



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
Sail and Power Boating
2005 Portland Governing Board Reports

BASIC PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

R/C David A. Daniels, SN

Stf/C Eugene E. Molteni, SN
Stf/C Robert J. Sweet, SN

WHAT'S NEW!

The Squadron Boating Course, 2004 Edition

- This year we're celebrating a major upgrade in The Squadron Boating Course and squadrons are about to reap the benefits from the added material introducing Using Digital Charts. We previously reported the PowerPoint enhancements and the digital charting material from Maptech (see the June 2005 Charlotte Governing Board reports for details). By now, DEOs should have burned duplicate CDs of the new PowerPoint presentations provided in Charlotte and distributed to their squadrons in preparation for the fall education season.
- If your squadron does not already offer a **Boating** course to the public, BPECom is launching an awareness campaign in order to capitalize on the newly available digital charts. We recommend that you offer at least one **Boating** session, yearly, along with your **Boat Smart** and **ABC** programs. Promote the modern content and digital chart training and they will come.

America's Boating Course

- A new 2005 **America's Boating Course** examination has been shipped to every DEO and SEO. This examination is the Form-A NASBLA exam. Exam questions have been prepared by the NASBLA education committee and do not come from the student manual homework. However, all examination questions are covered in the **ABC** course material. Prior versions of the **ABC** examination should be destroyed. As previously reported, a new 2005 edition of the student manual for **ABC** has been printed with minor changes and will be shipping as soon as the prior edition is exhausted. An addendum is available for use with remaining 2001 manuals and will be shipped to all squadrons. The addendum is also available for download from the BPECom website.
- New Jersey Squadrons may now teach ABC as an eight hour classroom course. State approval is contingent upon use of the NJ supplied addendum.
- Distance/online learning with ABC still is not approved within NJ.

Boat Smart

- The current 2004 version of **Boat Smart** will be used well into 2006 until the future equivalent part of the **Boating '07** course is beta tested and ready for general use. The 2004 books will be used for all upcoming fall and spring **Boat Smart** classes. **Boat Smart 2004**

will be recertified with NASBLA for ongoing use in 2006. The NASBLA Form-A exam will replace the current exam and will be used in 2006 for **Boat Smart** classes.

WHAT'S UNDER DEVELOPMENT!

Boating '07

- The development of the next generation of public boating is advancing at a rapid pace based on your feedback. This new course will replace **Boating** in 2007, but the first part will be available next year to replace the current **Boat Smart**. Pictures of buoys, bridges, locks, types of boats, etc. are still needed for the PowerPoint presentations. Maximum camera resolution is preferred. Email your pictures to: BPECom@gmail.com
- A detailed report on the status and development of Boating 07 is included in this edition of Currents

Safe Boating Week 2006

- We are planning a coordinated, marketing and public relations blitz across the country for Safe Boating Week 2006 to stress the value of taking a safe boating course. Safe Boating Week 2006 is scheduled for 20 May, Saturday, to 26 May, Friday. We are requesting that squadrons conduct a special activity during Safe Boating Week – and that is to conduct a USPS public boating course. A detailed report is included in this edition of Currents.

ED-27 Class Reports

- Knowing how many students have taken and successfully completed our boating courses is essential to measuring our progress as an organization. It also is required data under our agreements with many states. The ED-27 is the tool. SEOs are urged to work with their public boating class chairs to verify the submission of the ED-27 reports immediately after a course is completed. Many reports are not submitted on a timely basis, causing considerable difficulty in planning and managing the courses on a national level. A new checklist is being developed to accompany the fall public course orders reminding the class chairs to complete this important duty. There are three ways to submit an ED-27: 1) by mailing a hardcopy ED-27 postcard to both HQ and the DEO; 2) online via the HQ-800 website; and 3) via the Boating Course Assistant (BCA). You need not submit by more than one means – it only makes more work for Headquarters. You can check that the reports have been logged by reviewing the monthly reports received by your DEO.

BPECom Website

- The committee website is used to share public course updates. Please check it frequently for tips and late breaking news for the public courses, including PowerPoint slide updates.

HOW TO CONTACT US!

2005 Boating Committee Contact:

- R/C David A. Daniels, SN, Chairman, 14 London Lane, Endicott, NY 13760
Phone: 607-754-5371 Cell: 607-765-6288 E-mail: ddaniels1@stny.rr.com

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BOAT HANDLING COMMITTEE

R/C Wilber G. Hugli, SN

Stf/C Florence E. Smith, SN

Course Development:

Seamanship.

- Approximately 75 percent of chapters 1 and 2 have been submitted in draft. Approximately 10 percent of chapters 3 through 6 have been submitted in draft.
- In concept Wings One Minute Rules of the Road will be used as an attachment in the new Seamanship manual.
- On-line course modules will be developed as soon as the complete chapters are in final draft.

Sail.

- No changes at this time. This course is scheduled for an update and rewrite after completion of Seamanship.

Learning Guides:

- Knots, Bends and Hitches LG – Has been reviewed by the Publishing editor and recommended changes are being completed.
- How To Buy A Boat LG – Following comments by the Publishing editor it was decided to start from scratch with a new focus.

Plans for future development, special projects, etc.

- On-Line Material: As Seamanship draft chapters are ready an online version will be developed.
- Graphics and Animation: BHCom and BPECom are coordinating a search for graphic and animation arts capabilities both in and outside of USPS.

Materials inventory

- Knots, Bends Hitches –out.
- The current inventory of primary BHCom texts and materials is adequate for the next six months.
- The interim printing of the current Seamanship manuals should be replaced by the new course materials in 2006.
- Other materials- OK

Course Exams/Completions

EXAM Stats For 2005 YTD

Exam	YTD	# Graded	# Passed	Passing Rate
S 101	1-1-05 - 7-31-05	800	731	91.4%
S 102	1-1-05 - 7-31-05	775	724	93.4%
Sa 101	1-1-05 - 7-31-05	175	161	92.0%
Sa 102	1-1-05 - 7-31-05	168	151	89.9%

Personnel Status

- There are some 33 official and unofficial members of USPS serving on BHCom in various capacities.
- P/D/Lt/C Harold Willard, SN (CDCCom) , P/R/C Richard Seibert, SN (CDCCom Glossary), and Stf/C Robert Sweet, SN (BPECom) are assisting BHCom by coordinating intracommittee activities.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

R/C William F. Witty, SN

Stf/C Stanley Warner, SN

Committee Overview:

- All ED 79's have been processed as of 4 August 2005
- All Educational Dept. Meeting minutes were recorded by EDO Com members.

Educational Dept Website

- Our Webmasters continue to be very busy with all the updates necessary to keep the site current.
- Tom Brincka along with Pat Governale continue to do a great job in maintaining the Dept. website and it is updated as needed.

INLAND COASTAL NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

R/C Richard C Pfenniger, SN

Stf/C Kenneth L. Griffing, SN

Stf/C James W. Spencer, SN

Work completed and in progress since last report:

Piloting:

- Corrections and additions to the Piloting Student Guide have been made in preparation for the third printing. The major change was the addition of material on Cardinal marks as used in Canadian waters, among other locations.
- As of the end of July the Piloting team has evaluated over 1,800 exams, or an average of over 260 per month. Of the 12 Exam Evaluators, 9 have evaluated over 100 exams to date, with one having evaluated over 300. The overall pass percentage has been 92.8% and the average passing score 90.3%. The average score has been 88.5%. There have been 9 scores of 100%. Of the 129 students that have not initially passed the exam, 26 have already taken the re-exam of which 23 have passed with an average score of 92.5%.
- An assessment of performance on all answers to all questions on the primary exam has been requested and received and no major problems are evident. There are however a couple of areas that deserve further analysis. As soon as the rate of exam processing moderates, it is planned to return to creating additional homework and exam questions in preparation for creating another exam. It is intended to write some supplemental comments for the Piloting

Course Instructors to help call attention to areas where the student performance has been the weakest.

- A number of critiques on the course and the exam have been received, mostly from instructors. The comments have been a great help in identifying typos, errors or areas where the initial wording was not clear. The great majority have been very favorable to the new course and approach. Please keep the comments coming.

Advanced Piloting

- At present there are over 1,700 student guides for the new AP course in circulation. Several questions on clarification have come in and been addressed. Overall the comments from students have indicated they are very happy with the direction of the new course.
- An errata list is being compiled based on input from the committee members, questions coming from the phone calls and e-mail. This will be placed on our web site. This was done as part of the preparation for the second printing of the Student Guide.
- Thru July we have had 520 students take the exam. 456 or 87.7% have passed and 64 or 12.3% did not pass.
- There are no more AP-95 exams. All students now need to be examined on the new course.
- It was discovered that a few bad questions were in the exam and these have been corrected and a new exam is being developed. The EEs have been made aware of the problems. Your students will not fail because of the bad questions. There have also a couple of errors have been found in the Power Point Slides, Art Mollica will update the slides as soon as they're ready, they will be posted on our web site.

Learning Guides

- The first draft of the Plotting and Labeling guide has been completed. It was written by Linda & David Leggs. It will be sent to the Educational Department for comments before we start to get the outside groups support and agreement on this guide. Only a few people have replied. An excellent reply came in from P/V/C James Roeber, SN. We need more replies. Linda and David are working with the comments so far received.
- The complete draft of the Predicted Log LG has been completed. This has been written by P/D/Lt/C Carl Johnson and P/D/C Art Mollica. It is in the process of review. We need a couple more Predicted Log people to review the material before we go to press.
- The committee has been assigned a new LG since the last GB. It is Compass Adjusting. P/D/C/ Art Mollica is heading up this project. He is working on the story board.

ELECTRO MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

R/C Walter C.Fields, SN

Stf/C Harl Porter, SN
 Stf/C Edwin G. Kriedler, SN

Examination Statistics Comparing Period Ending 1 April 2005 with Period Ending 31 July 2005

Engine Maintenance

EM 101

Year	Percent Passing	Exams Taken	Average Score	Average Passing Score	Perfect Scores
2004	95	129	91	93	9
2005	97	70	89	90	5

EM 102

Year	Percent Passing	Exams Taken	Average Score	Average Passing Score	Perfect Scores
2004	99	114	95	95	26
2005	96	82	93	95	9

Marine Electronics

ME 101

Year	Percent Passing	Exams Taken	Average Score	Average Passing Score	Perfect Scores
2004	93	132	91	92	26
2005	88	73	89	91	7

ME 102

Year	Percent Passing	Exams Taken	Average Score	Average Passing Score	Perfect Scores
2004	89	194	88	91	10
2005	84	57	88	91	4

ME 103

Year	Percent Passing	Exams Taken	Average Score	Average Passing Score	Perfect Scores
2004	89	160	87	91	7
2005	89	93	90	93	9

Course Development:

Engine Maintenance:

- The rewrite of the Engine Maintenance course is in progress using the story board finalized at the last Annual Meeting. Plans call for putting the course back into one manual with ten chapters. The major parts of Inboard, Outboard, and Diesel engines and how these parts work together will be discussed, but the major emphasis will be on how to maintain these engines and how to recognize symptoms for repair. The last chapter will deal with emergency repairs afloat that is in the average recreational boater's capability. Expect publication in late 2005.

Marine Electronics:

- The Marine Electronics course will be revised in 2006. The new course will be in one book with three sections. There will be one exam for ME certification. The last section will be called Navigational Electronics and will be supported by a new stand-alone reference book that is under development by the Electro-Mechanical Systems Committee. This reference book will be called THE Boat Owner's Guide to Electronics, and will function as the supporting reference for all USPS courses that include electronic tools in their course material. The story board for the reference was finalized by a Project Team composed of members from many Educational Department Committees and included a representative from the Canadian Sail and Power Squadrons (CPS). This will be a joint project between USPS and CPS. Writing assignments have been made and a final draft is projected for the Annual Meeting in 2006.
- **Learning Guides & Projects**

Marine Amateur Radio:

- Marine Amateur Radio: This book was published by McGraw-Hill Marine International in July 2005, and is available from USPS Headquarters. This is the first USPS publication to be published and marketed by a commercial publisher. This book will have international distribution in commercial book stores, and will also be stocked by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

The Boat Owner's Guide to GMDSS and Marine Radio:

- This book will be published by McGraw-Hill and is presently in copy/edit with EMSCom and editors at McGraw-Hill. This book will contain an interactive CD developed as a joint project with CPS that allows the user to simulate on a computer all the features of a class-D VHF-DSC marine radio. Estimate the publication date as late 2005.

Radar Learning Guide:

- Manuscript is complete with graphics. It will be offered to McGraw-Hill for their review and possible publication.

EMSCom Newsletter

- Three quarterly editions of the EMSCom Newsletter have been published electronically and sent to District Radio Technical Officers (RTOs) and District Executive Officers where there are no District RTOs. We have requested the District RTOs to share the newsletter with squadrons within each District. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide our members with the most up-to-date information on new technology, electronic tools, and events that cover marine electronic and/or engine maintenance. The next quarterly newsletter will be published September 2005

Materials Inventory

- EM-SM101. Anticipate inventory will last until the end of the calendar year. We will keep a close watch on usage until the new course is ready.
- EM-SM102. We will watch this as well, same as EM-SM101.
- EM-IM. Same as above.
- ME-SM 101/102/103 and ME-IM. We have sufficient inventory, no action required.

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

R/C S. Patricia Governale, SN

Stf/C J. Christopher Brown, JN
Stf/C Archie W. Tarwick, Jr., SN

Instructor Development Course Material

- Current course edition is 2005. Current exam is IQ13. If you are still using the 2002 edition, please specify that when ordering exams.

Examination Statistics

- Year to date, through July.
- 46 open orders

YTD	Total Exams	Pass	Non Pass	Avg Grade
2005	303	303	0	94.5
2004	372	364	8	96.6
2003 Annual	305	298	7	93.9

Instructor Certification Seminar

- The program is undergoing modification with an eye to including more information on effective presentations for use by anyone who has to give a presentation or lead a meeting.
- We are planning a new presentation tips booklet as well as a presentation entitled "It's COOL to be an instructor" for the Annual Meeting in January. It will provide recertification for all who attend and have met the requirements under the current policy.

- To assist DEO monitoring of those needing recertification in their districts, a report listing current certified instructors by squadron, including their expiration dates, has been programmed by headquarters and is now being included in the monthly distribution of material to DEOs.

Teaching Aids

- A searchable document containing photographs of all the aids displayed at the annual exhibit including descriptions and contact information is posted on the IDCom website.
- All are encouraged to ask their instructors to share their most effective teaching aids by exhibiting them at their District conference and at the Annual Meeting. Reminder: the deadline for submitting electronic aids for the ETA award is 1 November. They should be submitted in electronic form to R/C Patricia Governale and must include a completed registration form. Forms and guidelines for TA submittals are posted on the IDCom web site.

Chapman Award

- P/V/C Bob David compiled and wrote up the history of the Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching. This has been placed in the committee archives and posted on the IDCom web site.
- An interview with a 2004 Chapman Award winner has been written as an article for the Ensign to be published in a Spring issue.
- The proposal to change the squadron sextant award to a more useful item such as an LCD/DLP projector has been tabled pending feedback from the DEOs. To date none has been forthcoming.

Operations and Support Activities

- We continue to refine our overall strategic plan and committee goals.
- Our marketing efforts continue to find new ways to promote USPS and it's educational programs in an effort to inform the public as well as stimulate member participation as instructors and leaders.
- We completed a brochure for distribution by Boater's World titled Smart Tips for Anglers which also promotes our educational programs.
- Updates to the AP Instructor Manual have been completed and we are working on the Instructor Manuals for the new Boating and Seamanship courses.

Personnel

- No Changes

Materials Inventory

Inventory as of Aug 2005

- (01 76 107) 2005 ID Student Manual
- (01 76 108) 2005 ID Instructor Manual
- (01 94 100) Recertification Seminar Instructor Guide
- (05 94 015) Certified Instructor pin
- Certified Instructor shirts are listed in the Materials Catalog under Instructor Development. Please check the catalog for inventory numbers for the various sizes. They can be ordered from headquarters using the Standard Order Form.
- All text material for the ID course and Certification Seminar continues to be free. The material should be combined with other orders on the Standard Order Form as shipping is no longer free.
- PowerPoint presentation slides for both the ID Course and the Recertification Seminar may be downloaded from the Members Only page of the EdDept web site under ID Downloads.

OFF SHORE NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

R/C N. Ann Fields, SN

Stf/C Merrill F. Sproul, SN

Course Development

Junior Navigation and Navigation:

- A revised outline is being developed for both the JN and Navigation courses, with the objective of making them as practical as possible. A major emphasis will be to incorporate extensive use of electronic navigation into the offshore navigation courses, using celestial and other traditional offshore tools as the backup method. We participated in a 3-day Project Team meeting, in which the storyboard for the electronics portion of these courses was developed. We will now work to incorporate this material into the JN and N course re-write.

Current Courses Exams & Sight Folders

Junior Navigation:

- The number of Closed Book and Open Book exams is down significantly from the same period last year (1 May thru 31 July); the number of Closed Book exams was 51, vs 118 for last year, and the number of Open Book exams was 55, vs 124 for the same period last year. The Percentage Passing the Closed Book exam has increased slightly (from 69% to 73%), with a substantial increase in Average Passing Score (84% to 93%). However, the Percentage Passing the Open Book exam has dropped significantly (from 70% to 55%) for the same period last year, with the Average Passing Score for the Open Book exam dropping only slightly (from 89% to 87%).

The number of Sight Folders submitted is down from the same period last year (24 last year; 19 this year); and the Percentage Passing for Sight Folders is down significantly (83% last year; 74% this year). Please stress the importance of the Squadron Sight Checker to your members; Sight Folders need to be carefully checked at the Squadron, with the student making all necessary corrections before it is signed out and sent to Hq. for grading. There is no reason for any student to have his/her Sight Folder fail when graded by ONCom members, since working with the Squadron instructor/checker is not only encouraged, but required.

Navigation:

- The number of Closed Book and Open Book exams is down slightly from the same period last year (1 May thru 31 July), with a small drop in Percentage Passing and the Average Passing Score. The number of Sight Folders submitted is the same as last year; however, the Percentage Passing is down from the same period last year (76% passing last year, with 66% passing this year).

Learning Guides

Calculators for Navigators:

- An outline of the LG has been developed; however, work to refine this outline into a storyboard has been delayed, with the workload of grading exams and sight folders during the summer, when many ONCom members were off-station.

Navigational Astronomy:

- McGraw Hill evaluated this Learning Guide and concluded they would not be interested in publishing this guide, due to its limited audience and other competitive works on the market. After work on the JN and N courses is well underway, we will look into having new graphics developed, and re-formatting the document as needed.

Learning Guides

- JN Student and Instructor Manuals, and Nav. Student and Instructor Manuals are currently adequate.
- Supplies of Learning Guides and other items, except the Calculators for Navigators Learning Guide, are currently adequate.

Web Page

- The ONCom Web page has lots of information for your JN and N students and instructors. A new program called “Celestial Tools” for planning and rough checking sights without the need to look up values in the Nautical Almanac was added to the website in December 2004. The printed almanac must still be used for sight folders. Check it out and visit the ONCom Web page often.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

R/C Robert E. Brandenstein, SN

Stf/C Gary S. Schroeder, SN

Work Completed & In Progress since Last Report

Weather

YEAR	COMPLETIONS
2002	260
2003	841
2004	592*

results for USPS Educational Year--- 01 JUL 04 through 30 July05

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	94%	635	93.2	94.8	94

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	93%*	592*	89.3*	90.9*	27*

- As of 30 June 05, 635 exams have been administered for Basic Weather 101 with a 94% passing rate and an average score of 93%; a total of 592 exams have been completed for Advanced Weather 102 with a 92% passing rate and an average score of 89%; there have been 592 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.

The next printing of the Weather course will reorder the sections as follows:

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 next rewrite will be built around presentation of the material as a 10-12 week single course. Most squadrons have been teaching both modules back-to-back, and some members thought that the modular format was awkward, requiring the ordering of exams twice. MEnvCom members are currently reviewing the content in these sections for consistency and clarity.
- Discussion continues 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 NWS 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 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 YEAR	PERCENT PASSING	EXAMS TAKEN	AVERAGE SCORE	AVERAGE PASSING SCORE	PERFECT SCORES
2004-5	98.8%*	507*	92.6*	92.8*	6

- In the first complete year of Cruise Planning, 507 exams have been administered through 30 June 05. PowerPoint slides supporting this material are available for download from the website.
- An update sheet addressing some homework questions and various edits is 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 were 135 completions through 30 November 04 in CP 97 with a 94% passing rate and an average score of 90%. This course is now out of print and is no longer being 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 continues to work with the new ad hoc USPS Environmental Committee to complete this project within the 2005 calendar year.

Regional Weather Learning Guides

- The Committee continues to solicit USPS members who are willing to write up Weather conditions which prevail in their region. As write-ups are received they will be made available on the weather website.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

R/C Robert L. Potter, SN

Stf/C Marlys H. Vickers, SN

Important DEO information

Exams

- Please pass this along to all exam administrators: please be sure students complete all questions on exam. Recently, a student failed because he omitted the last page of questions. The phrase "End of Exam" appears after the last question of each exam; be sure exam administrators caution students about this. We recently changed the exam instructions so they explicitly state the number of questions on each exam and tell the students to watch for the "End of Exam" statement.
- We had a case recently where an exam administrator gave the open book exam for P as a closed book exam, perhaps because there was a bubble answer sheet. For both P and AP, the exams are Open Book, take home exams; the student has one week to complete each of these exams. Report problems with exam questions to the R/C responsible via e-mail or in a letter.

New Material

- The Ed Dept is developing new B, S, JN and N material as well as other courses and materials; however, you should keep teaching current courses (do not wait for new material). Under the leadership of Walt Fields, the Electromechanical Systems Committee and others in the USPS Ed Dept and CPS are storyboarding a new book on marine electronics. Be sure to check out the new Marine Amateur Radio Guide that Walt and his team recently produced. The new P and AP material continue to be best sellers and are being updated as they are reprinted. The input of the instructors in the squadrons is critical to improving our material, so please keep providing comments and reporting any errors you find.

Key Strategy: Boating

- We need to bring more students into the B course and bring in more new members so each squadron should mount a joint effort including the B course staff, the PRO, and the MemCom to bring in more students, teach them with top quality instructors & recruit them as members. The new issue of Currents discusses this. Watch for more information on how to do this effectively and share your success stories with others in your district as well as the national committee.

USPS Glossary

- The USPS Glossary is being converted to an Access database. Our goal is to have a single, authoritative definition for each word (or meaning of a word, if word has multiple meanings) used in all USPS material. With the database approach, we will be able to extract course-specific glossaries. We will have a complete glossary available on line. The plans for a print version are not firm, but we may publish a subset of the complete glossary, if it is too large.

Work Completed Since Last Report

Curriculum Development

- Greg Scotten has been reviewing the current USPS course material in order to identify the de facto USPS general instructional goals that are guiding USPS education. He has summarized them in about twenty-five guiding statements. This is a first step in recreating a starting place for a formal curriculum development and analysis process. R/C Potter and Stf/C Vickers have reviewed the initial draft of these general instructional goals.
- Dick Seibert has continued to work with Dick Kyle and Peter Michelson on the database for the USPS Glossary. Thanks go to Peter for his work on preparing the initial database.
- Dick also prepared a proposal for content of the new JN and N and submitted it to the ON committee to discuss.
- Steve Leishman forwarded material on soldering and crimping to Walt Fields for an ME chapter
- Marlys Vickers and Bob Potter participated in the two-day storyboard development session held in Florida on a planned USPS book, THE Boatowner's Guide to Electronics.

Exams

Nancy Reeder worked on exams for the AP course and updated the exams for the new P course. Specifically, she:

- Revised wording for QID [040] in PI03C and PI04C. Tested exams and had HQ reload them.
- Modified all current exam templates to reflect the total number of questions in each exam and the new page-numbering scheme in order to solve an intermittent problem that was occurring and to reduce the chances that a student will miss a page of questions. All exams were tested and sent to HQ for reloading.
- Exam Priorities Now:
 1. Evaluate how the computer graded P and AP exams are working.
 2. Add non-homework questions to the WE 101 exam.
 3. Support development of exams for the new S course, the new B course and the new JN and N material.
 4. 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 Seibert completed the Fall Governing Board Meeting issue of Currents and arranged for printing and delivery.

The Ensign Articles

- Nancy Reeder, the Ed Dept Ensign Correspondent, wrote an article for The Ensign on the new Seamanship Course.

PLANS

- The committee will be assisting the course committees to incorporate the methodology of curriculum development into their processes.
- Continued support for the new S and Boating courses is the number one priority.
- Provide support to the ON Com on development of new JN and N courses.
- Continued support for the Marine Electronics book.

PERSONNEL

- No Changes