

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Rick Sturges, AP-CN
Education Officer



Brad Loescher, AP-CN
Asst. Education Officer



Don Becker, P-IN
ABC Coordinator

The Boat Handling Course which is a series of six seminars starts on Monday, September 9, and continues every Monday through October 14. Each of the seminars addresses a facet of boat handling and all will be held on Monday evenings at the Hilton Head Senior Center, 70 Shelter Cove Lane, Hilton Head Island.

Anchoring (9/9) is the first of the series and it addresses how to find good areas for anchoring, what type of anchor is required, and how much rode (anchor line) is required. A key part of the discussion is how to take wind and tide (depth change and current) into account. Whether dropping an anchor to fish for an hour and staying for the night, there are many things to consider.

Boating with Confidence (9/16) is the second in the series and it addresses steering a course, operating on a plane, maneuvering in waves, and handling wakes from other boats. Wind and tidal currents will have an impact on how your boat handles making how to deal with them a topic.

Docking and Undocking (9/23) is the third and is focused on addressing how to handling this key stress point in boating. Dealing with wind and tide current at the docking location plays a key role in being successful. The wind direction is fairly easy to read by watching waves and the tidal current can be read by watch the water around channel markers or pilings but addressing them in combination can be tricky.

Emergencies on the Water ((9/30) is the fourth and provides good insight into how to react to conditions that arise. Whether dealing with boat operation such as engine malfunction, fire and grounding, abrupt weather changes or medical emergencies, it is important to be prepared. Understanding how to react without panicking is the key to recovery.

Rules of the Road (10/7) is the fifth and promotes understanding of how to navigate safely on the water. What do all those buoys like channel markers and no wake mean? Which boat is the stand on vessel (has right of way) and which gives way in a given circumstance? There are lots of rules to follow on the water and it is necessary to understand them for safe operation.

The sixth and final seminar is Knots and Lines (10/14) and it provides an understanding on various lines and their uses. It also includes discussion of different knots and when to use which is important for boaters to understand.

At the end of the sixth seminar, there is a multiple choice test and successfully passing it earns a member a rating of Seaman (S). Earning this rating demonstrates a basic understanding on boating and it is a great building block for continuing your education!

Register about a month before the date of the seminar. Either wait for the email that you'll get when it is time to register or about a month ahead of the seminar, go to our website, ABCHH.org, click on Education, click on Education Calendar and then click on the seminar name.