Boat Operator Certification (BOC)
United States Power Squadrons
Presentation to UNECE Workshop
Geneva, Switzerland, 3 November 2016

Robert P. David
Past Vice Commander – Education Officer, United States Power Squadrons
Past President, Dir. International Relations, National Boating Federation
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 oversite)
• 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\textsuperscript{R} – 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
• National Boating Federation – www.n-b-f.org
• American Sailing Assoc. – www.asa.org
• United States Coast Guard – www.uscg.org
• National Association of State Boating Law Administrators – www.nasbla.org
• “Me” – rpdavidcapecod@comcast.net