

# **Boat Operator Certification (BOC)**

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# Introduction

- 12 million registered boats in the US excludes manually powered vessels
- In excess of 30 million boaters (charterers and sailing with friends)
- United States Power Squadrons (USPS)
- National Boating Federation (NBF)
- Many other boating organizations



- 102 years old (formed in 1914)
- Approximately 30,000 members
- About 350 regional squadrons
- “Not for profit” – volunteer organization
- Education and training recreational boaters
- Canadian Sail & Power Squadrons 25,000 members



- Federation of National, Regional & State – non-government boating organizations (yacht & boat clubs)
- Focus - educate boaters regarding regulations and legislation - proposals and changes
- Represents over 2 million boaters
- Work with federal and state governments
- USPS, US Sailing, and USCG Auxiliary Assoc. are members

# Other Organizations

- USCG – national regulatory and licensing body
  - primarily for commercial operators
- NASBLA – National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (USCG oversight)
- USCG Auxiliary – assists USCG, patrols, inspects, teaches recreational boater basics
- US Sailing\* – sail training, sail racing, Olympics
- American Sailing Assoc.\* – sail training schools
- Several for-profit teaching / training groups

\*Issue “International Proficiency Certificates”

# Issues...

- Boaters are not confined to local waters
- Americans and Canadians like to cruise:
  - Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
  - Inland Lakes and Rivers
  - Great Lakes and Caribbean Sea
  - European waterways
- USPS Boat Operator Certification exceeds Res. No. 40 requirements (ex. CEVNI)
- US has not adopted UN Resolution No. 40

# USPS - BOC Program

- 4 Levels:            **Inland**                            **Coastal**  
**Advanced Coastal**  
**Offshore**
- Require specific courses, seminars, on-water skill demonstrations
  - Courses** – ~18 to 50 hours + homework
  - Seminars** – 1.5 to 2.5 hours
  - Skill Demos** – 3-4 hours to multiple days

# Inland Navigator (IN)

- **Courses** – basic course (8hrs), seamanship, engine maintenance, marine electrical systems
- **Seminars** – using charts, using GPS, VHF/DSC marine radio, onboard weather forecasting
- **Skill Demos** –boat handling, maneuvering, docking, use of fire extinguishers



# Coastal Navigator (CN)

(IN plus...)

**Courses** – piloting, weather, marine communications, cruise planning

**Seminars** – rules of the road, anchoring, mariners compass, tides & currents, marine radar (optional)

**Skill Demos** – on water navigation, use of pyrotechnic distress signals

# Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN)

(IN & CN plus...)

- **Courses** – advanced piloting, cruise planning, marine navigation systems
- **Seminars** – emergencies on board, marine radar
- **Skill Demo** – advanced navigation (using electronics), first aid/CPR (by Red Cross or Heart Assoc.)

# Offshore Navigation\* (ON)

(IN, CN, ANC... plus)

- **Courses** – offshore navigation, including celestial & electronic
- **Seminars** – voyage planning, heavy weather sailing, offshore weather forecasting
- **Skill Demos** – multi-day passage

\* Course still being developed – est. completion 2017

# USPS Educational Program

- **America's Boating Course<sub>R</sub>** – 8 hrs. for public

## Member Courses

- **Seamanship** – basic seamanship and care, anchoring
- **Piloting** – chart reading, course plotting, inland navigation, GPS basics
- **Advanced Piloting** – more coastal navigation, tides & currents, more GPS, use of depth sounders, chart plotters, autopilots
- **Junior Navigation** – basic celestial using the sun, nautical almanac, offshore planning
- **Navigation** – advanced celestial (moon, planets, stars), electronic navigation and planning
- **Approximately 22 seminars** – incl. Boating on Rivers, Locks & Lakes, Crossing Borders, Trailering, etc.

# Boating Skills Virtual Trainer



# System & Exercises

- **System**
  - 3 20 inch monitors, steering wheel, trim tab controls, throttle
  - Adjustable to 225 degree visibility
- **Exercises**
  - Docking and Spring lines
  - Crossing and Overtaking
  - Mooring
  - Night maneuvers
  - many more

# Contacts

- United States Power Squadrons – [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)
- US Sailing – [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org)
- National Boating Federation – [www.n-b-f.org](http://www.n-b-f.org)
- American Sailing Assoc. – [www.asa.org](http://www.asa.org)
- United States Coast Guard – [www.uscg.org](http://www.uscg.org)
- National Association of State Boating Law Administrators – [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)
- “Me” – [rpdavidcapecod@comcast.net](mailto:rpdavidcapecod@comcast.net)