

**Ordinary Elective g. Boatswain Call:** Demonstrate your ability to use a boatswain pipe by making the following calls - word to be passed, boat call, veer, all hands, pipe down, and piping the side.

## The Boatswain's Pipe

The boatswain's pipe in the early days was known as the "whistle of command" and had its origin in the rowing galley of Grecian ships. The use of a call eliminated confusion and misunderstanding. In the days of sail, men were rigidly trained to respond immediately to the piping.

Although it may look and sound a bit like a whistle, it is in reality a musical instrument on which many kinds of calls may be played. It is not like the whistle that a coach might use with his squad.

Today, the boatswain's pipe is no longer used as a communication device. Sea Scouts use the calls in ceremonies to show respect for our maritime heritage. The pipe is used only by the boatswain and crew leaders, not by the Skipper or the mate. The Skipper or the mate issues orders verbally to the boatswain who, in turn, either uses a pipe or passes them on verbally to the crew leaders. Crew leaders may also wear the boatswain's pipe as an indication of their office and also to transmit orders to their crews. Note: The person making the call is permitted to salute with the left hand if the right hand is used with the pipe.

It is not possible to pass on the art of using the boatswain's pipe if you cannot pipe the calls yourself. For that reason, adult leaders and youth leaders are encouraged to learn the basic ceremonial calls: "All Hands," "Attention," "Pipe the Side," and "Carry On."

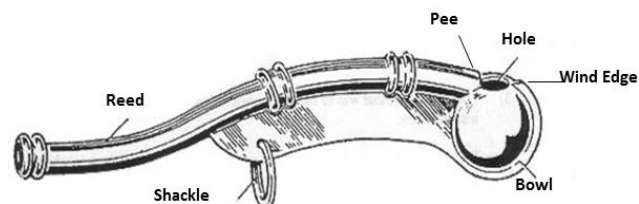


## Wearing the Boatswain's Pipe

The boatswain's pipe is worn suspended on a white lanyard and carried in the pocket on the left-hand side of the jumper or shirt. The lanyard should extend to a length equal to the arm reach of the person wearing the lanyard.

## Tuning the Pipe

You must begin with a good instrument. There are many decorative boatswain's pipes on the market, but a Navy issue pipe is best. Most pipes are too open at the pee and have to be adjusted. The pipe can be tuned by adjusting the pee or by flattening, filling with beeswax, or soldering the sides so as to fill the space between the pee and the bowl. Sometimes the pipe can be improved by scraping the wind edge or enlarging the hole in the bowl by filing.



It is essential that the reed strike the hole fairly. This can be tested by pushing a broom straw down through the reed and adjusting the wind edge until it splits the straw.

If correctly tuned, the pipe should sound even when blown very lightly with the hand open. With the hand closed, the pipe should sound clear and shrill when blown rather hard.

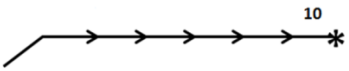

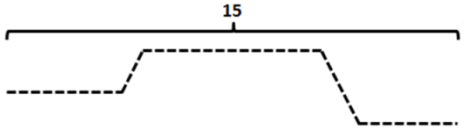
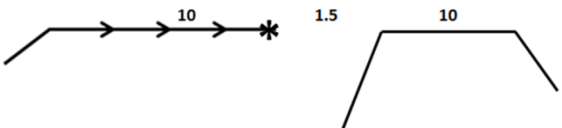
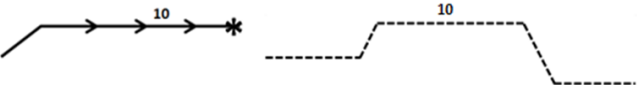
## Positions of the Hand

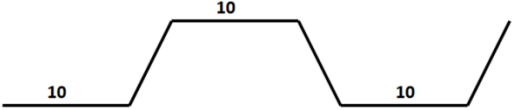
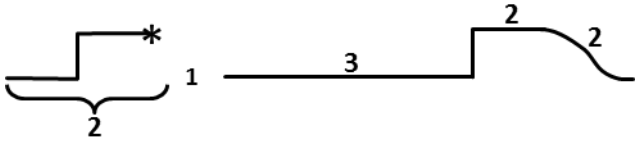
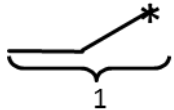
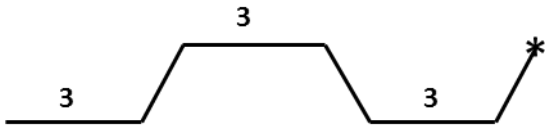
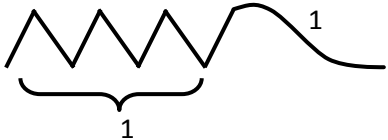
There are four positions of the hand: open, curved, closed, and clinched. These positions also indicate the lung force or the pressure of blowing. As a rule, the open hand position needs the least pressure required making a soft, clear note; the clinched hand position needs all the wind pressure possible to make a note shrill and clear.

## Learning the Calls

To learn the six calls used in Sea Scout ceremonies, you must first learn to produce a clear low note and a clear high note. Then you need to understand the score.

- A horizontal straight line represents a smooth, low or high note.
- A dotted line indicates a rattled note made by flipping the tongue against the roof of the mouth.
- A broken line indicates an undulating note. Undulating notes are made by pulsing the breath causing the sound to undulate smoothly, but continuously at equal intervals.
- Full arrowheads along a line indicate full breath impulses. Half arrowheads mean gentle breath impulses.
- An asterisk indicates to end sharply.
- Intervals or rests are marked as such with the number of seconds above if more than one is required. Otherwise the notes are slurred smoothly.

<b>Boatswain Calls for Advancement</b>	
<b>WORD TO BE PASSED</b> —This call is the prelude to any word passed aboard ship. Its purpose is to command the attention of all hands to the announcement about to be made.	
<b>BOAT CALL</b> – Boat call is piped to call away a boat, and the call is lengthened in proportion to the seniority of the boat called.	
<b>VEER</b> - This call is piped to "Ease away," "Walk back," or "Slack away." A slurred veer calls side boys to "Tend the side": one veer, two side boys; two veers, four side boys; three veers, six side boys; four veers, eight side boys.	
<b>ALL HANDS.</b> – This call is piped to assemble all hands.	
<b>PIPE DOWN</b> – This call is used for dismissal from assemblies or ceremonies of all the crew not on watch. The call is a combination of the calls "Word to Be Passed" and a "Veer."	

<b>PIPING THE SIDE</b> – This call is used to accompany side honors.	
<b>Boatswain Calls for Ceremonies</b>	
<b>ALL HANDS</b> – This call is piped to assemble all hands. This call has two parts. The first last 2 seconds. After a one second pause, the second part is 3 seconds low, 2 seconds high with a 2 second fade.	
<b>ATTENTION</b> – While not noted in boatswain call literature, over time the first part of the ALL HANDS call has served to call the ship's company to attention.	
<b>PIPING THE SIDE</b> – This call is used to accompany side honors, and it is used as the colors are raised. The last low note of the call can be lengthened until colors are raised or the dignitary has boarded.	
<b>CARRY ON</b> – This call has evolved over time. It is not written in training literature, but tradition has made its distinct warble and fade the standard to notify the ship's company to carry on.	

## Flag Ceremony on Board

### Flag Placement

On Sea Scout ships the ensign is flown at the stern when the ship is alongside or at anchor. It is flown at the gaff, usually aft and above the bridge, while underway on a power vessel and three-quarters of the way up the backstay or leech on a sailboat. When the ship is preparing to get underway, the ensign is shifted from the stern to the underway position at the moment the last line comes across or at the moment the anchor is aweigh. Ship's flags and officer's flags are flown from the starboard spar, and signal flags are flown from the port spar. The ensign is never flown from the masthead.

### Flag Ceremony

The ensign is raised at exactly 0800 when the ship is alongside or at anchor. It is lowered (retired) at exactly sundown when the ship is at anchor or alongside. When underway, the ensign is never retired. (In foreign waters it may be a violation of law not to fly the ensign.)

When raising the ensign, a color guard is posted. Sea Scouts often wear shorts or T-shirts when underway, but when raising or retiring the colors, more respectful clothing is required. A work uniform and baseball cap as cover is appropriate. It is also important that the color guard is trained by the boatswain's mate in advance so there is no fumbling or disrespect shown during this ceremony.

The boatswain's mate should assemble the color guard and off-duty crew at 0745 with the boatswain's call "All Hands." The boatswain's mate should salute the OOD (officer of the deck) and say, "Request permission to strike eight bells on time, sir?" The OOD should reply, "Make it so." The boatswain's mate sounds the boatswain's call "Attention." The boatswain then gives the verbal command, "Hand salute." At approximately 0759:56, the ship's bell should be struck eight times so that the last bell strike sounds at exactly 0800 to the second. The boatswain's mate should then play the boatswain's call "Pipe the Side." At the first note of the boatswain's call, the colors are briskly raised. The call should sound until the colors reach the apex of the hoist and end with a sharp up note. At the last sharp note of this call, the ship's company should smartly retire their salute. (If the salute was initiated with a verbal command, it should be completed with a verbal command. Otherwise, the salute should be initiated with the first note of the call "Pipe the Side.") All hands should stand at attention until the halyard is secured. When the ensign is secured, the boatswain's mate will play the call, "Carry on." The boatswain then gives the command, "Detail dismissed. Carry on," and the ship's company will resume their normal duties. Note: Verbal commands are redundant to the boatswain calls and could be omitted with a well-trained ship's company.

During this ceremony, the ship's company not on deck stands at attention. If ashore, a member of the ship's company will come to attention and salute if in uniform. If not in uniform, it is proper to stand at attention and place the right hand over the heart. The ship's flag and officer's flag are raised slightly after the ensign starts its ascent. These flags are retired slightly before the ensign starts its descent. The rule is that the ensign is first up and last down.

Some ships may elect to use a bugle for the calls during a flag ceremony. The bugle plays "Attention," "To the Colors," and "Carry On." If this option is taken, the same procedure is used, except the boatswain's mate will not pipe. The bugle takes the place of the pipe for that portion of the ceremony.

Sunset's exact time should be acquired for retiring the colors. The color guard should muster on deck and prepare to retire the colors. Follow the sequence for retiring the colors that was used to raise them.

**Note:** The person doing the piping should salute, even if the salute must be rendered with the left hand.