

# Currents

V/C Robert E. Brandenstein, SN - NEO

R/C Robert R. Palmer, SN - ANEO

R/C Donald C. Fiander, SN - ANEO

## Hot topics

- **USPS signs MOU with Tall Ships America.** See article on this page.
- **Brunswick Advantage Partnership continues to evolve.** See story on page 3.
- **Interesting in obtaining a Captain's license?** USPS has a new partnership you need to know about! See page 4 announcement.



## Hot Links

Mariners Learning Systems™:  
[www.marinerslearningsystem.com](http://www.marinerslearningsystem.com)

TALL SHIPS AMERICA:  
[www.tallshipsamerica.org](http://www.tallshipsamerica.org)

SEO Home Page:  
<http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/misc/seos.htm>

## Inside this issue

More on HQ 800	Pg. 2
Update on Brunswick Dealer Advantage Partnership	Pg. 3
Mariners Learning Systems MOU	Pg. 4
Reminders for DEOs and SEOs	Pg. 4

USPS recently signed an MOU with Tall Ships America. The article below was provided by Capt. Bert Rogers, Executive Director, Tall Ships America to better acquaint us with that organization's mission and history.

## TALL SHIPS AMERICA® Mission and History: 40 Years of Adventure and Education Under Sail

TALL SHIPS AMERICA® is the hub for tall ships activity, information, and expertise in North America. We are commended by Congress as the sail training organization representing the United States. Founded in 1973 as the American Sail Training Association, we changed our name in 2011 to Tall Ships America and adopted the motto "Adventure and Education Under Sail". Our name has changed, but our mission remains the same: to encourage character building through sail training, promote sail training to the North American public, and to support education under sail.

"Sail training" is a relatively modern phrase describing the ancient practice of learning the skills of seafaring while serving in ships at sea. This phrase came into use as commercial shipping shifted

from sailing ships to mechanically propelled vessels. National navies and merchant fleet owners recognized the special quality of seamanship training that takes place in sailing ships, and they deemed sail training to be critical to their continued mastery of navigation upon the high seas.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many sailing ships were adapted to combine cargo carrying and seamanship training in their voyages, and an entire generation of square-rigged ships was purpose-built for mariner training. This appreciation of the unique value of training under sail has been deliberately sustained by maritime nations around the world, including the United States, which operates the magnificent barque EAGLE to train US Coast Guard officers and

(Continued on page 2)



The Pride of Baltimore



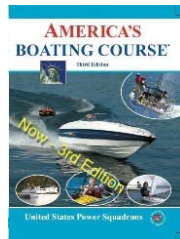
Learning Piloting on Mystic Whaler

## ABC CLASS COMPLETIONS ARE PLACED IN TWO CATEGORIES IN THE HQ800 SYSTEM; CURRENT AND HISTORY. WONDER WHY?

The procedures for completing the ABC3 classroom courses are almost finished when the squadrons file the ED26 course completion electronically into the HQ800 system. From this report, called an ED26, the respective states are notified of those who passed, records are established in DB2000 and headquarters files, and educated boaters are poised to continue their education. But the action is not over; many graduates wish to participate in the 6-month trial membership.

Concomitant to course completion filing, the course data is used by the public relations officer to determine better uses of course advertising efforts. The supply officer is busy determining needed replacement course materials and then ordering them. The bridge is working on future class schedules for the new member market. The treasurer is determining fund distribution to meet new course material costs – well, everyone is

busy. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM? Trial membership is poised in the HQ800 tools to process the applications, all we need is a bit of time to do it all. But, how do we keep the class data information accessible?



The HQ800 software includes provision to expeditiously enter data into the program about those new ABC3 graduates who indicate YES to the op-

tion to join the trial membership. Recognizing that this effort requires rapid response by busy squadron members less conversant in the educational system, and that the time is NOW to capitalize on the enthusiasm of the new student, the HQ800 program retains the class completion data in the CURRENT category – easy access by all for 120 days. The membership team uses this time to capitalize on

the automated features of the HQ800 system and to complete the human aspects. PULLING TOGETHER, WE WILL SOON HAVE NEW MEMBERS IN THE 6-MONTH TRIAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM. After 120 days, the course completions are placed in the HISTORY files for later data access as needed.

There is a caution in the CURRENT-HISTORY migration of course completion data. It is possible for the squadron HQ800 data entry team members to accidentally delete the “CURRENT” label which signifies that the data is still available. The entry is next to the squadron’s HQ800 listing of CURRENT courses. Such action changes the course status to the HISTORY category, denies trial membership data access, and in effect scuttles the efforts of all trying to make the free 6-month trial membership program recruiting tool a success. Please be careful to not delete the CURRENT status!

*(Tall Ships—Continued from page 1)*

cadets.

Even more modern is the broader concept of “Adventure and Education Under Sail”, which is based on the idea that these same training values can be made available to civilians who are not necessarily headed for careers in the navy or the merchant marine. From the mid-20th century through the present day, we have seen a renaissance of sailing ships and programs, offering a diverse array of opportunities to go to sea for participants of all ages and backgrounds. The movement has grown from an unregulated recreational activity to a



*Picton Castle Under Full Canvas*

professionalized sector of maritime industry and a recognized source of innovation in education.

Our membership now includes nearly 200 vessels and affiliated programs. Programs of education under sail are now established elements in the school careers of students at the elementary, middle, high school and college levels, at both public and private institutions, serving populations of diverse needs and backgrounds.

As the national membership organization, TALL SHIPS

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Tall Ships—Continued from page 2)

AMERICA represents tall ships and sail training in networks and exchanges with other relevant educational, industry, and governmental organizations, including the US Maritime Administration, the US Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration, National Marine Educators

Association, National Maritime Alliance, US Sailing, Sail Training International, and others.

*We are especially pleased to include the United States Power Squadrons as a valued partner in promoting safety at sea and maritime education.*

We are often asked why interest in the experience of voyaging under sail continues to survive and even grow, as cargo-carrying and naval warfare have moved on to new technologies. What are the inherent values that endure? How can this still be relevant in our

rapidly evolving modern technological culture?

The answer is in the timeless value of the *Authentic Challenge Experience*. A sailing ship provides a totally unique context for adventure in today's world, touching almost every aspect of the human experience in a way that



*Learning the Ropes Aboard Spirit of Massachusetts*

just can't be found anywhere else.

The rewards that are reaped from adventure and education under sail are deep and durable, because the

challenges are so real, and the experience is so personal. Seafaring adventure is compelling because it is uncontrived, springing spontaneously from the voyage itself. The way of a ship demands our very best, inspiring each of us to strive for personal excellence, all in a context of tight teamwork, so that our advances as an individual and the achievements of the onboard community are inextricably linked.

Courage, confidence, competency, teamwork, responsibility, and dedication to a goal are the values that are promoted through Adventure and Education Under Sail. These character traits have defined successful people, both as individuals and as members of the larger society, since the beginning of time. In today's fast-paced world, they are more important and more refreshing than ever.

What can be better, more gratifying, more empowering or more fun than a young person who breaks the uncertainty barrier with

(Continued on page 4)

## 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. At least one squadron is actively participating in 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 were busy getting boats ready for the season and servicing their customer base. Commencing in late September the BDA Customer Service Reps will be making contact with their dealerships and partner squadrons, rekindling the relationship and assisting with the establishment of 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 determine the number of squadrons who have potential Brunswick partners. This will give us a more realistic figure for the number of eligible squadrons. 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! For more information on the BDA program, contact Program Partner Relations Chairman R/C John Malatak, AP [john.malatak@comcast.net](mailto:john.malatak@comcast.net).



*Currents* is published twice yearly by the USPS Educational Department at each national meeting of USPS. Visit the EdDept web site at: [www.usps.org/eddept](http://www.usps.org/eddept)

Editor—Stf/C Robert L. Potter, SN

[r.l.potter@att.net](mailto:r.l.potter@att.net)

1475 Galaxy Way, Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
Phone: 815-933-1470

Download a PDF of *Currents* in color with links at: [www.usps.org/eddept/misc/currents.htm](http://www.usps.org/eddept/misc/currents.htm)

©2013—United States Power Squadrons USPS®, and *America's Boating Course*® are registered trademarks of the United States Power Squadrons. The MLS logo is a registered trademark of Mariners Learning Systems. TALL SHIPS AMERICA® is a registered trademark of the American Sail Training Association.

## Your Help Is Appreciated!

America's Boating Course 3rd Edition has been reprinted four times, with the 2012 reprinting reflecting the updated 2012 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Standards.

Each reprinting includes updates to meet the evolving standards and boating changes. A summary of forthcoming changes to the next

ABC3 printing, estimated December 2013, has been compiled from your inputs and is presented for use now from the downloading section of the ABC3 home web page.

Thank you for helping the Basic Public Education Committee maintain ABC3 as the premiere boating safety student manual!

## 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



**MARINERS**  
LEARNING SYSTEM™

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) make all these MLS courses 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 the MLS MOU contact Program Partner Relations Chair R/C John Malatak, AP [john.malatak@comcast.net](mailto:john.malatak@comcast.net).

(Tall Ships—Continued from page 3)

the joyful shout: ***"I can do that!"*** Tall Ships America is dedicated to idea that ***you can, too.*** There are programs for all ages, all backgrounds, and all interests, from local day sails to year-long circumnavigations. No experience is necessary, just bring your love of

adventure and keen desire to reach for new horizons.

Tall Ships America and the U.S. Power Squadrons share a deep commitment to promoting on-the-water safety and maritime education. We look forward to working with USPS units in the port cities around America where

our members operate, to develop new local programs that carry our shared message to the public at large. We enthusiastically welcome our new USPS friends to the exciting world of Adventure and Education Under Sail! *For more information about where to find a tall ship near you, visit* [www.tallshipsamerica.org](http://www.tallshipsamerica.org).

**USPS is 100!**  
Order your 100th anniversary ensign from HQ.



**To Report Suspicious Activity:**

Call the National Response Center at 877-24WATCH

If There Is Immediate Danger to Life or Property, Call 9-1-1 or Call the Coast Guard on Marine Channel 16