

PE Speed-gram

Number 7-98 15 Aug 1998

L. Daniel Maxim, DC-E

Extension of Approval for Sailing & Seamanship

At the request of several flotillas that have a few copies of the old Sailing & Seamanship (S&S) course remaining, we have requested that the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) authorize a time extension of their approval/endorsement. NASBLA has generously granted this request, which means that flotillas can use up any remaining copies of this course during the remainder of 1998. Auxiliarists are reminded, however, that we have a responsibility to comply with NASBLA standards. These standards are now different than those in force when the S&S course was originally approved. The chief difference is that there are now more requirements relative to providing information about personal watercraft (PWC).

Accordingly, flotillas that elect to use up copies of the S&S course must ensure that there is adequate coverage about PWC in their course (see recent Speedgrams on PWC). Sample topics that should be covered include, (i) PWCs are boats subject to rules and regulations applicable to all powerboats, (ii) unique operating and regulatory characteristics of PWC (e.g., appropriate PFDs, off-throttle steering, stability, methods of mounting/dis-mounting, means of righting a capsized PWC, fuel management, kill switch and lanyard, prohibition of night operations, applicable state regulations regarding wake jumping and speed limits, etc.)

There will be no further extensions from NASBLA, so any remaining copies of S&S need to be used up during the fall season.

The new Sailing Fundamentals course has been released (see Speedgram 5-98) and all flotillas are urged to begin teaching this course