



# The Ocean Breeze

An official publication of America's Boating Club® of Hilton Head  
"For Boaters, By Boaters™"



Volume 34

Number 7

July 2019 SPECIAL ISSUE

## Editorial Staff

Debbie Dion  
Editor

Cdr. Mark Larson, AP  
Consulting Editor

The Ocean Breeze is published monthly by the America's Boating Club® of Hilton Head, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons. Articles in this publication represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the United States Power Squadrons or the America's Boating Club of Hilton Head.

## The Bridge

Commander, Mark Larson, AP  
abchhcdm1@gmail.com  
843-706-2420

Executive Officer, Walter Kirk, AP  
walterckirk@aol.com  
843-342-3931

Education Officer, Peter Dion, SN  
peterjdion@gmail.com  
631-456-9134

Treasurer, Craig Christiansen, P  
christiansenhhi@yahoo.com  
843-342-3767

Secretary, Debbie Dion  
debradion1028@gmail.com  
734-558-4971

Technology Officer, Paul Hoyte, AP  
hhsps9900@gmail.com  
248-752-6970

WEBSITE  
americasboatingclubofhiltonhead.org  
-or- abchh.org

## THIS ISSUE INCLUDES A SPECIAL EXPLANATION OF EDUCATION COURSES, SEMINARS & JUMP START PROGRAMS

- America's Boating Course (ABC)
- Boat Handling
- Advanced Navigation Courses
- Elective Courses
- Seminars
- Boater Operation Certification (BOC)
- Jump Start Program

## EVENTS CALENDER

### AUGUST

- 3 Magellan 5: Daufuskie Island
- 5 Ossebau Island, Georgia - Adventure Cruise - an all-day event
- 10 Hurricane Preparation Seminar, 9-11 AM, HHI Senior Ctr
- 15 Savannah Downtown Dock (Boating Activity)
- 19 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
- 26 May River Red Neck Riviera Sandbar - Beach Picnic

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Magellan 6: Hilton Head Island
- 6 Flying Fish/Bull River Marina (Boating Activity)
- 10 Dinner Meeting at Skull Creek Dockside, 6:30 PM
- 16 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
- 21 Anchoring Seminar, 9-11 AM, HHI Senior Center
- 28 New River Nature Cruise (Boating Activity)

### OCTOBER

- 3,7,10,14,17,21,24,28: Electronic Navigation (ME 103)
- 5 Magellan Fall Make Up Cruise
- 8 Dinner Meeting at Poseidon in Shelter Cove (6:30 PM)
- 15 Oyster Roast at Colleton River
- 19 America's Boating Course
- 21 Executive Committee Mtg (6:30 PM, HHI Senior Center)
- 26 America's Boating Course

"America's Boating Club® is a trademark of the United States Power Squadrons®"





# EDUCATION NEWS

Peter J. Dion, Educational Officer

Tom Ryley, Asst. Educational Officer



## ABCHH Course, Seminar, and Jump Start Offerings

Boating education stands at the center of the core purpose of the **United States Power Squadron** and **America's Boating Club of Hilton Head**. Offering a regular program of seminars, courses, and accreditations, is the best way we can accomplish our goal for safe, responsible, and confident boating in the Low Country.

While a number of our seminars and courses are available without the need for any prerequisite courses, there is a core "pathway" of courses and seminars, that is designed to build the knowledge and expertise of ABCHH members, and which lead to recognition of achievement through the **United States Power Squadron** designations.

### 1. The **ABC** Course

Anyone interested in boating education should take the "first course" entitled **America's Boating Course (ABC)**. This course involves two half-days of in-the-classroom instruction, with an On-the-Water (OTW) component on the final day. It is designed to provide a basic knowledge of boat operating practices, including safety, navigation, and communications, as well as state and federal rules and regulations. Successful completion meets the boating education requirements for operator permits in South Carolina. ABCHH will offer this course twice a year, in the spring and fall. It is not necessary to be a member of ABCHH to enroll.

### 2. **Boat Handling**

Following ABC, the next recommended course for boaters is **Boat Handling**, a series of six seminars that focuses on the specific skills and capabilities that are essential to become confident, comfortable, and a safe boater in our local waters. The six

specific seminars are **Mastering the Rules of the Road, Docking, Boating with Confidence, Anchoring, Emergencies On Board, and Knots and Lines.**

Registrants in **Boat Handling** will take an exam upon completion of the six seminars. Those individuals passing will be awarded the **S (Seamanship)** designation by the USPS. Completion of **Boat Handling** is also a prerequisite to the **Boat Operator Certificate (BOC)**. Read more on this below.

The separate seminars offered under **Boat Handling** will also be open to registration on an individual basis as well, but registrants will only receive accreditation for the **Boat Handling** certification (**S**) if they are enrolled in the **Boat Handling** seminars, and successfully complete the exam.

ABCHH will offer all the seminars in the **Boat Handling** series at least once a year. It is not necessary to take the seminars in any particular order; and it is not required that registrants attend all seminars prior to taking the exam, if they believe they have proven knowledge and competence in some of the seminar topics.

Beyond the ABC and Boat Handling seminars, those seeking additional knowledge and accreditation have two primary streams they can follow, one focused on **Boat Operator Certifications (BOC)**, and one focused on *advanced* knowledge of specific topics, that are offered through our Advanced Courses, Elective Courses, and Seminars, all taught by our certified instructors.

### 3. Advanced Navigation Courses

Those individuals with a desire to develop an in-depth knowledge of piloting and navigation, there are four courses available, with each being required to be taken in sequence. They are **Marine Navigation** (formerly Piloting), **Advanced Marine Navigation** (formerly Advanced Piloting), **Offshore Navigation** (formally Junior Navigation), and **Celestial Navigation** (formally Navigation). As these courses are extensive and complex, (but very interesting) the demand for these courses tends to be limited. We will endeavor to offer **Marine Navigation** on an annual basis, but we will offer the other advanced courses only when there is a clear demand from our members. As an alternate, we will facilitate interested members in taking these courses through larger squadrons, that may offer them on an online basis.

## 4. Elective Courses

Elective courses focus on specialized topics that will be of specific interest to some members. These courses include topics on electrical systems, communications systems, vessel maintenance, radar, electronic navigation, weather, and cruise planning. They are geared towards developing in-depth knowledge and practical skills for each subject. They generally require six to ten 2-hour classroom sessions. It will be our intention to offer all of these electives, but not necessarily to offer each one every year, dependent on the number of interested members interested. Again, with the expansion of the USPS online offering, we will be able to facilitate members accessing these courses through other squadrons as well.

**Elective Courses:** Engine Maintenance, Marine Electrical Systems, Marine Communication Systems, Electronic Navigation, Weather, Sail, Radar for Boaters, Cruising and Cruise Planning, and Instructor Development

## 5. Seminars

Currently, the USPS provides us with approximately 35 seminar offerings covering a wide range of boating topics. These fall into two categories: the first being general two-hour overviews of topics that would be of interest to most boaters, such as using GPS, VHF, radar, dealing with emergencies, how to use charts, weather, and tides and currents. The second category deals with more narrowly specific topics such as: trailering, propane systems, hurricane preparation, and marine fuels.

Our seminar offerings are central to our general education objective. Seminars allow members to acquire core skills and knowledge they need to safely and capably boat in our local waters. Courses, on the other hand, require a larger commitment to an in-depth course that extends over a number of class sessions that delves into a greater depth on theory, technology, and knowledge necessary to pass an exam.

It is our intention to offer the following seminars at least on an annual basis: These include all the six seminars from **Boat Handling**, as well as **Partner in Command**, **Using GPS**, **Using VHF Marine Radio**, **Marine Radar**, **How to Use a Chart**, **Basic**

**Weather Forecasting, and Hurricane Preparation.** Depending on demand, we may offer some of these seminars twice in a year.

**We also have a new pricing structure for seminars: Individual \$45, Couples \$55. Non-members: Individual \$55, couples \$65. Pricing may vary if additional materials are provided.**

## **6. Boat Operator Certification (BOC)**

While courses and seminars are invaluable to establish a core knowledge and understanding of specific boating subjects, **the practical application of these skills in a marine environment is the ultimate demonstration of capability.** For this reason, the USPS offers four levels of **Boat Operator Certificate**, for members who complete a curriculum of courses and seminars on specific subjects and are then able to demonstrate their capabilities through an On-the-Water (OTW) examination.

The four levels of **BOC** begin with **Inland Navigator**, and then progress through **Coastal Navigator, Advanced Coastal Navigator, and Offshore Navigator**. For practical reasons, the focus of the ABCHH is on the **Inland Navigator** designation (IN), for which there are required courses (**Boat Handling, Engine Maintenance, Electrical Systems**), required seminars (**How to Use a Chart, Basic Weather Forecasting, Using GPS, and Using VHF Marine Radio**), and two skill demonstrations, one for powerboat handling, and one for fire extinguisher handling.

It will be our intention to offer all of these courses and seminars in 2019/2020, as well as to insure we qualify the necessary examiners who can evaluate and certify the boat handling skills demonstration requirement.

## **7. Jump Start**

The **Jump Start** program is a hands-on training program teaching one-on-one training sessions with a student **on their own boat**. The content of the training is customized to the needs of the individual student. Typical sessions last two hours depending on the skills to be taught. The goal is to help the new boat owner develop essential skills for safe operation of their boat, and to break through any barriers that may limit



their boating enjoyment. There is no charge for this program. For further information, contact Peter Dion, ABCHH Education Officer at [peterjdion@gmail.com](mailto:peterjdion@gmail.com).

The above information was provided by Tom Ryley, Assistant Education Officer of ABCHH. He may be contacted at: [tomryley@mac.com](mailto:tomryley@mac.com)

## ABCHH JUMP START PROGRAM IS UP AND RUNNING



Pictured on left is ABCHH instructor Walter Kirk with new member Joe Kyle. Joe is at the helm of his new power boat and is just one of the participants we have in the Jump Start program currently being offered to members and non-members.

Joe and his wife Beverly will be featured with other new Club members in the regular issue of the *Ocean Breeze* due out later this month.

Instructor Walter Kirk is explaining the navigational chart shown on Joe's Garmin chart plotter aboard his new power boat.

Education Officer Peter Dion was also on board and provided these pictures for us.

Editor's Note: Pete needs to win the lottery as I see a new boat in our future or at least new electronics. Thanks Joe!

