

PE Speed-gram

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Sailing Fundamentals Now Available

By the time you receive this Speedgram, the Sailing Fundamentals (SF) course—successor to the Sailing & Seamanship (S&S)—will be available through the normal distribution system. SF course materials include the SF text (with laminated card summarizing the buoyage system), and Instructor Guide (IG), the pamphlet Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boats, a final examination, course completion certificate, and wallet card. When you order textbooks, you will receive an identical number of laminated cards, Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boats, examinations, course completion certificates, and wallet cards. Because student study questions are included in the SF text, there is no separate student study guide. Don't forget to order relevant pamphlets on environmentally safe boating to be discussed and distributed with the course. For each textbook ordered you will also receive three certificates from Boat/U.S. as described in the previous Speedgram. These certificates are good for discounts on merchandise purchased from Boat/U.S. and a free one year subscription to Seaworthy for students who enroll in any of our multi-lesson courses, and a free one-year membership in Boat/U.S. for all students who successfully complete the course; three additional reasons to take the SF course. Indeed, the combined value of these incentives could well be greater than the cost of the SF course.

To help control costs, the IG for SF is deliberately brief. However, it contains essential information required for effective presentation of the course and should be read by every instructor who intends to teach this new course. The SF course is quite different from the S&S course and the text should also be studied thoroughly to prepare for presentation. Instructors are responsible for preparing lesson plans for the new course.

The SF course is one element of a larger cooperative effort between the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) and the American Sailing Association (ASA). Students who successfully complete the USCGAUX course have a head start (they will be credited with the "ashore knowledge" portion of the course) if they wish to enroll in a program of on-the-water instruction offered by sailing schools that are affiliated with the ASA. Properly promoted, this is a very attractive feature of the course and should attract additional students to the USCGAUX sailing course. Certified ASA instructors may be used as "guest lecturers" in USCGAUX courses—which may prove helpful to flotillas with few instructors qualified to teach sailing. In the event that ASA instructors are used, an Auxiliary instructor should also be present to provide continuity for students and to handle necessary paperwork. Team teaching with ASA instructors may be an ideal solution. The attached letter from Harvey Munns provides a brief introduction to ASA.

The SF course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and, provided state-specific material is presented in the course, should qualify as an approved course in those states with mandatory education requirements. The SF course consists of seven lessons; each designed to be presented in two hours. Flotillas may wish to include a review session and/or include one-session presentations at the end of the SF course. Flotillas presenting the SF course

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should consider scheduling the Basic Coastal Navigation (BCN) or Advanced Coastal Navigation (ACN) as an immediate follow-on for interested SF graduates. In our experience, sailors are often interested in further study—particularly in the area of navigation.

The SF course has a different outline than the Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S) course, so that it is not feasible to combine these two classes in their entirety. Moreover, sailors generally have different interests than power boaters and courses which are specifically tailored to sailors (or at least recognize this diversity) are likely to be more effective. Nonetheless, flotillas may find it advantageous to invite SF students to attend one or more portions of the BS&S class if schedules converge. For example, students may be advantageously combined for a portion of the marlinspike class or listen in on a portion of the radiotelephone lecture. This practice is authorized.

The new SF text is attractive and well illustrated. The Boat/U.S. incentives, opportunities to lower the costs of ASA certification, and the basic course design have created a very attractive and competitive product. Teach the course and find out for yourself!

August, 1998

Dear Auxiliary Instructor:

As you probably know, the USCGAUX has signed an agreement with the American Sailing Association (ASA) to use our book *Sailing Fundamentals* in Sailing and Seamanship classes. You may not be aware the two organizations intend to cooperate beyond simply using the same book.

ASA membership consists of approximately 200 professional sail training facilities throughout the U. S., Canada and the Caribbean. We certify individuals and instructors to seven levels of keelboat training. With the exception of Coastal Navigation and Celestial Navigation, all ASA courses have a Sailing Knowledge and Sailing Skills component. Classes are often taught entirely onboard a sailboat.

Students who graduate from your sailing classes will have been taught and tested to the Sailing Knowledge portion of an ASA Basic Keelboat Sailing certification. We hope many of them will choose to get the Sailing Skills instruction through an ASA school. Toward that end, the Auxiliary and the ASA have agreed to encourage graduating Sailing and Seamanship students to visit an ASA school. Many school owners have shown interest in discounting their basic sailing course for Auxiliary graduates.

We will work toward forming a mutually beneficial relationship between the two Organizations. One idea which has received a favorable response is for ASA instructors to work directly with Auxiliary Flotillas. ASA Instructors might attend an Auxiliary class as a guest lecturer or to put on a presentation about their schools. The details would be up to you.

So don't be surprised if someone from the ASA contacts you regarding your Sailing and Seamanship classes. Meanwhile, if you would like more information about the ASA or the names of schools near you, feel free to call me at the number below. We look forward to a long and beneficial relationship with the Auxiliary.

Sincerely,

Harry Munns
Executive Vice President

HM/prf

America's Sail Education Authority

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