

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

America's Volunteer Lifesavers SM

SpeedGram

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NEW (12th Edition) BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP

We are pleased to announce the introduction of the new, 12th edition, textbook of this popular course. This SpeedGram outlines the additions and changes from the previous (11th edition, second printing) book.

BS&S continues to be a 13-Lesson (that's the first change, no longer called "chapters") NASBLA-approved course. The most notable change is in the format. The course is now in a loose-leaf, three-hole punched format. Such a format makes it easier to use in the classroom, allows instructors to add local information, and allows distribution of only the particular lessons being taught.

The 13 Lessons are divided between a "Core Course" and an "Optional Lessons" package. The Core and Optional packages are individually wrapped and titled as follows:

CORE COURSE

Lesson 1	Which Boat is for You
Lesson 2	Equipment for Your Boat
Lesson 3	Trailer your Boat
Lesson 4	Handling Your Boat
Lesson 5	Your "Highway" Signs
Lesson 6	The Rules You Must Follow
Lesson 7 *	Inland Boating *
Lesson 8	The Rest of Our Story

* "Inland Boating" is for use, when desired, for students who need this specialized material due to their geographical location. The Lesson does not contain any information necessary for NASBLA approval; thus, if the Lesson is not taught, the Core Course graduates may still be given the NASBLA approved course certificate.

OPTIONAL LESSONS

Lesson 9	Introduction to Navigation (formerly called "Piloting")
Lesson 10	Powering Your Boat
Lesson 11	Lines and Knots for Your Boat
Lesson 12	Weather and Boating
Lesson 13	Your Boat's Radio

For those Flotillas that want to teach all 13 Lessons, they may continue to do so. Flotillas that want to teach just the Core Course may do that and "save" the Optional Lessons for future use. Flotillas may also add one or more of the Optional Lessons to the Core Course.

An example of the “mixing” that can be done is for a Flotilla to teach the Core Course, plus Lesson 9, “Introduction to Navigation”, and Lesson 13, “Your Boat’s Radio” - saving the remaining Optional Lessons for later use.

An interesting course offering could be Lesson 9 and 13 from BS&S plus the short course, “Navigating with GPS”. Flotillas are encouraged to be creative in designing courses to fit their marketplace.

Pricing to the students for the entire course, as well as individual segments, is left to the discretion of each Flotilla, as it has been in the past. However, the ability to deliver only those Lessons needed for NASBLA approval, as opposed to all 13 Lessons, gives the Flotilla the opportunity for additional classes and, thus, additional income.

COURSE INFORMATION

Little has been changed in the information to be taught - except to update material and add new (mostly, new technology) material. The biggest changes will be found in:

- Lesson 2, Equipment For Your Boat, in the description of personal flotation devices,
- Lesson 9, Introduction to Navigation, and
- Lesson 12, Weather and Boating.

Instructors are encouraged to add the following two publications when the Core Course is taught:

- “Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boats”
- “Only YOU Can Take the Search Out of Search and Rescue”
(This publication will be available in May 2002.)

Both of these publications may be ordered from the ANSC and are without charge.

THREE-RING BINDERS

Flotillas may either provide binders for the students (recommended) or ask the students to furnish their own. Each course comes with a color printed binder cover page, as well as an attractive “spine” insert. These can be used when the binder furnished has a ‘see-through’ plastic cover. The cover page may be personalized for the Flotilla by typing or writing the pertinent information. (The cover page can also be personalized on-line and then downloaded from the Education Department’s web page.)

The cover page is titled “Boating Library” so that, if a large binder is furnished, the student could house several Auxiliary courses in one place. Eventually, all Public Education courses will be three-hole punched.

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE

The material, quizzes, and matching exercises contained in the 11th edition of the Student Study Guide has been repositioned to follow each appropriate Lesson within the textbook. (In other words, an individual Student Study Guide is no longer needed.) However, Flotillas can order a supplemental publication that does contain all 13 Lessons’ student quizzes. This is to facilitate the family that purchases only one textbook but wants all family members to do the quizzes themselves. There has been little change in the quizzes, except to update some information.

THE FINAL EXAM

Only a few questions and answers have been changed and, here again, only to update some information. The final exam is also loose-leaf and three-hole punched, so that only those questions appropriate to the Lessons being taught need be given to the student. (This enables the questions that are appropriate to the “saved” Lessons to be used when those Lessons are taught later on.)

The standard Auxiliary exam key is still used.

THE INSTRUCTOR’S GUIDE

A new Instructor’s Guide has been prepared. It no longer contains detailed information on how to be a good instructor and is limited to:

- a general description of the course,
- lesson plan outlines,
- answers to the quizzes and matching exercises, and
- answers to the final exam.

This guide may be ordered from the AuxCen or downloaded from the Education Department’s web page.

POWER POINT AND OVERHEAD SUPPORT

A new Power Point presentation has been prepared and will be available by mid-March. This presentation may also be used to produce Overhead transparencies. Look for an announcement soon on the “What’s New” web pages referencing the new Instructor’s Aids Library which will contain: 1) content information, 2) ordering/downloading procedures of this presentation, and 3) instructor aids for all other courses.

COURSE CRITIQUES

Instructors are asked to contact their appropriate DSO-PEs with any comments, suggested changes or additions to BS&S that they think would make this a better course. Further, instructors are urged to pass on to their DSO-PE all student comments, both positive and negative. Our new format enables us to change and add material without waiting for the next printing cycle. With the assistance of Flotilla members and the public, we have the opportunity to keep BS&S always up-to-date and in tune with the changes occurring both in the boating safety environment and in student expectations.

Good luck and happy teaching!

John VanOsdol, DC-E