



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
Sail and Power Boating
2005 Annual Meeting Reports

BASIC PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

R/C Edwin E. J. Mraz, SN

Stf/C David A. Daniels, SN
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WHAT'S NEW!

The Squadron Boating Course, 2004 Edition

- The Squadron Boating Course (Boating) has been revised for 2004 and is now being shipped for the Fall 2004 classes along with a new exam and new instructor manual.
- The new 2004 student manual has been recertified by NASBLA through 2006. The 2004 edition includes selected new graphics as well as all 2001 addendum topics. In addition, several new topics have been added: Homeland Security, ERPIBs, environmental tips, and Finding Your Way Digitally. Minor rewording of homework problem 3-3; all other homework revisions are of typographical natures.
- The major revision within Boating 2004 is the introduction of Using Digital Charts. The 2004 student manuals come with a CD-ROM, which includes the Maptech Chart Navigator software, a sampling of digital charts and maps across the country and digital versions of the Bowditch Bay and 1210Tr practice charts. This new material is optional and may be taught at the squadron's discretion.
- We strongly suggest that the 2001 edition and the 2004 edition not be used in the same class session. The new 2004 student manual has the introduction to Using Digital Charts which is not contained in the earlier edition. Students are telling us this is the state-of-the-art material they want and expect from USPS.
- The Boating 2004 exam has been revised to better address the NASBLA testing standards. Seventeen questions have been revised from the '98 exam; of the seventeen, eleven questions come directly from the homework; six questions are new and are not in the homework. The answer key is the same as the '98 answer key; that is, the a, b, c, d, options have been structured such that the '98 answer key properly scores both the '98 exam and the 2004 exam. The Boating Course Assistant (software) program answer key matches with the 2004 Boating Course Exam.
- The 2004 Instructor Manual contains references to the Boating PowerPoint slides contained on the Basic Boating Skills CD recently shipped to all SEOs and DEOs. The IM also contains a detailed mapping of all new exam questions to the homework and information about the six exam questions that do not come from the homework.

Boat Smart, 2003 Edition

- The Boat Smart student manual has been revised for 2003 and has been shipped for all new Boat Smart orders since the Spring '04. It has been recertified by NASBLA through 2005. The 2004 edition includes selected

new graphics as well as the 2001 addendum topics. There is minor rewording of homework problems 1-16, 24, 27 and 3-31.

- If your squadron has 2001 inventory, please include the Addendum with the student manual. You can download a master copy from the BPECom Web page.

Boating Skills CD, 2004 Edition - Power Point Presentations for All Boating Courses

- The Basic Boating Skills CD of PowerPoint presentations for all boating course offerings was shipped to all SEOs and DEOs in March 2004 and can be ordered from Headquarters for Boat Smart, Boating Course, and Chart Smart. It also includes the ABC presentations released previously as well as This Is USPS, an introduction of USPS to be used in public boating courses. The presentations include all of the new graphics that have been revised in the Boat Smart 2003 and The Squadron Boating Course (Boating) 2004. In the Boating section of the CD, a PowerPoint presentation on Using Digital Charts is included.

Chart Smart

- Will soon contain a supplement on the introduction of Using Digital Charts. It will come with the same CD as Boating 2004, the Maptech Chart Navigator Training software, a sampling of digital charts across the country and digital versions of the Bowditch Bay and 1210Tr practice charts. This new material is optional and may be taught at the squadron's discretion. Shipments are planned later in 2004 when all work is completed.

Paddle Smart

- The Paddle Smart website can be accessed from the USPS EdDept page or directly at <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/paddlesmart/>. It contains several flyers on topics ranging from Navigation Rules, Weather Tips, Nautical Charts and Maps, Electronics, Homeland Security, and PFDs.

United States Coast Guard Navigation Rules

- There have been several changes to the Federal Navigational Rules (72 COLREGS) that should be communicated to the students of the public boating courses and membership course that reference Navigational Rules. The primary area impacting recreational boaters is Rule 33(a) which discusses the carrying requirements for sound producing devices on vessels 12 meters or longer. The amended rule no longer requires a vessel between 12 and 20 meters to carry a bell. These are federal regulations and States may have additional requirements. (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/mwv/navrules/navrules2003.htm>).

WHAT'S UNDER DEVELOPMENT

River Boating Learning Guide

- The committee is continuing the development of a River Boating Learning Guide. It will be similar to Chart Smart that is used by many squadrons in coastal areas. The River Boating LG addresses topics that are important to know when one boats on rivers, channels and canals.

The Squadron Boating Course S/E, 2004 Edition

- The 2004 edition of **The Squadron Boating Course Spanish/English (Boating S/E)** has been printed and is at Headquarters for shipping. This bilingual edition is a black/white version of The Squadron Boating Course-2004.

BPE Com Website

- The committee website is being significantly refreshed. Please check it frequently for tips and late breaking news for the public courses.

BOAT HANDLING COMMITTEE

R/C Christine Rasmussen, SN

Stf/C Daniel H. Tiedeman, JN

The committee has been very busy this year working on rewrites of the various Learning Guides. Several articles were submitted to the Ensign magazine. "Seamanship- Past, Present and Future" was in the September issue. A PowerPoint®/OHT program was created for the Seamanship course and mailed to the SEOs/DEOs.

Latest course material/supplies:

- SA-SM 101 (02), SA-SM 102 (02),
- SA-IM (02)
- S-101 SM (02), S-102 SM (02),
- S-IM 101/102 (02)

Learning Guides:

- Intro to Sailing
- Skipper Saver Manual
- Knots, Bends and Hitches
- Water Sports

Web pages:

- Source of downloadable Sail 101/102 module graphics
- New Combined Boat Handling site for Sail, Seamanship and Learning Guides
- Source of downloadable Seamanship 101/102 module power point/OHT

Random Exams

- Exam question 197 for the Seamanship 101 was eliminated by being made "obsolete".

EXAM STATS FOR 2004

<u>Exams to date</u>	<u>Graded</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Rate</u>
S'94 11/29/04	163	152	93.3%
S101 11/29/04 2125	1924	90.5%	
S102 12/29/03 1998	1863	93.2%	
SA 101 12/29/03	378	359	95.0%
SA 102 12/29/03	370	323	87.3%

- A total of 257 students passed with a 100% score through November of this year. Congratulatory letters to the students were sent to the SEOs involved with copies e-mailed to the DEOs.

Work in progress:

- Several members of the Educational Department are working with the Boat Handling Committee on a new, one text version of Seamanship. The "Knots, Bends and Hitches" and "How to buy a Boat" LG are being formatted. The 287 graphics for knots were created. The LGs should be out in 2005.

- The committee made up a strategic plan for the next three years. There is a lot to be done! All help from the USPS membership will be appreciated.

New committee members

- The committee welcomed D/Lt/C Wilbur G Hugli, JN, Ft Walton Sail & Power Squadron, D/15, D/Lt/C Thad M Smyczek, SN, Milwaukee squadron, D/10 in 2004. Several other USPS members have volunteered to do specific jobs. Thanks.

Future Plans:

- The committee is working on a rewrite of the "Skipper Saver Manual". Any member's comments would be greatly appreciated by the committee.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

R/C William F. Witty, SN

Stf/C Stanley Warner, SN

Committee Overview:

- 63 ED-79's were processed during the year 2004 and in a timely manner. EDM III has been revised and printing is on hold.
- All Educational Dept. Meeting minutes were recorded by EDO Com members.
- Tom Brincka along with Pat Governale continues doing a great job in maintaining the Education Dept. website and it is updated as needed.

INLAND AND COASTAL NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

R/C Richard C Pfenniger, SN

Stf/C Kenneth L. Griffing, SN

Stf/C James W. Spencer, SN

Current Course Materials:

Piloting:

- The new Piloting Course sales have been great. As of 1 Dec we have shipped over 2,200 copies of the 3,000 copies in the original order. This shows that this is what we needed and what our members wanted. Despite the short turn around time we have entered numbers of corrections and some clarification to the manuscript before reprint order was placed.
- Two exams are complete and available for testing of the students. The exam consists of a number of multiple choice questions relating to a cruise on Bowditch Bay, plotting and labeling of the cruise, and a selection of randomly selected piloting and navigation rules questions. The exam is open book with the students allowed seven days to take it home, complete and return to the Exam Administrator. The first and third portions of the exam are computer graded at headquarters

before being sent to the ICN Com Exam Evaluators (EE) for review of the calculations, grading of the plotting and labeling and calculations of a final score. It is anticipated that the newly developed computer graded exams will be quicker and simpler for the evaluators to review and the results will be returned to the squadrons more rapidly than with the old course.

- The next reprint of the instructor's manual will include Student Guide reference for the Homework questions. When the review is complete the references will be posted on the web site.
- Work continues to clarify and fine tune the new course. The 2005 reprint will include a Plotting and Labeling pull-out created to clarify the new standards. The standards pull-out can be downloaded from our Web site.
- Feedback from the squadrons teaching the new course has been helpful in identifying the needed clarifications and corrections. Reactions to the new course content, teaching approach and the manuals have been generally positive.
- As of 1 December, 1222 of the 1575 students who completed P94 passed, for a pass rate of 79%. It is anticipated that many members who have previously taken P and or AP will want to take the new course with the inclusion of modern electronic tools. The record of any member who has previously passed P and AP will not be changed, by taking the new course and exam.

Advanced Piloting:

- 125 students in 13 Squadrons have been part of the Beta Classes to test the new course. Feedback from those teams has been folded into the final version of the SG, IM and Power Point Slides. This feedback has been very positive and contributed to hundreds of changes to the final course material. The final version of the new course went to the printer in December and is expected to be available shortly after the Annual Meeting.
- As of 30 Nov the committee has processed the following:

Orig CB	635 taken	564 passed	88.8%
Orig OB	633 taken	517 passed	81.7%
CB re-exam	34 taken	31 passed	91.2%
OB re-exam	53 taken	41 passed	77.4%
- The committee has handled 114 less exams this year than last year. I think members are waiting for the new course to get this part back on schedule.
- Work is progressing on updating the Learning Guides assigned to this committee.

ELECTRO MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

R/C Stephen A. Leishman, SN

Stf/C Walter C. Fields, SN

Stf/C Sam W. Richey, SN

Work Completed or In Progress since Last Report

Examinations Statistics for 2004

Exam	Percent Passing	Exams This Year	Average Score	Average Passing Score	Number Perfect Scores
<u>EM</u> 93/96	100	33	93.5	95.4	None
EM 101	92	461	91.6	92.6	25
EM 102	98	386	94.3	95.1	86
ME 97	79	34	87	92.4	None
ME 101	92	550	90.9	92.4	79
ME 102	89	717	89.5	91	27
ME 103	89	753	86	90	33

Course Completions: (from HQ USPS as of 17 Nov 2004)

- Total EM course completions from January 2004 to present are 717.
- Total EM course completions from May 2003 to present are 1,140.
- Total ME course completions from January 2004 to present is 461.

Learning Guides & Projects

- **Amateur Radio Learning Guide:** This Learning Guide was completely rewritten with new graphics supplied by the American Radio Relay League. This guide may be published by McGraw-Hill Marine International as the first USPS publication published under a pending contract between McGraw-Hill and USPS
- **Radar Learning Guide:** The Radar Learning Guide has been completely rewritten with new supporting graphics and photos. It is presently waiting formatting for publication.
- **GMDSS Learning Guide:** This Learning Guide was submitted to McGraw-Hill Marine International as the potential second USPS publication to be published under the pending contract.
- **DSC Simulator:** Continuing to work as a joint project with the Canadian Power Squadrons.
- **RADAR Simulator:** Continuing to research opportunities at developing a computer-based radar simulator program that will stress radarscope interpretation.

- **Support to ICN Project Team:** Continuing support as requested.

RTCM Report

- Nothing new to report.

GMDSS Taskforce

- Nothing new to report.

ABYC

- Stf/C Walter C. Fields, SN, nominated to be C/C representative to ABYC.

Personnel

- Submitted HQ 229 and 229a.

Materials Inventory

- Received and reviewed IV36, Inventory List dated 12/1/04. No actions required.

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

R/C S. Patricia Governale, SN

Stf/C Florence E. Smith, SN

Stf/C Otto L. Rasmussen, SN

Instructor Development Program:

- The Instructor Development committee continued to face new challenges this past year as we worked with the other EdDept committee teams developing new editions of our courses. We were responsible for designing and formatting new Instructor Manuals for the Squadron Boating Course, the new Piloting course and the new Advanced Piloting course. In keeping with our goal of helping our Instructors become ‘the best they can be’, we have continued to seek and develop ideas and programs that will provide assistance to the squadrons. At the top of the list of projects is a plan to market USPS educational opportunities externally to the public (to stimulate membership) as well as internally (to entice member participation and stimulate member retention). Sample ideas for flyers were presented at the Fall Governing Board and will be displayed at our Expo booth at the annual meeting.
- As our courses continue to develop into the electronic age, we recognize a need to reach out to the squadrons and help our instructors embrace the new technology. We introduced the Tech Mentor program and at the Spring and Fall Governing boards, we presented some basic tips for customizing the electronic material being provided with the new courses. We have also developed a little booklet of basic PowerPoint presentation techniques, the first of a series of “how to” booklets we plan to introduce. As the Educational Department continues to improve our courses,

the Instructor Development committee continues to look for ways to help squadrons build a strong

body of instructors with the skills to present the new material effectively. In order to provide appropriate assistance however, we need to hear from squadron members; what do they like, what don't they like, what are they having a problem with, etc. As always, we welcome all ideas, suggestions and directive criticism from fellow squadron members.

Course Curriculum

- The ID course has been undergoing a complete review and update of its content in preparation for reordering in the spring of 2005 as the current supplies are depleted.
- The Instructor Development course material continues to be offered free of charge to squadrons. However, as of 1 December 2004, shipping will no longer be free. Therefore, to minimize shipping costs, all orders for ID course material should be combined with other material orders on the Standard Order Form. The accompanying PowerPoint slides and b/w overhead masters may be downloaded from the IDCom web site. www.usps.org/national/eddept/idcom

Instructor Certification and Recertification

- As the deadline for certification of all boating class instructors, 1 Jan 2006, draws near, squadrons need to be encouraged to run the ID course and DEOs should make sure that the 4-hour Instructor Certification Seminar is available in their district for all squadron members qualifying for it.
- The Certification Policy and Application forms for initial certification and recertification are posted on the IDCom page of the EdDept Web site at www.usps.org/national/eddept/idcom. The forms may be filled out and printed for SEO and DEO signatures and submittal to headquarters.
- Certified Instructor polo shirts and lapel pins may be ordered from headquarters, or purchased at the Ship's Store at each Governing Board meeting. Sizes and inventory numbers are listed in the Squadron Materials Catalog.
- The Instructor Guides for the recertification seminar are available for ordering from headquarters at a nominal charge of \$10. (Inv# 01-94-100). CDs containing the accompanying PowerPoint presentation slides were distributed to all DEOs and other attendees at the 2003 seminar in New Orleans. They may also be downloaded from the IDCom web site.

Teaching Aids

- Articles featuring an outstanding teaching aid were prepared and submitted for publication each month in The Ensign.
- This year again saw a good response to the ETA Award program with submittals received from many Districts. The submittals were all excellent examples of the use of electronic media as a tool for developing visual aids to enhance a presentation and illustrate some of the difficult concepts of our courses. An important feature of the program is that the ideas and talents of our members can be easily shared and adapted for use by other instructors.
- Steps have been taken to improve the Teaching Aid registration database and overall handling of the annual exhibits with the emphasis on improved customer service. In order to provide wider dissemination of teaching aid ideas, a plan is being developed to provide photos and contact information for all teaching aids displayed at the annual meeting as PowerPoint slides on CD.
- A Little PowerPoint Booklet has been prepared covering basic information to assist instructors with customizing the new presentation material being distributed with the new courses. Copies will be available at the ID Expo booth and it will also be published on the web site.
- A new Teaching Aids manual has been completed and will be visible at the Annual Meeting. It will be made available on the web site shortly after the first of the year.

Chapman Award

- Review and judging of the 2004 District Nominees has been completed and five National Chapman Award winners have been selected. A report was prepared and sent to the NEO for presentation at the annual meeting. A complete list was sent to HQ for the permanent log and an article was prepared and submitted for publication in the March or April issue of The Ensign.
- In addition to the sextant awards, the recipients will receive a laminated Certified Instructor wallet card (valid for four years from the date of the annual meeting) and the special laurel wreath lapel pin. All District Chapman Award winners will also receive a four-year Certified Instructor wallet card.

Examination Statistics

- Year to date, through November
- 102 perfect scores
- 65 open orders for ID exams

YTD	Total Exams	Pass	Non Pass	Avg Grade
2004	505	497	8	94.0
2003	401	393	8	93.8
2002	371	367	4	94.7

OFFSHORE NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

R/C Kenneth L. Barbour, SN

Stf/C James R. McVey, SN

Current Course Material:

	Junior Navigation	Navigation
Student Manual	JN 99/01*	N 2002 Edition
Instructor Manual	JN 99/01*	N99*
		Includes Update 1, Aug 2000
Overhead Transparency Masters	JN 99**	N 99

- Update 1, Nov 2002 for JN SM and IM, and Update 2, Aug 2002 for N IM.
- Power Point CD distributed to DEO's in Sept 2003, PDF version on the web page

2004 Progress

- We are nearing completion of working drafts of the text material for the four parts of the revised JN and N courses. Work continues on homework, appendices, Instructor Manuals and exams. We are working to complete JN as soon as possible with N to follow several months later.
- The revision of the Navigational Astronomy Learning Guide has been formatted by PSCOM and is being reviewed.

Exam Results

- As shown in the following tables, the number of Grades awarded for JN dropped significantly this year, while there was a welcome increase in the number of new N's.
- The exam passing scores, averaging about 90%, combined with the relatively high failure rates and lower average scores indicate that students either do well or very poorly on the exams. We encourage you to stress to your instructors the need to make sure that students are well prepared to take the exams. Failure can be very discouraging.
- The number of grades awarded continues to track the number of sight folders completed. Please encourage any members who still need to complete their folders to make the effort and complete them.

Web Page

- The ONCom Web page has lots of information for your JN and N students and instructors. Recently a new program called "Celestial Tools" for planning and rough checking sights without the need to look up values in the Nautical Almanac has been added. The printed almanac must still be used for sight folders. Check it out and visit the page often.

JN Examination Results

- 2004 vs 2003 (Jan 1 to Dec 1)

Closed Bk.	Total Exams	Average Grade	Number Passing	Percentage Passing	Average Passing Gr	No. Perfect Scores
2004	253	86.2%	186	73.5%	91.5%	5
2003	273	82.0%	210	76.9%	91.3%	21
Open Bk.						
2004	250	78.7%	162	64.8%	89.1%	5
2003	271	83.0%	197	72.7%	89.0%	2
Sight Fold.						
2004	121	--	94	77.7%	--	--
2003	162	--	132	81.5%	--	--

N Examination Results

- 2004 vs 2003 (Jan 1 to Dec 1)

Closed Bk.	Total Exams	Average Grade	Number Passing	Percentage Passing	Average Passing Gr	No. Perfect Scores
2004	137	77.1%	83	60.1%	90.3%	9
2003	109	77.7%	73	67.0%	95.5%	6
Open Bk.						
2004	104	87.1%	84	80.1%	92.2%	2
2003	97	84.5%	85	87.6%	89.6%	5
Sight Fold.						
2004	86	--	68	79.1%	--	2
2003	40	--	29	72.5%	--	8

Award of Grade	2004	2003
JN	95	127
N	63	29

MARINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

R/C Jean L. Hamilton, SN

Stf/C Robert E. Brandenstein, SN

Work Completed & In Progress since Last Report

YEAR	COMPLETIONS
2002	260
2003	841
2004	421 Through November

Weather, 101 & 102

Basic Weather	PERCENT PASSING	EXAMS TAKEN	AVERAGE SCORE	AVERAGE PASSING SCORE	PERFECT SCORES
2002	96%	535	92.5	93.7	63
2003	94%	917	92.9	94.5	158
2004	93%	533	93.2	94.8	89

Advanced Weather	PERCENT PASSING	EXAMS TAKEN	AVERAGE SCORE	AVERAGE PASSING SCORE	PERFECT SCORES
2002	97%	344	95.6	96.7	106
2003	97%	883	95.6	96.5	236
2004	92%	477	89.3	90.9	23

- As of 30 November, 533 exams have been administered for Basic Weather 101 with a 93% passing rate and an average score of 93%; a total of 477 exams have been completed for Advanced Weather 102 with a 92% passing rate and an average score of 89%; there have been 421 Weather completions.
- In addition to the CDROM, 117 additional PowerPoint slides are available for download on the MEnvCom web page as follows:
 - Clouds – 33
 - Floods – 17
 - Lightning – 7
 - Misc – 5 (dust storm, fog, rainbows)
 - Thunderstorms & Tornadoes – 27
 - Wx Instrumentation – 21

- Also, as a reminder, a 34-slide PowerPoint presentation on Clouds is available for download. If you have any difficulty with the downloads, please contact the MEnvCom Chair for a CD.

Basic Weather

Effects of Heat and Cold
Wind and pressure
Atmosphere and Clouds
Rain, Humidity, and Fog
Storms and Fronts

Advanced Weather

Thunderstorms and Tornadoes
Tropical Weather
Forecasting
Floods, Droughts, & Winter Precip
Climate

- The MEnvCom is soliciting feedback from Weather instructors and students as to whether the course should remain in two parts with two exams, or whether it should be presented as a 10-12 week single course. Most squadrons teach both modules back-to-back. Some members think the modular format is awkward and don't like having to order exams twice. Others think the Weather material is often completely new to some students, that the course covers a lot of information, and having two exams, or maybe a "mid-term" and a "final" help the students remember the information better.
- Discussion is in progress with NOAA regarding purchasing or re-printing the Sea State, Wind, and Clouds guide to use as a supplemental teaching tool for the course.

SKYWARN

- Member interest continues in the NWNS SKYWARN program. We are attempting to coordinate with the Cooperative Charting Committee for USPS participation.
- (SKYWARN is the name given to an alerting program sponsored by the US National Weather Service. The program is made up of thousands of volunteers who attend regular training and then spend hours scanning the skies of their communities looking for signs of meteorological mayhem. These volunteers, usually organized under the SKYWARN banner in the USA or CANWARN in Canada, are trained by weather service forecasters to be the eyes and ears (and skin) of the warning forecasters. SKYWARN observers are asked to notify the National Weather Service of any adverse conditions as they occur. NOAA's training consists of a four hour rapid fire presentation focusing on severe weather. Attendees are designated as certified SKYWARN observers and reporters for a five-year period.
- Most volunteers are just regular folks, some with an avid interest in the weather and many without. Some are law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS or Emergency Management personnel. All share a sense of responsibility to their neighbors. But USPS members who have completed our Weather course are far better versed in weather patterns and sky conditions than are the average people on the street. NOAA especially needs observers who live away from major metropolitan areas.

Cruise Planning

CP 2003 YEAR	PERCENT PASSING	EXAMS TAKEN	AVERAGE SCORE	AVERAGE PASSING SCORE	PERFECT SCORES
2004	98.6%	363	92.6	92.8	4

- The 2003 edition of the Cruise Planning course has been shipping since December, 270 exams have been administered through 31 July. PowerPoint slides supporting this material are available for download from the website.
- An update sheet addressing some homework questions and various edits has been placed on the MEnvCom webpage for download. Please make sure instructors and students have this update sheet for material in squadron inventory shipped prior to including the update sheet

CP 97 YEAR	PERCENT PASSING	EXAMS TAKEN	AVERAGE SCORE	AVERAGE PASSING SCORE	PERFECT SCORES
2004	94.0%	135	90.4	91.5	1
2003	96.15%	467	91.79	92.50	9
2002	97%	681	92.20	92.83	10
2001	94%	546	90.89	92.19	14
2000	94%	536	91.00		

- There have been 135 completions through 30 November in CP 97 with a 94% passing rate and an average score of 90%. This course is now out of print and will no longer be shipped. The CP 97 exam question bank has been removed from the server and will no longer be shipped.

Learning Guides

Mariner's Environment

- A major revision of the course outline continues. The MEnvCom will work with the new ad hoc USPS Environmental Committee to complete this project within the 2005 calendar year.

Regional Weather Learning Guides

- Discussion with Environment Canada and NOAA are in progress to collaborate on this project, and evaluation of possible formats with International Marine publishing has started.

PUBLICATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE

R/C Peter W. Mitchelson, SN

Stf/C Peter A. Nielsen, SN

Stf/C Stanley L. Petty, JN

The committee has been working on many initiatives to improve the services that we provide.

An on-line graphics catalog and an on-line glossary will provide a valuable service not only to the Educational Department Committees but also to our membership as they develop their own presentation tools. The data collection for the catalog is almost complete – we are in the process of making it available to everyone via the Educational Department web site by the end of the first quarter.

Editors and formatters have been working hard finalizing a number of Learning Guides – “How to Buy a Boat”, “Knots Bends & Hitches” and “Navigational Astronomy” – as well as updating the Chart Smart module.

The committee is still short of graphic artists and publication formatters – At the Jacksonville Governing Board some members indicated they were interested in helping out; unfortunately hurricanes Frances and Jeanne cut all lines of communication here in Florida so I did not receive any messages. I ask anyone with editing, layout and graphic to contact me; your skills are needed to further the educational goals of our organization.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

R/C Robert L. Potter, SN

Stf/C Marlys H. Vickers, SN

Committee Overview:

Curriculum Development – the committee completed its work with the ICN Project Team on the new AP material, except for work on exams.

- Marlys Vickers reviewed the draft AP SG and IM.
- Hal Willard completed teaching a beta class for the new AP course. He provided weekly feedback and graded the final exam
- Work on exams is covered below.

Other committee activities are as follows:

- Greg Scotten, our newest member, prepared a presentation on the process of curriculum development for the CDC Com meeting at the Annual Meeting.
- The committee started drafting our strategic plan at the Fall Governing Board. Marlys coordinated the collecting of comments on the first draft. She drafted a PPT presentation for Potter.
- Bob Potter participated in the recent Ed Dept recruiting effort, phoning SEOs in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa. Marlys contacted squadrons in D9 to identify candidates.
- Mike Scallan has been working with the RTCM committee on SC-119, the standard for the "Survivor Locator Device". That standard has now been approved by RCTM.

- Mike is looking into how the standard impacts our course material, and how it should be incorporated.

Exams

- Nancy Reeder worked on exams for the new Piloting Course. She encoded questions for the second exam, ran trials, and had the exam loaded at HQ. The second exam will be used for re-exams.
- The N exam has been modified to solve a formatting problem, the trial has been run and the revised version loaded at HQ
- Nancy has also had some bad exam questions from various courses, and marked as “Obsolete” so they will not be used.
- We plan to develop AP exams using a method similar to that used for the P exams. As soon as questions are available in multiple choice format they will be encoded.

Exam Priorities Now:

- Develop the computer graded AP exam.
- Evaluate how the computer graded P exam is working.
- Add non-homework questions to the WE 101 exam.
- Support development of exams for the new JN and N material, the new S course, and the new B course.
- Updated documentation is needed for ExamGen. A Users Guide is needed for: those running the program to check input; those running the program to process exams; course committee members preparing input (question files, graphics and templates).

Currents

Dick Siebert published the Annual Meeting issue of *Currents*.

Special Projects

- Glossary updates – Dick Siebert has accepted the assignment of maintaining the USPS Glossary and is getting familiar with the task. All Glossary questions and updates should be forwarded to Dick Siebert at wiswansong@aol.com

Ensign Correspondent

- Nancy Reeder is the Educational Department Correspondent to The Ensign. Her monthly column will keep the membership alerted to the developing program in the department. To date she has written two articles, one on charting and one on AP. The CDC Com reviewed the storyboard for the next version of the Seamanship material.
- The Committee is also are working on a brief guide to using storyboards to develop new USPS course material.