



United States Power Squadrons Educational Department

Date: February 20, 2009

Subject: Annual Meeting – Educational Department Consolidated Report

Overview

2008 was a year of mixed results. The good news – we completed several superb new courses and seminars that are experiencing great interest and increasing attendance. The bad news – the precipitous drop in the recreational marine market adversely impacted sales of our products, particularly in the last quarter of the year.

As the USPS membership slowly declines year to year, our educational sales have become increasingly important to the fiscal health of the organization. Unfortunately, our customer base for member courses is declining. It is therefore imperative that we reach out to the broader boating public with as many programs as we can.

We will emphasize the use of seminars to augment outreach to the public and recruit new members, and to re-energize interest of members. We are in a good position with quality material to offer to both members and the public, and our focus will shift to promoting and delivering our seminars and courses in 2009.

Status of New Courses

America's Boating Course – 3rd edition – is now our main public boating safety course and it is heads and shoulders better than any of our previous courses and substantially better than other courses available. It is the only public boating course that can be taken three ways: in the classroom, over the internet, or at home using the accompanying CD. The book contains five chapters: four cover boating safety topics required by NASBLA for certification, and an optional fifth chapter introducing navigation along with an accompanying CD with software and charts. www.americasboatingcourse.com has been updated with the new material and we now ship the new manual with each order. We are promoting this new course in media releases and advertisements that will appear in each issue of *Trailer Boats Magazine*. The Squadron Boating Course which ABC3 replaces is still available in limited quantities and is NASBLA certified through 2010 for those wishing to instruct the original course.

Weather 09 – is our new weather course. A major upgrade, this new course book is 170 pages in full color with excellent illustrations and text tailored to the mariner all in one book. This is the ideal course for the mariner providing a clear and thorough understanding of what affects our weather.

Navigation 09 – is our new senior-most navigation course covering both celestial and electronic navigation in one book. The new course includes practical applications of celestial navigation to backup your electronics. The course is shorter with excellent graphics and examples. The course comes with a full version of THE CAPN navigation software and a complete library of electronic charts and a trial version of Vessel Passage Planner as part of the electronic navigation portion of the course.

Marine Electrical Systems – is the first of three totally new and independent courses emerging from what has been *Marine Electronics*. This manual dedicates the entire course to AC and DC electrical power, grounding, and stray current issues for mariners.

Sail 09 –has been rewritten and consolidated into a single text. CPS has adopted this new course and has beta testing it. Co-branded as both USPS and CPS, this new course represents the ideal combination of classroom information for serious sailors.

Seminars Released in 2008

A host of new seminars were released during 2008 bringing our total repertoire over a dozen. The following titles were delivered during the year:

Anchoring – was introduced at TrawlerFest in January 2008 to over 110 participants. It has been one of our most successful new seminars.

Knots, Bends, and Hitches for Mariners – This seminar comes with the USPS guide of the same name and a kit with a die-cut board and lines. Participants get to practice useful knots and take the kit home.

PaddleSmart[®] - This seminar reaches out to new paddlers, who represent over 50% of all new boat sales over the past four years. The seminar includes a thorough guide on sea kayaking which represents the largest growth segment of this market.

Trailer Your Boat – The majority of powerboats and many sailboats are trailerable. This is a vast market which has been underserved. This new seminar includes an excellent USPS Guide and uses video to help demonstrate techniques.

Marine Radar – Radar is quickly becoming popular among all coastal and near coastal boaters as it is affordable and adds significantly to boating safety. This seminar is oriented toward the user and explains how to select and operate a marine radar. It comes with an excellent book.

Status of New Seminars

Advanced Powerboat Handling – is the first of our mini-seminar series. This 6-hour program graphically provides boaters with a solid understanding of what their boats will do and why in response to their actions at the helm. This greatly accelerates learning and helps boaters visualize their actions on the water. We are seeking to add an optional on-the-water supplement to round out a full training program. This seminar is now available.

Rules of the Road – provides an easy to understand, practical and thorough background in navigation rules. Any boater will gain from this 2-hour seminar, particularly if they are seeking formal certification or a Coast Guard license. This seminar is now available.

Basic Coastal Navigation – is a new 2-hour introduction to navigating using electronics for all audiences and showcases USPS' expertise in navigation training. Anyone, experienced or novice will gain from this informative new program geared to the general public. Available – spring 2009.

Marine Compass – is a new 2-hour seminar covering selection, installation, calibration and use of a marine compass. This seminar explains all type of compasses including fluxgate, and shows how to compensate your compass to remove errors. Available – spring 2009.

Confident Navigation with Electronics – is now being finalized as a public offering. This 16-hour seminar series covers the high points of using electronics as your primary means of navigation and discusses chartplotters, navigation software, radar, automated identification systems, eLoran, GPS, depth sounders, autopilots, and advances in radio with DSC and Rescue 21. Available – spring 2009.

On-line/Distance Learning

Seamanship – has been available on-line for 9 months for members. The course recently has been opened to the general public through the University of West Florida, which is one of the leading providers of distance learning. A student can sign up at UWF and receives the course books from USPS Headquarters. The course is self-pacing with quizzes and an on-line exam. Questions are answered by an instructor. Upon completion, a certificate is mailed to the graduate.

Seminars – are also on-line at UWF with 11 active seminar titles are currently available. Now we need to market them.

Boat Operator Certification

Inland Navigator Certification – is currently active and kits can be ordered from Headquarters. Upon completion of the required courses and seminars, and demonstration of the required skills, your application is processed through a regional certifier to get your certificate.

A critical part of this program has been the emergence of on-the-water training and skill demonstrations. After extensive research, we have acquired a new USPS insurance program which covers our instructors and borrowed boats while we engage in boating instruction. We are now aggressively expanding programs to include on-the-water instruction and are working with squadrons that have implemented such programs to tune them for use across the entire organization.

The other three levels of Boat Operator Certification are underway and we expect *Coastal Navigator Certification* to be available this year.

2008 Results and 2009 Forecast

We expected to build slightly on our excellent 2007 results during last year with more new seminars and upgraded courses. Unfortunately, we saw an extensive drop in attendance, particularly toward the end of the year. As a result, attendance in our courses dropped nearly 30% from the prior year and about 20% for our seminars, even with a substantial number of new titles. This is consistent with the general drop across the entire recreational boating industry, but is painful for USPS as we increasingly are relying upon our educational program to attract and retain members and to support the organization financially.

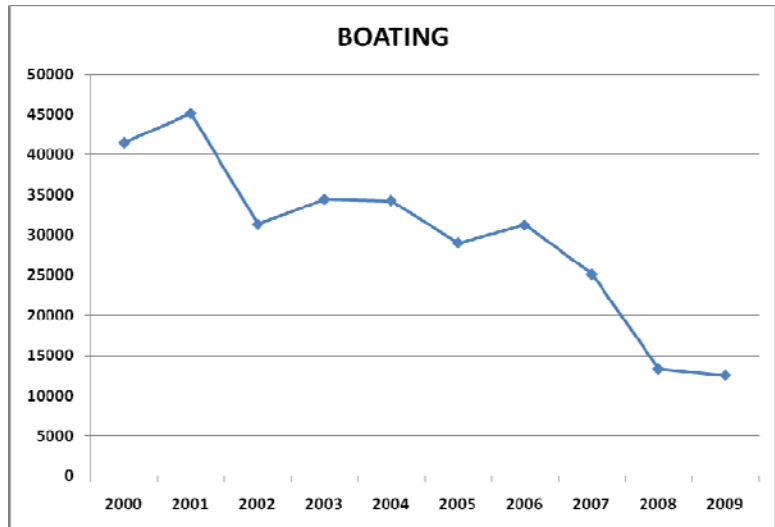
2009 is not expected to bring major improvements; however, we are shifting gears to focus on improved delivery and promotion of our excellent programs. A number of efforts calibrating the quality of our programs all indicate that we have the right products and excellent material, almost without competition. We believe our new America's Boating Course will build excitement with its fresh look and content. We are looking to offer more material to the boating public through a variety of expanded programs and venues as part of a plan to reach out more aggressively to the boating public.

We are well positioned with totally new and current programs across the board. We expect that every course and seminar will have been updated and expanded by year end. USPS University has the broadest offering of programs available to the recreational boater. Our mission is to expand our instructor training to expand the base of qualified individuals who can deliver these programs. Our strength as an organization is our infrastructure of local squadrons offering our programs. Meanwhile we are looking at supplemental means to offer programs live via different media, through distance learning, and published and available through local outlets as well as our squadrons. Feedback from our several of our outreach programs indicates that attendees want to move on from our seminars to more structured courses offered locally where they live and boat.

The details are examined in the next section with further supporting graphs.

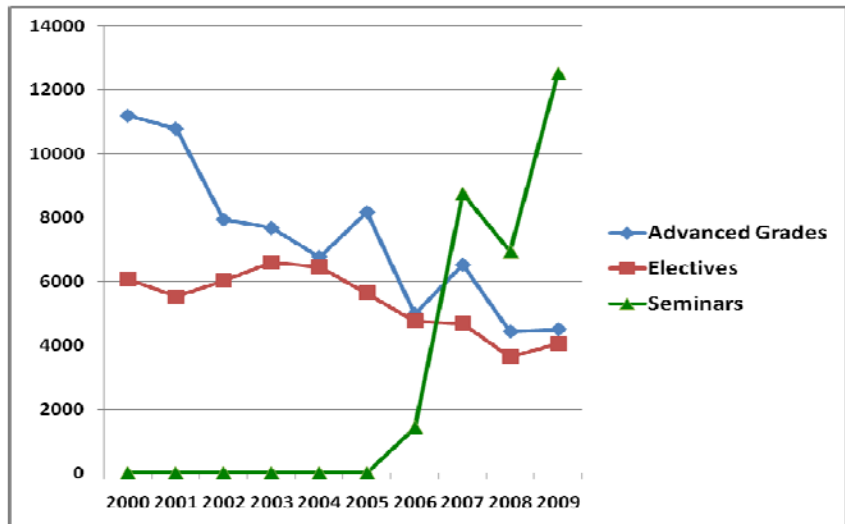
Course Shipments

Boating course shipments declined significantly 2008, especially in the 3rd and 4th quarters. The new ABC-3rd Ed was not available until November, near year end. We expect the new course to help us hold ground in 2009.



Advanced Grades

Shipment of advanced grade courses declined in 2008 after rising in 2007. We expect to hold our own in 2009 with several solid updates and three new courses. The new JN and N courses have helped offset reductions in other areas.



Electives

Elective course shipments have declined less over the past nine years than for the Advanced Grade courses; however, they declined a bit in 2008. The new Weather course was delayed to complete a final rewrite and upgrade the graphics and that started shipping at year end. The new Sail course will ship in 2009 as will the newly expanded 3-course series replacing Marine Electronics. We expect a small rise in the coming year.

Seminars

Seminar shipments rose sharply during the first two years having been introduced late in 2006. Even with new titles released in 2008, shipments fell off. We believe that many of the original

attendees in these seminars have been members and we are now reaching out to the boating public which should build the numbers up for 2009. The plan is for aggressive marketing and delivery of seminars in the coming year along with more new titles that have been tested in the market.

Summary

We are facing a tough boating market in 2009. The economy is certainly a driving issue, and we face competition from other providers, especially the states. This could impact our delivery of basic boating courses which already suffered a significant decline in 2008. The new ABC course represents a major improvement and the internet, home study, and classroom courses now use the same material helping logistics and transfers of students from one to another. The course is an upscale version with more substance than most offered by the states and other providers. It also comes with companion CDs that add interest and value, along with the introduction to navigation chapter.

We are shifting our focus to promotion and delivery of our courses and seminars for 2009. The bulk of the major additions and rewrites is largely behind us. Fortunately, we now have a stable of solid, well-received and tested material. We need to attract new members to USPS, and to do that we need to emphasize public delivery of our USPS University Seminar Series. These tend to attract experienced boaters which represents a solid market that supplements the new boaters who tend to take public boating courses.

We are in the third year of the exam waiver to the By-Laws that permits squadrons to accept new members who have not passed an exam for a NASBLA-approved basic boating course. We will be seeking to extend that waiver for another three years in the Governing Board at Kansas City. We also are looking at ways we can aggressively market and deliver our programs to the public to gain exposure to them and potential new members.

Course Committee Reports

The following section provides status from each of the Educational Department Committees

Committee Name: **Boat Handling Committee (BHCom)**

Committee Responsible for:

- Courses Seamanship, Seamanship (online), Sail
- Seminars Anchoring; Sail Trim; Heavy Weather Sailing; Hurricanes and Boating; Security; Boat Handling,
- Guides Partner in Command (Skipper Saver); Knots, Bends & Hitches; Crew Overboard

Current Status: **Seamanship** has undergone some minor revisions and reprinting. As the first advanced grade member course, this enhanced course is designed to both improve recreational boating knowledge and help members so desiring to prepare for the USCG licensing exams. The online version hosted by the University of West Florida has had 31 individuals enrolled.

Anchoring - Seminar has been completed and released.

Sail Trim - Seminar has been completed and released.

Heavy Weather Sailing – Seminar has been completed and should be ready for release this spring.

Hurricanes and Boats – Seminar has been completed and released.

Security – Power Point presentation with narrative has been completed. The purpose is to raise security awareness and basic theft prevention techniques.

Rules of the Road – Seminar has been completed and released.

Knots, Bends and Hitches – Seminar has been completed and released.

Current Development: **Sail** (2009 Edition) – Has been rewritten and beta tested by CPS. It will be jointly labeled as a USPS and CPS course and ready for release internally this spring.

Partner in Command (formerly Skipper Saver) – This guide has been rewritten, beta-tested and is undergoing final review and editing. It should be ready this spring.

Crew Overboard – Power Point presentation has been finalized and posted to the USPS ftp site. This extensive seminar provides for development of both preventive and basic crew recovery from accidental falling overboard.

Barriers/Concerns:

Major concerns center on finding members willing to work on course and seminar development and those who have skills in imagery, graphics and animation. There are at least 11 additional seminar titles under consideration by BHCom.

Cold Water Immersion
How to Buy a Boat
Immigrations and Customs
Emergencies On Board
Fuel Issues
Boat Surveys
Boat Financing
Regulations
Canada, European Union, Mexico

Committee Name: **Basic Public Education Committee (BPECom)**

Committee Responsible for:

- Courses America's Boating Course 3rd Edition, The Squadron Boating Course,
- Seminars Boating Safety For Kids, How To Read a Chart Seminar, PaddleSmart® Seminar

Current Status:

America's Boating course 3rd Edition- the development of the next generation of the public boating course is complete. The student manual and the accompanying Student and Maptech CDs are at Headquarters. The course catalogue has been updated and posted on the Education web page.

A new Tri-Fold Brochure and 2 new Posters have been developed by our Marketing Manager, Tom Kemp, to help Squadrons promote the course. Both are available free of charge. Additional promotional materials are forthcoming.

The existing internet ABC courseware has been completely realigned to match the flow of the new boating course manual and the student CD.

Only the material in first four chapters of the text will be covered in the internet courseware.
Again, this one manual will be used for both classroom and home-study.

The Instructor manual has been completely redone and a new PowerPoint disc has been prepared. It is imperative that the Instructor manual and the CD be reviewed by the instructor before beginning a class. There are extensive notes and each slide has a reference to the paragraph number in the text that it refers to.

More and more states are requiring additional information on the wallet cards such as, hair and eye color, date of birth and age. To meet these requirements there is a new America's Boating Course Wallet Card that includes this information. The catalogue number is 09-73-106.
A revised certificate is also being prepared to indicate if a student took the 12 hour version of the course.

The Boating Course work book and BCA are being modified to add this data and transmit it to headquarters.

Spanish Version of ABC 3rd Edition – The translation of ABC 3 into Spanish is underway. This manual will be done entirely in Spanish. There will be no English on one page and Spanish on the other. The two ABC exams are also being translated into Spanish. The old Form A exam is already available in Spanish.

Squadron Boating Course (2004 Edition) – We will continue to use this course with a 2007 update until the inventory is depleted. This course continues to be NASBLA approved until 2010. The cost of the manual has been reduced to \$15.00 with no returns accepted. There are about 2300 remaining in stock. The cost of the Instructor manual has also been reduced to \$15.00 with no returns

Boat Smart (2006 Edition) – has been phased out. Squadrons may use any remaining local inventory. NASBLA approved ended in 2008.

America's Boating Course (2005 Edition) - This edition of ABC is NASBLA approved until year-end '08.

Boating Safety Kids Video - The DVD remains available.

How To Read a Chart Seminar – this seminar was new in the fall of 2006. Experience has indicated that the seminar material is covered in less than the anticipated 2-hours. The seminar will be expanded to include the navigation section from ABC 3rd Edition Chapter 5 and additional reference material and will be renamed *Chart Smart*. Squadrons will be

urged to augment the existing material with local information and handouts such as bodies of water, hazards, canals & locks, launch sites, marinas, and charts.

PaddleSmart Seminar[®] – the seminar has been completed by a team of experts. The material covers both canoes and kayaks. Two student kit versions are available: one for kayaks and a separate one for canoes. This seminar is being made available to the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Coast Guard District 1 at the request of the Coast Guard. There has been a significant increase in boating fatalities related to canoyers and Kayakers.

The scope of the seminar is directed at new paddlers, or those about to purchase a paddle craft. There is no on-the-water instruction provided; that is left to organizations such as ACA, local clubs, and others. The overall presentation includes approximately 80 slides; it will run a full 90 minutes plus time for questions and discussion. You do not have to be a paddling expert to present this seminar. There are several “slide sequences” showing boarding, re-boarding, and rescue techniques. The “sequences” are fun to present and to discuss. Extensive instructor notes are included in the seminar material – again giving non-paddling instructors the background to introduce the topics. A summary of the topics includes:

- Paddle craft language – kayak and canoe terms
- Selecting a paddle craft
- Necessary and optional equipment
- Basic strokes
- River boating and safety considerations

Additional topics are included that paddlers should be aware of such as hypothermia, nav. rules, charts, medical emergencies, weather tips, electronics for paddling, and environment issues.

<u>Committee:</u>	<u>Inland and Coastal Navigation (ICN Com)</u>
Courses:	Piloting, Advanced Piloting
Seminars:	Mariner’s Compass
Guides:	Predicted Log Contests, Mariners Compass, Plotting and Labeling Standards
<u>Current Status:</u>	Piloting (2006, Rev 3) - The Instructors Manual (2008) and Instructors Slides (11/15/08, Ver. 6) have recently been updated and improved for simpler, more understandable presentation. The new slides also contain

a short How to Pass the Final presentation intended to be presented to the student shortly before the exam is given to reduce the number of points lost for unnecessary causes. A new on-line exam tracking system now allows quicker and more accurate tracking of exams from order through recording of results.

Advanced Piloting (2005) - The Instructors Manual (2008) and Instructors Slides (11/15/08, Ver. 6) have recently been updated and improved for simpler, more understandable presentation. The new slides also contain a short How to Pass the Exam presentation intended to be presented shortly before the exam is given to reduce the instances of unnecessary lost points. A new on-line exam tracking system now allows quicker and more accurate tracking of exams from order through recording of results.

Predicted Log Contests – The Predicted Log guide has been completely revised and rewritten and is now available from Headquarters.

Mariner's Compass – The guide regarding use of the magnetic compass has been completely rewritten and enlarged in scope. The new guide will also be used in conjunction with a new Mariners Compass seminar. The previous compass guide was focused on compass adjusting but the new version includes information on selection and installation of a magnetic compass as well as updated material on compass adjusting. The guide is now available from Headquarters as well as being a part of the Mariners Compass materials.

Barriers/concerns:

Both the Piloting and the Advanced Piloting courses have been in use for several years and have been very well received. It is however time to perform an in depth review of each course with a view toward possible updates and revisions to the material and its presentation. New exams for each of the courses would be prepared as a part of this review.

Updating of the Plotting and Labeling Standards has been on the ICN agenda for over two years but little progress has been made. This situation too needs to be corrected.

Committee:

Offshore Navigation

Courses

Junior Navigation and Navigation

Guides

Navigational Astronomy, Calculators for Navigation, Sight Reduction Methods.

Course Modernization:

With the wide acceptance and excellent reliability of the Global Positioning System and its use as the primary mode of offshore

navigation, the Junior Navigation and Navigation courses have been completely revised. They now reflect the primary use of electronic navigation systems, with celestial navigation techniques used to check the satisfactory operation of electronic systems and to serve as backup in the event of their unavailability or failure.

The relatively new Junior Navigation course, JN07, is an introductory course which teaches the basic concepts of celestial navigation, using the sun to derive offshore positions.

The follow-on Navigation 2009 course expands the use of sextant observations to the stars, moon and planets and covers two commonly used sight reduction procedures. The course then introduces the use of two electronic tools - the Visual Passage Planner 2 and CAPN software - to plan and execute offshore cruises -

Completion of these courses will enable our members to make transoceanic passages anywhere in the temperate or tropical regions of globe.

Highlights:

JN 07 continues to be a very popular course. There have been three printings of the course in the past two years and the fourth will soon follow.

All test elements for the JN 99 course have now expired. Credit for completing any part of this course, without completion of all three test elements, was terminated on 31 December 2008.

The test elements of JN99 and JN07 are not interchangeable.

The beta testing of the new Navigation course has been completed, and the final version of the course is expected to be available for order next month.

Statistics:

JN99/JN07 Examination Results 2008 vs. 2007 (1 July to 30 June)

JN 99	Total	Average	Number	Percentage	No. Perfect
Closed Bk.	Exams	Grade	Passing	Passing	Scores
2007	154	77%	94	61%	0
2008	8	80%	3	38%	0
JN 99/JN07					
Open Bk.					
2007	142	84%	105	74%	5

2008	465	88%	422	91%	3
Sight Fold.					
2007	77	88%	66	86%	--
2008	496	90%	491	99%	--

N 02 Examination Results 2007 vs. 2008 (1 July to 30 June)

	Total Exams	Average Grade	Number Passing	Percentage Passing	No. Perfect Scores
Closed Bk.					
2007	78	80%	59	75%	4
2008	60	79%	39	65%	2
Open Bk.					
2007	74	88%	59	80%	0
2008	102	86%	90	88%	1
Sight Fold.					
2007	43	--	34	79%	9
2008	76	--	63	83%	12

NOTE: Meaningful statistics for N 08 were not available on 30 June 2008

Committee: Marine Environment

Courses/Seminars/Guides **Cruise Planning**
Cruise Planning Course
Trailer your Boat Seminar
Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes Seminar
Weather
Weather Course
Onboard Weather Forecasting Seminar

News Highlights **Onboard Weather Forecasting Seminar** available now. The kit now includes the Captain's Quick Guide to Onboard Forecasting and a thumbnail copy of the slides.

Trailer Seminar available now. The kit includes a copy of "Trailer Your Boat" by Bruce Smith, a comprehensive 170 page book covering many topics on Trailer.

Weather classroom course is available. It is all contained within one book authored by USPS with extensive graphics. The content provides a solid background in weather systems with emphasis on topics of interest to mariners.

Coming Attractions: Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes Seminar-4Q08
Rewrite of Cruise Planning-(e)2Q09

Course/Seminar Activities: **Cruise Planning Course**
Storyboard continues to be in development. Going forward, the course will emphasize topics related to coastal and inland cruising.

Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes Seminar

Seminar will deal with topics related to navigating rivers, lakes, dams, and locks. It will include Locking-Through, as well as interpreting river charts, markers, and communications unique to Inland Boating.

Requests: **Cruise Planning**—Next edition-We welcome your suggestions as to the form and content of the next edition of Cruise Planning. Suggestions from experienced Cruisers and coastal live-aboards are especially welcome. Contact St/C Garry Schroeder at arch300@aol.com with your suggestions.

Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes—Soon we will circulate the seminar outline to interested parties for comment. We welcome suggestions from experienced inland boaters on topics which should be included in this seminar. Comments from Great Circle cruisers and inland live-aboards are especially welcome. Contact R/C Bob Brandenstein at robert.brandenstein@verizon.net . with your suggestions.

Committee: **Electro-Mechanical Systems Committee**

Courses: Engine Maintenance
Marine Electrical Systems
Marine Communications Systems
Electronic Navigation Systems

Seminars: Using GPS
Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio
Marine Radar

Guides: The Boatowner's Guide to GMDSS and Marine Radio
The Boatowner's Guide to Marine Amateur Radio

Current Status - Courses:

Engine Maintenance: The new Engine Maintenance course has been available for over two years and the response by our members has been extremely good. It has sold out repeatedly and had to be reprinted. This new course is in one volume with ten chapters that emphasizes what the student can do to keep their marine engines in good operating condition as well as presenting the overall picture of how marine engines operate. It covers inboard engines, gasoline and diesel, and outboard engines; as well as the associated systems and accessories. It comes with a new Instructor Manual and Power Point slides to assist the Instructor in presenting the course.

Exams for the old Engine Maintenance course 101 and 102 expired on 31 August 2008 and are no longer available.

Marine Electronics: The current 2003 edition of the Marine Electronic course is being replaced by three new courses in keeping with the USPS University concept where students can have a choice of elective subject matter to complete their certification toward a full certificate.

The three new courses will be *Marine Electrical Systems*, *Marine Communications Systems*, and *Electronic Navigation Systems*. Each is a standalone course. Those who have completed ME 101/102/103 will meet the requirements of all three courses for Boat Operator Certification requirements. The first of these three new courses, Marine Electrical Systems is now available to all squadrons. The second course, Marine Communications Systems, is now starting beta test. We deliberately held MES until MCS was ready in order to more readily retire ME101/102, which came in one Student Manual. The third course, Electronic Navigation Systems, will be available sometime in the fall of 2009.

The Marine Electrical Systems course is presented in seven chapters that start with an explanation of what electricity is, followed by discussions on boat electrical wiring, DC and AC electrical systems, galvanic and stray current corrosion, lightning protection, and ends with troubleshooting of boat electrical problems.

The course includes detailed instructions on how to use a multimeter, how to solder and crimp electrical wiring circuits, and how to read electrical wiring diagrams. This course can be used as a reference guide for anyone interested in properly maintaining their boat electrical system.

Marine Communications Systems is an in-depth, nine chapter review of those systems available to the recreational boater, or to those with

whom he/she shares the water. Radio history and spectrum definitions are presented along with definitions of radio circuits that the student should learn, to choose the best communications method for his situation. One chapter is devoted to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and another to FCC Rules and regulations to set the stage for instruction of radiotelephone operating procedures (both voice and digital messaging are covered). The remaining chapters cover High Seas radio (MF/HF and satellite communications) and other systems such as Family Radio Service transceivers. There is also a chapter of troubleshooting of radio installations.

There will be Instructor Manuals for all of these courses along with Power Point presentations to help the instructor to teach the course material.

Current Status - Seminars:

Using GPS: This seminar has been very popular with our members with 2,675 copies shipped in 2007 and 2,833 shipped in 2008. This seminar is designed to give the student a basic understanding of how GPS works, how to operate the GPS receiver, and how to use it for waypoint navigation. It is presented in over 45 Power Point animated slides. The follow-on to this seminar will be a seminar that deals with advanced GPS navigation that will include advanced techniques such as routes, proximity waypoints, and integrating the GPS with electronic charts, chartplotters and computers. This seminar will assume that the student has a working knowledge of the basic GPS receiver, and will be available in 2009.

Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio: This has been another very popular seminar with our members with 1,576 copies shipped in 2007 and 721 shipped in 2008. It contains detailed information on the VHF marine radio and how to properly use it in distress and safety situations as well as how to use it to communicate with other boaters and land bases. There is also detailed information on the digital selective calling features of the new VHF marine radios. This seminar comes with a CD that can be used on the personal computer to simulate all the features of the VHF/DSC marine radio. This CD was a joint project with USPS and the Canadian Sail and Power Squadrons.

Marine Radar Seminar: This is a new seminar that is now available; 353 have shipped upon its introduction in 2008. This seminar gives the recreational boater the information needed to successfully operate marine radar designed for the pleasure boat. It deals with interpretation of the radar screen, overlaying the radar picture on a chartplotter, using the radar for collision avoidance, and how to navigate with radar. The Power Point presentation contains actual pictures taken of a radar screen onboard a recreational sailing vessel on the Chesapeake Bay that

shows how-to examples of using the radar for navigating in bad weather, collision avoidance, and navigating channel and harbor entrances. As a bonus, it comes packaged with Kevin Monahan's *The Radar Book, Effective Navigation and Collision Avoidance*. This book retails for \$24.95, but is offered to our members for the price of the seminar alone.

Diesel Engine Maintenance and Repair: This is another new seminar that will be available in 2009. It will cover diesel engine principles of operation; basic trouble shooting techniques; maintenance and repair of the cooling system, the exhaust system, fuel system, fuel injection systems, governors, and auxiliary systems. This 2 hour seminar will also include Nigel Calder's Quick Guide for Diesel Engine Care and Repair.

Depth Sounders: This seminar will also be available in 2009 and will cover the various types of depth sounders including the forward looking sonar depth sounder, how to select the depth sounder that fits your boating style, installation, the basic operation of the various types, using depth sounders for navigation, and care and maintenance.

Current Status – Guides:

The Boatowners' Guide to Marine Amateur Radio: This Guide provides all the information needed to select, install, and operate an inexpensive and completely reliable Ham radio system on any boat, power or sail. This well-illustrated Guide explains how to use your radio for voice or Morse code communications and how to check and send e-mail by HF radio, how to link up with onshore signal repeaters to extend your range, and even make telephone calls. Published by McGraw-Hill International Marine for USPS, it has received wide distribution through commercial book stores as well as USPS.

The Boatowners' Guide to GMDSS and Marine Radio: This Guide clearly and concisely explains how GMDSS, the maritime equivalent of 911, works and describes the enormous advantages of digital VHF radio for ordinary communications with fellow boaters. It is the only authoritative guide available today on the GMDSS relationship to the recreational boater and shows the reader how to send an emergency message using DSC, and how to make routine and group calls using the digital capabilities available with DSC. Published by McGraw-Hill International Marine for USPS it also has received wide distribution through commercial and marine book stores as well as USPS. It comes with a Simulator Program on CD-ROM that can be used to practice on a PC all the functions of a Class-D marine VHF radio.

Committee: Instructor Development

Courses: Instructor Development
 Instructor Recertification

Other Duties: Manages instructor certification program providing qualified instructors to our boating programs

Prepares all instructor manuals for all courses and seminars.

Reviews and edits PowerPoint presentations for courses and seminars

Manages Teaching Aid competition and distribution of teaching aid information

Manages the Chapman Award program providing our highest level awards for teaching excellence

Current Status: Current Status - Teaching Aids: The primary focus of IDCOM has been on teaching aids this past half year. Over the past decade the interest in tradition teaching aids has been dropping as evidenced by the decline in the national teaching aids competition. Interest waned until it was agreed by the TA Committee and the ANEO and NEO to suspend the competition for one year -- until the 2010 Annual meeting. This was agreed to, as long as IDCOM did a complete analysis of what was working and what was not working and submit a proposal.

The Teaching Aids Book has been rewritten and is being printed and will be the center piece for the TA presentation at EXPO in Anaheim. The booth will also feature winning Teaching Aids from the past several years, focusing on what is a good teaching aid and how to create a winning aid. This is the beginning of a new promotional "campaign" to renew interest in traditional and electronic teaching aids within the squadrons.

Finally, ground work is being initiated to revise the judging of teaching aids as there has been some controversy over this in the past. Also a revised awards structure is being developed, including the possibility of presenting prizes to winning aids.

Current Status - Chapman Award: The Chapman Award Committee finished the judging of the 2008 contest. The five winners have been chosen and notified. The awards and plaques are currently in Raleigh and will be shipped to Anaheim for the presentation at the Annual Meeting on Saturday.

The committee is down two members for the coming year. New judges will be selected by the NEO as he sees fit. The forms for the upcoming year will be ready for the Headquarters staff to assemble the packets at the normal end-of- February date (or possibly early March because of the late Annual meeting workload by the headquarters staff).

Instructor Certification, Recertification: Rewrites of both the ID Course and the Recertification Seminar are now in developmental editing. This is a complete rewrite of both components of the certification program. Contact has been made with the Canadian Power Squadron regarding a collaboration in the rewrite the ID . CPS has been using the USPS ID Manual with some additional material produced in Canada.

Instructor Certification

The USPS Instructor Certification Policy statement and forms are posted on the IDCom web site:

http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/id/files/id_certification_policy.pdf

The forms may be filled out on-line and printed for SEO and DEO signatures and submittal to headquarters.

The committee is considering a rewrite of some of the forms and instructions on the website since there is a considerable increase in questions and difficulties from the squadrons. Work hasn't started on this at this time however because of the effort on Teaching Aids.

Instructor Manuals

A new instructor manual has been written and released for components of the new Marine Electrical Systems course. A new AP course IM was written and printed. Work is also ongoing on the Weather Instructor manual. Finally the work to development of the Electronics Navigation chapter for Navigation 2008 is complete.

Committee:

Curriculum Development & Coordination

Responsibilities:

Courses, Seminars, Exams

Among other things this committee is required to work with the other committees in the education department to ensure that USPS educational offerings:

- A. Address the diverse boating environments of our members.
- B. Provide a complete range of study from novice to master.
- C. Provide for hands-on-instruction.

- D. Are technologically current in content and presentation.
- E. Provide tools to help our instructors.
- F. Include fair and consistent examination methods.

The committee carries out this responsibility by providing the course committees with recommendations, and then reviewing and approving the resulting output.

In addition CDCCom is responsible for **maintaining the exam database** used to generate examinations for USPS courses and modules. It establishes policies for the contents of examinations and assists the course committees in the implementation of those policies.

While the above lists a small part of the responsibilities of the committee and it goes without saying that we are very busy keeping up with the new material that is generated by the educational department. Fortunately the committee has a very bright and well educated and dedicated staff. They have been willing to respond at a moment's notice to be involved with the department staff in their endeavors to produce the best there is in boating education.

Boat Operator Certification: The Boat Operator Certification program certifier training continues. This fall, before the weather turned cold, we completed training of twelve Advanced Certifiers in the Mid Atlantic Region. These certifiers will now begin to qualify members for the On-the-Water portion of the requirements at the first level of certification - *Inland Navigator*. Training continues in the Southeast Region and it is expected that this special on the water training for Advance Certifiers will be completed shortly. As spring approaches we have scheduled a number of training sessions for March and April in the Northeast Region. The Northwest is not far behind as they have training sessions scheduled for early spring as well. SEO's and DEO's have been encouraged to work with the Regional Certifiers in their area to schedule training sessions for their areas.

The result of all this training is now beginning to produce Certified Inland Navigators. We have a number of members who have completed the requirements and now carry that credential with pride. Those that have completed the requirements comment that while it was challenging, it was also fun. After all, what could be more fun than spending a day on the water messing around in boats with your fellow members? Many others members have ordered the material for the *Inland Navigator* certification and are working on the course and seminar requirements and have contacted an Advanced Certifier for the next available time slot to complete the on the water skill demonstration.

Members, who are ready to begin their journey to **Inland Navigator Certification**, should have their SEO order the IN Kit from the Ed Dept course materials list. The stock number is – 03-67-100 *IN Candidates Starter Kit*. Members should then contact the squadron certifier or have your SEO find one close to you. Complete the requirements listed on your Passport (included in the kit) and you are on your way to certification.

Much more information about the BOC program is available on the USPS Education Department web pages. Just click on the BOC icon on the home page.