

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE

The basic boating course, administered by Anna Maria Sail and Power Squadron and approved by the US Coast Guard, teaches the skills and knowledge to safely operate a boat. Students will be taught Federal and Florida rules and regulations governing boating. Specific topics include required equipment, nautical terms, anchoring, trailering, aids to navigation, VHF radio and personal watercraft (PWC) operation. Any person born after January 1, 1988, operating a vessel powered by a 10hp or more motor must possess a Florida Boating Safety Identification Card. Passing this course qualifies for this certificate and card.

ON THE WATER SMALL BOAT MANEUVERING COURSE

The AMISPS in partnership with the Freedom Boat Club has developed an on the water (OTW) small boat maneuvering course. We put you behind the helm of a 20' – 23' outboard and instruct you in the basic maneuvers of docking & undocking, pivot turns, close quarter boat handling, throttle control, engine control, planing, crossing wakes, and anchoring. This OTW training starts with a two hours classroom session to brush up on material learned in the America's Boating Course and reviews what maneuvers you will do on the water. This is followed by four hours of on the water hands-on training. All classes are held at the squadron building located at 1200 71st St. N.W., Bradenton, FL, 34209. The OTW training will leave from the Freedom Boat Club location in Sarasota. Pre-registration is required. A powerboating manual is included in the cost and will belong to the student.

PREREQUISITES: Completion with certificate of a classroom course (sorry no on-line completion certificates are accepted for this course) of a United States Power Squadron® or United States Coast Guard Auxiliary safe boating course.

This class is open to persons 21 years of age and older.

SEAMANSHIP

Build boating confidence and competence for safe and fun on-the-water adventures. Seamanship is the recommended first Advanced Grades course for both power boaters and sailors. Students learn lines and knots, navigation rules, hull design and performance, anchoring, responsibilities of the skipper, boat care, emergencies and weather conditions, nautical customs and more.

Course completion is documented by a closed book examination graded by USPS Headquarters.

PREREQUISITE: Completion of the America's Boating Course is recommended, but not required.

PILOTING

Learn the essentials of safe coastal and inland navigation using basic GPS in conjunction with charts and other marine data. The Piloting course teaches you how to use the GPS along with traditional dead reckoning techniques for planning and laying out safe routes, as well as ensuring that you are on-course while underway.

What's Included?

- Charts and their interpretation
- Landmarks and navigation aids (buoys, daymarks, lights, etc.)
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Pre-planning courses
- Monitoring progress. The "Seaman's Eye" -simple skills for checking that one is on course.

SEMINARS

BASIC COASTAL NAVIGATION SEMINAR

In this seminar, you'll learn practical techniques to plan, navigate, and check your progress on the water. You will develop situational awareness skills using your eyes and navigation tools to quickly point to your position on a chart, and be able to use backup techniques when the electronics become suspect.

What's included?

- An overview of electronic navigation
- GPS – what it tells us
- Waypoint navigation fundamentals
- Charts – what you need to know
- Navigation aids
- Water depth and tides
- Course corrections
- Situation awareness
- Solving for course, speed and distance
- 24-hour clock

BASIC WEATHER AND FORECASTING SEMINAR

Are the winds too strong? What is a small craft advisory? The safety and comfort of those who venture out on the water have always been weather dependent. This seminar, a must for boaters who have never taken a weather course, will help you answer these questions and gain an understanding of the forces acting on your boat. Understand the forecast and know what to expect, whether you're in a kayak, trawler, sailboat, or schooner. This seminar presents a complex subject in a way that is both understandable and useful.

HOW TO USE A CHART SEMINAR

Whether you're planning a cruise, going fishing, or traveling to a local marina, knowing how to read and use nautical charts is essential to safe boating. Charts include must-have information, including bottom contours, hazards, and aids to navigation, to help you travel safely.

What's Included?

- What charts show navigators above the water
- Chart features and scales
- What charts show navigators below the watercraft
- Aids to navigation
- Latitude and longitude
- Planning your course
- What's in your way

Required equipment -- parallel rules and dividers.

KNOTS, BENDS, AND HITCHES SEMINAR

Introduction to basic nautical knots. Terms, types of lines, caring for lines, what to carry on your own boat, basic knots, hitches and bends for the beginner boater and first mates. Includes Anchor or Fisherman's Hitch; Cleat Hitch; Figure Eight; Clove Hitch; and Bowline. Also, more advanced knots as time allows.

SAIL TRIM AND RIG TUNING SEMINAR

Are you getting the most out of your sailboat? Learn how to set up your boat's rigging and how to use and adjust your sails for optimum performance under a wide range of conditions. You'll sail like a pro using the tips from this seminar.

What's Included?

- Sail terminology
- Rigging terminology
- Mainsails
- Headsails
- Trimming tools
- Wind flow on sails
- Sail twist and tensioning

Basic Sailing Seminar

Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron will offer its first **Basic Sailing Seminar**. Learn small sailboat terms and concepts and maneuvers in a friendly and easy-to-understand way.

What's Included?

Main Parts of a Sailboat

Directions on a Boat

Sails and Rigging

Points of Sail and Trim to your Point of Sail

Tacking and Gybing (Jibing)

Preventing a Stall and Recovery

Capsize Prevention and Recovery