FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Summer is in full swing at the Sailing Center! We had a great group of midshipmen for the first block of training. They were enthusiastic and willing to learn. We are also building our ranks of midshipman Skippers and XOs, and am happy to report that Block 1 had three all-midshipman teams, and two additional boats had midshipman XOs. We have four midshipman XOs scheduled for Block 2, and one of our OSTS TAD USMC 2nd LT as a Skipper.

We always learn something from each group of students, and I think my takeaway from this last group is the importance of always following check-lists. All of the items on the list are there for a reason, and while the tasks may become second nature after completing them a few times, please emphasize that they need to be followed all of the time to prevent problems from happening. They will continue to use checklists and follow Standard Operating Procedures throughout their Navy careers, so you can help your crew develop good habits early.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Block 1 and we look forward to equally successful Block 2 and 3.

RULES OF THE ROAD TEST

As a reminder, you need to take the Annual (one time every 12 months) FULL Rules of the Road test. If you did not take this in the spring, or within 12 months prior to your assigned block, please do so on Blackboard. If you are doing Block 2 or 3 and need to take your annual, we recommend you take that right before your block and that will complete the requirement.

We also have a quarterly refresher exam requirement, so if you took the annual exam in the winter or spring, and are sailing Block 2 or 3, you will need to take the shorter refresher exam. That is also on Blackboard, on the left menu block when you open up the OSTS page.

FAIRS WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS COMMODORE!

On May 29th we said goodbye to CDR Les Spanheimer at a well-attended retirement party at the Robert Crown Sailing Center. As our Commodore these past 3 and half years, Navy Sailing has significantly grown as the premier midshipmen leadership training program. Over his tenure he led a diverse team of active and retired military, civilians, contractors and volunteers as the Director of the U.S. Naval Academy Sailing Program. Les continued the development of Navy Sailing into one of the top intercollegiate and varsity sailing programs in the country, and provided an effective and relevant experiential leadership development training to the Brigade of Midshipmen - our nation's future Navy and Marine Corps leaders. In addition to his “day job”, Les was also an Adjunct Professor of Ethics, preparing Midshipmen for the ethical challenges they will face in the office and on the battlefield.

You will be missed Commodore and we all wish you much success in your next adventure. We also hope you can continue sailing with our midshipmen as a volunteer coach. BZ!

In the interim, LCDR Laurie Coffey is the acting Director of the U.S. Naval Academy Sailing Program.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST D-SKIPPERS

A hearty congratulations to MIDNs Lorenzo Armstrong, David Burnsgoldstein, Dylan Sewell, Sam Morris and Hunter Jenkins, for attaining their D-CS Skipper qualification. They each served as an XO of a Navy 44 sailing vessel this summer on Block 1. Each is also authorized to wear the Craftmaster Insignia pin on their uniform. Well done!

DELMARVA BLOCK B WRAP-UP

The DELMARVA Block B squadron comprised of NA-34 AUDACIOUS and NA-35 VALIANT set sail on Thursday, May 14th for their circumnavigation. CAPT Ken Reightler and LCDR Spence Lankford led NA-34. Mr. Ross Rosiak and CAPT Jim Maitland commanded NA-35. The crews had a good training sail to include some heavy weather that required the use of the storm sails while in the Atlantic Ocean. Well done to both teams!

The DELMARVA sail serves as our new XO “final exam”. This is a great training exercise to get ready for summer cruise blocks, and many of our qualified Skippers and XOs come out as crew to get a refresher on boat systems after a winter hiatus.

Well done to both crews!

SUMMER BLOCK 1

Block 1 boats returned to Santee Basin last week after successful sails up to New York City and Stamford, CT. We sorted two squadrons of four boats each with a total of 70 midshipmen to include two all midshipmen boats. They experienced some heavy storms the first night of their offshore underway and handled the conditions perfectly.

Squadron 1A boats of INVINCIBLE (NA-26), WARRIOR (NA-27), HONOR (NA-30) and COMMITMENT (NA-32) sailed up to New York City. CAPT Ken Reightler was the Officer-in-Tactical Command (OTC). The Naval Academy Parents Club of New York hosted a welcome lunch for the squadron at Liberty Landing Marina on Friday.

On Saturday, June 13th, high school students from Rocking the Boat welcomed 12 midshipmen from OSTS Squadron 1A during their NYC port visit. This stopover came on the heels of Rocking the Boat launching its own dedicated sailing program sponsored by the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. New sailors from both groups were able to share experiences about learning to sail.

The Rocking the Boat teens introduced the midshipmen to their boat-centric afterschool program based in Hunts Point and taught them to row in the Bronx River aboard 14-foot Whitehall rowboats constructed by hand by Rocking the Boat students. After going rowing, the group was able to share concerns and advice about college readiness and what it means to succeed. It was a special day for all involved.

Stevens Institute of Technology, a premier private research university known for its naval engineering program, hosted the midshipmen for the weekend at its Hoboken, NJ campus overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Stevens is also a current program partner of Rocking the Boat: the school is working with Rocking the Boat on an education project to build a replica of a 26-foot steamboat designed by Stevens’ namesake, Colonel John Stevens, in 1804.
Rocking the Boat empowers young people challenged by severe economic, educational, and social conditions to develop the self-confidence to set ambitious goals and the skills necessary to achieve them. The students work together to build wooden boats, learn to row and sail, and restore the Bronx River, revitalizing their community while creating better lives for themselves.

The Stamford Yacht Club (SYC) hosted the Squadron 1B boat consisting of INTREPID (NA-33), AUDACIOUS (NA-34), VALIANT (NA-35), and FEARLESS (NA-36). CDR Les Spanheimer was the OTC. SYC provided overwhelming support to the midshipmen and gave them a weekend they will not soon forget. The Naval Academy Alumni Association of CT worked with the Stamford YC to place midshipmen in sponsor housing for the weekend. They were treated to a welcome dinner at SYC on Friday night, and a send-off dinner on Sunday. The boats were open for tours on the weekend and midshipmen participated in a STEM outreach program and meet and great event at the Yacht Club. The midshipmen discussed their majors and held a Q&A session. Participants were the Navy League Fairfield Country Chapter, Dealey Division of USNSCC, NJROTC Unit from Brian McMahon HS, and local schools.

The plan is to send 10 boats on Block 3, but right now we don’t have enough people to support that plan. At a minimum, we would like to send at least 9 boats for Block 3, but still need your help to make that happen. Preferably we can get someone to do the offshore portion round trip. However, we may consider a transfer at the remote port, but would need to know early for approval and budgeting if you can only do one week, either up or back. We have to submit budgets well in advance so again, would still need approval for any changes.

Skipper and XO pairings are still not final, depending on who signs up. We may need to switch things around again, depending on personnel experience levels. We have several people who are new Skippers, so if any of our existing Skippers are willing to be their XO; it is very helpful for them to learn the ropes from someone who’s already done it.

Squadron 3A is headed to Freeport, NY and 3B will sail to Newport, RI.

Please let Renee Mehl know if you can support Block 3.
**Galley Guide**

The long awaited Galley Guide is now available. A copy is provided on each Navy 44 as part of the block cruise publication loadout.

A special thank you goes to the principal authors of Kristin “Rosie” Barnes, Philippe Duverger, and Deborah Langheld who each spent a significant amount of time in the off-season gathering information and putting together this wonderful guide. In addition, a thank you to each of our major contributors of Doug Corner, Sylvie Duverger, John Formisano, Young Hong, Mike Hull, Spence Lankford, Renee Mehl, Rick Robey, Tom Saxe, and Mike Vance.

**Professional Development**

Safe Skipper by Simon Jollands and Rupert Holmes (May 2015) is about preparing and managing risk at sea. It covers the usual problems of bad weather, running aground, and so on. However, the best parts of the book detail how to prevent problems with boat systems and equipment. The level of instruction and recommendations are designed for weekend sailors and will go a long way toward a peace of mind. Available on Amazon.

**Photo Contest**

We have extended last season’s photo contest. Unfortunately we only received 2 entries. Let’s try this again. Please submit your best 2014 or 2015 sailing season pictures, with captions, to Rick Robey at richard.robey@gmail.com by October 1st. You can also post your photo entries on our Facebook page. 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! 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 126 “likes” to date and growing every week. Help us get to “500” likes by the end of the year. 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!

**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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