

Transatlantic with Street

Learn from the hard won experience of Don Street, author of the "Ocean Sailing Yacht", the "Caribbean Cruising Guides" & "Imray-lolaire" charts and the only skipper to achieve 9 Transatlantics purely under sail. Charts, rig plans and pilotage advice provide a unique reference for skippers wanting to make safe long distance passages without relying on the engine.

Crossing an ocean under sail is the ultimate achievement for many cruising sailors. But making the necessary time is difficult and the reality often surprises the coastal skipper. This "fly on the wall" documentary aims to help you decide if ocean cruising might be for you.

Nothing was staged as the camera closely observed the ups and downs of the crossing from Ireland to Antigua in Don's 44' engineless yawl. All the paying crew joined to pursue a dream but most were dismayed to discover ocean sailing wasn't for them and abandoned the voyage early on. The aim of this film is to help you make your own decision for the right reasons and avoid disappointment.

So please join our 5,000 mile classic Trade Wind passage with visits to 11 ocean islands on the way to a Caribbean Christmas. Our first landfall is just beyond Cape Finisterre. Fogbound in Shipping Lanes with only an old RDF to help us, our situation is not ideal, but we make it into Vigo safely.

Freshly stored but one crew member down, its 800 miles out across the ocean to the tiny island of Porto Santo, our first stop in the Madeira archipelago. En route to the Canaries, we experience the haunting isolation of the Salvage Islands, an ocean graveyard for the unwary.

The Trade Winds fill in at 20 N. and give us an easy reach to the Third World of the Cape Verdes. From there its 2100 miles downwind to Antigua with whales alongside 3 days in a row. Its a very fast 14 day passage, water has to be rationed, we're hand pumping a thousand gallons a day but we just make it to Antigua in time for Christmas.

Before the ARC and GPS, it was sextant, DR and basic RDF. A transatlantic passage was a real adventure. There were no Guides to any of the island groups, it was truly a voyage into the unknown.

a Master Class in ocean passages under sail



Sailors' Knots Line handling & throwing

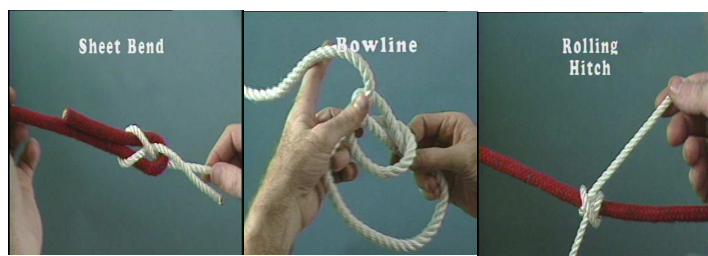
In Street's opinion this is his most important DVD, particularly for those who aspire to become a competent crew member. Every experienced skipper knows how bad line handling and throwing can ruin a good landing while a good line handler can often bail out a bad landing. In fact Street advises skippers to encourage any new crew to study this DVD before they come aboard.

Don not only teaches the knots but also explains their application so you'll be in no doubt when and how to use them. He shows tying each knot at normal speed and then goes to slow motion close-ups which make it much easier to follow than static diagrams on a page. As a context, Don also shows how he actually uses the knots aboard "lolaire" his famous 46' engineless yawl.

As well as Don's 8 basic knots, Don also teaches advanced ones such as the rolling hitch, fisherman's bend and tow-boat hitch. But that's not all: you also learn about sail stops, halyards, repairing chafed ropes, line handling and, most important, the correct way to throw docklines.

DVD is an ideal teaching medium for practical skills. Together with Don's exceptional experience and down to earth style, this is the easy way to learn what can be a difficult subject. In fact, Don can teach you how to tie all the sailors' knots you'll ever need - in only sixty minutes.

Don considers this his most important DVD for aspiring competent crew



- docking • chafe gear • snubber lines
- running aground • knots and whipping
- sail repair • mainsail furlers • cruising with kids • Grenadines • kneeling & rum!

Back in the 90s Don's "Streetwise" tips were so well liked that during winter months when boats were laid up and Yacht Clubs were having parties for their bored members, a number of yacht clubs had "Street look-a-like" contests. Some even had "Street talk-a-like" contests as his gravelly voice is very distinctive. In the Caribbean, the old timers called him "Squeaky".

Don has well over fifty years of offshore sailing experience, much of it on his 46' engineless yawl "lolaire" built 1905. With no less than twelve transatlantics and almost forty trips between the Caribbean and the States, Street's seamanship is second to none. Cruising, racing, exploring and writing about the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and northern Europe, has given Don tons of good solid information that is timeless in its relevance.

In this DVD Street's tips cover single line docking, chafing gear, snubber lines and getting off once you're aground. In addition the disk includes Don's advice on knots, whipping (both simple and sewn-on), stitching sails, mainsail furling systems, kneeling when working on deck to increase your safety and sailing with kids. You also join Street on a cruise through the Grenadines. While cruising the windward side of Carriacou he picks up a bottle of "Jack Iron". In one of the funnier scenes to be found in a sailing DVD, Don shows how ice cubes float in Mt. Gay rum, but sink like stones in Carriacou Jack Iron rum. Don rounds off the demonstration by taking a slug of Jack Iron which literally brings tears to his eyes!

