

# Operating the Ernie Coleman

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## Safety

1. PFDs are in bags in cabin forepeak on shelf forward of navy-blue canvas flag holder.
2. First-Aid kit is in cabin forepeak on starboard bunk.
3. Flares and emergency signaling devices are in the forepeak on the starboard bunk and on the forward side of the port seat.
4. Throwable ring is located on the starboard side aft of the helm seat.
5. Fire extinguishers are located:
  - a. At helm station.
  - b. On the forward side of port seat
6. Emergency boarding ladder is in port side seat locker.
7. Towing line is in port side seat locker.

## Start Up

1. Obtain key from key rack in furnace room.
2. Turn on battery power.
  - a. Lift large hatch in center of cockpit sole
  - b. Red battery switch is located in the forward part of locker.
  - c. Turn red switch from Off to 1+2
3. Open canvas "door".
  - a. Unzip both sides. Don't unzip completely to top. You will find it easier to zip it back down if you don't.
  - b. It's easier to roll up canvas door with two people. Snap straps to secure.
4. Open companionway door.
  - a. Take off vinyl scrap. Lift off aluminum hatch.
  - b. Open door. It sticks. Secure door with hook latch.
5. Open forepeak hatch.
6. Remove vinyl scrap from instrument panel.
7. Run blower for about 3-5 minutes before EVERY time you start engine.
8. Start engine.
  - a. Turn the key part way- it will beep for a few seconds. That is the fuel injection system feeding fuel to the engine.
  - b. After beeping stops, turn the key all of the way to start engine.
  - c. Allow engine to warm up 2-3 minutes.
  - d. Turn off blower.
9. There are separate controls for transmission (Forward, Neutral, Reverse) and throttle.
  - a. Throttle all the way down before shifting.
  - b. Neutral may be hard to engage. Carefully check when engaging neutral.
10. Turn on VHF radio. Ensure channel is set to dual scan 16/71.
11. Turn on Chart plotter on the device. See chart plotter instructions for operation.
12. Cast off **ALL** dock lines. Leave lines at dock.
  - a. Crewmember on bow to handle two bow dock lines.
  - b. Crewmember to handle port spring line at midship cleat.

- c. Crewmember to handle two stern dock lines.
13. Backing out of slip:
  - a. Pay attention to boats underway on the river and exiting the GYC docks.
  - b. Signal three short horn blast to signal Coleman is backing out from dock in reverse. The ship's horn is on the main control panel, or you can use the handheld air horn.
  - c. It is recommended that you use the stern lines to start backing the boat out of the slip past the pilings. Be aware there are port and starboard trim tabs on the transom. Take care not to damage them by backing into a piling.
  - d. Back out of slip slowly in reverse.
  - e. KEEP CLEAR OF THE ADJACENT BOAT DOCKED TO PORT.
14. Retrieve and store fenders. Fenders can be left lashed to railing and wedged on deck.

### **Under Way**

1. Maximum speed on the river is **5 mph**. Screen 1 on the chart plotter displays boat speed.
2. Post a lookout on the port side, checking for traffic both forward and astern. It is difficult to see everything on the port side from the helm.
3. Remember that when steering a single screw inboard, the rudder is aft of the prop. This means the pivot point is forward and the stern will swing wide. It will not pivot around a keel like a sailboat. Give yourself a wide turning radius.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Run the blower for 3 – 5 minutes before restarting the engine.
5. Running light controls are on main panel at helm.

### **Windlass Operation**

1. Engine should be running when operating windlass.
2. Turn on windlass circuit on main control panel
3. Manually release anchor chain stopper
4. Press down button to release anchor rode. It only operates when you are pressing the button. Do not allow to freefall.
5. Minimum scope is 4:1 (e.g., 100' anchor rode in 15' water). More scope in heavy weather conditions.
6. Retrieving anchor: Motor forward slowly towards anchor position.
7. Press up button to haul in anchor.
8. Slow down retrieval when anchor chain appears.
9. Secure anchor chain stopper when anchor is retrieved.

### **Race Committee Signal Boat Gear**

1. If you are the lone signal/markset boat, you need to get additional buoys, buoy caps, and anchors from the Elaine Carter.
2. DC "cigarette lighter" outlet is on port wall adjacent to steering wheel. An inflator and handheld air horn are located here, too.
3. Signal Flags are in pockets of a navy-blue canvas holder in the cabin forepeak. Orange starting line flag is in starboard side rod holder rack. It can be propped between hard top side.

4. Set buoys from windward side of boat with engine in neutral. Retrieve buoys from starboard side so helmsman can see the buoy and plan approach. Approach and retrieve buoy on windward side with engine in neutral.

### **Docking**

The wind, weather, and current will significantly affect how the boat will handle. You need to assess the conditions and determine the effect each of these three factors will have on the motion of the boat as you plan your docking approach. For example, a strong northerly wind has more effect than the northbound river current.

1. Develop your approach plan prior to entering the slip and communicate it to the crew. If unsure, go to idle and see what way the boat drifts.
2. Deploy fenders on both sides.
3. Position a crewmember on the foredeck and one on each side at the stern.
4. Slow and steady as you approach the slip.
5. Remember there is a steel bulkhead at the front of the slip.
6. Secure docking lines: two bow lines; two stern lines; port spring line to midship cleat.
7. Turn off engine

### **Closing Up**

Put everything away, where it belongs, and offload your trash. Racing flags go back in their respective pockets. Poled flags are rolled and placed in rod holders along the cockpit sides.

1. Turn off engine and blower.
2. Turn off chart plotter
3. Turn off radio
4. Turn off running lights
5. Turn off windlass
6. Turn off batteries
7. Latch forepeak hatch
8. Close side windows
9. Place vinyl cover over helm control panel
10. Leave the orange column buoy and its anchor on the Ernie Colman inside of canvas on cockpit deck. Return borrowed buoys and anchors to the Elaine Carter.
11. Clip and zip shut canvas

RETURN ENGINE KEY TO KEY RACK IN FURNACE ROOM.