FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Sign up for *Spin Class* – No, we’re not cross training, we’re doing on-the-water spinnaker training for our D-qualified volunteers who need to have that section signed off to progress from D-CS to D-OS, and for those who would like to practice. The weather this week doesn’t look cooperative, so we’ll send an email out next week with possible dates, and a Google docs sign up sheet.

Summer 2015 *provisional* cruise block dates – for those of you who need to plan well in advance:

- Block 1: May 27 - June 19 (volunteers start May 31)
- Block 2: June 24 - July 17 (volunteers start Jun 28)
- Block 3: July 22 - August 14 (volunteers start Jul 26)

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped us out during the past year. We appreciate all of your time and talent! We also value the program feedback we received from post cruise reports and from the debriefs last week. We’re in the process of summarizing that information, and will let you know results as soon as that’s done. The electronic surveys that Midshipmen filled out this summer will be presented soon as well.

NAVY 26 SAILING IN FULL SWING

For our new volunteers and coaches, completion of your B-Qual onboard the Navy 26 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.

NAVY 44 D-QUAL TRAINING BEGINS IN OCTOBER

This year Navy 44 training will consist of 2 options for you to complete this fall training. Option 1 will consist of Block A or Block B weekday evening training, and Option 2 will be Block C weekend training. You must complete your B-Qual before you can begin Navy 44 training.

**Block A:**
- Mon-Fri, 29 Sep to 03 Oct – 1545 to 1830
- Mon-Thurs, 06 Oct to 09 Oct – 1545 to 1830
- Fri-Sat Overnight, 10-11 Oct – 1600 Friday until 1600 Saturday

The B-Qual process consists of lessons, check-ride and passing a written test. You can sign up for Navy 26 training blocks at the following link: [Sign-Up for Navy 26 Training](#).
Block B:
- Mon-Fri, 06 Oct to 10 Oct – 1545 to 1830
- Mon-Thurs, 13 Oct to 16 Oct – 1545 to 1830
- Fri-Sat Overnight, 17-18 Oct – 1600 Friday until 1600 Saturday
  (Note: Training is scheduled for Columbus Day holiday)

Block C:
- Sat-Sun, 11-12 Oct – 0800 to 1630 each day
- Sat-Sun Overnight, 18-19 Oct – 0800 Saturday through 1600 Sunday

You can sign up for Navy 44 training at the following link: Sign-Up for Navy 44 Training. You can also contact LT Dan Hawthorne at hawthorn@usna.edu if you have any questions about the sign up process.

“UNIFORM” for Sail Training
For our new volunteers please wear a navy blue shirt and khaki shorts or pants with boat shoes or non-marking tennis shoes for your sail training classes. No cargo shorts. You will have an opportunity to buy the Navy Sailing polo shirt and burgee belt in the Spring.

Foul weather gear will be issued to you from the Robert Crown Sailing Center prior to a specific sail training event as weather conditions dictate.

We will also be placing a Navy Sailing jacket order later this year. More details on how to order and cost later this Fall.

Volunteer Service Agreements (VSA)
All civilians and retired military need to sign a Volunteer Service Agreement or VSA prior to sail training on the Navy 26 or Navy 44. Please contact LT Dan Hawthorne at hawthorn@usna.edu if you still need a copy of the form. The VSA can also be downloaded at the following link: Download VSA.

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
- 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 on 28 March 2015 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.

Upcoming Yard Parking Advisories
Please be advised that the inbound traffic lane to Gate 1 (Main/Visitor’s Entrance) will be closed from 17 September to 10 October due to construction in the roadway to repair a hot water pipe. During construction, the Gate 1 outbound lane will remain in operation during normal Gate 1 hours. Gate 3 (by the Chapel) hours will be modified to match the normal Gate 1 schedule and will operate for incoming vehicle traffic only, no outbound traffic. Gate 8 (450 & Bowyer Road) will continue to operate two-way traffic, 24 hours per day. Recommendation is to use Gate 8 between 17 September and 10 October.

Download a Map of the Yard.

Saturday morning, 20 September, there is a Brigade Physical Readiness Test, and no driving or parking by the Sailing Center after 0700 until noon. It is also a home football game weekend for anyone planning on N26 training. Anyone who arrives before 0700 may park at the Sailing Center as usual. If you come in Gate 3 or Gate 8 after 0700, park by the Cutter Shed and walk over to your training location.
SUMMER CRUISE BLOCK WRAP-UP

Thank you to all the skippers and XOs that participated in the end of summer wrap up sessions to review lessons learned. The following working groups have been established:

- **Navigation** – Rick Robey, Jim Maitland and Pete Chabot;
- **Galley Guide** – Deb Langheld, CDR Rosie Barnes and Philippe Duverger;
- **BIB** – Renee Mehl and Jon Wright;
- **Radar Training** – LT Dan Hawthorne and Rick Robey; and,
- **Review PQS and Phase I, II, III training requirements and align where appropriate** – Jon Wright.

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

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.

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.