



Chapter 3: Air Boat Maneuvering Training

Techniques for Maneuvering an Air Boat in Different Water Conditions

Seals developed a two-step method in training Air Boat maneuvers.

Seals starts out with the Air Boat throttle pedal at idle until the trainee is comfortable performing the

basic maneuvers.

One important maneuver is the quick turn-around.



Seals goes over the technique in using the throttle pedal and control stick in tandem to navigate tight turns and obstacles. By smoothly adjusting the throttle pedal while moving the control stick forward or backwards, the Air Boat operators can maintain control and avoid collisions with other boats or obstacles in the water. It is very important to not over correct the control stick.

In windy conditions, it is important to be mindful of the direction of the wind and how it can affect the handling of the Air Boat. Operators should adjust their speed and steering accordingly

to compensate for the wind and prevent the boat from drifting off course. When tracking a course with a cross wind you will need to crab into the wind to adjust for drift.

We will have you exercise cutting through a wake at around 45 degree and how important that maneuver is.

Our course explains in detail the importance of practicing proper **weight distribution** in the Air Boat that can help improve stability and maneuverability in different water conditions. Distributing weight evenly throughout the boat can help prevent tipping or swaying, especially in rough waters.

Some exercises we will have you perform is figure eights in an open area of water. This exercise



will help you become more familiar with how your Air Boat responds to different steering inputs and will improve your ability to navigate tight turns. Starting by practicing larger figure eights and gradually work your way towards tighter and more precise turns.

Another exercise we will have you do is quick stops and starts. This exercise will help you become more comfortable with the acceleration and deceleration capabilities of your Air Boat. We will have you practice coming to a complete stop as quickly as possible and then accelerating back up to speed. This exercise will help you improve your reaction time and control over your Air Boat. Transition from idle to planing and back to idle is a major part of maneuvers. Transition time is important to keep at a minimum. You must always be aware of the trailing wake behind the airboat. We call it a situation of "dragging the boat".

Many Air Boats has sunk due to not monitoring the trailing wake and applying the correct procedure to kill that wake.

Please check out all 10 chapters. You will be well on your way to becoming a safe Air Boater.

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<https://www.youtube.com/@LarryHelton-gr6zd/videos>