

OPENBOAT

ACRONYMS, ANAGRAMS, & ABBREVIATIONS

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This update is April 2018

On most computer systems you can search this document as you would search anything else.

The introduction and explanations are now at the end of this document.

1G, 2G, 3G, 4G	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Generation (cellphone networks) <i>NB: sometimes transposed to G1, G2, G3 or G4</i>
AAA	Acronym, Anagram, Abbreviation – a term used in this list
AB	Able Bodied seaman
ABS	American Bureau of Shipping
ABT	American Bow Thruster (<i>business name</i>)
ABYC	American Boat & Yacht Council
AC	(1) Alternating Current (2) Air Conditioning or Air Conditioner - sometimes written A/C
ACES	Advanced Chartworld ENC Service (<i>trademark</i>)
ACR	Automatic Charge Relay (<i>relates to charging batteries</i>)
ADLL	Admiralty Digital List of Lights
ADRS	Admiralty Digital Radio Signals
AF	Across Flats (<i>measurement of nuts, bolts, spanners</i>)
AGM	Absorbent Glass Mat (a type of battery)
Ah	Ampere hour (<i>electrical, 1 Amp of current for 1 hour</i>)
AIO	Admiralty Information Overlay
AIS	Automatic Identification System
<i>aka</i>	also known as
AP	Auto Pilot
APB	An NMEA0183 sentence giving course to steer, XTE and Waypoint ID
APH	Aft Pilot House
ARC	Atlantic Rally for Cruisers
ARCS	Admiralty Raster Charts Service
ARPA	Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (<i>cf</i> MARPA)
ASM	Application Specific Message (<i>a type of</i> AIS <i>message</i>)
ASTM	American Society for Testing Materials

ATIS	Automatic Transmitter Identification System on European inland waterways
AtN or AtoN	Aid to Navigation (<i>occasionally presented incorrectly as ATON</i>)
ATT	Admiralty TotalTide service
ATW	Around the World voyage of a Nordhavn 40 in 2002
AVCS	Admiralty Vector Chart Service
AWA	(1) Apparent Wind Angle (2) Anchor Watch Alarm
AWG	American Wire Gauge (<i>for measuring the cross section of electrical conductors</i>)
AWS	Apparent Wind Speed
BMS	(1) Battery Management System (2) Battery Monitoring System
BNWAS	Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm System
BPW	Bearing Position to Waypoint
BRG	Bearing (<i>on a compass</i>)
BSB	Base System Builder (<i>a format for encoding data. Official NOAA raster charts conform to the BSB File Format Specification with a .kap extension</i>)
BSOD	Blue Screen Of Death (<i>computers</i>)
BSP	British Standard Pipe (<i>thread form</i>)
BSPT	British Standard Pipe Tapered (<i>thread form</i>)
BST	British Summer Time
BTU	British Thermal Unit
<i>btw</i>	by the way
BU	Boat Unit - <i>shorthand for (usually) USD\$1,000</i>
BUS or bus	a communication system (<i>the term is an abbreviation of the Latin omnibus</i>)
busbar	not an AAA; a busbar is a metallic strip or bar that conducts electricity
CAN	Controller Area Network (<i>used originally in land vehicle technology</i>)
CANbus	Controller Area Network bus (<i>communications system</i>)
CB	Circuit Breaker
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access (<i>for 2G cellphones, principally within USA</i>)
CE	(1) Coastal Explorer (2) Conformité Européenne (<i>certification of conformity with EU regulations</i>)
CEC	Certificate of Equivalent Competency (<i>a term used in the UK</i>)
CEVNI	Code Européen des Voies de la Navigation Intérieure (<i>tr. European Code for Interior Navigation (meaning inland waterways)</i>)
<i>cf</i>	abbreviation of confer (Latin), meaning "compare"
CHIRP	Compressed High-Intensity Radar Pulse
CM93 CM93/3	Distribution formats for ECNs produced by C-Map . (<i>It is alleged that charts in the original CM93 format have been widely pirated</i>)

CO	Carbon monoxide
Coax	Co-axial (<i>cable</i>)
COB	Chips on Board (<i>type of LED</i>)
COC	Certificate of Competency (UK)
COG	Course Over the Ground
COLREGS	International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea
COSPAS	Cosmicheskaya Sistema Poiska Avariynyh Sudov, (Russian, <i>tr.</i> Space System for the Search of Vessels in Distress)
COTS	Commercial Off-The-Shelf
CPA	Closest Point of Approach
CPU	Central Processing Unit (<i>in computers</i>)
CTS	Course To Steer
CUBAR	Cruise Underway to Baja Rally (<i>formerly FUBAR</i>)
dBm	decibel-milliwatts (<i>power ratio in decibels referenced to one milliwatt</i>)
DC	Direct Current
Di-Chlor	Sodium Dichloro-s-triazinetriene (<i>read this post</i>)
DNC	Digital Nautical Chart (<i>not an official or authoritative definition</i>)
DNV GL	a registrar and classification society
DoC	Document of Compliance
DoD	(1) Depth of Discharge (<i>of batteries</i>) - <i>sometimes means the same as SoC</i> (2) Department of Defence (USA) (<i>operates the GPS system</i>)
DPDT	Double Pole Double Throw (<i>type of electrical switch</i>)
DPF	Diesel Particulate Filter
DSC	Digital Selective Calling (<i>sends a distress signal from a VHF radio</i>)
DSM	Digital Sounder Module (<i>in sonar displays</i>)
DST	Daylight Saving Time (USA)
DST	Distance
DTW	Distance to Waypoint
DVI	Digital Visual Interface (<i>for video only, no sound</i>)
EBL	Electronic Bearing Line (<i>on a radar screen</i>)
EBM	Electronic Bearing Marker (<i>on a radar screen</i>)
ECDIS	Electronic Chart Display Information System (<i>Full definition</i> : <i>An Electronic Chart Display and Information System, which, with adequate back-up arrangements, can be accepted as complying with the up-to-date chart required by regulation V/19 and V/27 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended</i>) (<i>Note: a consumer chartplotter is <u>not</u> an ECDIS</i>)
ECU	Engine Control Unit

EE	Electrical Engineer
EEA	European Economic Area
<i>eg</i>	for example (<i>from exemplī grātiā, Latin, full tr: "for the sake of an example"</i>)
EGC	Ethylene Glycol Coolant
EGNOS	European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (<i>a type of SBAS, re. GPS</i>)
EGT	Exhaust Gas Temperature
EIA	Electronic Industries Association
ELC	Extended Life Coolant (<i>possibly a mere advertising puff</i>)
ELCI	Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupter
ENC	Electronic Navigational Chart as defined by the IHO , for use in an ECDIS <i>Note: a typical electronic chart sold for recreational boating use is unlikely to be an ENC because it will not comply with the S-57 standard)</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (USA)
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (<i>cf PLB</i>)
ER	Engine Room
ESD	Electric Shock Drowning
ESS	Energy Storage Systems
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
EU	European Union
EULA	End User Licence Agreement
EV-DO	Evolution-Data Optimized (<i>a telecommunications standard for 3G mobile broadband, developed in Japan</i>)
FB	Flybridge
FDD	Frequency Division Duplex (<i>in cellular communications</i>)
FET	Derivation unknown. (<i>Switches that cycle on and off in an inverter. See this post</i>)
FI	Fuel Injection
FLA	Flooded Lead Acid (<i>batteries</i>)
FPH	Forward Pilot House
FPT	Female Pipe Thread
FU	Follow Up lever (<i>for autopilots - if fitted - sometimes called a Jog lever</i>)
FUBAR	(1) Fleet Underway to Baja Rally (2007, 9, 11, 13) - now CUBAR (2) (<i>not for polite company</i>)
FW	Fresh Water
<i>fwiw</i>	for what it's worth
<i>fyi</i>	for your information
G	Giga (<i>a unit prefix in the metric system denoting a factor of a short-form billion</i>)
G2, G3, G4	see 2G, 3G, 4G
GAGAN	GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (<i>a type of SBAS, re. GPS</i>)

GEO	Too many meanings to list here, inc. Geo-Stationary, Geo-Synchronous, Geographic
GFCI	Ground Fault Current Interrupt (<i>electrical safety device - aka RCD. aka GFI</i>)
GFI	Ground Fault Interrupter (<i>aka GFCI</i>)
GI	Galvanic Isolator
GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time (<i>approximately equivalent to UTC</i>)
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite Systems (<i>generically, not a specific constellation</i>)
GOC	Gear (<i>ie: Gearbox</i>) Oil Cooler
GPH	Gallons Per Hour (<i>may be USG or imperial gallons</i>)
GPRS	General Packet Radio Service (<i>a mobile data service on 2G and 3G GSM</i>)
GPS	Global Positioning System
GPSD	GPS Daemon (<i>background process</i>); sends GPS data to navigation software)
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit
GRIB	GRidded Information in Binary form (<i>GRIB files are computer generated weather forecast files</i>)
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications (<i>for 2G cellphones, principally outside USA</i>)
GSSR	Great Siberian Sushi Run (<i>Nordhavn cruise in company, 2009</i>)
GT	Gross Tonnage
GUI	Graphical User Interface (<i>computers, cf UI</i>)
HDMI	High-Definition Multimedia Interface (<i>proprietary standard audio/video interface</i>)
HDT	An NMEA0183 sentence: True Heading
HP or hp	Horse Power
HT	(1) High Tensile (<i>bolts</i>) (<i>in some countries = High Torque</i>) (2) High Tension (<i>electrical leads, inc. connections to batteries & spark plugs</i>)
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
HYD	Hydraulic
Hz	Hertz (<i>unit of frequency defined as one cycle per second</i>)
IALA-AISM	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation & Lighthouse Authorities
IBS	Integrated Bridge System
ICC	International Certificate of Competence
ID	(1) Inside Diameter (<i>usually of a pipe, hose or tube</i>) (2) Identity, Identification
<i>ie</i>	id est (<i>Latin, tr. "that is", also means "that is to say"</i>)
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
<i>iirc</i>	if I remember correctly

IMEA	International Marine Electronics Association
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
<i>inc.</i>	including, or included
IoT	Internet of Things (relevant to M2M)
IP	(1) Internet Protocol (<i>the suite of protocols which enables the internet to function</i>) (2) Ingress protection (<i>IEC standard 60529</i>)
IR	Infra Red
ISM	(1) International Safety Management (<i>code</i>) (2) Industrial Scientific and Medical radio bands (<i>uses include microwave ovens, cordless phones, Bluetooth devices, NFC devices, and WiFi</i>)
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITRF	International Terrestrial Reference Frame (<i>re. GPS</i>)
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
k	abbreviation of kilo, meaning one thousand Common examples: kg kilogram (or kilogramme), sometimes abbreviated as "kilos" km kilometre kV kiloVolt kW kiloWatt
.kap	<i>Not an AAA. It is a file extension for the BSB format</i>
KISS	Keep It Simple, Stupid
Kts	Knots (<i>speed measured in NM per hour</i>)
L or l	Litre
LAN	Local Area Network (<i>communications, cf WAN</i>)
LBOK	Lethal Bit Of Kit (<i>used on the YBW motorboat forum: example</i>)
LCD	Liquid Crystal Display
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LFP	see LiFePO4
Li...	Prefix for lithium-based battery chemistries - some (not all) are listed here
LIBS	London International Boat Show (UK)
LiCoO2	Lithium Cobalt oxide battery chemistry
LiFePO4	Lithium Iron Phosphate (or Lithium Ferro Phosphate) battery chemistry
LiFeYPO4	Lithium Iron Phosphate (Yttrium based) battery chemistry
LiMn2O4	Lithium Manganese oxide battery
LiMnO2	Lithium Manganese Dioxide battery chemistry
LiNiMnCo	(1) Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt Oxide battery chemistry (2) aka Lithium Manganese Cobalt Oxide battery chemistry
LLC	Limited Liability Company (<i>in some jurisdictions only</i>)
LLL	Load Line Length

LOA	Length Overall
LR	Lloyd's Register of Shipping (<i>a registrar and classification society</i>)
LTE	Long-Term Evolution (<i>a standard for 4G mobile communications</i>)
LWL	Length at WaterLine (<i>cf. LLL</i>)
M2M	Mobile to Mobile, or Machine to Machine (<i>in computer networks, also re. IoT</i>)
MAC	Media Access Control address (<i>in computer networks</i>)
MAIB	Marine Accident Investigation Branch (UK)
MARPA	Mini- (or Manual-) Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (<i>cf ARPA</i>)
MBT	Manual Bus Transfer (<i>switch</i>)
MCA	Maritime & Coastguard Agency (UK)
MFD	Multi-Function Display (<i>a chartplotter which can display other information</i>)
MFDBB	Multi Function Display Black Box (<i>computer used to operate MFDs</i>)
MiFi	Not an AAA, this is a trade mark for a brand of wireless router
MIMO	Multiple Input, Multiple Output (<i>devices, typically for radio frequency applications</i>)
mm3d	Proprietary format for rendering charts, owned by Mapmedia (<i>part of TimeZero</i>)
MMSI	Maritime Mobile Service Identity (<i>a number that identifies a boat on AIS & DSC</i>)
MOB	Man Overboard
MoBo	Motor Boat
MOV	Metal Oxide Varistor (<i>"Surge Protector"</i>)
MPPT	Maximum Power Point Tracking (<i>in solar panel controllers</i>)
MPT	Male Pipe Thread
MSAS	Multi-functional Satellite Augmentation System (<i>a type of SBAS, re. GPS</i>)
MSR	Master State Room (<i>aka Owner's Cabin</i>)
MTT	Multiple Transaction Translators (<i>in computer networks</i>)
MWD	An NMEA0183 sentence: wind direction and speed
NAS	Network Accessible Storage
N/C	Normally Closed (<i>electrical switches</i>) <i>cf</i> N/O
NFC	Near Field Communication (<i>radio devices</i>)
N/O	Normally Open (<i>electrical switches</i>) <i>cf</i> N/C
N2K	NMEA 2000
N2KView	Proprietary name for a product by Maretron
NAP 2017	Nordhavn Atlantic Passage 2017 (<i>trans Atlantic cruise in company 2017</i>)
NAR	North Atlantic Rally (<i>trans Atlantic Nordhavn motor yacht rally, held in 2004</i>)
NAS	Network-attached storage (<i>file-level computer data storage server</i>)
NAT	Network Address Translation
NCM	See LiNiMnCo

NEC	National Electrical Code (USA)
NEMA	National Electrical Manufacturers Association
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association (USA)
NIC	Network Interface Card (<i>in computing, aka network controller</i>)
NL	Northern Lights
NM / nm	Nautical Miles
NMC	See LiNiMnCo
NMEA	National Marine Electronics Association
NMEA0183	A standard for connecting marine instrumentation, introduced in 1983
NMEA2000	Replacement for NMEA0183 , date of introduction uncertain, probably 2005
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
NOG	Nordhavn Owners Group (<i>private internet forum</i>)
NPS	National Pipe Straight (USA standard thread form)
NPT	National Pipe Tapered (USA standard thread form)
NSK	Network Security Key (<i>aka as WiFi security key, cf. PSK</i>)
Ns	Nordhavn boats (<i>eg: "I saw 4 Ns yesterday"</i>)
OCP	Over Current Protection (<i>eg: breaker, fuses</i>)
OCPN	Open Chart Plotter Navigation
OD	Outside Diameter (<i>usually of a pipe, hose or tube</i>)
oeSENC	open encrypted System Electronic Nautical Chart (<i>for use in OCPN. see SENC</i>)
OFCOM	Office of Communications (UK)
OOW	Officer of the Watch
OP	Original Poster (<i>on an internet forum</i>)
Open CPN	See OCPN
OTG	On The Go (<i>in full, USB OTG, a supplement to the USB specification</i>)
PAE	Pacific Asian Enterprises (<i>builders of Nordhavn boats</i>)
PC	(1) Personal Computer (2) non-boat usage, but seen on forums: Politically Correct (<i>usually deprecatory</i>)
PCI	Peripheral Component Interconnect (<i>type of computer bus</i>)
PE	Potential Earth (<i>seen on NOG forum</i>)
PEC	Pilotage Exemption Certificate
PGC	Polypropylene Glycol Coolant
PGN	Parameter Group Number (<i>when referring to NMEA 2000</i>) (NB: NMEA 0183 does not use PGNs, it uses "sentences")
PH	Pilot House
PH	Pilot House (<i>also see APH, FPH</i>)
PLB	Personal Locator Beacon (<i>cf EPIRB</i>)

PLC	(1) Programmable Logic Controller (2) Public Limited Company (<i>UK and some other jurisdictions</i>)
POE	Power Over Ethernet
PRN	PseudoRandom Noise number (<i>uniquely identifies the ranging codes that a GPS satellite uses. Relevant to NMEA0183 sentences</i>)
PS/2	Personal System 2 (<i>a type of port used on computers for keyboards & mice</i>)
PSK	Pre-Shared Key (<i>in secure network connections, cf. NSK</i>)
PST	Pacific Standard Time
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
PSU	Power Supply Unit
PV	(1) Photo Voltaic (<i>typically solar power cells</i>) (2) unknown usage: 43 to 55% load per the PV gauge
PWM	Pulse Width Modulation (<i>usually in solar panel controllers</i>)
<i>qv</i>	quod vide (<i>Latin: "see which", or "refer to"</i>)
RAINWAT	Regional Arrangement on the Radiocommunication Service for Inland Waterways (<i>in Europe</i>)
RAM	Random Access Memory (<i>in a computer</i>)
RCCB	Residual Current Circuit Breaker - same as RCD
RCD	(1) Residual Current Detector (<i>electrical safety device aka GFCI</i>) (2) Recreational Craft Directive (<i>applies to the EU</i>)
<i>re.</i>	Opinions differ. I use it to mean "regarding" or "with reference to", but that's just me.
RENC	Regional Electronic Navigational Chart Centres (<i>see ENC</i>)
RIB	Rigid Inflatable Boat
RMV	Relative Motion Vector (<i>cf TMV</i>)
RNC	Raster Navigation Chart
RNG	Range
RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institution (<i>UK and Ireland</i>)
RO	Reverse Osmosis
RPi	Raspberry Pi (<i>a type of PLC computer</i>)
RPi2B	Example of a version of a Raspberry Pi, continuously evolving
RPM	Revolutions Per Minute (<i>eg of an engine or propeller</i>)
RS232 RS-232	(1) A standard of the Electronic Industries Association (EIA) (2) A standard topology for a certain type of computer serial port
RYA	Royal Yachting Association (<i>based in the UK</i>)
S-AIS	Satellite AIS
S-52 or S52	IHO standard : Chart Content and Display Aspects of the ECDIS (<i>ie: standard for controlling display of ENCs in an ECDIS</i>)

S-57 or S57	IHO standard: IHO Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data (notation S-57 is derived from the document Special Publication No. 57 of the IHO) (In practice S57 means ENCs supplied for use in an ECDIS)
S-61 or S61	IHO standard: Product Specification for Raster Navigational Charts (RNCs)
S-63 or S63	IHO standard: Data Protection Scheme (for ENCs used in an ECDIS) (notation S-63 is derived from the document: Special Publication No. 63 of the IHO) (In practice S63 means: (1) encrypted S-57 ENCs supplied for use in an ECDIS (2) other encryption schemes using the S-63 standard, eg: oeSENC charts)
S-64 or S64	IHO standard: Test Data Sets for ECDIS
SAE	Society of Automotive Engineers
SAR	Search And Rescue
SARSAT	Search And Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking
SART	Search And Rescue Transponder
Sat	Satellite
SBAS	Satellite-based Augmentation System
SCA	Supplemental Cooling Additives
SENC	System Electronic Navigational Chart (1) this useful source is now hard to find. The official definition is a database, in a manufacturer's internal ECDIS format, resulting from the lossless transformation of an entire ENC contents and updates. (2) application of the S-63 data protection scheme for electronic charts which may or may not be true ENCs , for example oeSENC charts (3) shorthand for a system for distributing electronic charts using the S-63 data protection scheme, where those charts are not necessarily compliant with S-57
SIBS	Southampton International Boat Show (UK)
SIM	Subscriber Identity Module (in cellphones)
SLA	Sealed Lead-Acid (battery, aka VRLA)
SoC	State of Charge (of batteries - sometimes means the same as DoD)
SOG	Speed Over the Ground (cf STW)
SoH	State of Health (of batteries)
SOLAS	International convention of the IMO for Safety of Life at Sea
SOS	The international Morse code distress signal ••• – – – ••• (there is no agreement on what the letters SOS stand for)
SPDT	Single Pole Double Throw (electrical switches)
SR	State Room (aka cabin)
SSB	SingleSide Band (radio)
SSD	Solid State Drive (storage device with no moving parts in a computer)
SSH	Secure Shell, or Secure Socket Shell (network encryption protocol)
SSID	Service Set Identifier (principally in network routers)

STCW	Standard of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping
STW	Speed Through the Water <i>cf</i> SOG
SVRL or SVRLA	Sealed Valve Regulated Lead Acid design (<i>batteries, eg AGM</i>)
SW	(1) South West (2) Software (<i>computers</i>) (3) Salt Water
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol (<i>a protocol of the Internet protocol suite, cf</i> UDP)
TCPA	Time to Closest Point of Approach (CPA)
TDC	Top Dead Centre (<i>piston engines</i>)
TDD	Time Division Duplex (<i>in cellular communications</i>)
TDMA	Time Division Multiple Access (<i>system to allocate "slots" to AIS transmitters</i>)
<i>tr:</i>	translated from one language to another
TMV	True Motion Vector (<i>cf</i> RMV)
TRAC	not an AAA - brand name for stabilisers made by ABT
Tri-Chlor	Trichloro-s-triazinetrione (read this post)
TSC-M	Tough Series Controller - Marine (<i>Northern Lights proprietary product</i>)
TSDY TSDMY	(1) Twin Screw Diesel Yacht (2) Twin screw Diesel Motor Yacht (3) Traditional Semi-Displacement Motor Yacht (4) Gin Palace (UK)
TTM	(1) Tracked Target Marker (<i>radar</i>) (2) Tracked Target Message (<i>in NMEA0183 and NMEA2000 systems</i>)
TU	Tits Up (<i>ie: dead</i>)
TWA	True Wind Angle
TWD	(1) True Wind Direction (2) True Wind Deviation (<i>used in OCPN</i>)
TWS	True Wind Speed
UDP	User Datagram Protocol (<i>a protocol of the Internet protocol suite, cf</i> TCP)
UHF	Ultra High Frequency (<i>radio, cf</i> VHF)
UI	User Interface (<i>computers, cf</i> GUI)
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
UMTS	Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (<i>for cellphones</i>)
USA	United States of America
USB	(1) Universal Serial Bus (<i>in computers</i>) (2) U***** S** * * B***** (<i>not for polite company</i>)
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USD	United States Dollar

USG	United States Gallon (=3.78541178 L , 0.83267382 <i>Imperial Gallon</i>)
UTC	Temps Universel Coordonné (<i>time measured by an atomic clock. Approximately equivalent to GMT</i>)
UV	Ultra Violet (<i>used re. lighting and water treatment</i>)
UTM	Unified Threat Management (<i>network security implemented at a single point</i>)
VAT	Value Added Tax
VAtoN	Virtual Aid to Navigation
VCG	Vertical Centre of Gravity
VDR	(1) Voyage Data Recorder (2) Vessel Data Recorder (<i>proprietary name for a product by Maretron</i>)
VGA	Video Graphics Array (<i>in computers</i>)
VHF	Very High Frequency (<i>radio, cf UHF</i>)
VLCC	Very Large Crude (oil) Carrier
VMH	Visit My Harbour (<i>UK navigation website and supplier of charts</i>)
VoLTE	Voice over LTE (<i>a standard enabling mobile phones to connect over the internet</i>)
VPN	Virtual Private Network (<i>computing</i>)
VRLA	Valve-Regulated Lead-Acid (<i>battery, aka sealed lead-acid (SLA), gel cell, or maintenance free battery</i>)
VRM	Variable Range Marker (<i>radar</i>)
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal (<i>a type of two-way satellite ground station</i>)
VTS	Vessel Traffic Services (<i>in controlled waters</i>)
VWT	An NMEA0183 sentence = TWS
WAAS	Wide Area Augmentation System (<i>a type of SBAS, re. GPS</i>)
WAN	Wide Area Network (<i>in electronic communications, cf LAN</i>)
WCDMA	Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (<i>a telecommunications standard for 3G mobile broadband, developed in USA</i>)
WEP	Wired Equivalent Privacy (<i>an insecure predecessor of WPA</i>)
WGS 84	World Geodetic System of 1984 (<i>re. GPS</i>)
Wi-Fi WiFi	<i>Not an abbreviation or acronym. This is a trademark of the Wi-Fi Alliance. A technology for wireless LANs based on the 802.11 standards of the IEEE</i>
WOT	Wide Open Throttle
WPA, WPA2	Wi-Fi Protected Access (<i>encryption standards</i>)
WPS	Wi-Fi Protected Setup (<i>encryption standard described as "seriously flawed"</i>)
XMFR	Transformer
XTE	Cross Track Error (<i>in navigation, including equipment. Also an NMEA0183 sentence</i>)
XW	Cross Wind (<i>wind direction different to boat heading</i>)
YMMV	Your Mileage May Vary

Z (or Zulu)	<i>Military time zone equivalent to UTC</i>
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Boating acronyms, anagrams and abbreviations can be mystifying to newcomers, and also to old salts who know perfectly well what an SOS is but have no idea where they might find their boat's VCG or which SBAS their GPS is using. The internet offers sites which help to decode jargon but it can be tedious to trawl through multiple alternative explanations, most of which have nothing to do with boats. For example acronymfinder.com listed 167 definitions of BSB in July 2018 – I list one.

This list contains only those examples which I have actually seen in use on boating websites and forums, including forums which discuss the implementation of electronic navigation and monitoring systems.

This list contains mostly English terms. Remember that something which seems obvious to you may be completely mystifying to someone whose first language is not English or who has no previous experience of the subject. And not everyone is familiar with internet abbreviations such as iirc.

Cross references are in **bold text**.

Our boat is a Nordhavn so you will find some entries which are specific to that brand.

The following are NOT included:

- technical explanations - for example **GI** is taken to mean Galvanic Isolator but if you want to know what one of these things does you'll need to look it up on a technical site or Wikipedia
- product codes are usually omitted but I have included widely-used abbreviations of some corporate names and products
- geographic locations are excluded if I do not think they have global importance; for example **EU** is included but PNW (Pacific North West) is not

Some entries date from the era before female equality (which I support). I'm not going to apologise for including them. Even if you don't like them or don't use them yourself you might need to know what they meant.

A great many more entries have been thrown up by the tsunami of electronic boating equipment, computers, and the various methods of connecting a boat to the outside world electronically. I have included all those which I have seen at least twice on a boating website or forum. A very good encyclopedia of computer terms and jargon is [here](#).

NMEA0183 standard sentence codes and **NMEA PGNs** are only included if they are also used in other circumstances. For a list of publicly published sentences see [NMEA Revealed](#).

I have started including common acronyms for classification and registration societies, such as **LR** (Lloyds Register) but my list is incomplete. A much better list is [here](#).

Abbreviations and acronyms used in the marine charter industry are [here](#).

Corrections and suggestions - see my [contact page](#)