directly exposed to the gale winds.

Where ever the wind may blow you, be sure to do so safely. In these summer months weather can change quickly. To read more about wind and weather visit our website at [www.cgauxlkn.com](http://www.cgauxlkn.com)