

## The Helm Chair

Salish Aire, like most Nordhavn 46's, came equipped not with a helm chair but rather a "captain's plank". Since the pilot house in a 46 is not quite the same size as the bridge of the Star Trek Enterprise, Captain Kirk's famous chair would never fit. Instead the assumption is that on long crossings the Captain will often perch on the pilot house settee and drive using autopilot and remote controls. The swing up plank (really, no exaggeration, it is a 1/8 piece of teak plank) was designed for those times when you were in waters with lots of hazards and wanted to be within reach of the ship's wheel. Since we are *always* in waters that have lots of hazards (logs, rocks, islands, commercial ships, recreational ships, ferry traffic, etc) we find ourselves on the plank more often than on the settee. We expect to be in these waters for the next few years so a proper helm chair makes sense for us.

The problem is that most proper helm chairs are very expensive and have a huge footprint. It wasn't until the most recent Seattle Boat Show that we found a vendor making a chair in Portland Oregon that seems to fit our needs. It was installed yesterday (i.e. has yet to be tested) but looks good so far. We will need to remove or heavily modify our current table at the settee but that was expected. We are currently working on ideas for modifying it. A bonus is that Clarice can swivel the chair 90 degrees to her large home office computer screen and have a much better and ergonomically sound work environment.

The chair was manufactured by <http://bentleymfg.com/> and cost us about \$1300 (much less than anything we had looked at previously).

Photos below:

1. Chair set up for sitting
2. Chair set up for supported standing



