

## Sail Chicago's Cruising Program

Sail Chicago's cruising program is designed to meet U.S. Sailing's Basic Cruising and Bareboat Cruising certification requirements. The courses are conducted aboard our Hunter 34, Priorities and Ericson 34, Calypso. To register, go to the Learn Page of the Sail Chicago website. On-the-water courses normally open in March. The Coastal Navigation is made available in February through BTS and is presented in late February or March.

**Basic Cruising** is open to any Sail Chicago member who is comfortable skippering the Colgate 26. In the four session Basic Cruising course, students learn to operate a 34 ft. sail boat with an inboard engine. In addition to applying the skills and knowledge learned on the Colgate 26 to a larger boat, students are introduced to the operation of enhanced safety features; engine operation and maintenance; electrical systems; local charts and hazards; motoring; effective use of prop walk and prop wash to control the boat while under power in close quarters; leaving and returning to the slip under various wind conditions; and, effective placement of dock lines, spring lines and fenders. To become a cruising boat skipper, a student must be a current Basic Keelboat skipper.

**Basic Coastal Navigation** is open to any Sail Chicago member, but is required for anyone registering for the Bareboat Cruising course. Students learn to identify chart symbols and their corresponding visual observations; define true and magnetic compass readings and application of variation and deviation; plot course and position; calculate time/speed/distance; take bearings and fixes; adjust for set and drift; and, plot danger fixes. This course is conducted on two half- days at a downtown location during the winter. Students work at a table with charts, dividers and parallel rulers. The instructor will discuss a topic and students will complete exercises using the charts and equipment at their table. It is necessary for attendees to complete two on-line seminars covering Aids to Navigation and USCG Rules of the Road prior to attending the class.

The **Bareboat Cruising** graduate will have successfully demonstrated the ability to skipper and crew an inboard auxiliary powered cruising sailboat within sight of land and bring it safely to anchor in a foreign port during daylight hours. Students meet at 1 PM on a Friday afternoon to plan the cruise and conduct checks of boat systems. On Saturday morning the students sail to a foreign port while plotting the course as learned in the Basic Coastal Navigation Course. The boat will overnight in the foreign port and return to Chicago the next day. At the conclusion of this course, the students will be able to: plan a cruise; check the location and condition of all safety equipment; perform the daily checks of the engine fluids and mechanical parts, manual and electrical bilge pump, and the electrical, mechanical, fresh water, marine head and holding tank systems; demonstrate the ability to correctly use a hand bearing and ship's compass; maintain a DR plot with time/speed/distance calculations; work up estimated position; and, understand the operation of GPS to locate position. Attendees must have successfully completed the Basic Cruising and Coastal navigation courses.

**Passage Making** is offered for the first time in 2018. It answers the cruisers' questions about sailing overnight for multiple days. It requires all the skills of Basic Cruising, Bareboat Cruising and Coastal Navigation and adds watch system management and living under sail for multiple days and nights.