



Peace River Sail and Power Squadron

BOATING EDUCATION PROGRAMS





United States Power Squadrons®

For Boaters...By BoatersSM!



THE PEACE RIVER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

The Peace River Sail and Power Squadron (PRSPS) was founded in 1972. It is part of the United States Power Squadrons, which has promoted boating activities since 1914. At the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron, a 501(c)(3) organization, we have three main objectives:



Safe Boating Through Self-Education is the motto of our squadron and our main mission.

We Teach Boating Safety Courses to the public that are continuously updated and improved to remain current. These courses are offered at our cost and are taught by trained, unpaid volunteers to everyone. The only costs are for texts, materials, and any rental fees charged us for classroom use.

Social – We Have Fun!

We cruise to local eateries and attractions, cruise overnight to more distant ports; we host parties and picnics, and go to entertaining and interesting places together. We perform a host of civic services and have fun giving back to our community.

Getting to Know Neighbors & Visitors

- We distribute boating safety information at local festivals & events, such as area boat shows.
- We register students for safe boating classes.
- We provide educational boating materials to the public.
- We protect & promote recreational boating.
- We conduct equipment inspections.
- We sponsor water & boating activities.

Participate in Community Services

- Safety-at-Sea Flare & fire extinguisher demonstration
- Environmental Programs
- Beach & Canal Clean-ups
- Vessel Safety Checks
- Honoring Our Veterans
- Promoting Our City and County

We present our classes at various locations throughout the local area such as the Punta Gorda Boat Club facility and at the Bayfront Center in Punta Gorda's Gilchrest Park. The Boat Club is also used for many of our social activities.

COURSES

A wide variety of courses are offered in different formats.

Boating Course – America’s Boating Course® (ABC) is our basic boating course. This is a great course for the new boater and satisfies the educational requirements for boat operation in all states. We have had students as young as ten and all ages above.

Advanced Courses – These start with Seamanship which builds on the basic course and ends with Navigation which enables you to navigate around the world. Courses are eight to sixteen weeks duration.

Elective Courses – Cruise Planning, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electrical Systems are a few of the courses offered. Courses are four to twelve weeks long.

Seminars – Over twenty seminars are offered. Most are about two hours long – a few run four to six hours. Almost all include take-away guides and other reference material.

Special Programs – These cover very specific topics and are developed by the Squadron. Topics in these programs include: Sail Trim which is taught by accomplished racers and sail makers, rigging taught by a professional rigger; Preparation for a Ham Radio License; Preparing Your Boat for Sailing Offshore Safely (this is a hands-on boat course) plus other courses that build on our standard offerings.

More details about each course are contained in this booklet. A schedule of classes is included. Please contact the Squadron if this is not the case. If you are interested in a course that is not presently scheduled, please advise us of your interest. We will make every effort to accommodate you or, at a minimum, advise you when the class will be offered.

Another option is to take the courses on a self-study basis on your own schedule. We will order the course along with all of the supporting materials. You can work at your pace. An instructor will be available to answer any questions. If you want formal credit a proctored examination will be provided.

Please check our website, www.puntagorda-boating.org or email education@peacerriversailandpowersquadron.org to confirm each course's date and time.

ENROLLMENT AND COST

The guidelines for enrollment and the cost of our courses and seminars vary according to the type of course. All of our basic safe boating courses and seminars are open to all interested persons. Most of our Elective courses are open to the public and our Advanced Courses are reserved for members of the United States Power Squadrons, whether local residents or seasonal visitors.

We strive to have all students pre-enroll in our classes to ensure we have all the necessary materials and classroom space for the class. Enrollment is accomplished either via telephone at (941) 637-0766 or on-line at http://www.usps.org/e_stuff/public_ed.htm.

All administrative matters are usually handled during the first class.

Course costs are shown with the detailed course descriptions and are subject to change. Costs are broken down into two categories:

Members – This includes any current member of the United States Power Squadrons.

Non-members – The general public.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have an interest in boating, sail or power, membership in the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron will benefit you. We have members who have sailed on Southwest Florida waters for over forty years while others are new to the area. The squadron is a tremendous resource. No matter what your boating problem, we can help you find a solution.

Do you want someone to go out with you to give you an orientation on the local waters? Do you have a mechanical problem or any problem that you want to work on yourself?

One of our members will have been there and done that. Our members' boats range from kayaks to large yachts. Our sailors have sailed all over the world. Some members do not own boats but enjoy the social aspects of membership (plus it's always great to go along on someone else's boat).

A membership application is included on the last page. Membership fees are shown on the application. Just remove it from the booklet and mail to the address shown. We will then contact you.

SENIOR NAVIGATOR

The United States Power Squadrons issues grades to its members based on educational achievement. To achieve a grade, you must have taken and passed the courses below that grade. The highest grade is Senior Navigator. This means that you have completed all of the advanced classes and six of the eight elective courses. It is a very rewarding challenge. You will be educated in all aspects of boating and can operate any type of boat anywhere with confidence.

GO FOR IT!!!

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

America's Boating Course®

This is our primary civic effort toward public instruction in the fundamentals of safe boating and is designed to familiarize the student with the fundamentals of safe boating and qualify for certification in most states that require boating education before operating a watercraft. This class covers the basics needed to operate a boat safely.

Classes are offered over seven weeks, meeting on Wednesday evenings for two hours. Classes are also offered two half days or three half-days which includes CHARTING on Saturday mornings. Class costs are shown on the class schedule.

Advanced Courses

Boat Handling

The Seamanship course is a natural first/next step in building a foundation of confidence and competence for safe and enjoyable boating. It extends the knowledge and skills of the boater in handling and maneuvering a vessel, either sail or power. The course provides a better understanding of how boats behave under various conditions including close quarters and open water operations. Knowledge and skills are increased in the areas of anchoring, emergencies, rules of the road, and marlinspike/basic knots. Appendices include information to safe operation in waters of our neighbors to the north and south, Canada and Mexico. The course content and our coastal navigation courses should help in preparation for completion of the US Coast Guard licensing examination.

Member	See center page for schedule & costs	7 Weeks or twice a week for 4 weeks
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Advanced Piloting /Advanced Marine Navigation

This is the second in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation. It continues to build coastal and inland navigation skills, allowing the student to take on more challenging conditions – unfamiliar waters, limited visibility, and extended cruises. GPS is embraced as a primary navigation tool while adding radar, chartplotters, and other electronic navigation tools.

As with Piloting, the course includes many in-class exercises, advancing the student’s skills through hands-on practice and learning. Ten classes normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. Topics covered include:

- Review of skills learned in Piloting
- Advanced positioning techniques such as advancing a line of position
- Other electronics: radar, depth sounders, autopilots, chartplotters, laptop computer software, electronics (e.g. “keep out” zones in GPS)
- Collision avoidance using radar and GPS
- Working with tides: clearances, depth, effects of current
- Piloting with wind and currents
- The “Seaman’s Eye” – simple skills for checking that one is on course

Member See center page for schedule & costs 10 Weeks

Junior Navigation / Offshore Navigation

The first in a two-part program of study in offshore navigation and is followed by the Navigation course. It is designed as a practical "how to" course. Subject matter includes:

- Precise time determination
- Use of the Nautical Almanac
- Taking sextant sights of the sun
- Reducing sights to establish lines of position
- Special charts and plotting sheets for offshore navigation
- Offshore navigational routines for recreational craft

Member See center page for schedule & costs 16 Weeks

Navigation / Celestial Navigation

After Junior Navigation, this course is the second part of the study of offshore navigation, further developing the student's understanding of celestial navigation theory. This Navigation course deals with learning celestial positioning using other bodies, in addition to positioning using the sun (covered in the Junior Navigation course). This course also deals with electronic software tools that can be used to plan and execute an offshore voyage. You will first learn to reduce these sights by the Law of Cosines method. Later in the course, you will learn an additional method of sight reduction, the Nautical Almanac Sight Reduction (NASR) method.

You will also learn about sight planning techniques. With that knowledge, you will have the tools to take sights and complete your Navigation Sight Folder. The course includes a chapter on using a software-based voyage planning tool and a navigation program. The final chapter of the course contains a Practice Cruise that ties the separate elements of the course together.

Member See center page for schedule & costs 16 Weeks



The Peace River Sail & Power Squadron has been recognized as the top squadron in the country in 2010, 2011, and 2012 by the BoatUS Foundation.

Class Locations

Our Public Boating Courses and Seminars are presented at the Punta Gorda Boat Club located at 802 West Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda, FL.

Our Elective Courses that are open to United States Power Squadron members and to non-members are presented at the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron's classroom located at 750 West Retta Esplanade (Bayfront Center) in Punta Gorda, FL.

Our Advanced Grade Courses, which are only open to United States Power Squadron members, are also taught at the Bayfront Center in Punta Gorda, FL.

Class Schedules 2020

ADVANCED GRADES	DATES & TIMES
Boat Handling	Aug. 08 – Sep. 26, 2020 Saturday 0930 - 1200
Boat Handling	Jan. 14 – Feb. 08, 2021 Monday & Thursday 0930 - 1200
Piloting / Marine Navigation	Nov. 02 – Dec. 10, 2020 Monday & Thursday 1300 - 1530
Piloting / Marine Navigation	Feb. 15 – Mar. 18, 2021 Monday & Thursday 0930 - 1200
Advanced Piloting /Advanced Marine Navigation	Oct. 09 – Dec. 18, 2020 Fridays 0930 - 1130
Junior Navigation / Offshore Navigation	Oct. 21, 2020 – Mar. 24, 2021 wednesday 1500 - 1700

ELECTIVE COURSES	DATES & TIMES
Marine Electrical Systems	Sep. 29 – Nov. 17, 2020 Tuesday 0900 - 1200
Marine Communications Systems	Sep. 29 – Nov. 17, 2020 Tuesday 1300- 1500
Sail	Jan, 14 – Feb. 28, 2021 Monday & Thursday 1830 - 2100
Weather	Nov. 02 – Dec. 07, 2020 Mondays & Thursdays 0930 - 1200
Cruise Planning	Jan. 14 – Jan. 28, 2021 Mondays & Thursdays 1400-1700
Engine Maintenance	Jan. 13 – Mar. 17, 2021 Wednesday 0930 - 1130
Electronic Navigation Systems	Jan. 15 – Mar. 19, 2021 Friday 1330 - 1600
Instructor Development	TBD

Class Schedules 2020

PUBLIC BOATING COURSES	DATES & TIMES
America's Boating Course v3	Aug. 15 - Aug. 29, 2020 Saturdays 0830 - 1230
America's Boating Course v3	Oct. 17 – Oct. 24, 2020 Saturdays 0830 - 1230
America's Boating Course v3	Jan. 16 – Jan. 30, 2021 Saturday 0830 - 1230
America's Boating Course v3	TBD
America's Boating Course v3	TBD
America's Boating Course v3	TBD
America's Boating Course v3	TBD
America's Boating Course v3	TBD

SEMINARS	DATES & TIMES
Partner In Command	TBD
Using GPS	Aug. 01, 2020 Sat 1300 - 1630
Using GPS	Oct. 31, 2020 Sat 1300 - 1630
Hurricanes & Boats @CHECC	TBD
Using GPS	Feb. 06, 2021 Sat 0900 - 1230
Basic Weather & Forecasting	Aug. 01, 2020 Sat 0830 - 1230
Hurricanes & Boats	TBD
Using GPS	Feb. 06, 2021 Sat 0900 - 1230
How to use a chart	Oct. 31, 2020 Sat 0830 - 1230
Using GPS	TBD
Using GPS	TBD

Price List

COURSE	COSTS
ADVANCED GRADES	Other than Boat Handling Open to USPS members only
Boat Handling	\$65.00 eBook or \$75.00 with Printed Textbook
Piloting/Marine Navigation	\$75.00
Advanced Piloting / Advanced Marine Navigation	\$60.00
Junior Navigation / Offshore Navigation	\$90.00
Navigation / Celestial Navigation	\$155.00

Boat Handling Non-USPS Member \$115.00 eBook or \$125.00 with Printed Textbook

COURSE	COSTS
ELECTIVE COURSES	
Marine Electrical Systems	Members \$55.00 Non-members \$110.00
Marine Communications Systems	Members \$60.00 Non-members \$110.00
Sail	Members \$55.00 Non-members \$105.00
Weather	Members \$70.00 Non-members \$120.00
Cruise Planning	Members \$60.00 Non-members \$110.00
Engine Maintenance	Members \$55.00 Non-members \$105.00
Electric Navigation Systems	Members \$65.00 Non-members \$115.00

COURSE	COSTS
PUBLIC BOATING	1 st person, \$65.00 2 nd person sharing materials, \$25.00
CHARTING	1 st person, \$40.00 2 nd person sharing materials, \$25.00
USING GPS	1 st person, \$35.00 2 nd person sharing materials, \$20.00
BOAT HANDLING chapter	1 st person, \$40.00 2 nd person sharing materials, \$25.00
Partner in Command	\$45.00
Basic Weather & Forecasting	1 st person, \$40.00 2 nd person sharing materials, \$25.00

Elective Courses

Cruise Planning

There is something very special about the thrill of cruising in new waters and the sense of accomplishment upon completing an extended cruise. To go beyond what most boaters do on a weekend, overnight or even a week or so, marina hopping requires boaters to leave their normal cruising areas and comfort zones. The Cruise Planning course focuses on the planning and preparation necessary for safe enjoyable extended cruises on both inland and coastal waters.

Designed for members who cruise on either a sail or powerboat (owned or chartered)—this course covers the following topics:

- Cruise preparation and planning – General
- Boat and Equipment
- Anchors and Anchoring
- Security
- Chartering
- Cruising Outside the United States
- Crew and Provisioning
- Voyage Management
- Communications
- Navigation
- Weather
- Emergencies

Members/Non-Members Twice a week sessions for 4 weeks
See center page for schedule & costs

Engine Maintenance

The Engine Maintenance course 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 also covers basic mechanical systems such as drive systems (propellers), steering systems, and engine controls. The last chapter discusses solutions you might use to problems that could occur while afloat and away from a repair facility. Gasoline, diesel, and outboard engines are treated independently in this chapter.

Member/Non-Members

10 Weeks

See center page for schedule & costs

Marine Electrical Systems

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’s electrical system.

Member/Non-members

9 Weeks

See center page for schedule & costs

Marine Communications Systems

An in-depth review of those systems available to the recreational boater. 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/her 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 on troubleshooting of radio installations.

Member/Non-member

7 Weeks

See center page for schedule & costs

Sail

A sail course created to serve the needs of the novice and experienced sailor, as well as the non-sailor, for basic skills and knowledge. The course starts with basic sailboat designs and nomenclature, rigging, safety, and sail processes and then tackles the physical aspects of sailing forces and techniques sail applications, marlinespike, helmsmanship and handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and an introduction to heavy weather sailing. Appendices provide an introduction to sailboat racing and sailing in Canadian waters.

Member/Non-member

7 Weeks

See center page for schedule & costs

Weather

The safety and comfort of those who venture out-on-the water have always been weather dependent. In this course students will become keener observers of the weather, but weather observations only have meaning in the context of the basic principles of meteorology — the science of the atmosphere. The course focuses on how weather systems form, behave, move, and interact with one another and reflects the availability of all sorts of weather reports and forecasts on the Internet. Wx2008 is a general weather course benefiting those sitting in their living rooms, as much as those standing behind the helm. Each student receives:

- A Weather Manual – *USPS Weather* – an explanatory text with full color photographs and drawings covering weather in the United States and its coastal and inland waters.
- A set of three Daily Weather Maps - learning aids with a complete explanation of map symbols designed to develop weather map reading and analysis skills.
- NOAA’s Sky Watcher Chart – a reference to assist in identifying cloud types – helpful indicators of approaching weather.

Member/Non-Members Twice a week sessions for 5 weeks
See center page for schedule & costs

Electronic Navigation Course Description

Electronic Navigation introduces GPS technology from the most basic receiver to chart plotter systems for navigation on board. The process of navigating by establishing waypoints and routes, and then running the planned courses, is demonstrated. Further, electronic charting software for the desktop computer is examined, with creation of waypoints and routes on the desktop and subsequent download to the onboard unit. Despite differences among the various manufacturers' offerings, a thorough discussion of the features being made available is included.

Special attention is paid to apps for tablets and smartphones that provide the electronic navigation function at the helm, for relatively little cost.

Students should be familiar with basic charting concepts such as latitude, longitude, the compass, course plotting, and time/distance calculation, to get the most out of the course.

Member/Non-Members 12 weeks
See center page for schedule & costs

SEMINARS

Anchoring

This seminar covers selection of anchor, rode and components; anchor selection for sea conditions and bottom characteristics; deployment and recovery of anchors. It also includes tables for sizing an anchor and components, and information for determining loads under various conditions. The kit includes the USPS *Anchoring* Quick Guide written by Bill Gladstone, and Student Notes with copies of the slides.

See center page for schedule & costs

Basic Weather and Forecasting

The safety and comfort of those who venture out on the water have always been weather dependent. This seminar serves as an introduction to the basics of weather and forecasting. It is a must for boaters who have never taken a weather course. Each seminar participant receives a waterproof McGraw Hill Captain's Quick Guide *Onboard Weather Forecasting* designed for onboard and field use. Each participant also receives a full color Student Guide with slide images and complete notes written especially for the seminar.

See center page for schedule & costs

Boat Handling

See **Boat Handling** listed in ADVANCED GRADES, the 6 chapters are offered as seminars concurrent with the **Boat Handling** Course lecture sessions.

How to Use a Chart

The NOAA Chart No. 1 is the quintessential reference to chart details, but is difficult to understand. This seminar walks you through what you really need to know in an entertaining and interesting fashion, and provides you with a small water resistant chart to take along on the boat with you. In addition to showing you all about your chart, this seminar walks you through the essentials of laying out a safe course, steps to measure a course with the USPS plotter, and even a quick guide to the rules of the road.

See center page for schedule & costs

Hurricanes and Boats

This seminar covers how to select a location and prepare your boat for a hurricane. The kit includes Student Notes with copies of the slides.

See center page for schedule & costs

Marine Radar

This seminar covers how radar functions, radar selection, and operation of the radar under various conditions including setting of controls, display interpretation, basic navigation, and collision avoidance using radar. Optionally available but not part of the basic seminar is *The Radar Book* written by Kevin Monahan (\$25 retail) can be purchased at the seminar.

See center page for schedule & costs

Mastering the Rules of the Road

This seminar provides an explanation with examples of the 37 Rules of the Road for both the U.S. Inland Rules and the International Rules (COLREGS). It simplifies the sometimes complex law relating to boat operation for the recreational boater. It is a starting point for study preparation for the USCG License examination. This seminar kit includes McGraw-Hill's *The One Minute Guide to the Nautical Rules of the Road* by Charlie Wing

See center page for schedule & costs

Paddle Smart

This seminar is intended for those about to join the sport and those considering purchasing paddling equipment. The seminar kit includes several handouts: attendee workbook for note-taking and reference;

See center page for schedule & costs

Partner in Command

This seminar provides an introduction to boating for crew members who need basic information and who may or may not have taken a boating course. It is designed to provide essential information one may require to assist a skipper in the safe operation of a recreational boat. Included in the seminar are actions in response to emergencies. This seminar includes a text. A Knot Practice Board will be useful to practice tying knots.

See center page for schedule & costs

Using GPS

This seminar explains the principles of waypoint navigation and shows you how to relate the GPS to your charts. The seminar also shows you how to operate your GPS - what the buttons do, what the screens show, and how to access the functions you need. You'll also get some tips for choosing a GPS if you don't currently own one.

See center page for schedule & costs

Using VHF and VHF/DCS Marine Radio

VHF radio is the mainstay of coastal communication and essential for emergency communications. Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is rapidly becoming a reality as more Coast Guard Rescue 21 System operations go live. This seminar explains basic VHF operation. A CD is included with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer at home. The handy waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain's Quick Guide *Using VHF* is included with essential information that you should have aboard.

See center page for schedule & costs

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

A Vessel Safety check (VSC) is a courtesy inspection of your boat (vessel) to verify the presence and condition of critical Safety Equipment as required by state and federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of the U.S. Power Squadrons or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The examiner will also make recommendations and discuss safety issues to help you be a safer boater.

A sticker and a copy of the inspection document will be given to you to indicate that your boat has successfully completed the inspection.

Call the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron for your FREE vessel inspection – (941) 637-0766, or email vsc@peaceriversailandpowersquadron.org

Items inspected include: proper display of registration/documentation numbers – personal flotation devices – visual distress signals – fire extinguishers – ventilation – backfire flame control – sound production devices – navigation lights
– pollution abatement – state/federal requirements – overall vessel condition.

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
Membership Application

Name (First/MI/Last)		Phone No.	
Address		Cell Phone No.	
City, State, Zip		E-Mail	
Sex M F	Birth Date	Spouse's Name	
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (Add other adults/children in same household at a reduced membership rate))			
Name		Birth Date	Sex M F
Name		Birth Date	Sex M F
Name		Birth Date	Sex M F
Own Boat Yes No	Name of Boat	Length	Type Power Sail
Signature		Date	

We will contact you shortly -Welcome Aboard!
Dues (Subject to Change) Individual \$115.00 Family \$163.00
Please application to: Peace River Sail & Power Squadron
PO Box 511042, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
www.puntagorda-boating.org
membership@peaceriversailandpowersquadron.org



The Peace River Sail & Power Squadron has been recognized as the top squadron in the country three years in a row by the BoatUS Foundation.



PEACE RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

P. O. BOX 511042

PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

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