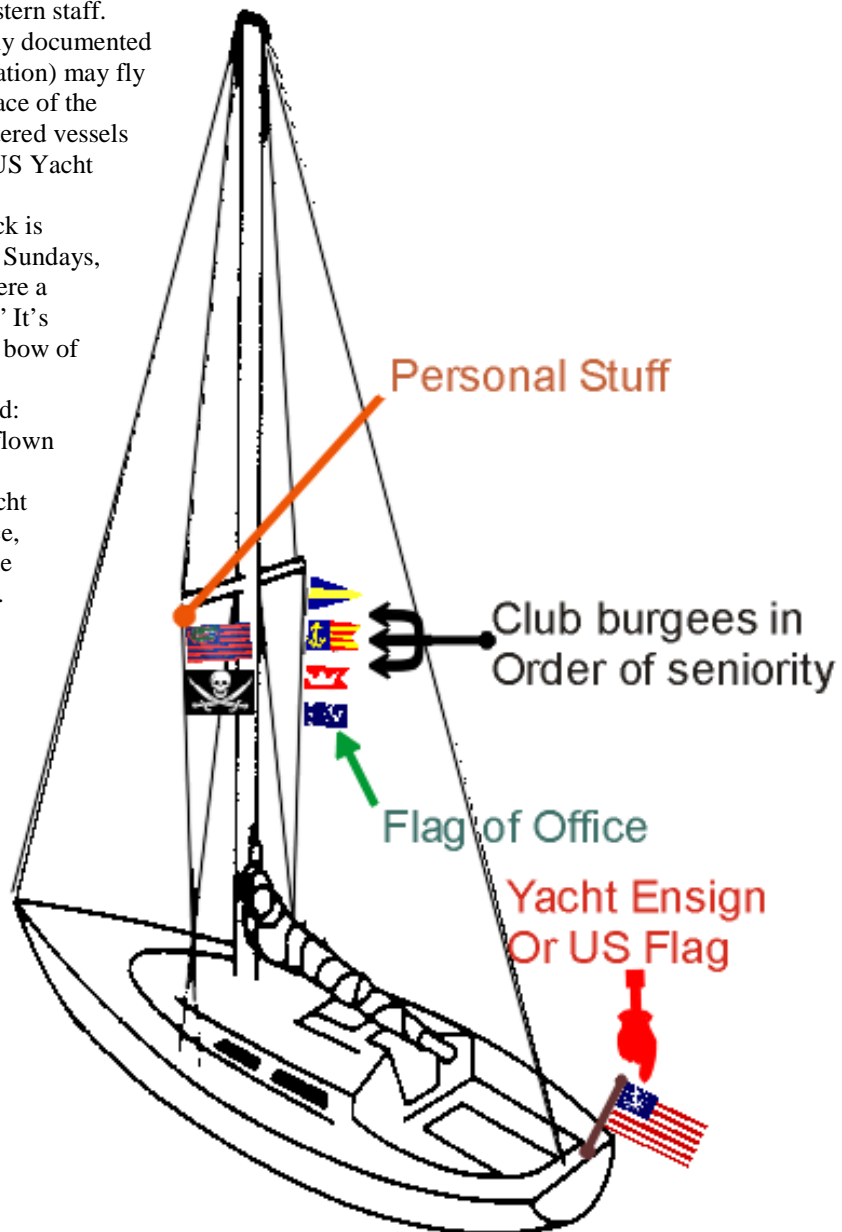


Sail Boat Flag Etiquette:

- 1) American Flag: I have unfortunately noticed many boats flying their American flag on their starboard spreader halyard. By doing this you are identifying yourself as a visiting yacht (foreign-flagged vessel) in US waters. Is this what you are? The proper place to fly the Ensign, (American flag), on a sloop-rigged sailboat is two-thirds of the way up the leach of the main, when underway. It is also an acceptable practice to have it up on the backstay.

When at anchor or in port, it is traditional for it to be displayed on a stern staff.

- 2) US Yacht Ensign: Federally documented vessels (USCG Documentation) may fly the US Yacht Ensign in place of the American flag. State registered vessels are not allowed to fly the US Yacht Ensign.
- 3) Union Jack: The Union Jack is customarily only flown on Sundays, Holidays, or occasions where a vessel would "Dress Ship." It's flown at a Jack-staff at the bow of a vessel.
- 4) Starboard Spreader Halyard: Private Signals should be flown at the masthead, but it is common practice to fly yacht club burgees, flags of office, and private signals from the starboard spreader halyard. If visiting a foreign country, the flag, or courtesy flag, of that nation should be the top-most flag on your starboard spreader halyard.
- 5) Port Spreader Halyard: Items such as Pirate's flags, battle flags, Gator flags, brag flags, and beer flags, should be flown from the port spreader halyard.



Respectfully
Submitted,
David P. Kyser