

NVSPS Public Boating Course Schedule 2008

Our instructor-led [USPS®](#) classroom boating course offers the public boating safety certificates for new and experienced boaters, ages 13 and older. The course meets VA, MD, and DC specific and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) requirements for certification, and it may qualify the individual for boat insurance discounts. The course has a "proctored exam," satisfying the boating certificate requirement of many states.

Students will learn safe boating operation, rules of the road, elementary seamanship, charts and aids to navigation, navigation and piloting, basic weather, marine radio operations, and other topics of interest to sailors, powerboaters, and operators of personal watercraft or jet skis.

All students must register prior to the class. You purchase the course book, tools, and materials at the first class, by cash or check—no credit cards please. You may share books in your family for a substantial discount. **The schools, parks, and community centers receive an additional facility use and administration fee per person, payable to them at registration, before the class starts.** All classes begin at 7 PM and end at 9 PM, unless otherwise stated. Date, location, and phone numbers to call for registration follow.

Course Description:

- [USPS® The Squadron Boating Course](#)
This eight-session course familiarizes you with the fundamentals of safe boat handling and operation, basic piloting and navigation, and digital charting in one comprehensive classroom setting. [The Squadron Boating Course includes navigation and chart work critical to safe boating in the lower Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.](#) The price of the course is \$48 for the book, tools, and materials; family members may share the book, tools, and materials for a substantial discount. The administrative and facility-use fees are paid separately to the county or the community center at the time of your registration.

From time to time, we also offer special interest seminars that are open to members and non-members at a nominal fee:

- **[GPS, VHF Radio, Charting, Boat Handling, Sail Trim, and On-Board Weather Forecasting Seminars](#)**

USPS® Seminars instruct on the use of these various systems, and seminars run approximately 2 ½ hours in length. The seminars increase your understanding with up-to-date presentations and materials. The price of a seminar is \$35, except the Weather seminar, which is \$45.

Boating Course Schedules, locations, and registration information:

Course: **The Squadron Boating Course**

(8 sessions, Mondays & Thursdays)

Start Date: 7 April 2008

End Date: 8 May 2008

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Annandale High School

Address: 4700 Medford Dr

City: Annandale, VA 22003

Register with the Fairfax County Parks Authority at 703-222-4664 or

on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.htm

Registration Open 5 Feb 2008

Course: **The Squadron Boating Course**

(8 sessions, Mondays & Thursdays)

Start Date: 21 Apr 2008

End Date: 15 May 2008

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: McLean Community Center

Address: 1234 Ingleside Avenue

City: McLean, VA 22101

Register with McLean Community Center at

703-790-0123 or on-line at www.mcleancenter.org

Registration Opens 14 January 2008

**SEMINARS AND OTHER PROGRAMS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(These courses do not satisfy the boating safety certificate
requirement. They are in-depth seminars on specific subjects.)**

Course: SKIPPER SAVER PROGRAM

(1 session, Wednesday Evening, at Monthly NVSPS Meeting –
Open to Public)

Description: Take the first step in learning to save the skipper and yourself! Learn procedures for the whole family to use in an emergency. Earn a Skipper Saver certificate and patch with completion of the on-the-water segment. Refreshments provided at meeting. **We rescheduled this program from 13 Feb because of bad weather predicted in the region that evening.**

Date: 9 April 2008 NVSPS Meeting Time: 7 – 9 PM

Location: April NVSPS Monthly Meeting, BoatUS HQ, Training Conference Room, 880 South Pickett Street, Alexandria VA 22304

Contact for More Information:

Squadron Educational Officer, Rich Unis, 703-777-8378,
runis_320@yahoo.com

Registration: None Required. Just Come! FREE!

Course: SAIL TRIM AND RIG TUNING SEMINAR

(1 session, Monday – Open to Public)

Description: This seminar shows in clear and simple terms how to use and adjust sails for optimum performance under a wide range of conditions. The seminar comes with prepared “Student Notes” and with a waterproof USPS Captain’s Quick Guide written by North Sails. This is a new Seminar for 2008! Cost is \$35; family members and significant others may share materials for a discount.

Start Date: 14 April 2008 Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr, 2nd Floor Conf Room, Fairfax, VA

Instructors: Bob Cox, JN, and Bob Manning, AP

Register by: **Closed.**

Contact: Squadron Educational Officer, Rich Unis, 703-777-8378,
runis_320@yahoo.com

Course: GPS SEMINAR

(1 session, Tuesday – Open to Public)

Description: Learn to use your GPS in detail. Includes waterproof USPS Quick Guide. Cost is \$35; family members and significant others may share the materials for a discount.

Date: 20 May 2008 Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: GMU Offices, 4031 University Dr, 2nd Floor Conf Room, Fairfax, VA

Instructor: Bob Cox, JN, and Bob Donahue, AP

Register by: 10 April 2008 so we can order books! At least 10 in-class members registered are required to make this course a GO!

Contact: Squadron Educational Officer, Rich Unis, 703-777-8378, runis_320@yahoo.com

Course: HOW TO USE A CHART

(1 session, Tuesday – Open to Public)

Description: Learn to use your marine navigation charts in detail. New Seminar! Cost is \$35; family members and significant others may share the materials for a discount.

Date: 28 Oct 2008 Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Location: TBD

Instructor: Bob Cox, JN, and Mark Anderson, S

Register by: 15 Sep 2008 so we can order books! At least 10 in-class participating registrants registered are required to make this course a GO!

Contact: Squadron Educational Officer, Rich Unis, 703-777-8378, runis_320@yahoo.com

**Need advanced boating courses and information?
Please read on!**

If you have time, interest, and energy to devote to boating education and the USPS®, you may join the USPS as a member and take our Advanced and Elective Courses:

Advanced seamanship (S)

Basic navigation beyond the Squadron Boating Course (P)

As Of: 26 Mar 2008

Advanced navigation (AP)
Basic celestial navigation (Sun only) (JN)
Advanced celestial navigation (Moon, Planets, & Stars) (N)
Weather (W)
Engine Maintenance (EM)
Marine Electronics (ME)
Cruise Planning (CP)
Sail (S)
Instructor Development (ID)

The USPS® offers skill-specific seminars on topics, like GPS, VHF Radio, Charting, Sail Trim and Rig Tuning, Boat Handling, and On-Board Weather Forecasting and will soon offer on-the-water certificates of boating proficiency.

To join the USPS®, please contact our Squadron Administrative Officer, John Shivik at: jshivik@cox.net

USPS® is a registered trademark of the United States Power Squadrons.

Please visit www.USPS.org for a boating course or seminar near your zip code and for an in-depth study of the benefits and value of USPS membership.

SAFE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE BOATERS MAKE BOATING FUN!

