



OSTS Notes



Newsletter of the United States Naval Academy
Offshore Sail Training Squadron

DIRECTOR'S CUT



Our winter classroom sessions have been going great, thanks to all of the excellent instructors and our seasoned volunteers who have been attending and adding their perspectives and lessons learned. We always start out with the Leadership series, since the ultimate goal of this program is to provide an experiential leadership

opportunity for the midshipmen we train. We're in the midst of the seamanship portion of training, and about to launch into details of boat systems on the Navy 44s, and will wrap up the winter training with navigation, our outstanding Safety at Sea Seminar, and teaching methods. There is a lot to learn, but it's highly rewarding once you get out on the ocean and put it all into practice! Offshore (and local) sailing offers lifelong learning opportunities – we all learn something each and every time we go to sea. Thanks to all of you for volunteering to support our mission of training midshipmen, we couldn't do it without you. I encourage all of you to get as much time on the water as possible - there is no substitute for experience. The sign-up for spring sailing is below. See you at the next class!

We live in a mobile age where there is always an App for that! There are a lot of apps that you can download on your phone or tablet that cover weather, tides, traffic and navigation. These are great for additional references, and can provide some peace of mind in tight spots, while you let your midshipman crew figure things out. Apps that the Sailing Center staffs like are below.

MarineTraffic.com - A good internet-based AIS traffic/contact management app. Because it relies on land-based VHF repeaters, it does not update with the same frequency as onboard VHF-based systems. Free and more capable subscription versions are available.

Navionics Boating HD - superb chart plotting app with route planning, track storing, and tide/current information. Annual subscription is around \$10 including charts.

SeaIQ - another chart plotting app with ability to upload NOAA chart updates anytime. The App can also display AIS contacts and plan routes.

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Storm Radar - Weather Channel weather radar product, good for quick look at real-time approaching weather.

Windy - A nice graphical representation of wind forecasts with easy access to multiple weather models. Will also display precipitation and temperatures.

Ventusky - A recent new find. This is a comprehensive weather app with lots of options and access to multiple weather models.

PocketGrib - Allows you to download GRIB files showing pressure gradients, wind barbs, and precipitation forecasts.

Predictwind - A good all-around weather app displaying wind, precipitation, temperature, and cloud cover forecasts.

Skyview - real time depiction of the stars and constellations. Fun to use on a moonless night, mid-ocean when trying to encourage small chat.



BuoyData - live wind and tidal information from nearby NOAA buoys. Always handy when out on the Bay.

AyeTides - tidal information app.

It is good practice when you are on your own phone or tablet to let the midshipmen (or Skipper/XO) know what you are doing when you are looking at your phone, as a courtesy, since they are not allowed to use their mobile devices on deck. As stated, it is much better if the midshipmen figure out what is going on; so you might consider sharing the apps with your watch captains, if they can use them responsibly. The same recommendation applies to them about letting you know that they are looking at weather, or something that applies to the boat.

FLEET CAPTAIN NOTE

by John Formisano



Skipper John Formisano

As Spring starts to approach, I wanted let you know how much I enjoyed meeting so many of our new volunteers at our winter training classes, and at the “Club” on Thursdays’ after class. I know for the new folks, compressing so much information in such a short period of time can be like taking a drink from a fire hose. It’s been a few years, but I

can still remember what it feels like to be sitting in the classroom and trying to understand where all these pieces fit.

I want to thank our existing skippers and XOs who have been attending the classes, and the networking sessions afterward for the insights that you’ve added. I know that I continue to learn something new at each class and each time I’m out on the Navy 44s, and this winter hasn’t been any different.

As the classroom portion of the training winds down we are approaching one of our most valuable sessions, the Saturday training at the Small Craft Repair Department (SCRD) facility. This session, on March 2nd, enables everyone to spend time with the critical Navy 44 systems with detailed overviews from the people who keep the boats seaworthy. When you combine these sessions with time on the water, I know that you’ll will have much more confidence in your ability to lead your team of midshipmen on their summer training blocks. I look forward to seeing you at this session and during the spring training, and I’m happy to answer any questions you may have about the program.

MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR NOTE

by CAPT David Jackson, USN (ret)



One VOST boat, *RANGER*, is in the water and *ZARAFFA* and *WAHOO* will be launched next week. OSTs boats are scheduled to start being delivered in March to support on the water training in April. As we get ready to go on the water, it’s important to review how to report and monitor the maintenance discrepancies (gripes) on boats.

When you are assigned a boat, you can review the maintenance history by accessing the Google Sheets OSTs Gripe Book and going to the tab at the bottom for your boat.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z8TQOZG2M0H03J1HwHTW7vUapeGVa4RZJ2Ff_YfvS14/edit#gid=1275344133

At the tab for your boat there’s a link to the current winter maintenance package and the status of jobs. Green means the jobs are completed. The tab also shows the projected launch date for the boat. The bottom part of the tab is where chits that are received are logged and the status of repairs.

Each day when your crew checks out a boat, someone from your crew must stop by the Cutter Shed and pickup the boat’s Engine Log. The crew fills out the log as engine checks are performed. In the inner cover of the log there are boat discrepancy chits that are filled out and turned in with the log when you return to Santee Basin. The chits must be put in the box on the table as you walk into the Cutter Shed and the Engine Log handed to the watch stander. Chits are filled out for each type of discrepancy (i.e., load out discrepancies on one chit, torn sail on a separate chit for each sail, and any other repairs on individual chits). The chits should be written clearly and provide information to help us troubleshoot the issue. Saying that the charging system is bad is not enough. What are the symptoms and what did you do to try and resolve the issue? Please provide a point of contact with mobile phone number, and e-mail so that we can ask follow-up questions if needed.

SAILING DEPARTMENT DISCREPANCY REPORT			
NOTE: CRAFT DISCREPANCIES ARE TO BE REPORTED TO CUTTERSHED UPON RETURN TO SANTEE BASIN. ONLY 1 DISCREPANCY PER CRAFT.			
BOAT # / NAME	NAME OF PERSON REPORTING DISCREPANCY	EMAIL/CONTACT PHONE #	DATE
DISCREPANCY AND LOCATION OF DISCREPANCY		CORRECTOR ACTION TAKEN	
BOAT STATUS OPERATIONAL NON OPERATIONAL		CORRECTED BY (PRINT NAME) / DATE	
CIRCLE LOCATION OF SAIL DISCREPANCIES ON APPROPRIATE SAIL			

The Cutter Shed team starts work at 0700 with the goal to have the previous day’s chits cleared before sailing commences that day. Our goal is to provide you with 100% ready boats. Please help us do that and let me know if you have any questions.

YARD ACCESS

A reminder that you will need to have a CAC card, military ID, or a Defense Biometrics ID System (DBIDS) visitor card to drive onto the Naval Academy for classes and spring / summer sailing. DBIDS is a new system for 2019 and replaces the blue paper



passes. *If you currently have a valid blue paper pass, you can continue to use that until it expires.* All renewals and new access requests will have to apply for a DBIDS card. That requires filling out an application (do NOT email your social security number on the form), sending the form to **LT Matt Vernam**, and then calling **LT Vernam** with your SSN or other personal info. When your application is approved, you'll need to go to the visitor center at Gate 1, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays) between 0700 and 1330 to get fingerprinted and your photo taken. They will issue you a card that you will need to present to the gate guard when you drive into the Academy.

The security office at USNA has been extremely backed up due to multiple construction projects on the Yard. Due to these projects, DBIDS applications are taking upwards of 2-3 weeks to turn around. Please let **LT Matt Vernam** know ASAP if you need a Yard parking pass so he can get your DBIDS application to the security office early for processing.

WINTER TRAINING UPDATE

The four (4) Session Leadership Series just wrapped up, and provided excellent instruction for skippers and XO's on how to maximize leadership training for midshipmen during the summer blocks. All completed training sessions are available on Tegrity with voice and PowerPoint only.

2019 OSTS Winter Training Schedule			
Dates	Course	Time	Room
1/29/19	Leadership 1	1600-1800	Michelson 110
1/31/19	Leadership 2	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/5/19	Leadership 3	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/7/19	Leadership 4	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/12/19	Operational Risk Mgmt	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/14/19	Rules of the Road	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/19/19	Bay Pilot and Lessons Learned	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/21/19	Fire Safety/Radio Comms	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/26/19	N44 Electronics	1600-1800	Michelson 110
2/28/19	Navigation Introduction (Optional)	1600-1800	Luce 101 & 102
3/2/19	N44 Systems	0900-1630	SCRD
3/5/19	Nav 101	1600-1800	Luce 101 & 102
3/7/19	Nav 102	1600-1800	Luce 101 & 102
3/9/19	Navigation Exam	0900-1200	Luce 101 & 102
3/30/19	Safety at Sea Seminar	0800-1730	Alumni Hall
4/3/19	Teaching Methods/XO Preps	1600-1800	Michelson 110

There are two (2) all-day training sessions coming up, and these will not be recorded. The first is N44 Systems, held across the river at our boatyard, the SCRCD facility on **Saturday, March 2nd**. You'll learn about diesel engines, plumbing/propane stove, sails/rigging and electrical systems, and how to fix them at sea. This training will be held in Hanger 234 (see attached map for directions to SCRCD). You will need to have a base ID card for access to the facility (same one you use to get in on the Academy Yard). If you do not have a base access ID, please contact **LT Jordan McCullough** so we can set up a car pool with other volunteers.

The second is the annual Safety at Sea Seminar hosted by the Naval Academy at Alumni Hall on **Saturday, March 30th**. It is an all-day series of lectures from industry experts with a live MOB recovery demonstration from our Varsity Offshore Sailing Team (VOST).

If you're unable to attend the scheduled navigation exam on **Saturday morning, March 9th**, you can set up an appointment with **LT Jordan McCullough** to take it 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.

NAVAL ACADEMY CLUB SOCIAL

Please 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, XO's, 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. The following is unauthorized attire: no athletic or sportswear, no t-shirts, halter or tank tops, no beach shoes /flip-flops. 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 (5) years. We are offering the one (1) day course on **Saturday, March 30th** 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 U.S. 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. You can sign up at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KG-c-bnr3Qik-Tiz22lpZcluvrkZhNbvacbiP4ZBxb0/edit?usp=sharing>

If you're interested in additional training, the advanced cruising course on **Sunday, March 31st** is offered at a reduced rate. There are lectures in the morning and small group discussions in the afternoon that are led by the expert speakers. Instructions for signing up included on the Google document.

Event general information is at <https://mtam.org/safety-at-sea/> (please do not sign up here, unless you want to pay full price, and direct any questions to the OSTs staff). Our very own Varsity Offshore Sailing Team (VOST) performs the mid-day real MOB recovery demonstrations on the Severn River, and we are also planning on a U.S. Coast Guard SAR helicopter demonstration and flares demo. Definitely worth the price of admission! Please sign up early.

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.



The navigation test is currently scheduled for **Saturday, March 9th** from 0900 to 1200 in Luce Hall classrooms 101 and 102. Midshipmen, or anyone else who can't make this exam on March 9th can schedule an appointment with **LT Jordan McCullough** to take the test in the sailing center during regular business hours.

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. You can check out the reference books from the Sailing Center Library. Exam questions are taken from the editions that we have here. 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>.

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*. 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 Jordan McCullough**.

EXISTING D-SKIPPER QUAL PROFICIENCY REQTS

A reminder for our existing D-Skippers, your qualification proficiency is valid for a period of *one* (1) year from the date of your highest qualification, or the date of your most recent proficiency determination. In order to maintain your qualification proficiency on a year-to-year basis, or regain your proficiency status if lapsed, the following requirements must be achieved within the periodicity indicated:

1. Successfully pass an annual "Rules of the Road" (COLREGS) examination with a score of 90% or better;
2. Successfully pass the quarterly "Rules of the Road" quiz with a score of 90% or better when actively participating in a given sailing year.
3. Successfully pass a bi-annual (i.e., every 2 years) Navigation Practical Examination with a score of 70% or better;
4. Maintain current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and basic first aid certifications from schools approved by US Sailing.
5. Every three (3) years, complete and pass with a score of 70% or better the D-Skipper qualification proficiency section examinations.

6. Participate in a summer program cruise block, or portion thereof, as an Executive Officer (XO), Skipper, or Coach at least once in any three (3) year period.
7. Attend a U.S. Sailing Safety at Sea Seminar within the past five (5) years

You can check your qualification proficiency status by logging into Blackboard and reviewing the OSTS Proficiency Tracker sheet, or contacting **LT Jordan McCullough**. Remember, it is your responsibility to maintain your qualification proficiency. Contact **LT Jordan McCullough** at jmccullo@usna.edu should you have any questions, corrections, or updates.

BASIC FIRST AID AND CPR/AED

Basic First Aid and CPR/AED Training and a current certificate are a requirement for your D-qualification. We follow guidelines of US Sailing for providers: American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or American Safety and Health Institute and National Safety Council.

You need to make your own arrangements to obtain initial training or (re)certification. There are plenty of options to take a certification course with any of the above organizations. Please provide a current copy of your (re)certification, if you have not already done so, to **LT Jordan McCullough**, and have her sign that off in your PQS book if needed.

SPRING TRAINING

Volunteers should sign up for the Spring On-the-Water (OTW) training no later than the end of March, to make sure that we can assign instructors and get enough boats ready.

Spring Sails: April 6-May 4

Delmarva A: May 10-13 (Friday-Monday)

Delmarva B: May 16-19 (Thursday-Sunday)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MudgWD9Smp5Gk7GRFRQTddFOt3fMDA0rCFBo1h2YM/edit?usp=sharing>

Returning volunteers whose D-Qual and OSTS coaching experience is 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.

NAVY 26 B-QUALIFICATION

We are still in the process of finalizing instructors for Navy 26 training for those of you who need to finish up your B-qualification, or for those who started during winter training. We



will be sending you additional information on timing and sign-up either in the next newsletter, or via email if information is available sooner. 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 Colgate 26 to make the training go smoothly. They have some great, newly revised video training sessions that are very helpful.

<https://www.usna.edu/Sailing/Proficiency/index.php>

SUMMER 2019 BLOCK DESTINATIONS

Sailing dates are listed below.

Block 1: June 2-21 (1A – Stamford, CT; 1B – Bristol, RI)

Block 2: June 30-July 19 (2A – Mystic, CT; 2B – Boston, MA)

Block 3: July 28-August 14 (3A – Freeport, NY; 3B – Port Jefferson, NY)

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/1-NCs0sjLRmercY4Z29oILU9e5Tuk6BZV-f8etVQMqSI/edit?usp=sharing>

This is a working document and we understand that your circumstances may change. If you take your name off the list, please also let us know so we can plan accordingly. We will continue to refine this as we progress through the volunteer training phase. We'll do our very best to accommodate your first choice but may need to put you on another block or destination so we can complete our mission.

OSTS PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Our TAD Ensign, **Cameron Young**, developed an outstanding new OSTs promotional video this summer. Below is the link for the video. Thanks to everyone who contributed their photographs and video clips so we can promote the program and the achievements of the midshipmen.

<https://youtu.be/3veNBfG7VIQ>

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 373 "likes" to date and growing every month. Help us get to "500" likes in 2019. 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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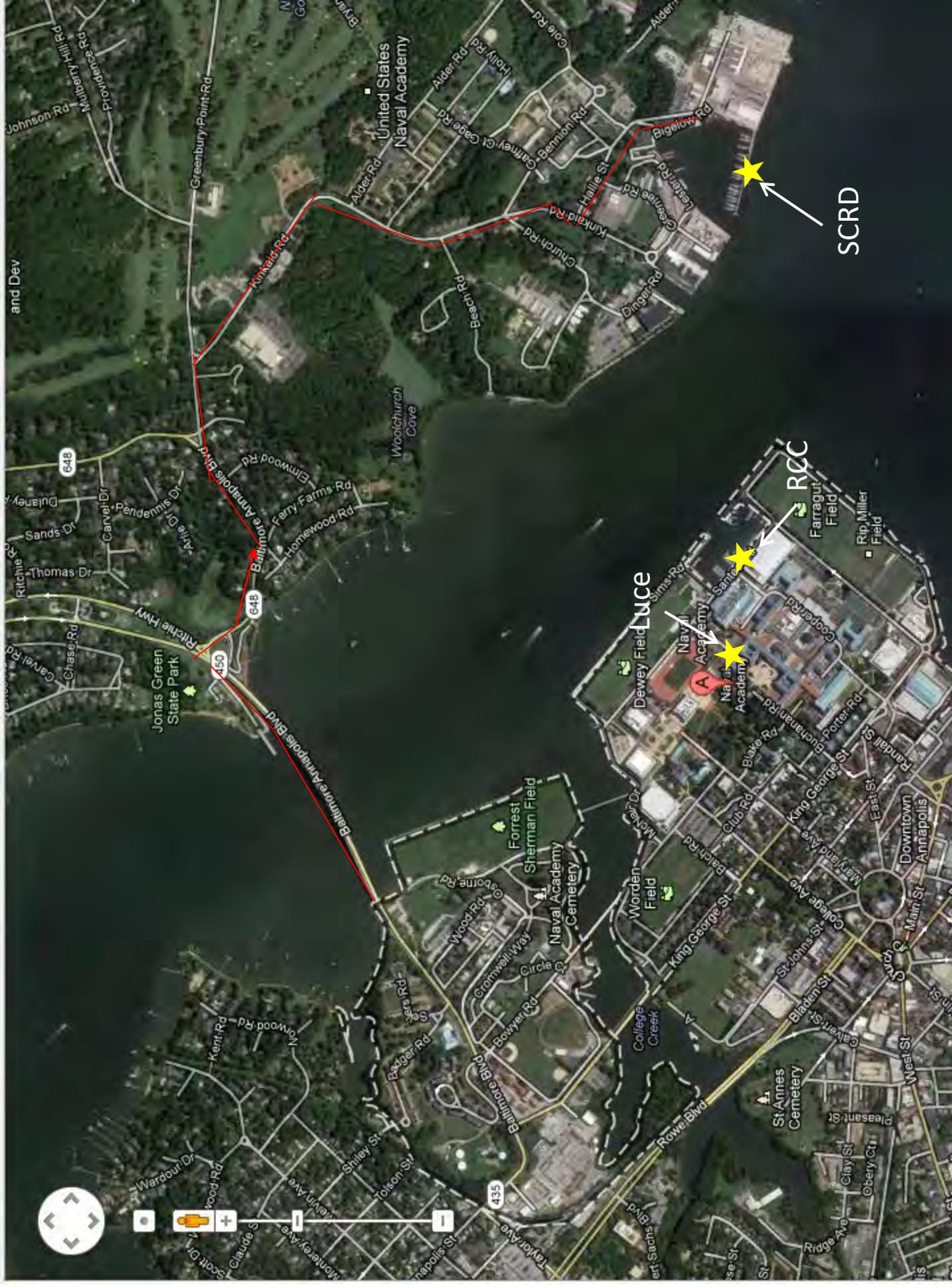
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SCRD

RCC

Dewey Field LUCE

United States Naval Academy

Jonas Green State Park

St. Annes Cemetery

Naval Academy Cemetery

Naval Academy

Naval Academy

Naval Academy





Alder Rd

Mangan Rd

Bigelow Rd

Mangan Rd

STOP

Meeting point Bldg 234

Sail Loft 2nd floor, Rigging 1st floor

Engines – EN room