



**Summer Quarter - 2015**

## *So You Let Your License Lapse ...*



Once upon a time you had a Captain's License. You used it for a year or two and then accepted a job which took you off the water. A few years passed and before you knew it, your license expired. You remembered you had a year of grace to renew it and told yourself you'd get around to it before the year was up. But time slipped away and so did your license. Now it is a few years later, you're getting ready to retire, and you want to get back on the water... as a Captain.

Does this story sound familiar? Another version of the story is that you attended Sea school, received your certificate, and had one year to submit your paperwork to the Coast Guard. But life got in the way and you never got around to it. As a Licensing Specialist, I hear one of these stories almost weekly. I then have the task of telling someone "You have to start all over". Luckily there is some good news I can give them; it cost a little less the second time around. If you find yourself in this situation, the following are your Sea School options.

### **Attending Class**

You may register and attend an OUPV class at any Sea School location as a Renewal Beyond Grace (RBG) student and receive for a 40% discount off the regular price. For most locations that means \$340 instead of \$580. The same holds true for the Upgrade to Master or Mate - \$144 instead of \$240. However, you CANNOT register for class through our website and receive this special pricing. To get your 40% discount, you MUST contact a Licensing Specialist and let them know you want to register for class as a RENEWAL BEYOND GRACE student.

### **On-Line Classes**

Having been through Sea School before, or have some experience with a lapsed license, you are a perfect candidate to take on-line classes in order to re-establish your license. While there is no RBG discount for on-line classes, the on-line classes they are substantially less expense. For example, our on-line OUPV class is only \$390.

### **Never Passed the Class**

One last story I hear about is from the person who attended a Sea School and never took, or did not pass, their final exam. According to Sea School's student contract, students who have not actually received their class certification, may attend classes at no charge until they pass their exam and receive their certification. However, they will be required to pay a testing fee.

As always, at Sea School "We will hold your hand until it holds a license"...even if it's the second time.

-Jack Feeney  
Licensing Specialist



## COAST GUARD RELEASES 2014 RECREATIONAL BOATING STATISTICS

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Coast Guard recently released its 2014 Recreational Boating Statistics revealing boating fatalities that year. Fatalities totaled 610, the second-lowest number of yearly boating fatalities on record. From 2013 to 2014, deaths increased from 560 to 610, an 8.9 percent increase. Injuries (non-fatal) increased from 2,620 to 2,678, a 2.2 percent increase and the total number of accidents increased from 4,062 to 4,064, a 0.05 percent increase. Even with these increases as compared to the record low year of 2013, 2012 to 2014 collectively set record lows for accidents, deaths and injuries.

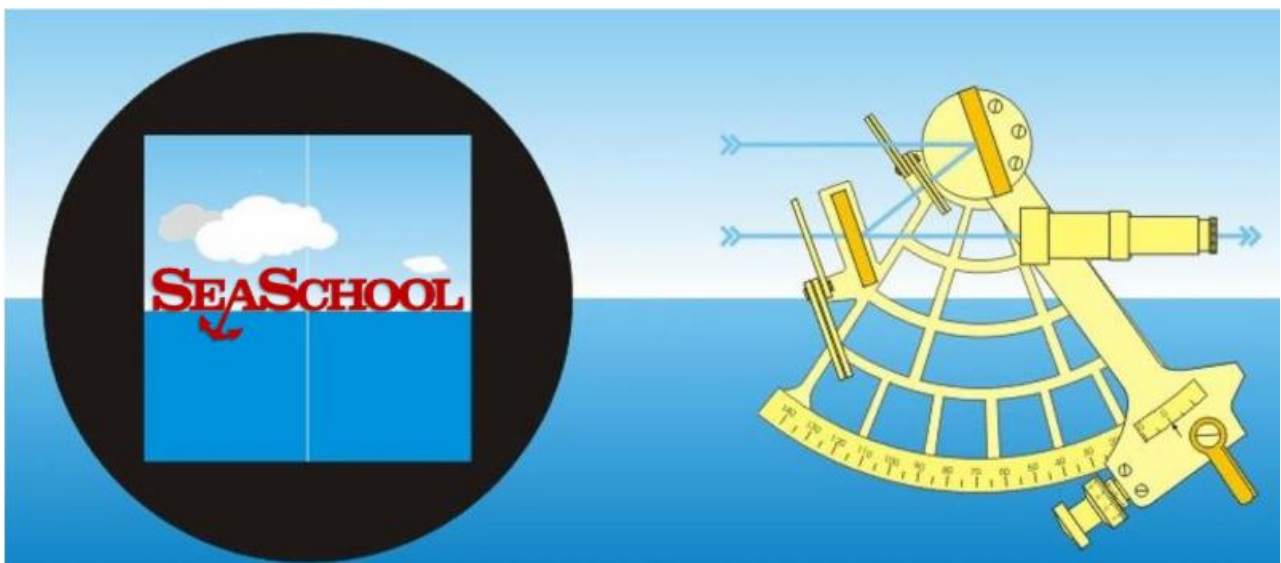
Full Story - <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2504554/>

## COAST GUARD TO RELEASE BOATING APP

WASHINGTON - The Coast Guard is scheduled to release its first boating safety App. The app was not designed to replace a boater's marine VHF radio, which the Coast Guard strongly recommends all boaters have aboard their vessels. The app was mainly designed to provide additional boating safety resources for mobile device users. The app will be available on the Apple and Google Play online stores.

Full Story - <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2504662/>

## ON THE HORIZON...



The following Sea School classes are currently under development

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ANTICIPATED DATE</b>
ECDIS	Alabama	Fall 2015

ECDIS

Florida

2016

Officer In Charge of Navigation  
Watch Assessment Program

Alabama

Fall 2015

Leadership and Management

Alabama, Florida, South Carolina Fall 2015

More to Come

# New SeaSchool Website



Our new SeaSchool.com website continues to receive rave reviews...

*"It was so easy. I signed up for class right on-line"* - Cynthia Parks, Coral Gables, FL

The new website lists courses, prices, and locations for all classes. Included in the course descriptions are US Coast Guard requirements along with helpful links. In addition, we have just added the "Captain's Corner" page where you can follow Team SeaSchool as they compete in fishing tournaments throughout the Southeast United States

With a few clicks, you can find the locations and dates for any class we offer. In addition, you can now register for class on-line 24 hours a day!

Visit:  
[SeaSchool.com](http://SeaSchool.com)



## STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING CODE

Helpful links for you to obtain the other USCG Requirements to receive your Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code

STC  
STCW courses consist of:



[Basic Training \(BT\)](#)

[Rating Forming Part of a](#)

WHAT IS STCW?

An International Convention that has been signed and



Forward to a Friend

# Security Training Mandatory Are you Certified?

Mariners serving on seagoing ships are required to comply with the International ship and Port Facility Code (ISPS) and also receive security training. The level of security training required is dependent on shipboard duties and is determined by your employer.

Sea School has two new STCW approved classes in Security Awareness. **Maritime Security Awareness** is designed for shipboard personal without specific security duties. **Vessel Security Awareness with Security Duty** is a more extensive class designed for personnel with specific security responsibilities aboard the ship and whose primary duty is not a Vessel Security Officer.

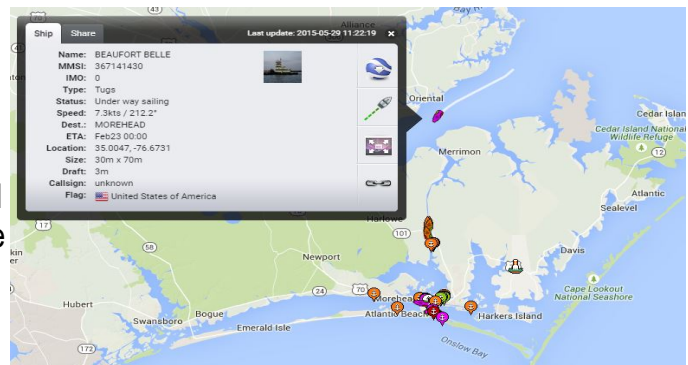
Both new Sea School classes fulfill Coast Guard requirements. For more information or to register for class, click this link:

[SECURITY](#)



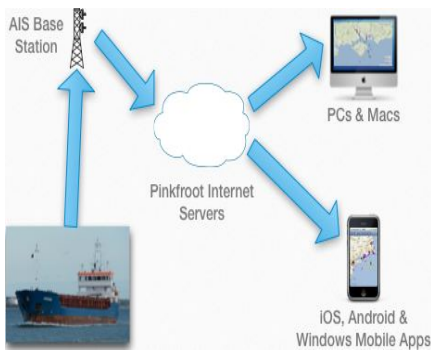
## AIS (Automatic Identification System)

**AIS** is an International Maritime Organization (IMO) standard requiring all vessels of 300tons and over, and all passenger vessels, to carry an AIS transponder. An AIS transponder broadcasts information such as vessel name, position, speed and course plus information such as details of the current voyage. The AIS transmitter includes GPS capability for very accurate positioning.



Increasingly, many pleasure craft and smaller vessels can also be seen via the AIS systems as the owners are installing low cost transponders. In addition, there has recently been an explosion of web based programs and smart phone apps which can also place a vessel on the AIS map to be seen by





others.

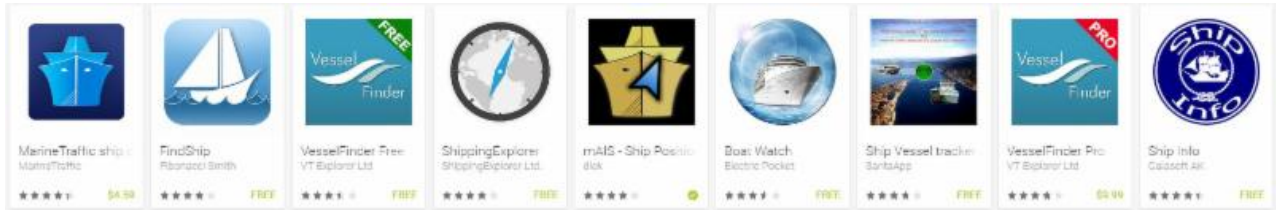
And don't wait until you're on board to play with this cool navigation technology! Just click one these links and see how the AIS system works

Web Based AIS:

<http://www.vesselfinder.com/>

<http://shipfinder.co/>

Smart Phone Apps



Of course, cell phone and web based AIS products have their limits. For true world-wide coverage, you will need a real AIS transponder which broadcasts you vessel's information over VHF frequencies. Here are a few links to a AIS systems found with a simple Google search:

<http://www.westmarine.com/ais-transponders>

<http://www.vespermarine.com/catalog/category/view/s/transponders/id/9/>

<http://www.defender.com/category.jsp?path=-1%7C135%7C2028691&id=2028911>

## USCG Tests Drones

The Coast Guard is interested in flying drones that can remain on station for extended periods, expand maritime domain awareness, and disseminate intelligence on maritime hazards and threats. In cooperation with other military services, the Coast Guard has recently been testing the "Wasp III".



Read more and SEE THE VIDEO at: <http://www.uscg.mil/ACQUISITION/uas/>

## Can I Sail to Cuba Yet?

There seems to be an answer for everyone depending on what you read. Below are a few quotes and links to further reading on the subject. Our opinion: don't chart a course for Cuba just yet. You are bound to run afoul of laws still on the books which could result in fines, lost of your vessel and/or jail time. If you are interested in going to Cuba, become associated with a organization that is licensed and approved to travel to the Island nation.

"...the short answer to the main question is, NO."

- [Trawler Beach House Blog](#)

"...it's not that simple."

- [Spin Sheet](#)

"...spend some time in the Bahamas."

- [Cruisers Forum](#)

"...tens of thousands of Americans now visit the island legally each year..."

- [Huffington Post](#)



## Team SeaSchool

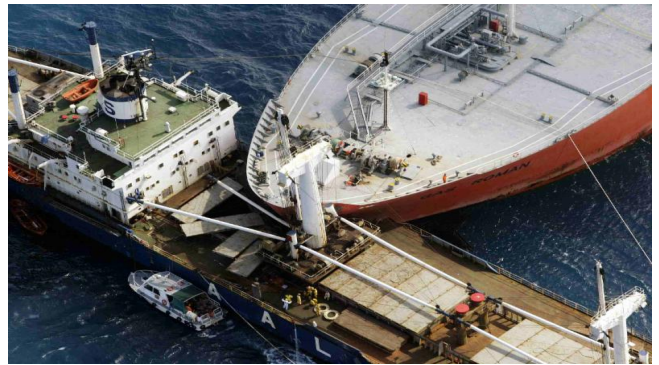


*SeaSchool's Jean Wahl with Team SeaSchool*

Follow the fishing adventures of Team SeaSchool as they compete in fishing tournaments throughout the Southeast. Visit "Captain's Corner" on Seaschool.com

### Instructor Spotlight Capt. John Carlson Tankerman Expert

John Carlson is a former member of the U.S. Coast Guard, with



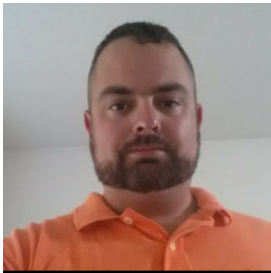
## Keeping with Rule No. 5

While underway in busy shipping areas during the hours of darkness, a separate dedicated lookout is needed on the bridge in addition to the watch-keeper. Read the MARS report on a collision in a busy traffic separation scheme where this was not the case. Click [HERE](#) to read the report

## What To Do About Legalized Pot?



**N**ow that Marijuana is legal in many states, what should the Coast Guard do



extensive knowledge of regulations applicable to Tankerman PIC Barge DL (Dangerous Liquids). In addition, John has years of experience in the maritime industry as a Tankerman PIC on barges.

The Tankerman PIC Barge (DL) course is an in-depth four day class covering multiple CFR's (Code of Federal Regulations), chemical guide books, and Coast Guard manuals/training books. Whenever possible, I incorporate real world scenarios and lessons learned in the industry while conducting my classes to illustrate the importance and application of rules and regulations.

I have seen many of my students coming back to SeaSchool for higher licenses and career advancement. As an instructor, I feel very proud to see former students doing everything in their power to improve themselves. There's not one person who I've taught in my Tankerman PIC Barge DL course who I wouldn't feel honored to serve with on a vessel.

## How Many "Tuns" Can Your Boat Carry?



The present concept of tonnage measurement dates back at least to the early middle ages. Tonnage duties were assessed on tuns (casks or barrels) of wine. Each tun held approximately 252 gallons of wine, weighing 2240 pounds, from which we get the "long ton" measure of weight. By the late 1700's, systems were in place in Europe to assign tonnages to reflect vessel carrying capacity in "tons" of roughly 100 cubic feet each (a measure of volume related to the size of a standardized cask or barrel). Using tonnage for tax purposes is addressed in the United States Constitution, and was the subject of the 3rd and

with regard to licensing and drug testing? Should THC continue to be a "no-no" for licensed mariners, or should there be blood level limits and other rules as with alcohol?

One person willing to jump into the conversation is Captain Max Hardberger featured in a recent article in Work Boat magazine. His article and his readers' responses make for thoughtful reading on the subject.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story

**Capt. Max Hardberger**

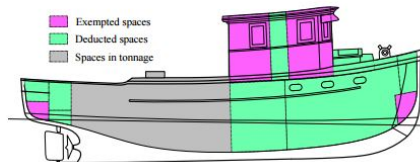
**Author and Marine Adventurer**



<http://www.maxhardberger.com/>  
for more information

## Does Your Boat Need to be a Documented Vessel?

It depends on both the nature of the activities in which your vessel engages and its net tonnage. Vessels which engage in either coastwise trade, or the fisheries on navigable waters of the United States or in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), must be documented, subject to certain exclusion or exemption provisions. Vessels of less than five net tons are excluded from documentation. Those measuring five tons or more maybe exempt in certain situations.





5th Acts of the First Congress.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Luckily, the USCG Marine Safety Center has a new brochure available on-line that explains all the details.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



## Meister to host Legal Seminars

Plans are currently underway for well-known maritime and admiralty attorney out of Miami, Tonya Meister-Griffith, to host a series of seminars at Sea School locations.

The seminars will discuss both sides of the boating industry: passengers rights and owner protection.

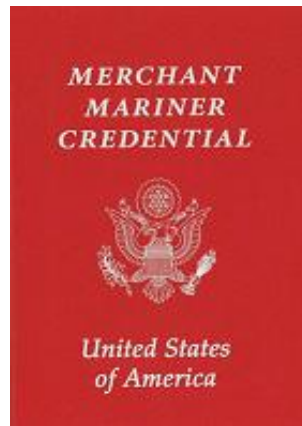
These seminars will be free and open to the public compliments of Sea School and Meister Maritime Law.



**Ever Considered**



## Medical Waiver Under Review for Merchant Mariners



The Coast Guard is currently reviewing whether a medical waiver is warranted for merchant mariners with cardiomyopathy, diabetes mellitus, or obstructive sleep apnea. Additionally, a proposed policy clarification specifies that narcolepsy, idiopathic hypersomnia, and other hypersomnias of central origin, are medically disqualifying and generally not waivable due to significant risk of sudden and unpredictable incapacitation of individuals who have these conditions. Stay tuned for a ruling.



**Q:**

Can my own doctor perform my Physical examination?

**A:**

Yes. Your own physician (or nurse practitioner) can perform a physical for your license provide they fill out a CG-719K Merchant Marine Credential Medical Evaluation Report available on-line or at your nearest Sea School location. Also, most Sea School locations schedule a physician on a regular basis to perform physicals at the school.



*Be A Star*



## Military Sealift Command?



"We recruit transitioning military, merchant marines, maritime academy graduates and skilled entry-level candidates to fill our maritime employment opportunities."

[-www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com)

Visit the MSC website to see current opportunities and upcoming job fairs.



## Happy Days Are Here Again



Photo: Polestar Boating Center, Saint Charles, MO

## Rumor has it...

...that you can add STCW to a six pack license and sail to the Bahamas or the British Virgins. This is only HALF true. You can add STCW to a red booklet (MMC) even if it shows that you only have an OUPV license, BUT it does not change the license to anything more. It remains a domestic (now called National) document and does NOT allow operation in a foreign port.

Mariners needing to travel to foreign ports will need both an inspected Masters license and STCW Basic Training.

-Bob Arnold

The current low fuel prices are the best thing that could happen to pleasure boating, marinas, and boat sales. Sea School has also seen an increase in attendance of its captains license classes. As the economic climate improves it's a good time to plan ahead by getting your boat ship shape and getting your license to take advantage of opportunities.



The Casting Producer for the popular Bravo TV Series "Below Deck", has contacted Sea School with a casting call for a new Mediterranean based show needing a whole new cast of experienced Yachties.

Producer Ned Johnson told SeaSchool "I was hoping that you could pass along this exciting news on to any crew members you've worked with or trained that might be interested....We are currently on the search for all positions to be apart of this exciting new Mediterranean chapter of the show."

Mr. Johnson can be reached at 818-392-4527 or by email at [CastingNed@gmail.com](mailto:CastingNed@gmail.com)



## Sea School Panama City Gets New Office

Sea School in Panama City is getting settled in a new centrally located office in downtown with lots of hotels and restaurants nearby. "We are a one stop shop" says License Specialist Cecilia Molnar, "We have a doctor available for the physical,

we do drug testing, offer Coast Guard approved CPR classes and first aid courses in addition to the regular Sea School courses. We even help with all the forms."

The majority of students at the Panama City Sea School dream of starting their own business charting full-time or part-time. The Sea School staff in Panama City takes this to heart and sees themselves as "Dream Makers" helping captains to reach their goal.

Instructor Dana Grubbs and Cecilia Molnar make a great team. Dana teaches class making sure each student learns what is needed to pass their test. Captain Dana Grubbs has been teaching for Sea School for six years and before that, owned a dive shop in the Atlanta area for many years. Cecilia has been with Sea school since 1996 and is very familiar with the Coast Guard forms and regulations. She helps students navigate filling out applications correctly, and also runs the office.



## **ECDIS Course News**

ECDIS stands for Electronic Chart Display and Information System and is a computer-based navigation system that complies with all IMO regulations and can be used as the primary alternative to paper navigation charts.

As of December 31st, 2016, all Mates/Masters on ECDIS equipped vessels will be required to have ECDIS training. Sea School is gearing up to protect our alumni well in advance of the deadline with plans to offer ECDIS training beginning in the fall of 2015. The course will satisfy all USCG requirements for approved ECDIS training at operational and management levels for all vessels having ECDIS.

Stay tuned for future updates or contact Sea School at 1-800 237-8663 for more information.

## **QMED Course News**

QMED stands for QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT and is the "Below Deck" equivalent of Able Seaman. A QMED is a senior unlicensed crew member in the engine room of a ship who performs a variety of tasks connected with the maintenance and repair of equipment.

Sea School's new QMED-Oiler course is now approved by the USCG and a certificate of completion, and the appropriate USCG requirements, will result in a QMED-Oiler rating as part of a sailor's Merchant Mariner's Document without testing at a USCG Regional Exam Center.

For more information visit:

[QMED](#)

## **Do you make money taking civilians on tours or charters?**

If you do, did you know you must have a Company Drug Policy and Assistance Program in place?

If you take passengers out, or plan to, but don't have the Drug Policy and Assistance Program in place, you're in danger of hefty fines from the USCG!



The Coast Guard requires all commercial mariners to provide a Drug Policy and Assistance Program even if they are sole proprietors. Don't get stuck with a \$5000 per day violation fine.

Visit [www.apcadrugtesting.com](http://www.apcadrugtesting.com) or call (800) 468-7447 to learn how APCA can protect your hard earned money.

## What does a Captain need?



Get it at:

**CAPTAINSGEAR.com**  
QUALITY MERCHANDISE FOR THE MARINER



**Sea School's New Bridge Simulator**

Sea School now helps mariners complete assessments previously only available or in real world settings when conditions were right. The new simulator now puts mariners in challenging life-like situations using high-tech equipment and monitors. Upon successful completion of simulated courses, mariners are able to obtain enhancements to their USCG licenses. Click below for upcoming course information...

### **Upcoming Class Dates**



### **Forward this email**



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