



OSTS Notes



Newsletter of the United States Naval Academy
Offshore Sail Training Squadron

FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Bravo Zulu and thanks so much to everyone who participated in our very successful summer of training midshipmen on the open ocean! We can't operate our program without each and every one of you. Your time and talent is hugely helpful, whether you are a Skipper, XO, ground school instructor, or check ride evaluator. We

especially appreciate those of you who were flexible (Semper Gumby) and filled in whenever the call went out to fill a gap.

Our mission was to send out 30 sorties (each Navy 44 that goes out for a three week session is considered a sortie), and train 250 midshipmen. We sent out 29 sorties and while the number of midshipmen trained was slightly lower due to attrition and scheduling, we are very happy with the outcome.

If you had crew this summer who are interested in becoming a XO next year, please reach out and encourage them to come to the information meeting. We are trying to build our ranks of all Midshipman boats for next summer. We are also collecting nominations for awards for any of your midshipmen who went above and beyond. The awards board will meet early October so please get those in with your post cruise reports.

We will have our annual review of lessons learned, by block, in the first part of September. Our starting point for those comes from the Skippers Post Cruise Reports but we also value the feedback we get from XO's who have a fresh perspective after their first tour, so please write down some notes while the experience is fresh.

New recruits will get out on the Navy 26s (B-Qual) in September, and we will transition to the Navy 44s (D-Qual) in October. A Google Docs link to the D-Qual training schedule and sign up instructions is provided below. Based on feedback from last year, we did not schedule training during Columbus Day weekend. We will also post the Google Docs sign-up next week for anyone who would like to be an instructor trainer and for the Navy 26 training.

Thanks again from the OSTS team at Robert Crown! We look forward to seeing you back on the water this fall.

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NEW VOLUNTEER COACHES' ORIENTATION



We are having a new volunteer introduction and information meeting on Tuesday, August 30th. The meeting will be at the Robert Crown Sailing Center, at either 1200 or 1800 in the upstairs classroom. If you had midshipmen on your boat that you recommended to continue with the program, sometimes an e-mail from

their Skipper to encourage them goes a long way to get them to come to the meeting and sign up. Our best recruiting has always been word of mouth, so if you know anyone who would be interested, please pass along the information. We're looking for active duty and retired military who have leadership and some navigation background who we can teach to sail, and civilians with substantial sailing experience, preferably blue water sailing. Volunteers will train during the academic year in order to get qualified to be instructors for our offshore training program during the summers.

New volunteers will need to bring a photo ID to get onto the Yard. You will need to walk on unless you have a DoD or active duty or retired military ID. Once you start participating in the program we will be able to issue a short term parking pass.



D-QUAL TRAINING BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER

Navy 26 (B-Qual) and Navy 44 (D-Qual) Fall training will begin in September. For our new volunteers and coaches, completion of your B-Qual onboard the Navy 26 (Colgate) is required prior to starting the Navy 44 D-Qual training. Midshipmen who just completed a summer block as crew are not required to obtain their B-Qual onboard the Navy 26.

The B-Qual process consists of Navy 26 lessons, check-ride and passing a written test. A sign up link will be sent out around Labor Day.

You can view the training schedule and sign up now for the Fall Navy 44 D-Qual training using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18BP2YkZkTH5RNymBwcci6DI5FMfs4_bHQlu_W6b-AzY/edit?usp=sharing

D-SKIPPER TRAINING PROGRAM

As you move through the different levels of your qualification process, whether it's senior crew to watch captain, or XO to Skipper, you'll need to get your PQS book signed off by your assigned Skipper or XO, and the Program Director and DNAs for Skipper. Please review your qual book, add up the hours in the log section, make sure you have all the signatures required, and bring your PQS book in to LT Osei Asante, our training officer, for processing. Please round your time on the water in hours, including any portion of an hour rounded off to the nearest 15 minutes (1.5 hours for 90 minutes, 1.25 hours for 75 min, etc.). Time recorded for overnights should be the amount of time you spend on watch during one day, so if you're on watch from 0200-0600, 1000-1400 and 1800-2200, that's 12 hours, and at this time of year, 9 hours sailing at night, and 3 hours during the day assuming it gets light at 0500 and dark at 1800.

New volunteers will be added to the Academy Blackboard account. Blackboard is a web based program that hosts all our D-qual exam sections, and useful information for summer blocks. The Skipper paperwork section has fillable forms of all the documents you'll need to submit for upcoming Delmarvas in the spring, and summer blocks. You will get an email from Osei with instructions on how to sign on.

Please note that the Rules of the Road test must be taken annually AND there is a quarterly refresher test. You'll need to go into the D-qual tests to do the full test, the refresher test is on the menu block on the left when you open Blackboard. We recommend taking the full test in April, before you start refresher sailing. That will cover you if you participate in spring sailing, DELMARVA and Block 1 in June. If you are sailing in Block 2 or 3, you'll also need to take the quarterly refresher ROR exam (half the questions) prior to sailing. That will be good for July, August and September. Fall Instructor-trainers will need to take the refresher again in October. This

keeps everyone focused and current on a very important aspect of our training, whether you're training new volunteers or Midshipmen during the summer.



WINTER CLASSROOM TRAINING

Winter classroom training will start in late January. After you complete fall training, you will be given access to a web based educational tool called Blackboard, and access to another web based program called Tegrity. We record both voice and PowerPoint, and some video where applicable. It is recommended you attend some classes in person - navigation if you need a solid refresher, Navy 44 systems classes taught by the mechanic, the sailmaker, rigger, etc. and the leadership courses (including time in the Naval Academy ship simulator).

Winter Training Topics include:

- Navigation
- Celestial Navigation (basics)
- Leadership
- Rules of the Road
- Marine Weather Forecasting
- Handling Medical Emergencies at Sea
- Operational Risk Management
- Radio Communications
- Radar Training
- Navy 44 Systems
- Advanced Sail Trim (taught by VOST)

You are also required to attend the Safety at Sea seminar (Saturday session only) held in Alumni Hall as part of your D-Qual process. We will have registration for this seminar a month or so prior. There is no cost for volunteers to attend.

We typically also hold a short social event following many of the winter training classes to give you a chance to talk to current Skippers, XOs and midshipmen about the program. Many volunteers are willing to mentor you through the process or just answer any questions you may have.

LT TRAVIS NORRELL – INCOMING OPS OFFICER



We would like everyone to welcome LT Travis Norrell. Travis is a nuclear surface warfare officer (SWO) reporting from PCU Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) in Newport News, VA. He is a 2010 graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. Travis' first tour was on board the USS Cape St. George (CG-71), taking part in two deployments. Following that tour, Travis went through the nuclear pipeline and then reported to the Ford, where he helped prepare the department for commissioning and did first-in-life testing of brand new reactor and steam plant systems.

He started with us at the beginning of the summer and will be Gabby's relief as the OSTS OPSO. Welcome aboard Travis!

PHOTO CONTEST

Please submit your best photos from your summer cruise block, with captions, to Rick Robey at richard.robey@gmail.com or post on our Facebook page by October 1st. The top 3 photos will be selected and announced in the December OSTS Notes. Winning photographers will receive the coveted NASS burgee.



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 236 "likes" to date and growing every week. Help us get to "500" likes in 2016. Please encourage your midshipmen to send photos and video from their summer block. 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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