

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

America's Volunteer Lifesavers SM

SpeedGram

July, 2002

Number 2002-05

NEW AUXILIARY SAILING COURSE – “LET’S GO SAILING”

***Sailing Fundamentals* has been discontinued* and is replaced by a new sailing course titled *Let’s Go Sailing*.**

Let’s Go Sailing (LGS) is an 89-page textbook designed for the beginning sailor and published by the American Sailing Association (ASA). The new textbook, while smaller in both size and content than *Sailing Fundamentals*, does an excellent job of instructing the student sailor in the basics of sailing.

Our long association with ASA continues and offers both the Auxiliarist and the student many important benefits. The entire program with ASA will be addressed in a subsequent SpeedGram.

COURSE INTEGRATION: LGS is **NOT** NASBLA approved, so it needs to be taught in conjunction with one of our NASBLA-approved courses if the student is to receive NASBLA certification. Thus, LGS may be combined with *Boating Safely*, *America’s Boating Course*, or *Boating Skills and Seamanship*. In addition, LGS may be offered as a non-NASBLA-approved, stand-alone course in those situations where the students do not need or want such approval.

LGS integrates well with all three of the above courses and particularly well with BSC and ABC. The addition of the LGS to these courses will likely lengthen total teaching time by approximately four hours. Taught alone, and with added emphasis on the “how to” part of sailing, it is estimated that classroom time would be between four and six hours.

COURSE MATERIALS: LGS textbooks are available through the normal materials distribution system. A 25-question examination, answer sheet, and completion certificate will be shipped with each order. The certificate does **NOT** indicate that the course is NASBLA approved. (The normal certificate issued for the completion of one of the three NASBLA-approved courses does state that the student has graduated under the NASBLA standards.) Don’t forget to order both the LGS course AND whichever other course you are using, unless you are offering LGS as a stand-alone course.

There is an Instructor’s Guide, which outlines a suggested method of integrating LGS with any of our three NASBLA-approved courses. This guide is downloadable from the Education Department’s website.

We hope this new “tack” for our sailing education program will address many of the concerns about the former course and prove to be a welcome change and important addition to the Auxiliary’s Public Education program.

John VanOsdol, DC-E

* Flotillas may continue using *Sailing Fundamentals* until local supplies are used up. AuxCen’s supplies are exhausted.