



OSTS Notes



Newsletter of the United States Naval Academy
Offshore Sail Training Squadron

DIRECTOR'S CUT

by Renee Mehl



As our winter training draws to an end, we're setting our sights on getting back on the water to continue our hands-on experiential learning. We are looking forward to sailing again in a month, and a chance to put into practice everything you have learned about leadership, seamanship, navigation, piloting, and

operational risk management.

Our plan is to execute 30 sorties this summer. A sortie is one boat and crew. We have 10 boats scheduled for each 4-week "block" of training time (4 weeks for the midshipmen, 3 weeks for the midshipmen and volunteer Skipper and XO). There are three blocks. Five boats will go to each port listed below. Based on the number of active volunteers, midshipmen and TAD Ensigns and 2nd LTs in the training pipeline, we are looking good to support that goal.

Summer assignments are based on your entries into the Volunteer Availability and Preference Google Drive sign-up later in the newsletter. If something in your availability changes, please email me directly to let me know, so the assignments can be updated. Some people have more flexibility than others, so we are usually able to adjust if your situation changes, but the more lead time we have, the easier that process is.

Thanks, and we'll see you at the Safety at Sea Seminar or spring sailing.

FLEET CAPTAIN NOTE

by John Formisano



It was great to see so many of you at our hands-on training session at SCRD last Saturday. I hope that being out of the classroom and closer to the boats gave you an opportunity to better understand how the pieces fit together and make you a bit more comfortable when you're out at sea with your crew. This training session is always worth attending year over year

as I always pick up something new that I did not know before.

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We have a few classes left, and Safety at Sea will bring a broader perspective to what we do during our summer blocks. This session enables interaction between the broader ocean sailing community and our volunteers and our VOST teams. Hearing from those that have ventured off shore and those that support them provides a perspective that you haven't seen in our program focused classes. The last class, teaching methods is key to wrapping up everything that we've been learning through our winter classes and describing the different ways to pass this information along to our crews.

Best of all, we're almost ready to get back on the water. We should start seeing the 44's returning to the basin soon and the spring on-the-water training. As beneficial as our classes are, nothing replaces time on the boats in helping prepare us for our teaching our crews to sail, but more importantly, giving them the chance to lead.

I look forward to seeing you on the water.



MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR NOTE

by CAPT David Jackson, USN(ret)

The VOST fleet will finish splashing this week and then next week the OSTs boats will start launching. The plan is for ten OSTs boats to be ready by the end of March to support on-the-water training that starts in April.

Thanks to all that came for the SCRd training day. Your interest and questions were well appreciated. Please stop by the Cutter Shed if you have any other questions or want us to walk thru any systems that you want to spend more time with. It's much easier to get you smart now, then when you are off the coast with a bunch of Midshipman looking to you as the expert.

As in past years we will have a Google document OSTs Gripe Log that will provide a list of jobs that still remain open from the winter availability and the status of chits. Chits? Yes, as you heard at SCRd we need chits filled out if there's a problem with the boat so it can be worked on. When you are assigned a boat, you can look at the Gripe Log to see the maintenance history of your boat. Here's a link to the Gripe Log:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z8TQOZG2M0H03J1HwHTW7vUapeGVa4RZJ2Ff_YfvS14/edit#gid=0

Note: we are currently removing old gripes that are closed out and updating the status of winter work jobs for each of the boats.

We look forward to getting you on the water and shaking down the boats before they go offshore.

WINTER TRAINING UPDATE

N44 Systems hands-on training was held across the river at our boatyard, the SCRd facility last Saturday. It was very well attended both by about 60 new volunteers and experienced D-Skippers. Our instructors were from the SCRd staff and seasoned volunteers, and they were all awesome. We all learned more about diesel engines, plumbing/propane stove, sails, rigging and electrical systems, and how to fix them at sea.

Our next Saturday event is the scheduled navigation exam on **March 7th** from 0900-1200 in Luce Hall rooms 101 and 102. If you're unable to attend, you can set up an appointment with **LT Christian Burton** to take the exam at the sailing center during regular business hours. The navigation exam is required to be taken upon initial qualification and then every 2 years thereafter. Midshipmen may schedule this test with **LT Burton** when they're ready. There is review material posted on Blackboard.

Our annual Safety at Sea Seminar hosted by Naval Academy Sailing and Marine Trades Association of Maryland at Alumni Hall is coming up on **Saturday, March 28th**. It is an all-day series of lectures from industry experts with a live on the water Man Overboard (MOB) recovery demonstrations from our Varsity Offshore Sailing Team (VOST). More details on sign-up procedures later in this newsletter.

All completed training sessions are available on Panopto™ (voice and PowerPoint) except for the SCRd training and the Safety at Sea Seminar. Our completed training sessions can be accessed there through Blackboard - usually within an hour or two of the lecture.

LAST CALL FOR FIRST AID & CPR/AED CLASSES

We will have additional First Aid and CPR/AED classes next week, in order to finish up qualifications for our D-qualified volunteers. Please sign up at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Yh0Qc8TuBzUvOOvO6BRbaAufFc0XN72f7jPe4kyg44/edit#gid=1990982911>

BLACKBOARD TESTS

Just a reminder that you should be taking your exams online if you are new to the program. You can take them one subject at a time. It is not necessary to take them all at once. There are 14 online D-qualification test segments. The navigation test is a practical exam and you will need to do chart plotting.

You can take the other Blackboard online tests any time, and you can take each test twice. Blackboard will pull different questions from the pool for your second attempt. A recommended test schedule, based on the class schedule, was published in the January newsletter. We keep the past 6-12 months of OSTs newsletters posted on the Navy Sailing website for your reference at:

<https://www.usna.edu/Sailing/osts/Newsletters.php>.

A handy guide to references that are specific to exams is also posted on Blackboard under the *Books and References* tab. Books are available to check out from the Sailing Center Library, and are highly recommended as a study guide, since not all exam material is covered in the lectures. If you have any problems accessing exams or signing into Blackboard, please contact **LT Christian Burton**.

Current D-qualification holders must pass the Rules of the Road (RoR) exam annually and must take a Quarterly RoR refresher exam before summer blocks, and in the Fall if participating in Fall training. Current D-qualification holders must also pass the Navigation practical exam every two (2) years, D-qualification Proficiency exams (13 tests) every three (3) years and attend a Safety at Sea Seminar every five (5) years. Exams are posted on Blackboard in the OSTs Section under the tabs *D-Qual Exam*, *RoR Annual Exam*, and *Quarterly RoR Refresher Exam*.

Additionally, the following link will take you to our current qualification tracker. You are able to view (not edit). This is to assist in helping you in tracking your qualification timelines and post D-qual proficiency requirements. Legend: Green - current, Yellow - due within 1 year or in current year, and Red - overdue and D-Qual suspended.



<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zTJQqiLH9gitFKLfFr8QiO6kBAhLooQhQ17pyGQd5I/edit?usp=sharing>

NAVAL ACADEMY CLUB SOCIAL

Turn out for our Thursday after class socials have been well attended. Please continue to join us at “The Alley” following classes on Thursdays at the Naval Academy Club (aka Officer’s Club) in their basement level bar / restaurant. This is a good opportunity to talk to current Skippers, XOs, and midshipmen about the program. Many volunteers are willing to mentor you through the process and answer any questions you may have. Dress code rules for The Alley are military uniform, or appropriate civilian attire (business casual) or appropriate jeans. You do not need to be a club member to attend these OSTs socials.

SAFETY AT SEA SEMINAR

Save the date! The Safety at Sea Seminar (SaS) is a requirement for our volunteers and is good for five years. Tracy Edwards, MBE (*Most Excellent Order of the British Empire*), the Skipper of the first Whitbread Around the World Race with an all-female crew will be our keynote speaker. We are offering the one-day course on **Saturday, March 28th** in Alumni Hall for free if you bring your own lunch, or you can sign up for a boxed lunch for \$15. If you want a US Sailing certificate for having attended this seminar, that cost is \$25. Some organizers of offshore races in the United States require these; however, the certificate in itself is not required by OSTs. The sign-up is:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PrBin8IFepaKC7OM2kfWqMzTJnsyyRawA3LeXHjVTbg/edit?ts=5e5d4a0c#gid=0>

If you would like to receive additional training, the second day of the Seminar on Advanced Cruising is available at a discount for active OSTs volunteers for \$55. This includes additional lectures in Alumni Hall in the morning, and a Q&A/Discussion interactive session in the afternoon. The afternoon session will feature weather, engines / electronics and medical / voyage preparation.

If you’ve already taken the course elsewhere or online, let **LT Christian Burton** know so he can look you up on the US Sailing database, or bring him a copy of your certificate and he will sign off that line item in your PQS book. US Sailing does offer an online course that is also a one-day equivalent to our seminar, but there is a fee for that course, \$75 for US Sailing members, and \$85 for non-members.

NAVY (COLGATE) 26 B-QUALIFICATION

We are offering training in the Navy 26s throughout April. If you started the program late and need to get your B-level qualification, you will be able to sign up online and sail at your own convenience for two-hour training sessions. We will also offer some Saturday sessions. Each student will get up to a maximum of 10 lessons prior to taking the check ride, and we will have an evaluation debrief around Lesson 7. We advise experienced sailors to sign up for a couple of lessons to learn the

very specific Navy 26 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), and everyone should review the information on the Navy Sailing website on the Navy 26 to make the training go smoothly. They have some great, newly revised video training sessions that are very helpful. You only need to do this B-qualification once for OSTs. The sign-up will be emailed out later in the month. We need to get boats delivered and sea-trialed before we can publish a start date.

SPRING TRAINING

Spring On-The-Water (OTW) training and our DELMARVA sails schedule is listed below. Volunteers should sign up for the Spring OTW training no later than the end of March once the sign-up schedule is published to make sure that we can assign instructors and get enough boats ready.

Spring Training Sails: April 4-May 2

DELMARVA-A: May 08-11 (Friday-Monday)

DELMARVA-B: May 14-17 (Thursday-Sunday)

The DELMARVA serves as our prospective XO “final exam” in the form of a three-day cruise around the DELMARVA Peninsula. This is a great exercise to get ready for summer, and many of our qualified Skippers and XOs come out as crew to get a refresher on boat systems prior to going out with the midshipmen during the summer. You’ll sail the course and go up the more difficult part of a summer cruise track and see the restricted waterways of the Chesapeake, Delaware, and C&D Canal, so you’re familiar with it before sailing the route with your midshipmen crew this summer. There is a stretch of ocean sailing along the coast. You’ll have the opportunity to get into the rhythm of watch standing over an extended voyage, and lots of training exercises day and night along the way to solidify your knowledge base in order to teach those skills this summer. You will also have the opportunity to use our new Sirius/XM Weather capability to help get everyone up to speed on this new underway feature. Each crew member will get a debrief from the Skipper and XO at the end of the cruise and their final recommendation for the D-CS qualification.

Returning volunteers whose D-Qual and OSTs coaching experience are current do not need to participate in this training but are welcome to sign up as a refresher if interested. OSTs is also planning a few extra afternoon and Saturday training sessions during the Spring to get more underway time on the water and documented in your PQS log books in case you missed some of the Fall training. Required underway and sailing hours are typically not waived except under very unusual circumstances.

Spring training and DELMARVA sail sign-up sheets can be accessed here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qsQjklR-mrne54RxroUv6o95Rq-pJBk_xGmC05JqgTU/edit?usp=sharing

SUMMER DESTINATIONS, VOLUNTEER AVAILABILITY AND PREFERENCES

Sailing dates are listed below.

Block 1: May 31 - June 19 (1A-Stamford, CT; 1B-Bristol, RI)

Block 2: June 28 - July 17 (2A-Mystic, CT; 2B-Boston, MA)

Block 3: July 26 - August 12 (3A-Freeport, NY; 3B-Greenwich, CT)

Thanks to those of you who have already indicated that you will be able to participate next summer. We need to ensure that we have enough qualified instructors (~60 total) to support the mission to train approximately 240 midshipmen next summer!! The link is below if you haven't signed up yet, and we will re-post this link in future editions.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IUSgPwh6vn-k2FjXdKKndjKVgfp9Ghd8eUXMZflls3w/edit?usp=sharing>

We will use this document to start building the draft summer schedule so please submit your availability. Assignments aren't final until both DELMARVA sails in May are completed; however, we will be refining the assignments throughout the spring training season. We do our best to honor your wishes but may need to put you where we need you, according to the "needs of the Navy", and will communicate with you throughout the process.

NAVAL ACADEMY YARD ACCESS

You will need to have a CAC card, retiree or dependent military ID, or a DBIDS Visitor Card to drive onto the Naval Academy for classes and spring / summer sailing. If you do not have an existing yard access credential, or need to update your card, you will need to fill out a request form for a DBIDS Visitor Card as soon as possible as it does take a few weeks to process. Please contact **LT Christian Burton** for the form.

NAVAL SAILING POLO SHIRTS FOR ORDER

Thank you to Frank Day for arranging and coordinating this year's Navy Sailing long sleeve polo shirts for purchase. If you have not already paid Frank for your shirt(s), please contact Frank and make payment arrangements. Anticipated distribution date is Saturday, March 28th, 2020 at the Safety at Sea Seminar to be held at Alumni Hall. Frank can be reached at each Winter Training session or at Dayfrank44@yahoo.com.

EXTRA CREDIT READING

This month's book selection is courtesy of COL Sak Sakoda, USA(ret) -- Yes, he's an Army guy. If you're interested in the study of leadership, there are countless books in the military and civilian realm. Retired four-star Army General Stan McChrystal's 2018 book *Leaders: Myth and Reality* is a very interesting read so far, and includes profiles of leaders from the military, politics and business worlds. A quick Google search came up with this description of the book, "... the author of best-

selling of *Team of Teams*, partnered with co-authors Jeff Eggers and Jay Mangone to explore what leadership really means, exposing and debunking the many myths that surround the concept of leadership. They focus on thirteen great leaders, showing that the lessons we commonly draw from their lives are seldom the correct ones".

OSTS FACEBOOK PAGE

OSTS has its own Facebook Page! In addition to this newsletter, we will post important information about the program to this Facebook page. Please "Like" us so you have the program information as it is released. We have 409 "likes" to date and growing every month. Help us get to "500" likes in 2020. Please encourage your Midshipmen to send photos and video from their spring training sails and summer block sortie. Anyone can post to our Facebook page. We are generating a good following of OSTS family and friends that are following your sailing experiences. Do not be shy and please post!

Please "Like" us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/USNAOffshoreSailTraining>.

EMAIL OPT-OUT

If you are on this email newsletter and would like to be taken off, please let us know. If you have any articles or information you would like to share through this newsletter, please email to richard.robey@gmail.com. As always, thank you for your support of OSTS.

THANK YOU!

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