

CONSOLIDATED EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT Report

Basic Public Education Committee – R/C Dick Carson

1. The America's Boating Course 3rd Edition (ABC3) continues as our NASBLA approved education system to fulfill most state's safety education requirements for operator certification. Introduced in 2008, reprinted in 2010, revised to new NASBLA 2012 Standards and reprinted in 2012, and 2013, and currently in preparation for an estimated printing in the 2013-2014 winter. The next printing incorporates all known updates and corrections.

The Committee submitted a lengthy update to NASBLA Standards committee based on data from USCG and NSBC reports concerning accidents and loss of life. Many of the inputs will be included in forthcoming updates to the Standards. That update is pending issuance of change to Government documents, and will probably be published in 2015. Some change items of interest:

- a. Revise boat capacity labels with calculations for maximum person capacity using a representative average weight.
- b. Transition to a new consolidated North American life jacket standard. This includes updating USCG regulations to replace every instance of Type I, II, III, IV, and V with "U.S. Coast Guard Approved" or other appropriate language to ensure that boaters do not run afoul of obsolete regulations upon the introduction of life jackets manufactured under new standards.

Revisions to boater's language include:

- a. PWC / Personal water craft changes to "Water-jet propelled boats"
- b. Vessel is being replaced with more representative "boats."
- c. Kill switch is being replaced with a better descriptive "Engine cut-off device."
- d. Paddle boats are "Human Powered Boats."

Translation of the ABC3 2012 Student Manual to classic Spanish, including incorporation of the current items in the posted Errata, is well underway through the efforts of Stf/C Luis Molero and D/33 Hector Barreto. Formatting, proofing and printing are eagerly anticipated.

2. The ABC3 on-line course continues to be popular. The differing state specific laws and exam questions necessitate tailored on-line assessment examinations, thus the on-line exam is being introduced one state at a time. This improvement to the on-line course will allow expansion to areas without squadrons in proximity to the student. The current requirement to complete the course with classroom education on state laws and a proctored examination was not practical for those who had to travel great distances.
3. The Committee is responsible for seminars:
 - a. Basic Coastal Navigation (2009) – essentially ABC3 Chapter 5, this seminar continues in need of update to the single booklet format and transition from the MAPTECH to Rose Point electronic navigation DVD.
 - b. How to Use a Chart was updated in 2012.

- c. Paddle Smart (2007) – continues in evaluation for update and is in need of conversion to the single booklet format.
 - d. Trailing (2008) – continues in evaluation for update and is in need of conversion to the single booklet format.
4. The Committee is responsible for the 41 USPS – state MOUs and similar agreements. Many of these are dated and otherwise need of maintenance attention. Plans continue to provide better communications with the States / Boating Law Administrators (BLA) by BPECom, ensuring we comply with the agreements.
5. The Committee responded to a need to make our ABC3 classroom education about visual distress signals (VDS) safer. Live pyrotechnic devices were being used as teaching aids, some outdated and possible unstable, all of which presented unacceptable risk. Advice to cease such activity was promulgated and Inert VSC kits made available in concert with Orion Signals Company. Orion provided the kits to USPS at cost and the kits were shipped from the USPS warehouse at cost plus shipping and handling.
6. Housekeeping:
 - a. The Committee continues to monitor the educational materials status for which it is responsible with goal to maintain stocks above the reorder points that have been established for every item.
 - b. A vast amount of Committee time is consumed responding as soon as possible to “customer” and HQ requests, sorting out why course completions were not filed in the HQ800 system, and assisting with some really off-the-wall questions.
 - c. The Committee and USPS suffered a great loss with the passing of Stf/C George Malindzak on 11 March.

We look forward to continued increase in sales, updating seminars, and great things in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

BOCOTW Training Committee- R/C Chris Windeler

Plans and Accomplishments for 8-14-2013

1. Support the 3yr CG Grant for training and Water Trainer. [Third CG grant applied for and received for \\$220,000.](#)
2. Renew lease for 3rd year for Water Trainer if Grant secured. [Lease extended to 7/30/14.](#)
3. Bring Water Trainer back to East Coast. [Water Trainer visited the west south and west coast and has traveled back to MI at this time.](#)
4. Update Certifiers Manual for typos and ACN. [Some minor corrections made in Certifier manual and ACN Guide published.](#)
5. Update IN Guide and prepare to put on website for downloading. [Done.](#)

6. Modify BOC Database. [Dan Bartell has done an excellent job improving the BOC Database. Passport page, Certifier page, Skills page, Certifier reports and Passport reports, Candidate Review page and down loadable data has all been accomplished.](#)
7. Set up Ad Hoc committee to issue a preliminary ON Guide. [Second version of Guide to be reviewed at Gov. Bd.](#)
8. Have all BOC materials purchased by Credit Card like POTW Seminars. [Open](#)
9. Complete re-certification requirements and plan. [Partly done.](#)
10. Put Training Schedule on BOC webpage. [Done. Don Funderburk publishes, on the webpage, an updated schedule weekly.](#)
11. Continue monthly committee conference calls. [Done. Calls recorded so those who missed can listen at a later time.](#)
12. Issue Advanced Sail endorsement. [Open](#)
13. Request RYA cooperation for UN 40 Compliance. [Open](#)
14. [Created a new Skill to give credit for non-USPS ABC3 equivalent courses](#)
15. [Submitted a succession plan](#)
16. [Prepared two PPT presentations on Marketing POTW](#)
17. [Started email advertising campaign for Squadrons for POTW](#)
18. [New committee discussion issues.](#)
 - a. [CPR requirement](#)
 - b. [Large boat POTW Training Seminar](#)
 - c. [Budget for 2014 without CG Grants to train Certifiers](#)
19. [Statistics: See BOC Statistical Report for 2013](#)
20. 662 members are listed YTD at various levels as certifiers as of 8/19/13

BOC Statistical Report 2013

SKILLS

[+]	74	BOCTRN	BOC Certifier Training
[+]	23	CPR	CPR Training
[+]	21	FAID	First Aid Training
[+]	71	FIRE	Fire Extinguisher Training
[+]	2	NUBC	Non-USPS Boating Course NASBLA Approved
[+]	11	OTWADN	BOC Advanced Coastal Navigation
[+]	139	OTWBPH	BOC Basic Power Boat Handling
[+]	32	OTWNAV	BOC Coastal Navigation
[+]	52	PYROD	BOC Pyrotechnic Displays

PASSPORTS Approved

[+]	53	IN	Inland Navigator
[+]	15	CN	Coastal Navigator
[+]	11	ACN	Advanced Coastal Navigator
[+]	0	ON	Ocean Navigator

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POWTR

[+]	17	POWTR Seminars given
[+]	71	Students completed POWTR Seminars

CERTIFIERS Approved

[+]	57	C	Certifier
[+]	58	WC	POWTR Trainer
[+]	29	IC	IN Certifier
[+]	84	IT	IN Certifier Trainer
[+]	1	II	IN Certifier Trainer Instructor
[+]	1	CC	CN Certifier
[+]	0	CT	CN Certifier Trainer
[+]	1	CI	CN Certifier Trainer Instructor
[+]	5	ACC	ACN Certifier
[+]	3	ACT	ACN Certifier Trainer
[+]	3	ACI	ACN Certifier Trainer Instructor
[+]	0	OC	ON Certifier
[+]	0	OT	ON Certifier Trainer
[+]	0	OI	ON Certifier Trainer Instructor

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Boat Handling Committee – R/C Jim Runge

The Boat Handling Committee is responsible for Seamanship, Sail, and twelve seminars. Where applicable, all newly redone seminars include OTW components relating to the important concepts covered in the seminars. Seminars updated and with On The Water Training are now in the catalog: Anchoring, Emergencies Onboard, Fuel and Boating, Man Overboard, and Boat Handling Under Power. Scheduled for updating and the development of OTW training are Advanced Power Boat Handling, Hurricanes and Boats, Partner in Command, and Sail Trim. Work is being completed on the newly revised Mastering Rules of the Road and should be available in December. Heavy Weather Sailing is in rewrite with OTW training development. Knots, Bends, and Hitches is due to be assigned for rewrite. Awaiting publication, rewritten and with OTW training, is Partner in Command. The new booklet format will be used for all rewrites and it has been used for rewrites already completed.

The Boat Handling Committee's seminar, Partner in Command has been placed on-line with Boat US as the first on-line offering from USPS. To date 31 students have taken the seminar which was implemented on May 28.

Currently, the Seamanship sub-committee of the Boat Handling Committee is working to convert the present course as the first USPS course to go on-line, following the format established in converting the Partner in Command seminar for on-line presentation using the template created for that seminar as well as using the interfaces to HQ systems that were developed for the Boat US offerings. Exploration into stronger graphics and additional re-writes of the 2012 corrected text are underway. Meetings with the persons involved in the conversion are planned for San Antonio.

While preparing for on-line implementation of the Seamanship course, work is still being done in removing redundancies with the ABC3 course and maintaining continuity with CPS in areas of mutual concern.

The Seamanship course was released with corrections for 2012. There are still a few areas that need refining and errata have been placed on the Seamanship website.

The Sail course has a preliminary outline completed and the committee is currently working with CPS to add elements from their program. The plan is for a release of the course with both organizations authoring the material after approval of the story board from the Publishing committee.

Both Seamanship and Sail have published OTW Teaching Guides available on the web for download.

The following are the sales to date of our offerings:

Advanced power Boat Handling	41	
Boat Handling	77	
Sail Trim		35
Emergencies on Board	196	
Knots, Bends, and Hitches	27	

Hurricanes and Boats	14	
Sail Course		370
Mastering Rules of the Road	81	
Fuel and Boating		11
Anchoring		114
Man Overboard	32	
Seamanship Course	793	
Partner in Command	179	

2013 Goals and Objectives for the Boat Handling Committee

1. Update web pages
2. Continue to develop OTW lesson plan modules for rewrites of seminars.
3. Move forward aggressively with the rewrite of the Sail course.
4. Continue to attend District Fall Conferences as a representative of the Educational Committee by the R/Cs and Stf/Cs.
5. Finish updating the Boat Handling Committee Handbook.
6. Incorporate more committee members in seminar and course revisions.
7. Continue working with the Stf/Cs concerning their responsibilities and assign them more involvement in rewrites and committee operations.
8. Meet with the Stf/Cs monthly to monitor continuing work in the Boat Handling Committee.

BoatUS™/USPS Online Course Program-Project Manager Eileen Rickard

DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

The first seminar – Partner in Command – has been implemented with the fully interactive, online learning experience and fully automatic interfaces to Headquarters’ systems. During the PIC implementation, USPS volunteers received training in the process. The next seminar, Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes, has been story boarded and developed on the authoring tool by USPS volunteer personnel. BoatUS is in the process of doing the technical fine tuning. Three more seminars are in the process of being storyboarded and developed by USPS personnel.

- Partner in Command was implemented on 28 May on the BoatUS platform.
- During the implementation, USPS volunteers were trained in the requirements of storyboarding (designing) and the initial implementation on the authoring tool.
- USPS volunteers in cooperation with Headquarters’ Information Services staff have developed a fully automated interface for student information collection.
 - USPS member numbers are validated online to ensure the member discount and proper credit for the seminars and courses taken
 - Each day BoatUS sends the information about each enrollment and completion to USPS
 - For each enrollment:
 - Appropriate student and course information is collected in our server and HQ databases
 - If this is a new student, a USPS University number is assigned to the student
 - USPS financial systems are updated

- Emails containing student contact information are sent to appropriate squadron personnel
 - For each completion
 - The student's USPS records are updated
 - Emails containing student contact information are sent to appropriate squadron personnel
 - At the end of the quarter
 - BoatUS sends USPS's portion of the income and a reconciling report
- This development has been completed because of the significant efforts of our USPS volunteers. Many thanks go to them.
 - Developing the seminars:
 - **Andy Sumberg** has coordinated the storyboarding, begun storyboarding on his own and developed and coordinated development on the authoring tool.
 - **Andy Sumberg** has done most of the development on the authoring tool for BRLL.
 - Developing the IT interfaces
 - IT Committee
 - **Connie Beckman** did the primary development and documentation of the requirements
 - **Miguel Long** did the primary development of the interface system on the server.
 - **Joe Gibson** developed the portion of the system that sends emails to the appropriate squadron personnel when a student enrolls in or completes a course or seminar.
 - **Doug Bass** aided in the development of the interface system on the server.
 - **Carl Filios** is developing online access to the server files.
 - HQ Staff
 - **Kathy Kesterson** did the development of all the interfaces on the HQ systems.

MARKETING

Considerable marketing has been done both internally to squadron members and externally to our target market of boaters who do not necessarily know USPS.

- Internal Marketing
 - A paragraph on some subject connected with the online program has been part of each month's Blast publication since February.
 - An article in the spring edition of the *Ensign*.
 - 7 presentations at the Annual Meeting, including in the main meeting on Saturday.
 - A table at the Expo at the Annual Meeting.
 - Emails/ meeting discussions with DEOs
 - Presentations at district conferences
- External Marketing
 - Landing/Selling page for online courses on the website
 - A promo video for PIC that is up on the landing page and on YouTube
 - Use of Google Ad words.
 - 2 blogs in Trade Only online. First was republished in print in the Great Lakes Scuttlebutt

- Joint press release with BoatUS to over 700 publications and writers
- Online magazine and email contacts with over 750,000 BoatUS members.
- Part of a BoatUS press release to 700 publications and writers concerning 5 ways to save money for the summer
- Excellent BoatUS article promoting the online Partner in Command in the August/September edition of BoatU.S. Magazine
- Numerous posts on BoatUS Foundation and USPS Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Marketing Adjustments
 - Reduction in price for Partner in Command to \$40.00 for non-members and \$31.60 for members.
 - Offering BoatUS members PIC at member price for a limited time.
 - Addition of a tag line in the name of PIC to enable better results in online searches and better recognition of what the seminar is about. The full name is now:
 - Partner in Command ~ An Essential Intro to Boating for Every Crew Member
- This marketing has been completed because of the efforts of our USPS Volunteers:
 - **Dave Rickard** for the ideas and content of many of the marketing efforts
 - **Tom Brincka** for early efforts on and responsive updating of the landing/selling page
 - In addition, a joint marketing group has been working regularly on marketing efforts. This group includes:
 - USPS volunteers: Dave Rickard and Eileen Rickard
 - USPS staff: Tammy Brown
 - BoatUS Foundation Staff: Amanda Suttles and Tony Bird

SALES

As of 18 August, we have sold 35 copies of Partner in Command. The breakdown of the students is:

- 10 (29%) are members
- 25 (71%) are non-members, our target market
 - 15 are BoatUS members
 - 10 have no affiliation

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Four seminars are in the pipeline for implementation. Work will begin on the first course soon.

- Boating on Bridges, Locks and Lakes is in the final stages and should be out in a month or so
- Using VHF/DSC Marine Radio is well into the storyboarding process
- Radar is beginning the storyboarding process
- Weather is beginning the storyboarding process.

NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE

We have a need to increase the speed with which we implement seminars and courses online. That means that we need to work on several courses and seminars at a time. Of course, this takes more people. We are looking for help in many areas including:

- New teams of storyboarders and Claro programmers.
- Videos, already existing or new
- Work from the committees to ensure PowerPoints are in good shape.

At the meeting Andy Sumberg will be presenting much more detail about what we will need from the committees.

Educational Outreach Committee- R/C Wil Hugli

BoatUS™ seminar development – two seminars are ready for members and boaters. Between the steering committee and Stf/C Andy Sumberg's effort at least 500 hours of effort has been contributed.

The committee averages four enquire of problem calls a week. Two conference calls per week. E-mails – 10 to 20 per week.

Three USPS Headquarters visits were made.

Course/seminar learning management system maintenance, repair, and coordination with UWF 1 to 3 hours per week.

Developing: e-publishing process and recommendation under way.

USPS-UWF Online Courses

Jan 1 - Aug 15

Course	Enrolled	Completed	
Seamanship	21	13	
Weather	5	1	
Sail	3	1	
Cruise Planning (D/L with FWS&PS)	2		
	25	19	21 Members

VHF	7
Chart	4
Basic Weather	3
Advance Boat Handling	3
Boat Handling	2
Anchoring	2
Boat Security	2
Sail Trim	1
Using GPS	1
Navigation Rules	1
Emergencies	1

ElectroMechanical Systems Committee- R/C George Hallenbeck

Course Development

Engine Maintenance (EM2011) is in general use, including use by the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons.

Marine Electrical Systems is in general use.

Marine Communications Systems is in general use, and well received.

Electronic Navigation Systems has passed internal edit and is in the format/assembly phase. The first chapter of 8 chapters is out for exam questions and presenter MS Powerpoint™ development. Due to the delay in delivery, an interim course is being considered. The CPS alternative *Electronic Navigation* is being reviewed and will be offered until MNS is released. It will not be as technical but will respond to some of the "popular electronics" issues. Look for a progress report in Jacksonville. The delay in MNS may be more than one year.

Marine Electronics remains in stock. We will continue to provide this course until all three of the new courses are in general circulation. No updates are planned for these modules.

Seminar Development

Working on our first on-line implementation of "VHF/DSC Radio" for Boat US.

Preliminary video's have been taken. "Radar" will be the next assignment and a potential implementer is under review.

Other Issues

R/C Hallenbeck & P/R/C Danko attended the GMDSS Implementation Task Force meeting in Arlington, VA on 31 January & 9 May, 2013. Roughly 90% of recreational mariners have not responded to Task Force recommendations that GPS systems be connected to DSC radios, nor are 80% of boaters registering for MMSIs. This issue will persist and continued public education is

needed.

Next Task Force Seminar is scheduled for late September in San Diego in conjunction with NMEA. We will be represented.

EMSCoM is effectively de-staffed and only four members are contributing to the committee load. Contributing factors are burnout due to committee workload, personal matters, the aging membership, and dearth of qualified candidates. We are continuing to search for qualified content providers. Video experience is an emerging requirement. Those with interest and skill in these areas are encouraged to contact the Committee Chair and submit resumes to the Committee on Nominations.

Inland Coastal Navigation Committee- R/C Jack Cook

Piloting

Piloting is the initial navigational course in the USPS Advanced Grades series. The course focuses on techniques for navigating in coastal and inland waters. The course emphasizes planning of courses and routes using the GPS for determining geographical position, plus bearing and direction to an active waypoint, course over ground and speed of advance. The course introduces digital charting along with traditional dead reckoning skills as a backup for the electronic systems. Plotting, labeling, use of the compass, aids to navigation and related topics are included in this introduction to coastal and inland piloting.

The current Piloting Student Kit 2011 includes the 2011 Piloting Manual, the Plotting and Labeling Standards and the Weekend navigator, 2nd Edition. The Instructor Kit includes the Student Kit plus the Instructor Manual 2008 and the Instructor CD 2008, Rev. 2012. There is an optional Piloting on-the-water training segment available for download from the Piloting page of the USPS web site.

For the educational year 2012-2013, 663 individuals completed Piloting. 94% passed. The average score was 91.2%.

Advanced Piloting

Advanced Piloting is the second navigational course in the USPS Advanced Grades series. The course material builds on the base developed in Piloting and includes the practical use of additional electronic tools and other advanced techniques for determining position and for avoiding collision and other hazards. Among topics covered are predictions of tides and currents and determining leeway, and using that information to determine the correct heading and boat speed to achieve your destination.

The current AP course Manual and Instructor Manual editions are both 2011. The AP Instructor CD is 2011 (version 6.0). As in the Piloting course, the AP course uses the Weekend Navigator, 2nd Edition, as a reference. There is also an optional Advanced Piloting on-the-water training segment available for download from the Advanced Piloting page of the USPS web site.

For the educational year 2012-2013, 330 individuals completed Advanced Piloting. 93% passed. The average score was 91.9%

Teaching Guides for OTW are available for Piloting and Advanced Piloting and are posted to the website for download. Up to date errata sheets for each course are also posted.

Seminars and Guides

The following Inland and Coastal Navigation seminars and guides are available:

- GPS for Mariners
- Mariners Compass
- Tides and Currents
- Predicted Log
- How to Read a Nautical Chart

Instructor Development Committee – R/C Art Mollica

The educational year ended with 3,445 certified instructors and another 2,305 only needing to complete the recertification seminar to renew their certification.

The new Instructor Development course, ID 2013, is now available and several squadrons have already offered and completed this course over the summer months. The course is available as a download only, both the Instructor & Student manuals.

Due to the importance of this material as part of our education programs there is no charge from national to offer the ID Course to our members. Current certified instructors are encouraged to take advantage of the free downloads and review the material now being offered. If we can define the “improved” materials of value to current instructors and communicate this to our membership we may get a lot more takers. The manual can be accessed at www.usps.org/national/eddept/id/idcourse.

Marine Environment Committee– R/C Chuck Wells

MEnvCom is responsible for producing and administering two courses, three seminars and one Webinar: the *Cruising and Cruise Planning* course, the *Weather* course, the *Basic Weather and Forecasting* seminar, the *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes* seminar, the *Crossing Borders* seminar, and the *Marine Weather Forecasting* webinar. This report has some brief comments about each one.

R/C Charles Wells, SN is the current committee chair. Stf/C Robert Anderson, AP and Stf/C John Gill, AP are the Assistant Committee chairs.

The Cruising and Cruise Planning Course

The course was rewritten and completed just after the annual meeting in January. The project included a new Student Manual, an Instructor Guide (on CD) with a Slide Presentation and notes, and a full set of examination questions. In addition to the traditional cruise planning topics, the new manual includes descriptions and tips about some actual cruise routes/areas (the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Inland Rivers, Northwest Pacific Coast, and the Great lakes). The course also includes a class virtual cruise planning exercise that will involve the major elements of cruise planning (charts, guidebooks, route, provisioning/meals, etc.). While this planning exercise is not an OTW one and no actual cruise is required to receive credit for the course, squadrons are encouraged to do an actual cruise based on the classroom exercise. An errata sheet has been prepared and is posted online.

The Weather Course

The course was updated in 2012. The Instructor CD has both a regular PowerPoint presentation with complete notes and an Instructor's Guide that contains suggestions and tips for instructors. No changes are forecast in the near future.

Basic Weather and Forecasting Seminar

The new weather seminar – *Basic Weather and Forecasting* – is more comprehensive than its predecessor (94 slides versus 63 in the old one). In addition to the *Onboard Weather Forecasting* QuickGuide used in the old seminar, participants receive a full color Seminar Guide complete with notes—a major upgrade from the previous guide. There is no separate printed Instructor Guide. The notes in the Seminar Guide also serve as instructor notes. The Instructor's CD, however, in addition to the PowerPoint presentation has a file with an Instructor's Guide that contains suggestions and tips for instructors.

Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes Seminar

Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes seminar has been well received and is still available under its first printing. This seminar has undergone some revision for inclusion in the new BoatUS/USPS online course program. We will include these revisions in the next printing of the student manual.

Crossing Borders Seminar

This new seminar was developed with the cooperation of the Boat Handling Committee. It details the requirements for crossing international borders with special emphasis on our neighbors to the north and south. The first printing of the CD and student manual are complete and it is listed in the catalogue.

Marine Weather Forecasting Webinar

The *Marine Weather Forecasting* webinar was developed for coastal and offshore cruisers and emphasized the 500 mb chart as a forecasting tool and NOAA/NWS coastal/offshore meteorological products. The webinar will be offered again either as a recorded version or another live presentation, but there is no scheduled event.

The Committee has been active in supporting the BoatUS™/USPS online program. Staff Commander John Gill has taken the lead on the revision of the Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes seminar. The Program coordinator requested inclusion of more in-depth information regarding "small inland lakes & parasites" (lakes used primarily by small trailer-boaters) in the online seminar. Consequently, we have written an outline and are working on the script and photo illustrations for that addition. We only need a few more photos before the script for the small lakes section is complete.

The Basic Weather and Forecasting seminar will go online next year. Volunteers have already been identified and are ready to begin work.

Planned Projects

A *Severe Marine Weather* seminar is under development. Staff Commander Robert Anderson is taking the lead in overseeing this project. It will focus on severe weather and oceanographic events that affect boaters. It is currently being reviewed for publishing. This seminar will be coordinated with the planned *Heavy Weather Sailing Seminar*.

The Committee intends to promote the development of other sample cruises for the new *Cruising and Cruise Planning* course. As these new examples are created, we will post them online so that other boaters and instructors can use these for classroom or practical use.

A long-term project to replace the present weather guides with stand-alone more complete ones is in

progress. While some progress has been made on three areas including the New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific Northwest Coast, MEnvCom needs more volunteers to work on other regions. In addition to general weather topics, the guides will also cover tides, currents and sea states.

Offshore Navigation Committee –R/C Steve Abbott

- Through August 5, the inventory report indicates that we have sold 172 JN kits and 81 N kits. Although the JN rate is below last year by about 9%, the N rate is nearly the same. Through August 14, our examiners graded 136 JN exams (91% passed with an average passing score of 90.4%), 56 N exams (84% passed with an average passing score of 89.9%), and 63 N Sight Folders (89% passed with an average passing score of 90%).
- A new JN exam and grading guide is near completion. JN12-04O will allow more flexibility of shipping multiple exams to the same household.
- As a result of member recommendations during the January Offshore Navigation Committee meeting, Stf/C Larry Samuels published an addition to the JN sight Folder to include a meridian transit of the sun. Until the manual is reprinted, the transit will be optional at the discretion of the Course Instructor.
- The N On-the-Water Guide was completed, approved, and published. Committee member Bill Doar was the author. Both courses now have OTW guides posted to the website.
- Stf/C Vic Schwartz has taken charge of the review of the current N student manual in preparation for the next update. Suggested changes in the course as well as the exam will continue to be a topic for the committee during the latter part of 2013. A questionnaire was distributed to all DEOs and SEOs soliciting feedback on changes desired in the N course. A summary follows:
 - a. Approximately 50 responses were received.
 - b. 40% had negative views about the CAPN™ software used in the N course.
 - c. However, only 7% felt we should drop software from the course.
 - d. About 15% had negative views about adding back special techniques such as latitude by Polaris, equation of time, compass considerations, estimate of declination, etc.
 - e. A very few wanted to drop everything but Celestial Navigation and make the course more theoretical including the use of meridian diagrams.
 - f. About 6% suggested we totally drop Celestial sight taking as being irrelevant in today's world.

- g. Nearly 20% suggested that we re-define the two courses: one would be only Celestial Navigation, and the other would focus only on Electronic Navigation. This would give prospective students a choice of one or both types of navigation training.

As a result of this response, a thorough review of various alternatives to the CAPN™ software is being explored. Eight other navigational software packages are being considered. A preliminary report will be presented at the September Governing Board Offshore Navigation Committee meeting.

- A price reduction was negotiated for the CAPN™ software and became effective with our last purchase (in exchange for some GPS and AIS functionality reduction). USPS members will be offered a substantial discount if they wish to upgrade to the full navigation package.

Program Partner Relations- R/C John Malatak

BRUNSWICK DEALER ADVANTAGE (BDA) PROGRAM

The Brunswick Dealer Advantage/U.S. Power Squadrons Program continues to expand, develop and flourish. Our growth in the program since the January 2013 Annual Meeting has been steady. We currently have 119 of our 407 squadrons participating which represents slightly over 29% of our squadrons partnering with a local Brunswick dealer. The 119 squadrons further represent at least one squadron actively participating within 30 of our 33 Districts.

During the late spring and summer of this year we relaxed our outreach efforts to make contact with Districts and Squadrons since the Brunswick dealers are busy getting boats ready for the season and servicing their customer base. Commencing late September of this year the BDA Customer Service Representatives will be making contact with their dealerships and partner squadrons rekindling the relationship and assisting with the establishment of various seminars and ABC3 courses. Additionally, Brunswick will be hosting a conference call inviting all those participating squadron key points of contact and DEO's to discuss lessons learned, program successes and any negative influences incurred during our inaugural season. We will also be identifying those geographical areas where there are no Brunswick dealers so we can more accurately define the exact number of squadrons who have potential Brunswick partners. This number will then give us a more realistic number of squadrons that need to participate to establish 100% participation of eligible squadrons in the program. Stay tuned for additional updates throughout the coming calendar year. We're on our way to fully developing one of the most successful educational partnerships we've had in some time.

MARINERS LEARNING SYSTEM (MLS)

Mariners Learning System offers Coast Guard approved Captain's Licensing courses that can be taken online in the comfort of your home or on the road and at your own pace. They have incorporated an intuitive learning approach that's direct, clear, and effective. They provide a methodical, well-organized program of professionally produced, on-demand lectures, videos, and companion manuals.

Early this year USPS and MLS entered into an agreement which entitles USPS to serve as a distributor of MLS courses. The intent of this agreement is to provide USPS with the ability to (1) offer all MLS courses to our members at a significant discount, as an example the OUPV Captain's course (better known as the "Six-Pac" license) List Price is \$795, our Member Price is \$535; (2) offer all MLS courses to non-members at a special price; and (3) afford all courses to be available through our Ships Store. In addition to offering deep discounts to our members, we will also be expanding our MLS partnership by providing 'proctoring' services to MLS students who have successfully completed the curriculum and are ready to 'sit in' and take the U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License Exam (more on this element to follow). MLS will also be providing a monthly technical e-Newsletter that will be available on our USPS website that will speak to various technical elements such as interpreting the NavRules, Seamanship for the Mariner, Navigation for the Mariner, Maritime Law, etc. All elements that a "licensed" Captain and prudent mariner should be aware of.

For more information on either of these programs please contact Program Partner Relations Chair R/C John Malatak, AP (john.malatak@comcast.net).

Publishing Committee– R/C Priscilla Clarke

Work Completed since last report

- ❖ Updated and distributed EdDept directory
- ❖ Printed and mailed BOC certificates and Wallet cards for IN and CN completions
- ❖ Updates published for current and new material
 - Pilot Chart No. 16 – North America
 - Universal Plotting Sheet

- Engine Maintenance SM and IM
 - Marine Communications Systems SM
 - Cruising and Cruise Planning SM, IM and Instructor CD
 - Plotting and Labeling Standards
 - ABC3 SM 2012, Addendum and Student Disc
 - Piloting SM and IM
 - N SM
 - AP IM CD
 - Boat Handling Seminar SM
 - Sail SM and IM
 - Marine Electrical Systems SM
 - One Minute Guide to Nautical Rules of the Road
 - Marine Electronics IM
 - Crossing Borders Seminar
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- ❖ Processed numerous ED79's for reorders and current material
 - ❖ Updated ED79 procedure for vendor selection and procurement of course/seminar materials
 - ❖ Updated Publishing component of EDMIII
 - ❖ Participated in review of USPS/BoatUS online Partner In Command seminar
 - ❖ **Inventory Reports** – Monthly inventory reports are being distributed to course chairs.
 - ❖ **Web Site** – On-going maintenance of the educational department web sites.

Work in Progress

- ❖ Development of USPS Educational Graphics and Video Library
- ❖ Review of Course/Seminar Titles used in Course Catalog, Website, Ship Store

Many thanks to Past Rear Commander Pat Greer and Staff Commanders Al Bruhin, Bob Potter, and Tom Brincka for their help and support.