

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



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The conversation between several of our members at the last dinner meeting was relative to the question of what courses and seminars to take in 2024. The answer is to enroll to meet your needs for what you do on the water!

All boaters should have a basic knowledge to operate responsibly. This knowledge can be gained from taking the America's Boating Course (ABC) and the six Boat Handling seminars (Anchoring, Confidence in Boating, Dock/Undock, Emergencies on Board, Knots & Lines and Rules of the Road). This can be supplemented by some very useful information from the GPS/Chart plotter, Tides & Currents, VHF Radio, and Weather for Boaters seminars. Your crew members would also benefit from the Partner in Command seminar. Based on the classroom skills knowledge, look to learn the use of these skills by going to one of the on the water events for training and evaluation.

To add to your base skills and expand your horizons, the next stage would be to learn about boat engine maintenance and electrical systems and work on charting skills via Marine Navigation/Piloting (next starts in January!) or Advanced Marine Navigation/Advanced Piloting). Taking Marine Communications will be a good add if you are thinking about going out of VHF radio range. Cruising and Cruise Planning (next starting in January!) will be very helpful if planning a longer trip. These courses will allow for thinking about stretching your travel radius from your home base via taking your own boat or chartering in the Caribbean or other locations. One element of the on the water training can be the demonstration and use of the charting and navigation skills.

If you are really getting ambitious, you can further your knowledge and skills by getting into one of the two celestial navigation courses, Radar and an expanded Weather course. The demonstration and use of this knowledge can also be done in an advanced on the water event.

ABCHH offers a wide variety of courses and seminars every year with some offered once per year and some multiple times. The calendar for the year has been posted on the ABCHH.org website and you can register starting about a month before the course.

If you'd like to learn more about available education and training, please contact one of us.