



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
Sail and Power Boating
2006 Annual Meeting Reports

BASIC PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

R/C David A. Daniels, SN

Stf/C Eugene E. Molteni, SN

WHAT'S NEW!

The Squadron Boating Course, 2004 Edition

- We have completed our first full year of usage of the upgraded Squadron Boating Course (Boating). Central to the new material was the introduction of Using Digital Charts. Several special PowerPoint presentations were provided in mid 2005 showing students how to use digital charts in planning their boating activities. The digital charting material from Maptech is outstanding and very ease to use. By now, DEOs should have burned duplicate CDs of the new PowerPoint presentations provided and distributed to their squadrons. This CD is version 4.0 of the Basic Boating Skills CD.
- 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. USPS is the only organization equipped to train in the use of these 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 was introduced early last year. This is a NASBLA provided exam. Exam questions have been prepared by the NASBLA education committee and do not come from the student manual homework. Also new this past year was the introduction of an online ABC examination. There are 29 states that now accept online ABC examinations. To check your state's acceptance of this examination approach, go to <http://www.americasboatingcourse.com/>, click on **Testing for Your State**, then your state in the map. If the state accepts online exams, then a series of options will be presented, including a practice exam. The practice exam is free of charge and carries no obligation. Since the online ABC exam is NASBLA approved, it satisfies the USPS membership requirements.
- 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 current 2004 books will be used for all upcoming spring Boat Smart classes. Boat Smart 2004 will be recertified with NASBLA for ongoing use in 2006. A NASBLA exam will replace the current exam and will be used in 2006 for Boat Smart classes. A comprehensive Addendum will also be included with all shipments.

Advertising Squadron Classes

There are two new methods available to squadrons to promote classes.

- **Google Base:** the internet search capabilities of Google have recently been expanded to permit individuals to post a number of topics, including classes. Details have been provided to all DEOs for distribution to squadrons. Check out the following URL and search for “boating class” to see what others have already posted: <http://www.google.com/base>.
- The **Marketing and PR Committee** has recently posted a great tool for creating posters to advertise your class. Check out: <http://www.usps.org/NSBW/>.

WHAT’S UNDER DEVELOPMENT!

Boating '07

- The development of the next generation of public boating courses is continuing. We have been referring to this new course with the general term “Boating '07”. At the present time, we plan to maintain the names that have become very familiar over the past many years. That is, Boat Smart '06 and Squadron Boating Class '07. The numerals indicate the year of introduction of the new material.
- Beta testing of Boat Smart '06 is planned for February. The new student manuals will be available mid next year, in time for the Fall classes. 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 multi-part presentation will be conducted at the Governing Board meeting on 8 January to explain the details to the general membership.

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 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. 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

BOAT HANDLING COMMITTEE

R/C Wilber G. Hugli, SN

Stf/C Florence E. Smith, SN

Current Course Materials: The inventory of current course materials as of December 1, 2005 is attached. Major inventory changes are not planned pending publication of new or revised material.

Work Completed or in Progress Since Last Report

Courses

- Seamanship.
- Chapters 1 thru 5 have been submitted in draft and reviewed by the “Monday Night Murder Board.” Approximately 50 percent of chapters 6 through 9 have been submitted in draft.
- Chapters 1 and 2 comments have been received from the Canadian Power Squadron.
- Editors and test question writers have been identified.
- Ron Einsle has been contracted to prepare MicroMedia Flash inserts. The first two elements have been completed.
- The introductory material for the online version of Seamanship is in draft.
- Sail: No changes at this time. This course is scheduled for rewrite after completion of Seamanship (Summer 2006).

Guides

- Knots, Bends and Hitches has been completed and is available at ship stores or through the eddept catalogue.
- How To Buy A Boat – An outline or storyboard has been developed and being expanded.

Plans for future development, special projects, etc.

- Sail: Revision consideration Summer 2006.
- On-Line Material: The University of West Florida had offered to host USPS educational material within the Continuing Education department. A MOU has been forwarded for review.
- Graphics and Animation: Mr. Einsle is completing work on Seamanship material.
- Several ideas and subjects for short seminars and revised or new Guides are being evaluated. Potential subjects include:
 - Skipper saver (Updating)
 - Hurricane Preparation for Boaters
 - Storm Anchoring

- Boating in High Security or Threat Areas
 - Recovery from Grounding
 - Tenders and Dinghies
 - Navigating Locks
 - Clearing US and Foreign Immigrations and Customs
 - Securing Your Vessel
 - Hypothermia Protection and Prevention
 - Survival Kits
 - Vessel Maintenance Tips (Not including electronics and power train).

Course Exams/Completions

EXAM Stats For 2005 YTD

	YTD	# Graded	# Passed	Passing Rate
S 101	1-1-05 - 11-30-05	1057	965	91.3%
S102	1-1-05 - 11-30-05	978	907	92.7%
Sa 101	1-1-05 - 11-30-05	229	210	91.7%
Sa 102	1-1-05 - 11-30-05	212	190	89.6%

- During 2005 eight members achieved 100% on the Sa101 exam; one on Sa102; 29 on S101; and 46 on S102. Letters of congratulation were sent to each member achieving 100%.

Personnel Status

- Updated rosters for BHCom are attached. Merit Mark recommendations were forwarded for 19 members.
- A search for Sail Course and Guide writers is being conducted.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

R/C William F. Witty, SN

Stf/C Stanley Warner, SN

Work competed since last report:

Item #	Description	Qty
TBD	America's Boating Course Addendum – 2001 SM	1000
TBD	America's Boating Course CB EX 2005	4000
11-69-118	Nautical Almanac 2006	500
	Emergencies on Board Guide	1500
	Heavy Weather Sailing Guide	1000
	GMDSS Guide	3000
02-73-117	B-EX Answer Sheet ED-26	40000
TBD	EDM I Update 2005	400
	EDM I Update	
01-83-120	EDM III	15

Work in Progress

01-87-101	GPS for Mariners	574
04-67-101	1210 TR Charts	5000
05-94-008	Cert. Inst. Shirt Men's M	4 BO
01-75-105	EM-SM 101 2002	1000
01-75-106	EM-SM 102 2002	1000
01-75-107	EM-IM 101/102 2002	100
01-87-100	The Weekend Navigator	3000
04-69-104	N-Mercator Chart #15-#17	1000
01-79-110	USA Today The Weather Book	1000
05-94-003	Cert. Inst. Shirt Ladies Large	12
05-94-008	" " " Men's Med	12
05-94-009	" " " Men's Large	48
05-94-010	" " " " XLarge	48
05-94-011	" " " " XXXLarge	12
05-94-012	" " " " XXXLarge	6
11-69-135	Star finder	20

01-88-120	Amateur Radio-LG	Delete and Destroy
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Educational Dept. Website

- 38 ED-79's and/or print orders were processed during the year 2005 and in a timely manner.
- All Educational Dept Meetings were recorded by EDOCom members.
- Tom Brincka and Pat Governale continue doing their excellent job in maintaining the Education Dept Website and it is updated with inputs from headquarters and education dept. members.

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:

- The year 2005 has been a banner year for the new Piloting Course. During the year approximately 2,000 exams were submitted and processed with an overall pass rate of 92% and an average passing score of 88.3% (thru November). Nine perfect scores have been achieved during the year. To date 30 re-exams have been taken with a pass rate on the re-exams of 80% and an average passing score of 87.6%.
- During the year 13 Exam Evaluators have processed Piloting exams, of which 9 EE have processed over 100 exams each, and one doing over 300. We have trained new EE and lost one EE during the year.
- There have been very few complaints during the year regarding either timeliness of returned exams or the results themselves. A few comments have been received either regarding the course or the exam, and these have been responded to by the committee. A limited number of changes has been made to the Student Guide, including the addition of information on cardinal marks as used in Canadian waters.
- The second printing (third edition) is currently underway. This edition will be designated 2006-Rev.2.
- Work is continuing to integrate updates and corrections into the P & AP Instructors CD currently distributed as Ver. 4. Please visit the ICN Web Site for all updates and changes.
- The current SG is 2005 and the IM is 2005. There are two exams in use and another one is contemplated during 2006.

Advanced Piloting

- This is the first complete year for the new AP Course. The changes have been well received. We have phased out the old AP material from Headquarters shelves and have completed grading of old versions of the exams.
- During the year, errata from the initial release of the Student Guide, IM, and CD slides were gathered and updates have been provided on the ICN web site. These have been included in the SG 2005 rev. 1 and into the updated CD ver. 4. The current IM is AP 2004. Updated to this material are on the ICN web site.
- Thru November the committee has processed 629 exams. 556 exams passed and 73 did not pass. Several courses have just been completed and their exams are in process.

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.

Personnel

- 2 new members have been added and 2 more are under review to be added.

ELECTRO MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

R/C Walter C.Fields, SN

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

WHAT'S NEW:

Marine Amateur Radio Guide

- This is the first USPS Guide to be published by McGraw-Hill International Marine, and it is getting wide distribution in all the retail book stores, in the book store of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), and also in our own ship store. It is the definitive guide that provides all the information needed to select, install, and operate an inexpensive and completely dependable ham radio system on any boat, power or sail. It is available now at a discount price for USPS members.

The Boatowner's Guide to GMDSS and Marine Radio

- This is the second USPS publication to be published by McGraw-Hill, and it too is now in all retail book stores as well as in our own ship store. The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) is revolutionizing emergency communications and international search and rescue (SAR) at sea. This USPS Guide clearly explains how this revolutionary "911" equivalent works, and describes the enormous advantages of digital VHF radio for ordinary communications among fellow boaters. The Guide comes with a CD-ROM that contains a marine radio simulator that allows the user to practice and learn how to use the new digital selective calling (DSC) techniques now available on all marine radios. This Guide is also available in the USPS ship store at a discount price for members.

EMSCom Web Page

- The EMSCom Web Page on the USPS Educational Department's Web Site has been updated and contains the latest information for both the Engine Maintenance and Marine Electronics courses, as well as an update for the GPS Learning Guide.

EMSCom Quarterly Newsletter

- Realizing that the electronic revolution is moving at an exponential rate, EMSCom inaugurated a quarterly newsletter last year in order to provide to our members some of the latest developments in both the engine maintenance and marine electronics fields. This newsletter is sent electronically to the District Radio Technical Officers and to District Executive Officers for those
- Districts that do not have a RTO. RTOs and DEX are asked to disseminate information in the newsletter to their Squadron RTOs and/or Executive Officers. The next edition of the newsletter will be sent approximately 15 January 2006.

What's Being Developed:

The Boatowner's Guide to Electronics

- A Project Team composed of members from several Educational Department Committees and a member from the Canadian Sail and Power Squadrons was put together last August to develop a story board to produce a stand alone reference book of marine electronics that would be used for every USPS course that had electronics in its course material. The reference book would also be used by CPS in their course materials. The finalized story board divided the book into four parts: Electronics that deal with Position/Navigation, Electronics that deal with Communications, Advanced Electronics, and the Future of Marine Electronics. The book will have 21 chapters with approximately 300 pages. Writing of the 21 chapters is underway with a goal of March 2006 for completed drafts. McGraw-Hill has expressed interest in publishing this reference as there is nothing similar available in the retail book stores. For that reason, plans call for this book to be offered to the general public as well as used as a stand alone reference in USPS. Expect publication in late summer or early fall 2006.

Engine Maintenance

- The USPS Engine Maintenance course has been rewritten putting the course back into one book with one exam for course completion. Written drafts are presently being edited within EMSCom. When this phase is complete, it will be submitted to CDCCom for their review and coordination before being submitted to PSCom for final edit and formatting. Expect publication in late spring or early summer.

Marine Electronics

- As reported at the Fall Governing Board in Portland, the Marine Electronic course is getting a new look. It too will be put back into one book with one exam for course completion. It will be divided into three parts: Boat Electronics, Marine Communications, and Navigational Electronics. It will include hands-on exercises for class room work, and will emphasize "how to" aspects where practical. It will use the soon to be published Boatowner's Guide to Electronics as its reference much like the Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses use The Weekend Navigator as the reference for those courses. Expect publication in late fall or early winter.

Annual Examination Statistics

Engine Maintenance

EM 101

Year	Total Exams Taken	Total Exams Passed	Average Score	Percent Passing	Number Perfect Scores
2004	386	372	92.6	96.6	23
2005	644	624	92	97	36

EM 102

Year	Total Exams Taken	Total Exams Passed	Average Score	Percent Passing	Number Perfect Scores
2004	372	368	95	99	77
2005	649	635	95	98	142

Marine Electronics

ME 101

Year	Total Exams Taken	Total Exams Passed	Average Score	Percent Passing	Number Perfect Scores
2004	550	506	91	92	79
2005	435	392	89	91	37

ME 102

Year	Total Exams Taken	Total Exams Passed	Average Score	Percent Passing	Number Perfect Scores
2004	717	638	91	89	27
2005	376	325	88	86	25

ME 103

Year	Total Exams Taken	Total Exams Passed	Average Score	Percent Passing	Number Perfect Scores
2004	753	670	86	89	33
2005	456	411	89	90	40

INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

R/C S. Patricia Governale, SN

Stf/C J. Christopher Brown, JN

Stf/C Archie W. Tarwick, Jr., SN

As the Educational Department works to modernize and bring our courses into the electronic age, 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 electronic material effectively. We have listened to feedback from squadron members and instructors and have tried to provide solutions. It is this feedback that lets us know what is needed and we will always welcome any ideas, suggestions and directive criticism from fellow squadron members.

Instructor Development Course Material

- Current course edition is 2005. Current exam is IQ13.

Examination Statistics

- Year to date, through November
- 109 perfect scores
- 176 open exam orders

YTD	Total Exams	Pass	Non Pass	Avg Grade
2005	392	391	1	94.4
2004	505	497	8	94.0
2003	401	393	8	93.8

The above statistics appear to be a decrease in the number of course completions. However, the 176 exams ordered in November implies that the squadrons waited until the last minute to push to meet the deadline for certification. If all the exams are completed, the total will well exceed last year's numbers.

ID Course Material

- The Instructor Development course and it's accompanying PPT slides was reviewed and updated and a revised exam was prepared for the random generator. The warehouse was restocked in the Spring and the new material started shipping as soon as the old material was depleted.
- The Instructor Development course material continues to be offered free of charge to squadrons. Orders for ID course material should be combined with other material orders on the Standard Order Form in order to minimize shipping costs. The accompanying PowerPoint slides 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, was drawing near, the Certification Policy (pending OCOM and Governing Board approval) was revised to remove most of the grandfathering and introduce a new two hour recertification seminar. A beta version of the seminar is being presented by the committee at the 2006 Annual Meeting. Instructor guides and a CD containing the PowerPoint slides will be distributed to all in attendance.
- This 2-hour seminar is primarily intended for the renewal of 4-year certification of currently certified instructors. It can be run by squadrons as well as at district conferences as a refresher for instructors; to rekindle their enthusiasm and enhance their skills using the new electronic material and technology. However, it should serve as more than that as it focuses on presentation skills useful for anyone in a teaching or leadership role, not only in the classroom, but for those involved in other programs such as VSE, CoOp Charting, Public Relations and on-the-water instruction.
- 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.

Guides

- The Little PowerPoint Booklet introduced at last year's annual meeting continues to receive rave reviews.
- This year we developed another booklet called The Little Presentation Skills booklet to provide presenters with helpful information on how give an effective presentation. We based some of the tips on feedback we received have from members since the inception of electronic aids in our courses. Copies of both of these booklets are available at the IDCom Expo booth.
- Both of these booklets will be improved and expanded in the future as we continue to learn of new techniques and technology and receive feedback from the members.

Teaching Aids

- This year's response to the ETA Award program was disappointing with only 5 squadrons participating for a total of 11 aids submitted. We plan to do a better job of promoting it this year. There is a lot of talent in the squadrons and these aids can be easily shared and adapted for use by other instructors.
- Last year's improvements to the Teaching Aid registration process, improved customer service and opening of the displays to Expo proved to be very successful. Photos and contact information for all teaching aids displayed at the annual meeting were posted on the IDCom web site. In addition, regular articles were prepared and submitted to The Ensign for publication.
- 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.
- The revised Teaching Aids manual was posted on the IDCom web site.

Chapman Award

- Review and judging of the 2005 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 will be submitted for publication in the March issue of The Ensign.
- In addition to the sextant awards for the squadron, each recipient 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 also receive a four-year Certified Instructor wallet card.
- Changes were made to the instructions and submittal guidelines to allow instructors to be nominated by their Associate squadron and a white paper for DEO/SEO was written was added to assist them with preparation of their nominee submittals.
- P/V/C Bob David, SN researched and completed a history of the Chapman Award which has been posted on the EdDept web site.
- A lot of research was done and the DEOs were polled at the September Governing Board to determine if it was desired and feasible to change the squadron award from the traditional sextant to something more useful to the squadrons. A computer projector has been suggested. The results of the DEO poll were favorable and we are now looking for a vendor who will supply them at a cost that does not increase our current budget.

Operations and Support

- The Instructor Development committee continues to work with the other Eddept course committee teams who are developing new editions of our courses. We are currently working with BPECOM and BHCOM to design and format the Instructor Manuals for the new Squadron Boating and Seamanship courses.
- We have also worked closely with the Marketing department to promote USPS and our educational programs in the marketplace. We designed and produced two brochures that reach out to partnerships with West Marine and Boat/US.
- The ID committee Expo booth at this Annual Meeting will feature three live, hands-on demonstrations of how to use the MS PowerPoint® program to customize and create presentations.
- We continue to refine our strategic plan and committee goals.

OFFSHORE NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

R/C M. Ann Fields, SN

Stf/C Merrill F. Sproul, 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)
Power Point slides	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 DEOs in Sept 2003; pdf version on web page.

2005 Progress:

Junior Navigation Course

- We've developed a revised outline and storyboard for the JN course and have much of the material written. A major emphasis has been to incorporate the use of electronic navigation into the offshore navigation courses, using celestial and other traditional offshore tools as backup tools for navigating. The 'celestial' portion of the revised JN course will deal with only sights on the sun. Work continues on homework, appendices, Instructor Manual and exams. We are working to complete JN in 2006.

Navigation Course.

- Some work has been done on developing an outline for the N course. The N course will build on the JN course, where the celestial portion will cover sights on stars, planets, and the moon. We're working on the other sections of this course, and will develop the storyboard for the revised N course when the work on JN nears completion.

On-line Nautical Almanacs.

- ONCom evaluated the use of on-line Nautical Almanacs in preparing the JN and N sight folders. After investigating the current on-line sites that provide NA data, the conclusion was to NOT accept on-line Nautical Almanac data for Sight Folder submission, even with a printout of the page from the on-line site. A primary reason for this decision is that the on-line sites essentially do much of the sight reduction for the student without the need for him to demonstrate an understanding of the process or the steps involved.

Exam Results:

- As shown in the following tables, the number of Grades awarded for both JN and N dropped this year, compared to the same period last year.
- The exam passing scores, averaging about 90%, combined with the relatively high failure rates and the average score in the high 70%, indicate that students either do well, or do 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. The 'Cruise Exercise' in the JN course (Chapter 15) and 'The Day's Work at Sea' and 'Review' in the N course (Chapters 14 & 15) are critical preparation for the student.

- The number of grades awarded continues to track the number of sight folders completed. Encourage members who still need to complete their folders to make the effort and complete them. The sight folders are in essence an 'Open Book' exam where the student can get as much help as needed at the Squadron level. Please stress to your instructors the importance of the Squadron Sight Checker in helping the student successfully complete their sight folders.

Web Page:

- The ONCom Web page has lots of information for your JN and N students and instructors. The entire webpage was updated recently. Check it out and visit the page often.

JN Examination Results 2005 vs 2004 (Jan 1 to Dec 1)

Closed Bk.	Total Exams	Average Grade	Number Passing	Percentage Passing	Average Passing Gr	No. Perfect Scores
2005	150	82.3%	107	71.3%	88.9%	5
2004	253	86.2%	186	73.5%	91.5%	5
Open Bk.						
2005	153	78.3%	92	60.1%	89.1%	4
2004	250	78.7%	162	64.8%	89.1%	5
Sight Fold.						
2005	94	--	73	77.6%	--	--
2004	121	--	94	77.7%	--	--

N Examination Results 2005 vs 2004 (Jan 1 to Dec 1)

Closed Bk.	Total Exams	Average Grade	Number Passing	Percentage Passing	Average Passing Gr	No. Perfect Scores
2005	106	77.2%	60	56.6%	89.5%	6
2004	137	77.1%	83	60.1%	90.3%	9
Open Bk.						
2005	88	77.4%	59	67.0%	87.0%	2
2004	104	87.1%	84	80.1%	92.2%	2
Sight Fold.						
2005	64	--	52	81.2%	--	13
2004	86	--	68	79.1%	--	2

Award of Grade:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<u>JN</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>95</u>
<u>N</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>63</u>

MARINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

R/C Robert E. Brandenstein, SN

Stf/C Gary S. Schroeder, SN

Weather

YEAR	COMPLETIONS
2002	260
2003	841
2004	592
2005	74*

*results through 30 November 05

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%	676	93.2	94.8	89
2005*	90%*	136*	90.9*	93.3*	18*
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%	637	89.3	90.9	23
2005*	93%*	72*	90.9*	92.2*	1*

Through five months of the Educational year ending 30 November, 136 exams have been administered for Basic Weather 101 with a 90% passing rate and an average score of 90.9%; a total of 72 exams have been completed for Advanced Weather 102 with a 93% passing rate and an average score of 90.9%; there have been 67 Weather completions. The number of successful completions for both Weather courses is down 10% from the same time period of the previous educational year.

In addition to the Wx CD Rom, 117 additional PowerPoint slides are available for download on the MEnvCom web page as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Clouds – 33 | Misc – 5 (dust storm, fog, rainbows) |
| Floods – 17 | Thunderstorms & Tornadoes – 27 |
| Lightning – 7 | 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 present the course material as a single unit, reordering the sections as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Effects of Heat and Cold | 5) Storms and Fronts |
| 2) Wind and pressure | 6) Thunderstorms and Tornadoes |
| 3) Atmosphere and Clouds | 7) Tropical Weather |
| 4) Rain, Humidity, and Fog | 8) Forecasting |

- 9) Floods, Droughts, & Winter Precip
- 10) Climate

The availability date of our next edition of the Weather student Manual will be scheduled to coincide with the depletion of our current inventory of Wx Student Manuals. To date, drafts of nine of the ten chapters have been produced, and are in various stages of editing. Committee members not authoring content are reviewing homework questions and exam questions to assure that the content of the questions are adequately covered in the rewritten course material. Necessary graphics and formatting will be added in early 2006.

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
2005*	95.6%*	91*	91.1%*	91.8%*	1*

Now in the second year of Cruise Planning 2003 edition, 91 exams have been administered through 30 November with a 96% passing rate and an average score of 91.1%. The number of successful completions for Cruise Planning is down about 20% from the same time period of the previous educational year. PowerPoint slides illustrating Cruise Planning teaching points are available for download from the website. Comparative information for CP97 is shown below.

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

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.

E-Cruising

The MEnvCom is in the early stages of developing a website that will be an ongoing tool for members who are planning a cruise or taking a cruise. The site is planned to have clicks such as “Plan your Cruise”. Depending upon where, when, and how you think you will cruise, we will present you with a sample float plan, based on the information that you provided. The site would also present you with the various checklists that are in the CP student manual. We will include links to the Maptech site for charts, perhaps to cooperating retailers for equipment, to NOAA sites for weather information, to our Port Captains site for “Local Knowledge”, and so on.

USPS Guides

Mariner's Environment: A major revision of the Oceanography Learning Guide, to be called "Boater's Guide to the Marine Environment" is now underway. Several chapters of the new guide have been written, but a need exists for input from a marine biologist. Content from anyone possessing this background would be welcome. Meanwhile, the MEnvCom will work with the USPS Environmental Committee to find the required talent, and to complete this project as soon as possible.

Regional Weather Learning Guides: A regional Weather Guide for Region 12, the upper Mississippi Valley, was completed this year, and is now in final editing. The Guide will be placed on the MEnvCom website as soon as possible. But weather guides for most of the Regions still require contributors. Check the website to see which regions have been spoken for. Here is your chance to do what USPS is all about—self-educate its members. If you are willing to pass on your knowledge of prevailing weather conditions in an area not now assigned, please advise R/C Brandenstein, and follow the outline on the website.

Trailing Your Boat: Cruising boaters who keep their boats on trailers have few sources of information on the do's and don'ts of boat trailing. How best to rig your boat and trailer for road travel, launch, and retrieval is best shown in movie format. The Coast Guard produced a 17 minute video in 1995, entitled "Trailing Your Boat", but the video has been out of print for some years. The Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety located the original master copy of this video, and has forwarded it to us. It includes safety tips, trailer design, maintenance, launching, load distribution, matching trailer and vehicle and other helpful road and launch information. The tape is narrated with background music and helpful on-screen text that reinforces the narrated message. It was professionally produced and has a great amount of production value as it exists. Our intent is to convert the original tape into DVD format, perhaps update the scenarios to include special safety factors particular to Personal Watercrafts, package the DVD in an attractive eye-catching way, and make it available to USPS members and to the general public through our distribution channels.

Boater's Guide to Locking Through: River boaters often ask "What should I know about going through a lock?" In the past we have responded with verbal descriptions and still photos. But, especially for new boaters, a narrated instructional video which would graphically illustrate the do's and don'ts of water safety around locks and dams, would be especially effective. We are now working with the US Army Corps of Engineers Center for Water Safety in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, toward jointly producing an instructional video on locking-through. With the Corps guidance and help, we will be about the process of scripting, storyboarding, budgeting, fund raising, proposal writing, and vendor selection for this project, when Corps resources become available.

Boater's Weather: The educational department has been developing a series of 2 to 4 hour seminars that can be given to the public as well as to USPS members. The first of these is the successful GPS seminar. We believe that one of the potentially most popular topics is weather. MEnvCom is planning to build a short seminar using the Onboard Weather Forecasting Quick Guide as the companion piece. In addition to this piece, there will be other handout material such as a student workbook, etc. We expect that the squadrons will offer these seminars to the public for both recruitment and revenue generation and to members, perhaps, as a teaser for the full Weather course.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

R/C Robert L. Potter, SN

Stf/C Marlys H. Vickers, SN

- The CDC Com handled a variety of tasks related to the development and coordination of USPS educational materials as well as various support and communications functions assigned by the ANEO or NEO. We prepared the *Currents* publications that were distributed at the three national meetings; we also coordinated the Ed Dept EXPO exhibits, and coordinated five Ed Dept articles for *The Ensign*. We revised the USPS Glossary and, with the help of the Publications Support Committee (PS Com), we are moving the Glossary to a database. This will be made available on-line and will be searchable. We plan to use the same database to generate glossaries for all courses. This will ensure that a single definition will be used in all courses for each sense of a nautical word.
- During 2005, CDC Com prepared new computer generated exams from questions provided by the course committees for ID, P and AP and updated several other exams to eliminate problems. We reviewed questions for these exams and formatted them for the ExamGen program. We redesigned the exam templates for all of our exams to eliminate some formatting problems that occasionally misnumbered pages. We believe the misnumbered pages contributed to a problem seen in a few cases where students did not complete the final page of an exam. We also updated the student and administrator exam instructions to address this problem. In 2006, exam production will move to the PS Com while question content responsibility remains with CDC Com.
- CDC Com participated in several storyboard sessions for new USPS educational materials. Storyboard reviews were held for the new Boating and Seamanship courses now being written. These storyboard sessions were held together in order to meet a key goal for these courses: minimizing overlap between them. Members of CDC Com also participated in reviewing text, homework questions and exam questions for new course material and Learning Guides. In some cases, where we had a subject matter expert on the committee, we contributed material to Student Manuals and Learning Guides being written.
- CDC Com also developed an overall list of general USPS Educational Objectives to help us plan new courses. We also prepared a draft proposal for certification, i.e., a program by which USPS would certify members as boat operators. We also created a database of boating educational materials for women and designed and taught by women.
- The committee participated in a storyboard session for a new book being written by members of the USPS Electromechanical Systems Committee and representatives of the Canadian Power Squadrons (CPS). This book is entitled *The Boatowner's Guide to Marine Electronics*. It will serve both as a standalone reference book and a resource for other courses. Going forward, we expect to use storyboards for the development of all new courses.
- Recently, we reviewed a storyboard for the new JN course. Like the new P and AP courses, the new JN course recognizes that the primary means of navigation is now GPS, but teaches other methods to verify the operation of the GPS and serve as a backup; for JN, the alternative method is celestial navigation. One of the goals of the new course is to simplify the material and focus on the minimum set of celestial methods to fulfill the above roles. As with P and AP, we are eliminating some classical methods that are rarely used today. We plan to keep the material covering methods that are primarily of historical interest available to our members in one or more Learning Guides. During 2006, we expect to storyboard a new N course as well. N will also be recast to focus on the

most practical methods. As with P and AP, we expect these new, shorter, more practical courses to attract a larger audience.

- CDC Com prepared a committee strategic plan and helped assemble the Ed Dept committee plans into an overall strategic plan. The committee also reviewed the USPS Operations Manual (OM) and prepared updates to the educational portions of the OM for the next version of that manual. We also designated committee members to serve as liaisons with each course committee to improve communications with them and to strengthen our ability to support the course committees as they develop new material.
- Late in 2005, CDC Com launched a course evaluation process. A sample of exams sent out from HQ included evaluation questionnaires to be filled out by the students and instructors. We will use the feedback on our courses to assess how they are being received by the membership and to set priorities for updating other courses.

PUBLICATIONS SUPPORT COMMITTEE

R/C Peter W. Mitchelson, SN

Stf/C Peter A Nielsen, SN

Stf/C Stanley L. Petty, AP

The primary purpose of the Publications Support Committee is to provide specific assistance to all committees of the Educational Department in the following areas:

- Graphic Artists to make our texts interesting
- Editors to make sure that as many grammatical errors are eliminated and to make sure that our texts are consistent in content and feel
- Formatters to bring everything together to produce manuals and booklets that are high quality and can compete in today's market.

The workload on the committee will increase as we review all of the educational materials in this organization and, if we want to keep on schedule and continue to produce materials to our current high quality, we need volunteers – members with graphics skills of all types (computer, line-art and flash animation), members with video skills to make our materials truly multi-media, editors to find our errors and formatters to make everyone else look good. If you can help, please contact the incoming Rear Commander – the more members we have assisting, the less the burden on our current committee members.

This year we have been involved in the production of many products including the Guide to Knots Bends and Hitches, Guide to GDMSS and are currently providing assistance with the new Squadron Boating and Seamanship Courses.

All of this can not be carried out without the help of dedicated workers on the committee and my thanks go to all of them – for their support and assistance while I was chair during some difficult times.

Finally, I wish my successor Fair Winds and Smooth Sailing over the next few years when, hopefully, this committee will grow and continue to support the Educational Department, the backbone of our organization.