

Currents

United States Power Squadrons® Educational Department

V/C Richard E. Kyle, SN — NEO

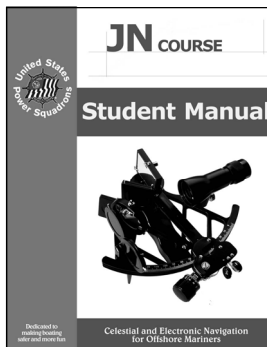
R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN — ANEO

The Latest on USPS® Education

JN This Spring!

JN, our introductory offshore navigation course, has undergone an extensive and practical makeover. It's now completing a number of beta sessions and being final tuned. Look for books on the shelf in March.

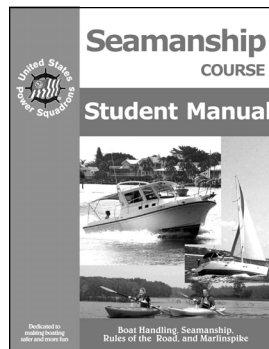
The course it replaces, *JN99*, has been probably the best celestial navigation course available anywhere. Why change it? Two reasons, one it was too long and covered material that was not essential as a starting point in offshore navigation. Two, it focused entirely on celestial navigation rather than the practical integration of this ageless skill in today's world.



Some 50 squadrons participated in the beta testing starting in October 2006 with 271 students enrolled in these classes. Feedback has been extremely positive, both for the course content as well as the animated PowerPoint® presentations and magnificent graphics in the text. Comments have been used to fine-tune the material. The PowerPoint® and the Instructor Manual are designed to make it easy for new instructors to take on the role of teaching *JN*, and

See *JN*, page 4

Seamanship Rocks!



After an extensive redesign and recent beta test, our new *Seamanship* course is ready for prime time. "*Seamanship* is one of our most important courses," according to our NEO, Dick Kyle. "This is likely to be the first course that a new member takes and it must reflect the best in material and instruction that we can deliver so we retain that member to get involved in more of USPS."

Now, *Seamanship* has real content of its own. It is no longer just an extension of the *Boating Course*, but has solid, practical content that boaters need to know. We are now taking a positive approach to boating education. Rather than focusing on everything that may go wrong, we are emphasizing what you need to do to maintain safe control of your boat. *Seamanship* highlights boat handling – how boats handle in the water, slow speed maneuvering, and then to sea in open water.

Its eight chapters can easily be covered in nine weeks. The material is suited to the new member and aimed at practical rather than being overly technical. Full of tips and techniques, this course is a must for any boater. Beyond preparation and the boat handling topics which occupy the first four chapters, *Seamanship* covers a serious dose of "the Rules of the Road," followed by anchoring, emergency conditions, and marlinspike.

To make Rules of the Road an interesting and practical part of the course, we turned to McGraw-Hill and asked their author, Charlie Wing, to reformat his popular book to our needs. This resulted in *The One Minute Guide to the Nautical Rules of the Road* that is now branded in bookstores as a USPS Guide and is included along with the Student Manual with the course. Charlie does a terrific job of explaining the rules which is what we really need to know and are likely to remember.

We also wanted a course that was robust enough to help prepare a member to sit for a Coast Guard Captain's License exam if they sought to do so. We've added a self-study appendix supplemented by information on the web site to help those pursuing a license. Far more of our members will want to pursue our new USPS Boat Operator Certification and *Seamanship* is a key part of that program.

The 2007 Educational Department Officers

The USPS Educational Department national officers that will be serving you in the coming year are listed below. They will be working hard to provide educational materials with the high standard our membership expects.

National Educational Officer

V/C Richard E. Kyle, SN
Saybrook, D/1

Asst National Educational Officer

R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN
Buzzards Bay, D/14

Special Asst to the NEO
P/R/C Patricia S. Governale, SN
Somerset, D/4

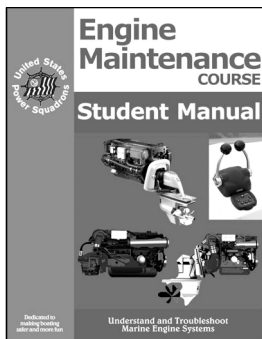
Aide to the NEO
P/C Ellen M. Barbour, SN
New London, D/1

Special Asst to the NEO
P/Stf/C Stanley E. Warner, SN
Singing River, D/15

Committee Chairs and Assistant Chairs

	<p>Basic Public Education</p> <p>R/C David A. Daniels, SN Susquenango, D/6</p> <p>Stf/C Eugene E. Molteni, SN Bayside, D/3 Stf/C John Sherrick, JN Spokane, D/16</p>	
<p>Boat Handling</p> <p>R/C Wilbur G. Hugli, JN Ft. Walton, D/15</p> <p>Stf/C Lawrence A. Rathbun, AP Mobile, D/15 Stf/C John C. Bennett, SN Grosse Point, D/9</p>	<p>Inland & Coastal Navigation</p> <p>R/C Kenneth L. Griffing, SN Arrowhead, D/13</p> <p>Stf/C Luther C. Abel, SN Santa Clara, D/25 Stf/C James E. Mello, AP Nobscot, D/12</p>	<p>Offshore Navigation</p> <p>R/C Norma A. Fields, SN Ocala, D/23</p> <p>Stf/C Merrill F. Sproul, SN Seneca, D/6 Stf/C Fred P. Adame, SN Cocoa Beach, D/23</p>
<p>Electro-Mechanical Systems</p> <p>R/C Walter C. Fields, SN Ocala, D/23</p> <p>Stf/C Gene A. Danko, SN Rockville, D/5 Stf/C Harl Porter, JN Charleston, D/26</p>	<p>Marine Environment</p> <p>R/C Robert E. Brandenstein, SN Pittsburgh, D/7</p> <p>Stf/C Garry S. Schroeder, SN Mansfield, D/7</p>	<p>Instructor Development</p> <p>R/C J. Christopher Brown, JN Bellevue, D/16</p> <p>Stf/C Robert Landeros, SN Kalamazoo, D/9 Stf/C Leslie W. Williams, Jr., SN Saybrook, D/1 Stf/C Ann L. Scotten, SN Peace River, D/22</p>
<p>Publication Support</p> <p>R/C Richard C. Pfenninger, SN Hollywood, D/8</p> <p>Stf/C Peter A. Nielson, SN Housatonic River, D/2 Stf/C Angelo Giovanniello, SN Great South Bay, D/3</p>	<p>Curriculum Development/Coord</p> <p>R/C Robert L. Potter, SN DuPage, D/20</p> <p>Stf/C Marlys H. Vickers, SN Birmingham, D/9 Stf/C John W. Fletcher, SN Lockport, D/6</p>	<p>Ed Dept Operations</p> <p>R/C Nancy M. Reeder, SN St. Petersburg, D/22</p> <p>Stf/C Thomas J. Brincka, SN Barnegat Bay, D/4</p>

Engine Maintenance 2007 Is Ready to Roll



The 2007 edition of *Engine Maintenance* is complete and ready for prime time. The new edition has been condensed into one ten chapter course that stresses the diagnosis of modern systems, while also teaching the basics

of engine layout and operation. Gasoline inboards, outboards, and diesel engines are taught in a way that reinforces the common aspects of how engines work.

Modern engines offer high reliability and good performance through the use of computerized systems for fuel delivery and engine timing. Most of these systems are “black boxes” that can no longer be serviced by weekend mechanics with ordinary tools. The EM course covers those repairs that do-it-yourselfers can still perform, teaches how to diagnose problems that might be beyond your ability to fix, and how to share information with your mechanic so the right repairs get performed.

Engine Maintenance 2007 also covers basic mechanical systems such as drive systems (propellers), steering systems, and engine controls.

Our goal is to provide enough information to satisfy the mechanically inclined without frightening those folks who don't care to pick up a screwdriver. *EM 2007* will familiarize USPS members at any level with that beast in the bilge!

In Memory of P/V/C Robert S. Roscoe, SN

USPS lost a well-loved and highly respected member with the passing of P/V/C Robert S. Roscoe, SN on 27 December 2006. Bob served as Director of Education in the years 1981-1983. He joined USPS in 1954 and earned 52 merit marks.

USPS University Seminar Series

Last year, we introduced the first four seminars in the USPS University Seminar Series. This year many more will become available. These seminars provide a fresh approach to meeting and training the boating public, as well as reinvigorating our membership.

These nominally two-hour programs provide needed and useful information on each topic in an informative and casual setting. A major part of the boating public has never taken a boating course and is unlikely to do so. USPS wants to target these boaters as possible members and build their boating skills from within. That is why your Educational Department has endorsed the exam waiver requirement for membership.

We're applying the finishing touches to the *Boat Handling Under Power*; *Sail Trim*; and *Knots, Bends, and Hitches* seminars. They will be available next month. We are working hard to complete *Emergencies Onboard*; *Heavy Weather Sailing*; and *Using Digital Charts*. Each comes with a handy reference guide, many of them waterproof for carry aboard, and student notes. The *Knots* seminar comes with a kit with lines and a die-cut board for tying. We're about to get two more of the USPS Captain's Quick Guide series on diesel engine maintenance and troubleshooting, and anchoring. These will be expanded into seminars this summer.

These seminars form an integral part of Boat Operator Certification. To achieve each level of certification, members will need to complete an elective consisting entirely of seminars. For example, the Inland Elective will require seminars on weather, charts, GPS, and VHF plus two more of the member's choice. In addition, these electives of seminars can be applied to achieving the USPS Senior Navigator grade. In that way, you receive credits for taking the seminars in addition to learning what you want.

We have a host of seminar topics in the works, but the flexibility of the selection is conducive to adapting to member interests and emerging topics. We welcome comments and suggestions, and are open to working with local seminars created in squadrons to make them national products.

USPS University Boat Operator Certification

Boat Operator Certification is probably the most significant advancement in recreational boater education in decades. It has been well received by the Coast Guard, boating organizations and manufacturers as a critical need. USPS is at the forefront of this field and pushing hard and fast to get the program underway and form solid partnerships. This will be a widely recognized certification for non-professional, recreational boaters and will integrate into the International Certificate of Competency which is rapidly becoming a requirement for boating in European and other countries.

This spring, we are rolling out the first of the four levels, Inland Certification. To achieve this certification, you will need to complete the USPS *Seamanship Course*, *Engine Maintenance*, *Marine Electrical Systems*, and the *Inland Elective*. You also will need to complete a demonstration of boat handling proficiency on the water, or provide evidence of equivalent skills.

New *Marine Electronics* in 2007

Continuing the USPS University theme, *Marine Electronics* will become three separate elective courses in 2007. They will be *Marine Electrical Systems*, *Marine Communications Systems*, and *Marine Electronic Systems*. Depending upon your interest and need, members may take all or any two of these for the *ME* course credit.

Because of the rapidly changing nature of both marine communications and marine electronic navigation systems, *Marine Communications Systems* and *Marine Electronic Navigation Systems* will be published as student guides much like *P* and *AP* are now. This will make it easier to update these courses without the delay of having to publish an entire new course and student manual. The reference manual to be used with these courses is the *Boat Owners Guide to Marine Electronics* that will be published by McGraw-Hill International Marine, and available also in 2007.

Because there are few changes in the subject matter of electrical systems, the *Boat Electrical Systems* course will remain as a student manual with expanded material to include soldering and crimping techniques, using a multimeter, reading wiring diagrams, and performing troubleshooting of electrical circuits.

All three courses will have practical hands-on exercises that can be performed in class. Expect this new addition to the USPS University curriculum in the summer of 2007.

Update on Chapman Award

The Chapman Award honors the very best instructors in USPS. For 2006, our program received a special boost. McGraw-Hill added a high-performance multimedia projector to the award to help each of these instructors' squadrons do even better. The five honorees' squadrons also received quality metal sextants in addition to plaques, a special Chapman pin, and a place in history for the winning instructors.

From *JN*, page 1

experienced ones do even better.

The new *JN* provides the essential skills of celestial navigation focusing on obtaining running fixes from sun sights. In this 12-week course, you will learn to use your sextant to check your GPS and to navigate in the event of a failure. Students also learn about planning for an offshore voyage, the electronic tools useful in the offshore marine environment, and navigator tasks during an offshore cruise. The course concludes with a practice cruise in which students plan an offshore voyage and execute a portion of it, using GPS as the primary positioning tool with running fixes of the sun integrated into the day at sea.

We believe we have captured the essence of the offshore experience along with a fundamental grounding in celestial navigation skills in a course that's about five to six weeks shorter than *JN99*.

JN is to offshore, what *P* is to coastal navigation – a solid, practical start. You can go to sea with these skills, but it makes sense to complete the series. We are currently rewriting the *N* course to be the full companion to *JN*. *N* will now pick up on celestial skills using stars, moon, and planets to obtain real-time fixes, primarily at twilight. Where *JN* uses mathematical solutions, *N* will introduce a tabular approach as a backup. With *JN* and *N*, you'll gain all of the off shore navigation skills you need as these are the best offshore navigation courses on the market.

We will build an elective course around some of the more theoretical elements of celestial navigation sometime in the future.

From *BOC*, page 3

Marine Electrical Systems is one of the three new courses expanding from the current *Marine Electronics* course. Completion of the current *Marine Electronics* will satisfy that requirement. The Inland Elective is a composite of six seminars. Four are required (*How to Use a Chart*; *Using GPS*; *Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio*; and *Onboard Weather Forecasting*).

We are developing the on-the-water certification program. We also are seeking to partner with U.S. Sailing and will accept their *Safe Powerboat Handling* program as meeting our skill certification requirement.

Now is the time to line up those courses so members can fulfill the Inland Certification requirement. Experienced boating members can begin to document their boating experience to be considered in lieu of the on-the-water demonstration. Seminars and courses should be made available to our membership this year to meet the demand.

The Coastal Certification comes next with the Inland Certificate as a pre-requisite. For the Coastal Certificate, you will need to add *Piloting*, *Marine Communications Systems*, and *Navigation Electronics* in addition to the Coastal Elective. *Marine Communications Systems* and *Navigation Electronics* are the other two courses to spin-off from the current *Marine Electronics* course later this year. The Coastal Elective will consist of six seminars that are currently being defined and developed.