Welcome to the new year and a new sailing/training season! We officially kicked off the festivities with a fabulous party for all our volunteers at the beautiful home of past Fleet Captain Lynn Ohman and her husband John Heintz. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the potluck dinner.

That was a good primer to settle in and start work on winter training and D-qual tests. Rick Robey gave a great lecture on electronics and new topic, radar navigation. You can listen to the lecture on Tegrity.

To help you manage the course load and get through the D-qual on-line exams, I recommend that you attend or review each lecture, read any additional recommended study material, and take that segment of the test shortly thereafter while the information is still fresh. As a reminder, you can take the tests in any sequence, and each segment can be taken at any time. Blackboard will let you take each test twice before recording a final score; however, the questions are pulled from a pool, so you will not get all the same questions.

Based on classes, the following test schedule is suggested:

- Jan – Electronics, Electrical, Engineering
- Feb – Communications, First Aid
- Mar – Charts & Pubs, General Seamanship
- Apr – COB Recovery, Heavy Weather, Weather
- May – Emergencies, Safety, Sailing Theory

Welcome to new OSTS volunteers who are joining us this winter, we encourage you to attend the classes and meet the other volunteers and midshipman skipper candidates.

We’ll be providing an opportunity to informally meet and discuss the program following class at the Naval Academy Club (aka Officer’s Club) on the following Thursdays: Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 and Mar 12. This is a good opportunity to talk to current Skippers, and XOs about the program. Many volunteers are
willing to mentor you through the process or just answer any questions you may have. You can also meet the people you’ll be sailing with this spring and summer.

**OSTS NOW HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE**

OSTS now has its own Facebook Page! Please “Like” us at: http://www.facebook.com/USNAOffshoreSailTraining.

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 63 “likes” to date and growing every week.

**THE HELMSMAN PUBLICATION**

The Naval Academy Sailing is looking for a few good articles on seamanship for our *The Helmsman* publication. *The Helmsman* is a collection of narratives written by sailors of first-hand accounts of close calls, offshore mishaps, and lessons learned.

If you have a story to share about such an experience that could prevent a similar mishap, we would like to publish it for the benefit of other sailors. See our latest edition at www.usna.edu/sailing under “Announcements”.

For more information please contact Mr. Jon Wright, Vanderstar Chair at jnwright@usna.edu.

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE AGREEMENT (VSA)**

The current VSA covers all aspects of volunteering for OSTS, VOST, IC and race committee, so theoretically should be sufficient for the full term of your volunteer activities with us. If you have not already done so, please fill out VSA form Blocks 1, 2, 9a and b and return to LT Gabby Francisco at francisc@usna.edu.

**YARD PARKING PASS**

If you still need a parking pass (new or renewal), please fill out the Visitor’s Pass Data Sheet (Form V) and submit to LT Francisco for processing. She will e-mail you when they are ready for pick-up in the pass office at Gate 1. Your new passes will be valid from January 15th - November 30th. Parking Pass Request Form

**PHOTO CONTEST**

Please submit your 3 best 2014 sailing season pictures, with captions, to Rick Robey at richard.robey@gmail.com by March 31st. The top 3 photos will be selected and announced in the April OSTS Notes. Winning photographers will receive the coveted NASS burgee. Please submit photos that we can use on Facebook, this newsletter, and any other electronic or print media for OSTS.

**WORKING GROUPS**

The working groups are making good progress and will be ready to share their work in a couple of months.

- **Navigation** – Jim Maitland*, Pete Chabot, John Formisano, Dick Lunsford;
- **Galley Guide** – Deb Langheld*, Philippe Duverger;
- **Skipper/OTC Guidelines** – Mike Dunaway*;
- **BIB** – Renee Mehl, Dick Lunsford; Mike Moreau;
- **Radar Training** – Rick Robey*;
- **Lessons Learned Organization** – LT Gabby Francisco*;
- **Instructor-Trainer Instruction** – Renee Mehl*; Mike Dunaway.

* Designated Lead

If you are interested in helping out with any of these working groups over the winter, please let Renee Mehl or Rick Robey at richard.robey@gmail.com know of your interest.

**WINTER CLASSROOM TRAINING**

We had a great day at SCRD on Saturday, January 31st learning boat systems and getting some hands on training. For those who could not attend this training, there will be another session run by the Varsity Offshore Racing Team (VOST) for their volunteers on February 21st. Please contact LT Francisco at francisc@usna.edu know if you plan on attending so she can plan logistics.

We reorganized the winter schedule based on lessons learned from last year. Navigation and Rules of the Road will be in the spring, so it’s fresh when you get back on the water. We eliminated some classes that are covered in the Safety at Sea Seminar, and we added a section on radar navigation. We also spread classes out a bit more. It is recommended you attend certain classes in person, like 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). We do offer e-learning options on web-based programs called Blackboard, and Alan doing sail repairs for the volunteers in the Sail Loft.
Tegrity. All new volunteers should be signed up now. For Blackboard, your user name and password are your email address. For Tegrity, your user name is your last name, and password is first initial of your first name, and your last name. Please contact LT Francisco if you have any issues signing in, francisc@usna.edu.

On Thursdays after class we will have an informal get together at the Officer’s Club. Dress code rules are: military uniform, or appropriate civilian attire (business casual). Appropriate jeans are permitted only during Lunch and Dinner Service in the restaurant. The following is unauthorized attire: no athletic or sports wear, No t-shirts, halter or tank tops, no beach shoes / flip-flops.

Mark your calendar for the Safety at Sea Seminar (Saturday session only) held in Alumni Hall on March 28th.

SUMMER DESTINATIONS & BLOCK PREFERENCE

Thanks to those of you who have indicated that you will be able to participate next summer. Thanks to your responses, we are on track to complete 27 sorties this summer! The link is below if you haven’t signed up yet, and we will re-post this link in future editions.

OSTS 2015 Summer Block Sign Up

Block 1 – Connecticut (port TBD) 4 boats
New York City, NY 4 boats
Block 2 - Bristol, RI 4 boats
Rockport, MA 5 boats
Block 3 - Freeport, NY 5 boats
Newport, RI 5 boats

We are also posting the past 12 issues of the OSTS Notes on the Navy Sailing website if you’d like to review any Apps of the Month or look up past information or links.

SKIPPER PROFILE

This month we are profiling RADM Pete Chabot. Pete is a retired Rear Admiral, submariner, and long time senior OSTS skipper-instructor with significant offshore experience with the program. We encourage you to reach out to all of our senior skippers as you progress through your D-Skipper qualification.

RADM PETE CHABOT, USN (RET)

“The Naval Academy and the Naval service have been central to both my professional life and, outside of immediate family, my link to the most important people in my life. OSTS is an opportunity to contribute in a personal way to Academy in developing “leaders dedicated to . . . Naval service,” and, albeit a generation or so removed, “training our own reliefs.” OSTS also renews the lifelong avocation of sailing. Within OSTS, as in the fleet, I have the privilege to work with talented, energetic, and committed young people who truly have the character and potential to become excellent leaders.”

- Learned to sail as a midshipman in the original OSTS STC, wooden 44’ Luders yawls - and without auxiliary power. During the four years at USNA, sailed in OSTS as it then existed, weekend/overnight races in the Chesapeake Bay. Our crew was largely members of our own company. Highlight was doing the Newport to Bermuda race in 1960 immediately following graduation. I was navigator (sextant when offshore).

- Took 30 years off from sailing for active duty, four submarines and largely in submarine support positions when ashore. Had four commands – USS Sea Devil (SSN-664), Commander Submarine Squadron 10, CO Nuclear Power Training Unit Idaho Falls, and, in Washington, Program Manager of the MK 48 ADCAP torpedo development program.

- Three months after retiring from the Navy, purchased our first sailboat, a 28’ Sabre, followed by a Sabre 32, and finally a Gozzard 36. Cruised the Chesapeake Bay, Lake Michigan, Chesapeake Bay again, and finally coastal to New England. Became a “former boat owner” in 2011.

- Crewed in three offshore deliveries of sail craft between the Chesapeake Bay and Tortola in the BVI.

- Outside the sailing world, worked in engineering leadership positions in the US civilian nuclear power industry with Baltimore Gas and Electric, Commonwealth Edison, Exelon, and finally as an independent consultant.

- Upon returning to live in Annapolis in 2007, re-upped for OSTS. Been sailing as skipper since 2008 in summer blocks, spring and fall training, and Delmarva’s. Involved in developing the Experiential Leadership Guide (ELG), initially in leadership principles and practices, more recently in writing and editing the Lessons Learned section. Teamed up with the academic Leadership Research and Development Department in creating the current end-of-block online survey, and most recently, the new OSTS fitrep system. Currently serving on the Fales Committee advising the Superintendent on Navy Sailing.

- Now living in Williamsburg, VA (summers) and Clearwater Beach, FL (winters).

You can contact Pete at pgchabot60@gmail.com.
OSTS SAILING JACKETS

If you have not yet paid for your jacket, please get your check to Mr. John Formisano ASAP.

APP OF THE MONTH

The App of the Month is courtesy of Mr. Jon Wright. First Aid App by the American Red Cross might be handy as a quick reference guide on what to do in an injury situation. You can download from redcross.org or iTunes.

EMAIL OPT-OUT

If you are on this email newsletter and would like to be taken off, please let us know.

As always, thank you for your support of OSTS.

THANK YOU!

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CAPT(ret) Rick Robey
Fleet Captain & Editor
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(703) 347-5094

Yanmar engine training at SCRD.

Coach Pete Carrico going over the MkII mast and rigging.

Spring is only 48 days away!

Skipper Darian Pringle reviewing electrical systems.

For Updates & More Information: www.usna.edu/Sailing
Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/NavySailing (@NavySailing) & Facebook at www.facebook.com/USNAOffshoreSailTraining
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