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Starting in December of last year and continuing into March of this year, a dozen of our members took the Offshore Navigation class which was offered for the first time by ABCHH. The course is the next after Advanced Marine Navigation (formerly Advanced Piloting) and it is focused on cruising on an open ocean. Pete Dion lead the collaborative learning effort which including using two different software programs, Virtual Passage Planner 2 and OpenCPN, to plan out the cruise and can be used to track it while underway. While not all took the final exam, seven (Dickie, Dryden, Iannacchino, Kangas, Loescher, Sommers & Sturges) took and passed to achieve the grade of Offshore Mariner (OM).

In March and April, four of our squadron took the Marine Navigation course (formerly Piloting) which focuses on coastal navigation. This is a newly revamped course which uses both paper charting and the OpenCPN software to plan cruises. It is the first of our advanced courses based on navigation principles to learn about latitude and longitude, bearings, dead reckoning and similar. All four (Panich, Wendt and two Winnetts) successfully passed the exam to earn the letter P after their name.

At the District 26 meeting earlier this year, one of our long time ABCHH members, Klaus Loehr, was awarded the Order of the Mariner in recognition of exceptional service and achievement. Given that a large part of his contribution has been as a great instructor in our courses and seminars, the current education officer (Sturges) and the two prior education officers (Dion and Ryley) hosted a nice lunch in his honor at Benny's in mid May. Many of our squadron have benefited from his talks on various aspects of boating as well as the his stories from adventures while traveling on the water up and down the east and west coasts of the USA.



Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!

ABCHH was also awarded the Prince Henry the Navigator Award at the District 26 meeting for the greatest improvements in the advanced grades and particularly in navigation. This award is a replica of a statue at the Prince Henry Navigation School in Portugal and the replicas (one for each USPS district) were given to the USPS in 1973 by the country of Portugal.



Congratulations to all in the squadron who made achievements in the advanced grades to make this award to our squadron possible!

Our next ABC class will be in August and the Boat Handling and Advanced Marine Navigation courses start in September. We are looking at the possibility of adding more courses and seminars in the fall. Watch the Education Calendar on ABCHH and plan for improving you boating skills!