



Cruising Meeting 6 October 2021

Tying up in the Pond

Hosts: JT, Richard Lawson

Participants: Amanda Hicks, Kellie Martin, Genevieve Slattery, Greg Scragg, James Litten.



Approach to Pond

Test your propellor, does it turn clockwise or anti clockwise? When you reverse, the stern will pull to port or starboard depending on which way the prop turns. It is much easier to tie up on the same side as the stern pulls to.

Approach at an angle of 30 degrees, establish where you intend to moor, slow down - there are no brakes! Hit reverse, turn the helm to dock, it's fine to moor bow to bow with the next boat unless there are strong winds in which case you should moor bow into the wind Come to within 1m, turn bow away, reverse, the boat will move sideways, wait till boat comes parallel.

Fenders & lines

Attach three fenders with a clove hitch on the rail, they should hang just above water line
There are no dockside lines at RSYs, so you must set your own mooring and spring lines.

Mooring lines should be springy, nylon or laid ropes, about 7m long.

Attach mooring lines to your bow & stern (breast lines): Start at the dockside end of the line and work back. Secure the line to your deck cleat with a full loop then two figures of eight. DO NOT secure with a final twist and lock, as in strong wind, it can tighten and be impossible to undo in a hurry. Feed the line out and under the safety rail back over the rail into the boat. Make three coils (equates to about 3m) and transfer to your throwing arm. Lay out the remainder on the deck, do not coil, ready to throw.

Spring lines should be firm and stiff, at least 8m long Cleat off near the bow and stern and fasten to the dock such that the bow spring cleats off the dock near the stern and the stern spring near the bow.



In tidal areas or where there's traffic and wash, if you moor at high tide, ensure plenty of slack in your breast lines to cater for low tide.
Better to tighten your spring lines, not the mooring lines.

Throwing lines

Don't throw too soon, wait till boat comes parallel about 1m away.
Throw bow mooring line first, throw under arm to person on the dock, aim to one side, not at their head, they can collect it from the ground.
Wait on the stern line until dock person ready.

Receiving a line

Tie an incoming boat to the horn cleat ahead of them. Do a complete turn, two figures of eight, then a full turn, but no locking hitch.

If approaching the Pond in a strong nor'easter, you can be blown off the dock. Brief crew, get your best thrower at the bow to throw the line as the bow comes in closest to the dock and have a second crew member ready at midships to throw the stern line quickly, the bow will come in itself. Practice on a quiet day at a mooring, build your confidence.

When leaving the Pond, you can double up on your mooring lines so you can stay aboard.
If the wind is blowing you onto the dock, you can leave a spring line on and slowly motor forward / reverse as necessary to "spring off".

Richard's top tip for a westerly

On the outer arm, use a short spring, put a fender at one end, remove all lines, on lee shore, motor forward against the short line, be patient, centre the helm, the prop will work the boat, then drive the stern around and away from dock

Key take aways:

Prepare mooring lines and fenders well before approaching dock.
Brief your crew so they know what you want them to do and they know how to throw a line.
Know how your boat behaves in reverse and practise on a quiet day.