FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Best wishes for the holidays, and a fantastic New Year to all the volunteers and supporters of the Offshore Sail Training Squadron! I hope all of you enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Thank you for the contribution of your time and talent training our Midshipmen for their future leadership roles.

We’ll start up winter classes toward the end of January, and the schedule for the rest of 2016 training and summer blocks is posted in this newsletter. There may be a few adjustments to the winter classes as we look at lessons learned and try and give you the best possible preparation for the upcoming season. We’ll notify you of any changes via e-mail or the next newsletter.

We are looking forward to another successful year on the water!

MIDSHIPMEN FALL AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual VOST and OSTS Fall Awards Ceremony was held on December 2nd in the Chesapeake Room. Awards from the summer season, and D-qualification certificates were bestowed upon the deserving Midshipmen. The OSTS fielded numerous nominees for the various categories of our awards:

The RADM Robert W. McNitt Award is presented to a Midshipman demonstrating exemplary leadership while participating in their OSTS summer cruise block. Recipients’ performance in seamanship, navigation, leadership, and sailing skills set them apart from their contemporaries during their cruise block. This year’s McNitt Award went to MIDN 1/C Alex Cinqmars.

The LTG Robert C. Tabor Award is presented to a Midshipman serving as a Skipper or XO who best demonstrates outstanding leadership and command skills while participating in the SAILTRAMID Summer Cruise Program. MIDN 1/C Taylor Lindenhayn and MIDN 1/C Michael Moore were both nominated. The Tabor Award went to MIDN 1/C Taylor Lindenhayn.
The **CAPT Robert D. McWethy Award** is presented to an outstanding 3/C Midshipman participating in the SAILTRAMID Summer Cruise Program for seamanship. We had an excellent field of candidates this year, and received numerous nominees for the award: MIDN 3/C Jillian Foley, MIDN 3/C Andrew Jones, MIDN 3/C Benjamin Machen, MIDN 3/C William Olsen, MIDN 3/C Alexander Redlon, MIDN 3/C Matthew Sensenig, MIDN 3/C Samuel Siprelle, and MIDN 3/C Michelle Tran. The Awards Board had a pretty difficult job trying to choose amongst all of these deserving candidates. In this instance, they narrowed it down to MIDN 3/C Matthew Sensenig.

![Renee Mehl, DNAS, & MIDN 3/C Matthew Sensenig](image1.jpg)

The **Frank “Bing” Simpson Maintenance Award** is presented to a Midshipman who exhibits the best engineering and maintenance qualities on their boat. Nominees were: MIDN 2/C Robert Brown, MIDN 3/C Kevin Freedman, MIDN 2/C Jonathan Hathaway, MIDN Andre Merklinger (Joining us from the German Navy), MIDN 2/C Molly McAullife, and MIDN 1/C Michael Moore. MIDN 3/C Kevin Freedman was awarded the **Tool Kit** for his actions over the summer.

![DNAS & MIDN 1/C Chris Krupczynski](image2.jpg)

We also recognized the Midshipmen who sailed as XOs and were recommended by their Skippers to advance to the D-OS (D-level Offshore Skipper) qualification. Congratulations to: MIDN 1/C Chris Krupczynski, MIDN 2/C Dylan Sewell, MIDN 2/C David Burnsgoldstein, and MIDN 2/C Lorenzo Armstrong! Any additional Midshipmen who receive their qualification prior to the Spring Midshipman Awards Ceremony will be awarded their certificates at that event.

![CDR(Ret) Les Spanheimer, DNAS, & MIDN 3/C Kevin Freedman](image3.jpg)

![DNAS, & MIDN 2/C Dylan Sewell](image4.jpg)

![DNAS, & MIDN 2/C David Burnsgoldstein](image5.jpg)
Bravo Zulu to all!

**WINTER TRAINING SCHEDULE**

The 2016 Winter Training Schedule is attached. Our first class will be Leadership #1 scheduled for Thursday, 28 January starting at 1630. Class location will be announced later. These lectures will also be posted on Blackboard shortly after each class is completed.

To help you manage the course load and get through the D-qualification on-line exams, recommend that you attend or review each lecture, read any additional recommended study materials, 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 while the information is still fresh. As a reminder, you can 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 on a retest.

Please remember that you are responsible to getting enough sailing hours for each level of qualification. You’ll be able to pick the times that work for your schedule, but need to have enough logged and totaled, along with Skipper signatures before you can move on to the next level of qualification (e.g., Watch Captain to D-CS (XO)). None of the training blocks alone are going to get you enough to qualify for Watch Captain, which is why we’ve added extra Saturdays in the spring.

Use the PQS “Blue Book” as your guide through the qualification process. If you need a “Blue Book”, please drop a note to LT Osei Asanti or drop by the OSTS sailing office.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

The Robert Crown Sailing Center hosts a ceremony each spring to honor the volunteers who participated in the offshore programs (OSTS and VOST) over the previous year as Skippers and XOs. The Grosvenor Award is given out to the volunteer who is nominated that goes above and beyond the call of duty in helping the sailing program. We will also award D-qualification for those who have earned their Skipper qualification, so please check your hours, add them up and make sure you have Skipper signatures where needed (Spinnaker is optional for OSTS) and get your books in to LT Osei Asante prior to March so we can get them processed!

**SUMMER TRAINING PREFERENCES**

Thank you for all your responses on the summer training preferences. In case you were not able to access the Google Doc, you can also click on the link:
OSTS Summer Preferences  or cut and paste:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17o26ChgRCrHE-Qou8Od9hJZH8vLei-nj8cfnQ8_4-Po/edit#gid=0&vpid=A4

We’re close to our goal. We do our best to give you your first choice and preference of destinations, but can’t always oblige. We are also flexible up to a point if your circumstances change, but we do need as much advance warning as possible to try and fill a space so we don’t have to cancel a crew from training. We also appreciate knowing how much flexibility you may have in your schedule. That significantly helps us as we slate skippers and XOs. Please understand that scheduling is a process, and we may need to put you where you’re needed most.

PHOTO CONTEST

Last call for photos from the summer sailing blocks! Please submit your best 2014 or 2015 sailing season pictures, with captions, to Rick Robey at richard.robey@gmail.com. You can also post your photo entries on our Facebook page. The top 3 photos will be selected and announced in the January 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 185 “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!

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.

Spring sailing is just around the corner!
## OSTS 2016 Winter Training Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19-Jan</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>NAV Exam (MIDN only) - <strong>Tentative</strong></td>
<td>1600-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-Jan</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Leadership 1</td>
<td>1600-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Leadership 2</td>
<td>1600-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Feb</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Leadership 3</td>
<td>1600-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Leadership 4</td>
<td>1600-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-Feb</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Contact Management / Rules of the Road</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-Feb</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Operational Risk Mgmt / Radio Comms</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Intro to NAV (optional)</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Mar</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>NAV 101</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Mar</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>NAV 102</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
<td></td>
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<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>NAV Exam</td>
<td>0900-1200</td>
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<td>22-Mar</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>N44 Electronics</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Mar</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Teaching Methods/Program Updates</td>
<td>1630-1800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Apr</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Safety at Sea Seminar</td>
<td>0800-1700</td>
<td>Alumni Hall</td>
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</tbody>
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*Updated: 29 December 2015*