

EDUCATION UPDATE



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The first three courses of the year are coming to an end. Boat Handling and Sail completed last week and Advanced Piloting will be coming to an end next week. Over the next couple of months, we have several great seminars planned – Partner in Command, Tides and Currents and Weather for Boaters with some additional ones yet to be announced. We will also have two classes of the all day America's Boating Course (ABC) in April and May.

In the December 2022 edition of the Ocean Breeze (go to ABCHH.org, About Us, Ocean Breeze, Previous Editions), there was an explanation of the letters after some of our names such as SN or AP-CN. The first letters are a grade showing academic courses taken and the second shows on the water skill levels demonstrated. An example would be AP-CN which shows successful completion up to Advanced Piloting and CN which shows demonstration of Coastal Navigation skills. This article is a good reference for those looking to build academic and on the water skills.

In the past, Seamanship (S), Piloting (P) and Advanced Piloting (AP) followed America's Boating Course (ABC). Boat Handling has since replaced Seamanship although the S grade has been retained. Marine Navigation will be replacing Piloting and

Advanced Marine Navigation will be replacing Advanced Piloting. Each time the course has been replaced, the content has been revamped and upgraded.

The two advanced courses above Advanced Piloting (soon to be called Advanced Marine Navigation) are Junior Navigation (JN) and Navigation (N). Historically, the grade progression above AP has been JN and then N. To attain a Senior Navigation (SN) level, one would require N plus six elective courses.

These materials in the JN and N courses have been revamped and reshaped into two new courses – Offshore Navigation (ON) and Celestial Navigation (CN). As the name implies, ON will deal with topics related to ocean boating and will cover operation out of sight of land and the use of computer programs and other electronics as well as charts of various types to successfully plan and complete a journey. CN will get into navigating using a sextant, using celestial bodies and similar in offshore navigation. The paths forward past AP will be:

- ON AP plus ON completion
- N AP plus ON and CN
- JN plus ON and CN
- SN AP plus ON, CN and six electives
 - AP plus ON and seven electives or
 - JN plus ON and CN plus six electives

The electives referred to above are Cruising Under Power and Sail, Engine Maintenance, Instructor Development, Marine Communication Systems, Marine Electrical, Radar, Sail and Weather.

Under development and not yet fully completed will be a new path above AP and it is Inland Boating (IB). This is intended for boating in from the coast. Watch for more on this in a future issue of the Ocean Breeze.

If the above all seems a bit confusing but you are interested in advancing grades, please contact Rick Sturges for further discussion.

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