

United States Power Squadrons®

Consolidated Educational Department Report

Annual Meeting 2014
Jacksonville, FL

Basic Public Education - R/C Dick Carson, SN

100th Anniversary – Proud Past, Bold Future.

This report forwards the Basic Public Education Committee (BPECom) current status for inclusion in 2014 Annual Meeting records.

1. The composition of the 2014 Committee has been forwarded, recommending it's leaders and members. My statutory 3-year term limit as R/C is 1 February 2014. Transition and turnover material is being exchanged with Chairman nominee P/R/C Michael Scallan, SN.

2. The America's Boating Course 3rd Edition (ABC3) continues as our NASBLA approved education system. It fulfills basic boating education requirements in most states, a prerequisite for state issued operator licensing. The course was introduced in 2008, reprinted in 2010, revised to new NASBLA 2012 Standards and printed in 2012, reprinted in 2013, and is currently in preparation for a reprinting in early 2014. The next printing incorporates all known corrections/updates, and material to meet evolving NASBLA Standards.

Evolving change items of interest include:

- a. Revise boat capacity label-plates with calculations for maximum person capacity using a revised upward representative average weight. Discussions include using 184 versus 160 pounds to divide into available design buoyance of the boat to produce a passenger limit number.
- 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. Incorporating the vast number of suitable inflatable life jackets, the focus is wearing any appropriate life jacket for the planned boating event, considering the environment and area of operations. States are now requiring that their marine police wear life jackets as example for all while underway.
- c. Revisions to boater's language include:
 - i. PWC / Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski are encompassed in "Water-jet propelled boats."
 - ii. Vessel is being replaced with more representative "boats."
 - iii. Kill switch is being replaced with a better descriptive "Engine cut-off device."
 - iv. The variety of paddle boats is encompassed in "Human-Powered Boating."

Translation of the ABC3 2012 Student Manual to classic Spanish, including incorporation of the current items in the posted Errata, continues through the efforts of Project Manager (PM) Stf/C Luis Molero. Formatting, proofing and printing are anticipated in the spring of 2014.

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The ABC3 on-line course continues as a popular distant learning vehicle. 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 by joining a squadron for classroom education on state laws and then complete a proctored examination was not practical for those who had to travel great distances. P/R/Cs Eugene Molteni and David Daniels are advancing this program.

3. The Committee is responsible for 4 seminars:

- a. Basic Coastal Navigation (2009); essentially paralleling ABC3 Chapter 5, this seminar continues in need of update and conversion to the single booklet format (transition from the MAPTECH to Rose Point electronic navigation DVD is included).
- b. How to Use a Chart was updated in 2012.
- c. Paddle Smart (2007): continues in evaluation for update and conversion to the single booklet format.
- d. Trailing Your Boat (2008) / almost 2014: the draft 2014 single-booklet student-instructor booklet is in review for printing, and the instructor PPT presentation is ready for production. PM Chuck Peterson, SN, is advancing the revisions to this seminar.

4. Responding to a need for a “Kids” program and viewing near \$10,000.00 inventory of past Kids education products, BPECom is reviewing all educational products available for Kids education with the goal to develop a course/seminar product incorporating the material for education of students 11 years old and under. An excellent time to present Boating Decision Making (BDM)! PM Martin Owens, SN, is advancing this effort.

5. 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. Danny Goss, JN, has been asked to be PM to advance this program.

6. As reported last summer, the Committee responded to a need to make our ABC3 classroom education about visual distress signals (VDS) safer. Live pyrotechnic devices were being used in public classrooms as teaching aids, some outdated and possibly 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 are being shipped from the USPS warehouse at cost plus shipping and handling. To date, less than 50% of the squadrons have procured the inert kits.

7. The first totally blind person is enrolling in an ABC3 class scheduled early next year. The USPS legal opinion supports this educational effort as being consistent with laws germane to disabilities. We look forward to lessons learned from this effort by District 16.

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8. 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. Reorder points have been established for every item. Outdated materials continue to be expunged.
- b. A vast amount of Committee time is consumed responding, always as soon as possible, to "customer" and HQ requests. Efforts continue to sort out why some fail to file course completions in the HQ800 system, and assisting with using any of the FOUR published teaching aids to HQ800.
- c. Committee files on the FTP continue to be updated and debris expunged.

A large concern is the failure of many squadrons to conduct any basic public education, evidenced by the monthly ABC3 course completion reports. Corresponding decline in sales and resultant reduction in the revenue stream from ABC3 sales is adversely impacting the USPS. We look forward to the normal springtime increase in sales of educational materials.

Boat Handling Committee - R/C James Runge, SN

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 has been assigned for rewrite. Awaiting publication, rewritten and with OTW training, are Partner in Command and Boat Handling Under Power. The new booklet format will be used for all rewrites and 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 88 students have taken the seminar which was implemented on May 28. Of those 88 students, 75-80% have been non-members.

Work is still being done in removing redundancies in Seamanship 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 with a new Stf/C will be working with Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS) to add elements from their program. The

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plan is for a release of the course with both organizations authoring the material after approval of the story board from the Publishing committee.

A third Stf/C position has been approved to be responsible for the Seminars assigned to Boat Handling.

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

The following are the sales-to-date of the Boat Handling Committee offerings:

Advanced Power Boat Handling	64
Boat Handling Under Power	128
Emergencies on Board	206
Knots, Bends, and Hitches	26
Sail Trim	44
Hurricanes and Boats	7
Sail Course	599
Mastering the Rules of the Road	99
Fuel and Boating	14
Anchoring	158
Man Overboard	41
Seamanship Course	1247
Partner in Command	247

2014 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.

There is a trial plan for the coming year including Seamanship and the seminars managed by the Educational Department. It may be labeled The Boat Handling Skills Workshop.

Overview:

The Workshop will consist of a bundled Seamanship Course and a series of 4 Seminars. The Seminars are intended to “drill down”; to provide in-depth educational material that is presented in the Seamanship Course. On the water training is an integral part of this Program and is to be conducted with each subject. The Boat Handling Skills Workshop is designed to satisfy a Squadron’s need for an entry level boating program utilizing the educational materials and intellectual property of USPS.

Benefit:

This workshop can be a solution to attract new members by giving boaters a clear path in achieving confidence in their boating skills. It can also be used to retain existing members by providing a classroom and OTW training venue that will refresh the skills of these experienced boaters. The Skills Workshop Program will provide an entry level safe boating skills program to new boaters.

How It Works:

The Boat Handling Committee will provide the bundled intellectual property in the form of course/seminar materials, Workshop format guidelines, and OTW instruction syllabus. The Workshop will be offered as a "Package" for the Squadrons to use with existing and potential members.

Squadrons will, however, be able to customize the selection of Seminars to suit their particular needs by choosing from our menu of Seminars. The Program can be administered similar to how Seminars are conducted and offered to both members and non-members. A test for Seamanship will be given to provide credit for it.

Why It Works:

The Workshop can result in building confidence in Captains and their crew. The Workshop can be completed in a short time period. The Workshop will offer the Squadrons an education program which will be attractive to both potential and existing members and be easy to implement.

In Summary:

It is intended that this Program will offer Squadrons another educational solution with which to utilize the many courses and seminars currently offered by USPS and to use this Program to attract newer boaters to our membership with a clearly defined and reasonably quick path to boating confidence while attracting members who may have become 'stale' in their boat handling skills.

The success of the BH Skills Workshop Program can result in more safe boaters, boaters having more fun, boaters having more confidence in their boat handling skills, an increase Squadron membership through new members and member retention and an increase in Educational material sales.

Action:

1. To recommend the implementation process; that is whether to teach the Seamanship course and then follow with the Seminars or to have a Seminar of the same subject taught immediately following a chapter in Seamanship.
2. Develop a pricing strategy involving bundling.
3. Develop a marketing and communications plan.
4. Solicit Squadron Educational Officers and Instructors to obtain Committee members who are willing to devote their time and expertise to the Program.

**Boat Operator Certification and On the Water Training Committee -
R/C Chris Windeler, SN**

Plans and Accomplishments for 8-21-2013

Plans and Accomplishments for 12-21-2013

1. With the help of the Stf/Cs, BOC Committee members, the Publishing Committee, Education IT and HQs the Operation is up and running. Policies, operating procedures, and documents have been prepared and made functional. The BOC database is functional and working well. The original paper system has been made electronic. All relevant information is posted on the BOC webpage. A weekly training schedule is published. Monthly committee conference calls are held. Certifiers at all levels have been trained along with many boaters. "Water Trainer" has been leased, wrapped, maintained and traveled the country. A strong BOC Committee is in place. We are ready to enter the next phase of marketing POTW and BOC to the Country.
2. Support the 3yr CG Grant for training and Water Trainer. Third CG grant applied for and received for \$220,000.
3. Renew lease for 3rd year for Water Trainer if Grant secured. Lease extended to 7/30/14.
4. 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. It has moved from the Midwest to Houston and will be a Jacksonville for the Annual Meeting.
5. Update Certifiers Manual for typos and Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN). Some minor corrections made in Certifier manual and ACN Guide published. All manuals and guides have been updated during the year and published on the website.
6. Update IN Guide and prepare to put on website for downloading. Done. All Guides are on the website for downloading and none are being printed anymore.
7. 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. Re-Certification code is being prepared and should be functional before the Annual Meeting.
8. Set up Ad Hoc committee to issue a preliminary Offshore Navigator (ON)(Guide. Second version of Guide to be reviewed at Gov. Bd. A fourth version of the ON Guide is still under review.
9. Have all BOC materials purchased by Credit Card like POTW Seminars. Open
10. Complete re-certification requirements and plan. Part done. Re-Certification policy and procedures have been publish on the Webpage, added to the Certification Manual and sent to each certifier. The plan will be activated as soon as the database is upgraded to take the data. Re-Certifications to start for all Certifiers 4/1/14.
11. Put Training Schedule on BOC webpage. Done. Don Funderburk publishes, on the webpage, an updated schedule weekly.
12. Continue monthly committee conference calls. Done. Calls recorded so those who missed can listen at a latter time. Monthly conference calls have continued for the balance of the year.
13. Issue Adv Sail endorsement. Open Decision was made not to change endorsements from a course completion to a skill demonstration at this time, so no changes were made.
14. Request Royal Yachting Assocaiation (RYA) cooperation for UN 40 Compliance. Open Bob David met in Europe to request from the RYA to allow USPS offer CEVNI testing so we could offer ICC to USPS members who passed IN. Cost are being studied to see if it is justified.
15. Created a new Skill to give credit for non-USPS ABC3 equivalent courses Done. Some members wanted to be Certifiers but we had no way of crediting a non USPS but NASBLA approved course.

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16. Submitted a succession plan Done, ED-50's and Merit Marks for the year.

17. Prepared two PPT presentations on Marketing POTW

18. Started email advertising campaign for Squadrons for POTW

New committee discussion issues.

CPR requirement Dropped as a requirement for IN Certifiers or POTW Certifiers.

Large boat POTW Training Seminar Proposal made to Ed Dept for consideration.

Budget for 2014 without CG Grants to train Certifiers.

Statistics: See attached sheet. Sheet changed for year end.

BOC General Report for 2013

SKILLS

85	BOCTRN	BOC Certifier Training
40	CPR	CPR Training
35	FAID	First Aid Training
85	FIRE	Fire Extinguisher Training
3	NUBC	Non-USPS Boating Course NASBLA Approved
16	OTWADN	BOC Advanced Coastal Navigation
151	OTWBPH	BOC Basic Power Boat Handling
46	OTWNAV	BOC Coastal Navigation
66	PYROD	BOC Pyrotechnic Displays

527

PASSPORTS Approved

78	IN	Inland Navigator
22	CN	Coastal Navigator
12	ACN	Advanced Coastal Navigator
0	ON	Ocean Navigator

112

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POTWT

- 29 POTWT Seminars given
- 106 Students completed POTWT Seminars

CERTIFIERS Approved

60	C	Certifier
63	WC	POTWT Trainer
32	IC	IN Certifier
82	IT	IN Certifier Trainer
3	II	IN Certifier Trainer Instructor
1	CC	CN Certifier
0	CT	CN Certifier Trainer
3	CI	CN Certifier Trainer Instructor
7	ACC	ACN Certifier
4	ACT	ACN Certifier Trainer
6	ACI	ACN Certifier Trainer Instructor
0	OC	ON Certifier
0	OT	ON Certifier Trainer
0	OI	ON Certifier Trainer Instructor

261

279 members are listed as various levels of OTW Certifiers from POTWCs to ACN CTs.

662 members are listed YTD at various levels as certifiers as of 8/19/13.

140 OTW training sessions scheduled to date.

Boat US Online – P/DLt/C Eileen Rickard, AP

DEVELOPMENT

Our second seminar - *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes* – was implemented on 30 October. It includes an electronic handout with highlights of the seminar that the student can keep and use. The handout is designed so that if it is shared with a non-student, it provides marketing and not a substitute for the seminar. A similar handout will be included with all subsequent seminars.

We have increased our overall speed of development. We are now working simultaneously on the development of 3 seminars and the first course - *VHF/DSC Marine Radio, Marine Radar, Basic Weather and Forecasting* and the course *Cruising and Cruise Planning*. Each of these may require some video production and we have added some video skills to the team and we will likely have to purchase some video production. It is likely that the three seminars will be implemented closer together than in the past.

SALES

As of the end of 2013, we have sold 93 seminars - 69 *Partner in Command* (PIC) and 24 *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes* (BRLL). There were 34 sales in the third quarter and 45 in the fourth quarter. USPS's total net revenue for these two quarters was \$1664 bringing the total for 2013 to \$1935. \$129 was added to the joint marketing fund in 2013. 80% of these sales were made to our target market – people who are not members of USPS.

MARKETING

Improving our marketing effort is an ongoing process driven by a joint marketing team that includes USPS volunteers, the new USPS Marketing Director and BoatUS Foundation personnel. Several new marketing efforts have been made:

Rollout Marketing Push

Starting with BRLL we implemented a rollout marketing plan to provide improved visibility and promotion at the time of the implementation of a course or seminar. This plan includes:

Coming Soon tabs/pages on both USPS and BoatUS Foundation of websites that provide a way to sign up before the seminar is available.

Joint press release using BoatUS contacts on rollout day. Press releases have prompted articles as much as 5 months later.

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Follow up on press releases offering a free viewing to the news person. This coupling has resulted in two radio interviews.

On rollout day, emails to USPS cyber members, any USPS University student, ABC3 online students, anyone who has taken a course or seminar from BoatUS, including PIC and BoatUS's boating course and to those who preregistered for BRLL.

1-2 weeks after rollout, emails to all BoatUS members and an article in the BoatUS Foundation e-newsletter.

Social media - Use Question of the Week and Puzzles.

Promotion at Annapolis Boat Show

Business card promoting seminars for use by BoatUS personnel and by the Power Squadron booth
Poster for the Power Squadron booth.

USPS Internal Communications/Enlisting Squadron Marketing

Downloadable video to be presented at district conferences demonstrating the features of the online seminars.

Downloadable poster and business cards promoting the seminars to squadrons to use at local boat shows
\Use of the USPS Blast paragraph every month to promote seminars and the material available above
Article in the issue of *Currents*.

Advertising

Full page, 4-color ad on the inside cover of Quimby's Cruising Guide. Good for 2 years costing \$1855. Quimby's covers inland waterways in southern half of the US including the Mississippi River and the Ten Tom Waterway. Published in March, 2014.

Planning to advertise in one coastal cruising guide from. Guides scheduled for printing in early summer. Are negotiating a full monthly full-page ad in *Soundings*. Working to receive 3-months for the price of one.

PR News Article Campaign

Write articles on boating subjects that allow mention and some promotion of online seminars and courses and pitch to boating magazines. Goal is first publication in February.

Articles in BoatUS magazine. A "Christmas Present" suggestion in November/December brought at least 10 purchases.

Social Media

Reference any articles and publicity on BoatUS pages and share on USPS pages.

Educational Outreach Committee - R/C Wil Hugli, SN

The Educational Outreach Committee has continued to develop online seminars and courses at the University of West Florida. The R/C participated in about 20 conference calls and made two separate visits to Headquarters to plan for development of the BOAT US program and coordination between USPS and BOAT US systems.

Two members were drafted to research and recommend online publishing requirements and processes.

The Committee initiated iTunes University seminar development in a joint account with UWF.

Work has commenced on the development of an online source style manual. Much of this will follow the current planned layout for the Partner in Command Seminar being developed for delivery on the BOAT US website. Efforts will be coordinated when possible to develop a common style with the new USPS website and redeveloped ABC3 website gateways.

We researched the interfaces required to make or allow cross application of online software application between various platforms.

The R/C has been continuing to work on the development of Committee training programs to generate the skill sets to enable USPS to move forward into the online environment.

University West Florida Online Program 2013 Activity

Course	Registered /Completed	Comments
<i>Weather</i>	8/5	2 plan to complete asap
<i>Sail</i>	5/1	
<i>Seamanship</i>	33/21	3 plan completion soon
<i>Seminars</i>	30/22	

Much of the activity this year has been devoted directly to the BoatUS online program outlined in the separate report from Eileen Rickard. Meetings with staff from Boat US and ongoing development sessions with USPS Educational Department, Marketing, Membership, and ITCom have been held to create the communication interfaces and processes to automate transmission of information between Boat US and USPS systems.

Progress will be demonstrated at various events during the Annual Meeting in Jacksonville.

20 January 2014

Electro Mechanical Systems Committee - R/C George Hallenbeck, AP

Course Statistics

Course shipments are holding momentum, generally outpacing the five month projection on inventory, while seminar shipments have peaked and are in decline. The table below is illustrative of all EMSCom inventory.

Description	Shipped 2013	Shipped 2012	Shipped 2011	5 Month Projection
EM SM 07	836	1054	877	463
EM IM 07	90	110	130	1
ME-SM 101/102 2002	81	86	60	7
ME-IM 101/102 2002	3	31	14	0
ME-SM 103	79	88	64	11
ME-IM 103	19	27	14	1
Marine Electrical Systems	409	448	484	223
Marine Elec. Systems IM	38	62	68	0
Marine Comm Sys SM	301	300	424	157
Marine Comm Sys IM	38	51	71	0
Marine Amateur Radio – LG	220	16	227	208
Gen Lic. Manual ARRL LG	15	1	3	12
Amateur Radio On The Move ARRL	0*	2*	5	0
Ham Radio Lic. Manual-ARRL	0	2	14	5
Boat Owner Guide to GMDSS – LG	26	75	29	26
QG – GPS	137	395	435	7
VHF – QG	249	293	388	5
Marine Radar SN	111	149	268	0
Marine Radar IN	15	20	31	0
Radar Book	116	149	272	8

*No longer in Inventory

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Course Development

Engine Maintenance (EM2011) is in general use under continuing demand. Marine Electrical Systems is in general use.

Marine Communications continues to be well received and is in general use.

Marine Navigation Systems is still a victim of rapid change in the marketplace.

Marine Electronics (103) 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 modules 101,102 or 103.

In the fall of 2013, the committee ran an alpha test of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron's Electronic Navigation Course, as an interim replacement for ME103. Results from six squadrons indicate that USPS students want more breadth of coverage than the CPS course provides. The committee is evaluating the feedback.

Seminar Development

Two complete sessions of the online VHF-DSC seminar has been filmed; the footage now needs editing.

Rewrite of the radar seminar has been assigned within the committee.

GPS is under redevelopment.

AIS is in need of a technical writer.

The committee is considering additional electro-mechanical topics.

Other Issues

New MMSI number assignments continued to grow (2013 79% over 2012), but remain below expectations.

R/C Hallenbeck attended the September 26th meeting held in San Diego, CA. as well as the meeting in January in Arlington , VA. Eighty percent of recreational mariners have not responded to Task Force recommendations that GPS systems be connected to DSC radios. Despite our growth in MMSI number assignments, boaters in general are not registering for MMSI numbers. Additional education is needed to resolve this persistent need. The bottom line is that all recreational boaters need to obtain an MMSI if they have a DSC-capable radio, enter that number into the unit and hook the radio to their GPS for best effect.

Associate membership for USPS has been re-established with the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA).

EMSCoM effectively remains de-staffed with only three members contributing to the committee load. Continuing factors include: burnout due to committee workload, personal needs, aging of the membership and a dearth of qualified candidates.

Inland and Coastal Navigation Committee - R/C Jack Cook, SN

Piloting

Piloting (P) 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, 764 individuals completed Piloting. 95% passed. The average score was 91.1%.

Advanced Piloting

Advanced Piloting (AP) 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 the 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, 373 individuals completed Advanced Piloting. 95% passed. The average score was 92%.

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 – Stf/C Tom Shuell

The calendar year ended with 3,262 certified instructors, down 5% since the end of the educational year in June. Another 2,289 members need only complete the recertification seminar to renew their certification, down slightly from the end of the educational year.

The new Instructor Development course, ID 2013, has been available since March. The course materials (Instructions, *Student Manual*, *Instructor Manual*, and PowerPoint slides) are available only as free downloads from the ID Course webpage, <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/id/idcourse.htm>. Due to the importance of this course as part of our education programs and the volunteer efforts of our instructors, there is no charge from national to offer the ID Course to our members.

The multiple-choice exam that was part of previous ID courses has been replaced with a “Final Evaluation.” IDCom reviews documents submitted by students to determine if they have learned the concepts taught in the course. A written critique for each student is sent to the SEO, and USPS headquarters is advised of which students should be credited with completing the course and awarded initial Certified Instructor status. Students not passing the course on their first attempt are asked to revise and resubmit their 1-hour lesson plan, using the critique provided.

This end-of-course assessment involves submitting to IDCom (IDCom@usps.org) an electronic copy of each student’s 1-hour lesson plan, a Certificate of Eligibility signed by the instructor and SEO, and the instructor’s evaluation of the student’s 5-, 10- & 15-minutes in-class presentations.

Before these materials are submitted, the SEO needs to request an exam for each student, using the online version of ED-33. Although an exam booklet is not provided, requesting an exam is necessary to track students and give them credit for taking the ID course.

To date, 15 squadrons have submitted Final Evaluations for 62 students. On their first submission, 50 students passed and 12 asked to revise and resubmit their 1-hour lesson plan. So far, 5 of the latter students have resubmitted their plans and passed the course, and most of the others are working on revising their plans. Since the introduction of the new course, 55 students have passed the course with the remaining 7 hopefully working on revising their plans. The overall pass rate is presently 88%.

Comments on the new course have been mostly very favorable. Nevertheless, we are always looking for ways to improve the course and correct errors. Your comments and suggestions sent to IDCom@usps.org are most welcome and appreciated.

The ID committee is conducting a Collaborative Learning seminar at the Annual Meeting from 1400-1515 on Friday. Attendees will experience and learn how this instructional strategy can be used in squadron classes to build student involvement. In addition, the committee is exploring the possibility of developing other seminars, including 2-hour USPS seminars in addition to the Recertification seminar. Possible topics include “Modifying PowerPoint Presentations” and “Effective Teaching Strategies.”

Marine Environment Committee - R/C Chuck Wells, SN

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.

Cruising and Cruise Planning Course

The course was rewritten last year. The course includes 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.).

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 a major 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.

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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.

BoatUS/USPS Online Course Program

The Committee has been active in supporting the BoatUS/USPS online program. Staff Commander John Gill took the lead on the revision of the Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes seminar. The Basic Weather and Forecasting seminar will go online next year. P/R/C Ron Kessell is working with staff to format the seminar for online use. We are also working to format the Cruising and Cruise Planning course for the online project.

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.

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.

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Offshore Navigation Committee – R/C Steve Abbott, N

During the fiscal year 2013 (end of November), we sold 272 JN kits and 143 N kits. This rate is approximately 10% below last year. During the same period, our examiners graded 161 JN exams (91% passed with an average passing score of 90%), 82 N exams (84% passed with an average passing score of 90%), and 83 N Sight Folders (86% passed with an average passing score of 90%).

The JN2012 Instructor Manual and CD are being reviewed and will be re-printed during the first half of 2014. The only changes planned are to correct errors and make subtle improvements.

The JN2012 Student Manual will be reviewed during 2014 for updates and be re-printed in early 2015. Anticipated changes include clarification of the LAN meridian transit and a mandatory inclusion of a sun meridian transit in the sight folder.

We continue to review the current N2009 student manual in preparation for the next update scheduled for early 2015. Suggested changes will continue to be a topic for the committee during the early part of 2014. Final recommendations for software to be used in this update will be presented to the Education Leadership during the 1st quarter of 2014. An analysis of nine different navigational software packages was completed and presented to the Offshore Navigation Committee in San Antonio at the fall Governing Board meeting. Some details of the analysis are shown below:

USPS ON Committee									
Candidate Software for N Course									
Prepared by Lt. Ron Davidson, SN									
									Rose Point
Features	Open Capn	Sea Clear	Polar Navy NS	Rose Point	NobelTec VNS	MaxSea	Nuno Navigator	Capn (w interfaces)	CE Viewer (ABC)
Easy chart browsing/panning	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Allow GRIB Overlay	Y with plugin	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N, Upgrade Req'd
Allow RNC Charts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Allow ENC (Vector) Charts	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Easy route making	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Print Route Details	Y	Y	Y using cvs file	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Easy Export of Routes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N, Upgrade Req'd
PC/Mac	Both	PC	Both	PC	PC	PC	PC	PC	PC
Other Device Use	Linux/Android (soon)	No	Linux/ MX for iPhone/iPad	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cost	Free	Free	\$49.99	\$369.00	\$439.00	\$450.00	\$100.00	\$75.00	Free
								\$50 w/o interface	

A price reduction continues in effect for the CAPN™ software currently used in the N course. The vendor intends to modify the software in the future and remove some GPS and AIS functionality in exchange for the price reduction. USPS members who may receive this modified software will be offered a substantial discount if they wish to upgrade to the full navigation package.

Program Partner Relations - R/C John Malatak, AP

BRUNSWICK DEALER ADVANTAGE (BDA) PROGRAM

The Brunswick Dealer Advantage Partnership continues to grow and gain acceptance by our squadrons and several more Brunswick Dealerships.

Our efforts with the Brunswick Corporation updating our growing list of squadrons wishing to participate in delivering our courses, seminars and on-water training at select Brunswick Dealer locations has been streamlined and made easier for squadrons to fill out. Last year (2013) when we convened at our annual meeting we had 80 squadrons, representing only 19.9% of our squadrons who fully identified and confirmed their intent to participate in the BDA Program – what we call our “A-Team”. With the assistance of our DEO’s, ADEO’s and SEO’s, I am happy to report that as of January 14, 2014 we now have 129 squadrons or 32.1% of our squadrons participating in the BDA Program this represents a 62% growth in one year (our program goal for 2014 was to increase by 10% (88 squadrons) -- we exceeded our goal by 52%!!). Brunswick continues to make telephone calls, as well as email and other electronic outreach elements to their member dealerships. “A-Team” squadrons are also receiving updated information and marketing materials for joint outreach opportunities that provide a consistent image and message while marketing the classes and seminars. Our goal for 2014? To grow by a minimum of 15% (number of squadrons for 2014 goal is 150)!

To show their appreciation for the effort that USPS is making to grow the BDA Program, Brunswick, in consultation with USPS, has developed an award system that recognizes the partnering efforts of ‘stand out’ squadrons. More on this award program will be unveiled during the annual meeting. Further, there will be a national press release issued by Brunswick to all of the major trade publications shortly after the annual meeting announcing the partnership and success of the partnership in USPS educating Brunswick customers.

Currently we have 29 of our 33 Districts participating in the BDA Program. During a period between January 1, 2013 and September 30, 2013, our squadrons have conducted 62 courses and/or seminars at 25 different Brunswick Dealerships.

Throughout the year, we will maintain our monitoring and develop status with Brunswick to continue to solicit more squadrons to participate and join the “A-Team”. For more information how squadrons can participate we ask them to contact their respective DEO, Program Partner Relations Chair, R/C John Malatak, AP (john.malatak@comcast.net).

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.

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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).

The MLS materials are currently available for order from the Ship's Store.

Publishing Committee - R/C Priscilla Clarke, AP

The Publishing Committee is responsible for all operations relating to the process of publishing our course and seminar materials. This includes content editing of storyboard for all new projects and rewrites of our courses and seminars; text editing and formatting of student and instructor material; graphic assistance and preparation of printer ready content.

- *Curriculum Review, Editing, Formatting and Graphics:*

Course and Seminar material reviewed for content, edited, updated graphics, formatted and published with new covers:

- *Cruising and Cruise Planning* Student Manual and Instructor Manual
- *Boat Handling* Seminar Student Manual and Instructor Manual on CD
- *Crossing Borders* Seminar Student Manual and Instructor Manual on CD
- **Trailing Your Boat** Seminar Student Manual and Instructor Manual on CD

Improved formatting standards for course and seminar material.

- Covers – using new bottom banner trade dress
- Acknowledgements page
- Introductory pages
- PowerPoint slides
- Membership pages (Seminars)

- Processed numerous ED79's for orders and reorders of course and seminar material
 - Reviewed and edited the accompanying PowerPoint presentations and produced the master Instructor CDs for reproduction at HQ.
- Printed and mailed BOC Certificates and Wallet cards for IN and CN completions monthly thru the end of December. Edited, formatted and posted the new ACN Guide and New Endorsement Handbook to the website. Created a new passport for ACN.
- *Business Operations:*

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- Edited and published two issues of the Educational Dept newsletter *Currents* (Annual meeting and Governing Board) and Educational Department Directory.
 - Compiled and distributed monthly and quarterly reports of the Boating Class Statistics and monthly Educational Dept Inventory reports
 - Updated Ed 79 form
 - Created Publishing Committee roster
 - Updated Publishing Committee component of EDM III
 - Reviewed titles of all courses/seminars for consistency in catalog, on Educational Dept. web site, at Ships Store, ...
 - Prepared a publishing procedures guide describing the duties and processes handled by the publishing committee and their relationship to the course committees.
 - Reviewed/updated vendor selection guide for printing of student manuals for courses/seminars and Educational Dept materials.
 - Provided periodic update to Educational Department ftp archive site
- *Educational Department Web Site and On-line processing:*
 - Maintained and updated the Educational Dept web pages and on-line materials catalog and ordering system.
 - *BoatUS Project* - we are working with Educational Outreach to help on-line readiness of material
 - Reviewed content of Partner in Command (PIC) and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes (BRLL) seminars
 - Created a pdf handout for individuals who enroll in *Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes* seminar through BoatUS.

Work in Progress/Continuing Plans:

- **Inventory reports** –Reports are assembled with graphs and distributed monthly and quarterly to the course chairman.
- **Web Site** – On-going maintenance/updates to the Educational Department web sites
- **Graphics/Video Library** – A graphics/video library is being created.
- **USPS Glossary** – The online USPS Glossary is being updated
- **ExamGen** - Currently under review for updating to today's technology.

Thank you to Staff Commanders Tom Brincka, Al Bruhin, Pat Greer, Bob Potter, and all committee members who work diligently to insure the quality of our products.

Simulator Project - P/C Lisa Herndon, AP

The Boat Handling Simulator project, funded by a grant from the United States Coast Guard is well underway. R/C Bob Palmer, SN, and I visited the Sacramento offices of Virtual Driver Interactive (VDI), the developer for the boat training simulator, on December 3 to view the prototype and test the functionality of the system. The initial unit uses a wheel and throttle and has capabilities for adjusting wind, current and boat trim. The unit includes a working compass and gauges for rpm and speed. The trip was very successful and VDI has been a great partner throughout the development to date. The prototype has been delivered for further testing at USPS Headquarters in Raleigh where members of the BOCOTW Committee, USCG and others have had an opportunity to interact with the simulator. The prototype will be featured at the Annual Meeting in Jacksonville.

We will incorporate comments from the testing and Annual Meeting into the development of the fully functional unit which will be unveiled at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit April 14-17 in Nashville, TN.