Currents

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Hot topics

- **ABC3 implementation is underway. How does this affect your squadron? (See article on this page.)**

- **What is Blended Learning? (See article on this page.)**

- **The leadership of the Ed. Dept. is changing. (See the new organization chart on page 2.)**

- **Progress Report on Social Media project. (See Facebook article on page 3.)**

🔗 Hot Links 🔗

Reserve the Virtual Trainer
www.usps.org/php/bsvt

Take an online seminar
www.usps.org/edonline/

Ed Dept. Home Page
www.usps.org/eddept/

Inside this issue

ABC3 2015: Implementation Challenges

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved the 2015 Basic Boating Education Standards during their annual meeting in October 2014. New to these standards was the requirement that each state and territory approve a section of the course (for ABC3 Section 8) covering their own laws, rules and regulations before the 2015 material is taught in their jurisdiction.

NASBLA headquarters approved the general 2015 ABC3 materials on 3 April 2015 for classroom, home-study and on-line courses. After this approval, the Basic Public Education Committee (BPE Com) began developing specific Section 8 material germane to each of the 57 jurisdictions (states and territories).
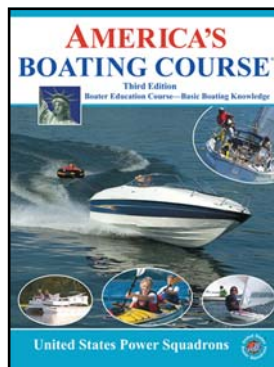
ABC3 2015 has a new Student Manual and a new Instructor CD. The latter includes a new Instructor Manual (IM). The IM includes the 2015 Assessment Examinations 1A and 1B with answer keys and references to the student manual. Also included are PowerPoint (PPT) presentations for the 8-hour course and the 16-hour (previously 12-hour) course. As before, the longer course adds an introduction to Piloting, including electronic navigation using the openCPN software. All these materials are now available from the Educational Department (EdDept) Course Materials on-line catalog.

The BPE Com is obtaining approval for both the classroom version and the on-line

Blended Learning: Combining Classroom and Online Learning

Blended Learning describes a class that is taught partly in the classroom and partly online. Technology facilitates placing some material online so the student may access it at any time. Educational programs from elementary through university level now provide some online content. Students have come to expect Blended Learning to be part of their learning experience. Perhaps it is time for USPS to offer this option as well.

What are the benefits to the students?
- The online portion of a course is available at a time convenient for the student.
- The course is likely to be more attractive with fewer weeks of scheduled classroom meetings.

- Less travel is needed. This is particularly valuable if the student lives at a considerable distance or the weather is bad.
- Material may be viewed repeatedly as needed to build understanding. Sometimes, returning to view the material later in the course will bring a deeper understanding.
- Content that cannot easily be produced in a classroom may be easier to place online.
- Outdoor demonstrations (e.g., boat handling) can be recorded and viewed at any time, regardless of weather or time of day.
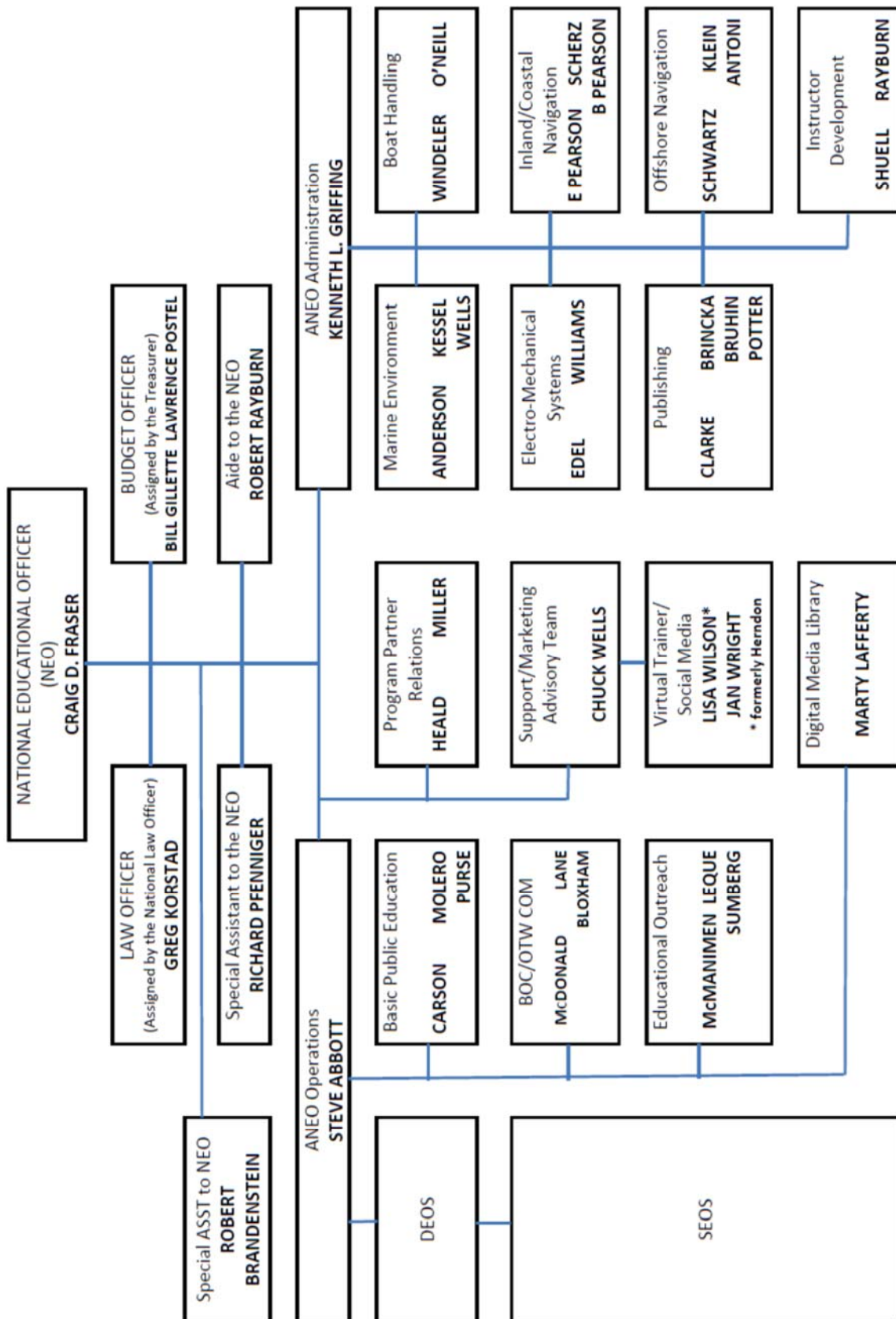
What are the benefits for the instructor?
- Demonstrations can be recorded at a location and time convenient to the instructor.

2016 EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

(Effective 20 February 2016)

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL OFFICER (NEO)
CRAIG D. FRASER

BUDGET OFFICER
(Assigned by the Treasurer)
BILL GILLETTE LAWRENCE POSTEL

Aide to the NEO
ROBERT RAYBURN

LAW OFFICER
(Assigned by the National Law Officer)
GREG KORSTAD

Special Assistant to the NEO
RICHARD PFENNIGER

Special ASST to NEO
ROBERT BRANDENSTEIN

ANEO Operations
STEVE ABBOTT

ANEO Administration
KENNETH L. GRIFFING

Boat Handling
WINDELER O'NEILL

Inland/Coastal Navigation
E PEARSON SCHERZ B PEARSON

Offshore Navigation
SCHWARTZ KLEIN ANTONI

Instructor Development
SHUELL RAYBURN

Marine Environment
ANDERSON KESSEL WELLS

Electro-Mechanical Systems
EDEL WILLIAMS

Publishing
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Program Partner Relations
HEALD MILLER

Support/Marketing Advisory Team
CHUCK WELLS

Virtual Trainer/ Social Media
LISA WILSON*
JAN WRIGHT
* formerly Herndon

Digital Media Library
MARTY LAFFERTY

Basic Public Education
CARSON MOLERO PURSE

BOC/OTW COM
McDONALD LANE BLOXHAM

Educational Outreach
McMANIMEN LEQUE SUMBERG

DEOS

SEOS

Note: In committee boxes, R/Cs (chairmen) are shown to the left and Stf/Cs (Asst's) to right. R/C contact information is in *The Ensign*.

Updated 2 January 2016

(ABC3 2015—Continued from page 1)

course with on-line exam (where permitted) from the Boating Law Administrators (BLAs) in each jurisdiction. The committee is working in order of the number of ABC3 students each jurisdiction reported last year.

After approval by each BLA, the national committee will place the approved Section 8 PPT presentation and supplemental exam questions on the Educational Department home web-page, in the "State Boating Information" pull-down menu; click on "State or Territory-Specific Material" or "State-Specific Exam Questions". (That pull-down menu can be found at the top of the Ed Department home page, just under the titles; see figure above.)

The District and Squadron educational departments now need to deploy the new material in all ABC classes. The required actions are:

1. The locally approved Section 8 materials are required for presentation in each jurisdiction and must be substituted into Section 8 in the provided PPT slides for both ABC courses. This is done by copying the PPT presentations provided on the Instructor CD to a PC and then inserting the locally approved Section 8 slides from the EdDept home page into each Section 8 presentation. The required Section 8 material will have some redundancy with information in the other 15 sections of ABC3. If not needed for reinforcement of objectives, the redundant slides in the other 15 sections should be

"hidden." In addition, the locally approved exam questions must be downloaded, distributed with the exam and graded with the exam.

2. On-line ABC3 students will be able to complete the course where permitted through the on-line examinations or, when required by the local jurisdiction, through a squadron-proctored final examination using the new locally approved supplemental questions as well as the standard exam. The local squadron then uses the HQ800 system to record the completion and issues certificates and cards.

Updated marketing and membership programs are being developed to promote the 2015 basic boating education programs.

New USPS Educational Department Facebook Campaign—Update

The Educational Department recently launched a new social media campaign on USPS's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/uspowersquadrons.

Most of the boating world uses social media; our campaign is intended to:

- Help USPS reach a broader audience;
- Help viewers get to know us, so they can form and share favorable opinions about the quality and value of USPS nautical expertise and educational products and services; and
- Help local squadrons promote,

grow, and celebrate their educational activities.

"Likes" on USPS's Facebook page have increased significantly since the campaign began in November. Nearly half of the new likes are from non-members and from organizations.

What's new? Educational Department content is original material that is clearly branded as USPS content. Because successful social media content is highly visual, most posts have an illustration, graphic, or video. We are using existing media, courtesy of

USPS's Publishing Committee, and new USPS graphics created for this campaign. All new graphics are being forwarded to the Digital Media Library project led by Marty Lafferty. The goal is for members, squadrons and districts to be able to reuse the images and videos easily in their own social media, marketing material and other communications.

Amy Townsend (Managing Editor of the Ensign) posts on our page daily at 1 PM and sometimes more frequently.

Merits of Seminar Registration

The USPS® educational leadership encourages squadron educational officers to faithfully enter student seminar attendance data in the HQ800 system. If this is not completed, USPS HQ has no record of the student's seminar completion for any future requirements for his/her boating resume.

The record of these completions is necessary for USPS® on-the-water certifications the student may wish to pursue and may be useful, or needed, for future state or national licensing programs. These records may also be used for demonstrating competence when chartering boats.

Please do not give students the choice of paying for registration; that is a "failure in process." It is up to the squadron's teaching officers to insure that proper records are being kept in the USPS® education system; to do otherwise is a disservice to the student.

(Blended Learning-Continued from page 1)

- Demonstrations that have a limited viewing area can be seen from the most advantageous position or from multiple viewpoints. For example, a large class cannot easily see a docking demonstration from aboard the boat and from the dock.
- Potentially hazardous demonstrations can be accomplished without concern for safety or local regulations (for example a fire extinguisher or pyrotechnic demonstration).
- The instructor does not need to repeat the material for each class.
- Knowing that content will be viewed many times motivates careful planning, resulting in more effective information for the learner.
- The instructor gains time to focus on individual students.

- There are more options to explain key points.

Changing how the learning is organized may reenergize the teaching experience for the instructor. (We can become stale after having taught a class several times.)

There will be challenges in upgrading your teaching techniques. Learning new methods requires more focus on the work. It is best to start small and experiment. The online content can be as simple as a recorded video for YouTube. A video of another instructor who does a demonstration more effectively could be used.

It may seem counterintuitive to take time from the classroom and place some of the content online. But re-member students may need some time to think about information before they are ready for assistance in developing a deeper understanding. Also, they may feel more comfortable bringing their questions to the instructor privately.

Our most valuable role should become working more as a coach or guide for students. Think about your course content. When could a student more effectively work through an activity or demonstration by themselves or in a small group before coming back to the class with questions that they need to have answered? Please think about using blended instruction and give it a try.

Stf/C Bob Rayburn, SN-IN
Instructor Development Committee

(Facebook—Continued from page 3)

She is also working to increase the share of original USPS content in her posts.

Jan Wright (campaign project manager) posts twice weekly—at 5 PM Tuesday and Friday. These posts include USPS educational content, quizzes, how-to videos, and content that help viewers find local courses in the classroom and on the water. They help celebrate squadrons' educational programs and achievements; also, we are "liking" all squadron and district Facebook pages that like the USPS page.

You can help! We are keeping all district educational officers, assistant educational officers, public relations officers and commanders informed and have asked for their support to inform their squadron counterparts and encourage members, squadrons and community partners to visit and like our Facebook page and to engage with our posts (like, comment, share). The more engagement we have, the greater our future reach in the boating community will be. We invite and welcome original photos, graphics, videos and stories about special educational events that you may wish to send us.

Questions? To learn more, visit USPS's Facebook page or contact Jan Wright (912-659-9358, vjanwright1@comcast.net).

Managing Classes in HQ800

The HQ800 system is USPS's main tool for squadrons to register and report on educational programs delivered via classroom training. It also provides the engine for prospective students to find a specific course and register for it online.

To make the most of HQ800, it's important to know that classes are managed in three categories:
- **Boating Courses**—classroom delivery of 8- and 16-hour America's Boating Course classes
- **Seminars**—classroom seminars
- **Courses**—all other classroom offerings.

The **Boating Course/Seminar/Course/Training List Request Form** is the starting point for squadrons to add new classes and to manage enrollment for existing classes.

Adding a new class is most easily done by selecting an existing class, clearing the form, entering the new class information, and clicking **Add**. Guidance is only a click away on the form via the **How to Use** button or **800 System Help** and **SEO/DEO tools** links.

To find complete instructions on managing classes in HQ800, visit the Educational Department home page and, under **EdDept Tools**, click on **SEO Home Page** to see:

Click on **Running a Public Boating Course**, **Running a Public Seminar**, or **Running Advanced/Member Courses** and, in the first or second bulleted item, click on the **registration help here** link. It's all at your fingertips, including an opportunity to practice each step of a class's HQ800 life cycle (from creation to reporting) with a fictitious Nonesuch Squadron.

When adding a course, it's important to decide whether to:
- Offer the class to the public or only to members
- Offer an optional on-the-water supplement
- Enable students to register online.

What Prospective Students See

Prospective students who opt to **Find a Course Near You** (directly via www.usps.org/findacourse or via a search from the USPS home page) will see this screen and be able to search for Boating Courses, Seminars, or Advanced Courses:

When searching for Seminars or Advanced Courses, prospective students may search for a specific class or see all classes within 10-100 miles from any specified location.

Squadrons are encouraged to offer online registration, so prospective students can sign up right away. The online registration form looks like this:

Using the Web to Find USPS Courses

Prospective students can use www.usps.org to:
- Learn about USPS's educational offerings and delivery channels (classroom, on the water, online)
- Find the classes they want or need
- Pre-register online.

By clicking on the **Boating Courses** tab (at the top of the home page), they will reach:

From there, the **Find a Boating Course Near You** and **Find an Online Course** links can be used to locate specific offerings.

This page is also reached by clicking on the **Boating Courses and Seminars** button (near the bottom of the home page):

If prospective students click the **Become a Better Boater** button, they will reach:

(They will also reach this page by clicking the **About** tab at the top of the home page). From this page, there are two paths to locate boating courses. Prospective students can:
- Click on the **here** hyperlink in the Boating Education paragraph. It leads to the same page as the **Boating Courses** tab on the home page.
- Click on the **Locate a Squadron Near You** link to reach to an interactive map where they may click on a state, see all the squadrons in that state, click on a squadron, and see all of its course and seminar offerings that have been entered into the HQ800 system.

The interactive map can also be reached by clicking on the **Meet Other Boaters Near You** button and then selecting **Squadron Locations**.

The Squadron Events section lists the squadron's offered courses and seminars. Here is an example:

2016	Class Description / Location	Address	Contact
Feb 22	Marine Communications Systems White Bluff Presbyterian Church, Education Bldg.	10710 White Bluff Rd. Savannah GA 31406	John (Jack) J. Eddington, AP
Mar 15	America's Boating Course - 16 Hours White Bluff Presbyterian Church	10710 White Bluff Road Savannah GA 31419	David C. Sapp, AP-IN
Mar 15	America's Boating Course White Bluff Presbyterian Church	10710 White Bluff Road Savannah GA 31419	David C. Sapp, AP-IN
Apr 14	Seamanship White Bluff Presbyterian Church, Education Bldg.	10710 White Bluff Rd. Savannah GA 31406	John (Jack) J. Eddington, AP
May 10	Piloting White Bluff Presbyterian Church, Education Bldg.	10710 White Bluff Rd. Savannah GA 31406	John (Jack) J. Eddington, AP
Nov 15	Junior Navigation White Bluff Presbyterian Church, Education Bldg.	10710 White Bluff Road Savannah GA 31406	Jan Wright, AP-IN

Classes will only appear if they have been entered into the HQ800 system. Squadrons that want the USPS website to help market their classes are encouraged to enter them in HQ800 as soon as they are planned, even if the course date is TBD.

Once on a squadron's page, prospective students can click on the link to any of the squadron's offered courses or seminars to see the class description. If the HQ800 online registration option is available, the description page will provide a link to the registration page.