



AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE®
Yarmouth Firestation #2
340 RT 6A, Yarmouth Port, MA
02675



Cape Cod
Sail, Power, and Paddle
...we teach boating

ASSISTANT EDUCATIONAL OFFICER DAVE ATWOOD
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America's Boating Course® is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and is recognized by the United States Coast Guard



Winter 2024

Tuesday, March 5 – 6:30PM - 9:00PM

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

SESSION 1: Class Materials. Chapter 1: Boat Terms, Safety Equipment, Going Boating. (Sections 1, 2, & 3)

INSTRUCTOR: TBD

GROUP ACTIVITY: Breakout sessions on life jackets (Burke), emergency signals (Richardson), fire extinguishers (Atwood), lines (tbd/Bender)

HOMEWORK: Read Sections 1, 2, & 3 (Chapter 1) and Sections 4, 5, & 6 (in Chapter 2).

Answer questions for Chapter 1. Bring a 4 to 6-ft piece of 3/8"-diameter rope to next sessions.

Tuesday, March 12 – 7:00PM - 9:00PM

SESSION 2: Chapter 2: Navigation Rules, Navigation Aids, Lights & Sound Signals. (Sections 4, 5, & 6). Knots of the week: Figure Eight (Stopper Knot) & Sheet Bend

INSTRUCTOR: Charles Burke

GROUP ACTIVITY: Review Chapter 1 homework; Knot of the week tutorial

HOMEWORK: Read Sections 7 & 8 (in Chapter 2) and Section 12 (in Chapter 3). Answer

questions for Chapter 2. Practice the knots of the week: Figure Eight (Stopper Knot) & Sheet Bend

Tuesday, March 19 – 7:00PM - 9:00PM

SESSION 3: Chapter 2: Government Regulations and State & Local Regulations; Chapter 3: Communication Afloat. (Sections 7, 8, & 12). Knots of the week: Bowline & Cleat Hitch

INSTRUCTOR: Dave Atwood

GROUP ACTIVITY: Review Chapter 2 homework; Knot of the week tutorial

HOMEWORK: Read Sections 10 & 11 (in Chapter 3). Answer questions for Chapter 3. : Read Chapter 4 (Section 13 through 16). Answer questions for Chapter 4. Practice the knots of the week: Bowline & Cleat Hitch.

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Tuesday, March 26 – 7:00PM - 9:00PM

SESSION 4: Chapter 3: Anchoring, Adverse Conditions and Emergencies. (Sections 10 & 11)

Chapter 4: Water Sport Safety, Trailering, PWC Operation.

Knot of the week: Clove Hitch with 2 Half Hitches.

INSTRUCTOR: Dave Atwood

GROUP ACTIVITY: Review Chapter 3, 4, & 5 homework; Knot of the week tutorial

EXAM REVIEW: Dave Atwood

EXAM PREPARATION: Read and review the ABC and the Massachusetts Boating Law test* study sheets handed out in class. Bring a No. 2 pencil with eraser.

HOMEWORK: Practice knot of the week: Clove Hitch with 2 Half Hitches. OPTIONAL: Read Chapter 5 (Section 17).

Tuesday, April 2 – 7:00PM - 9:00PM

CERTIFICATION EXAM

SESSION 5: EXAMINATION, GRADING, PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES.

INSTRUCTOR: Dave Atwood

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK: Read Section 17, pages 180-194 and Section 18, page 204 (Chapter 5).

SESSION 7 PREPARATION: Bring a fine point pencil and soft eraser to class.

OPTIONAL CLASSES – Basic Coastal Navigation

Tuesday, April 9 – 7:00PM - 9:00PM

SESSION 6: Chapter 5: Chart Basics (Section 18, pages 195-200) Chart Usage, Latitude & Longitude, Plotter & Dividers, in-class Exercises 1-1 & 1-2 using special excerpt of Bowditch Bay chart.

INSTRUCTOR: Dave Atwood

GROUP ACTIVITY: Exercises 1-1 and 1-2

HOMEWORK: Read Section 18, pages 201-204 (Chapter 5).

Tuesday, April 16 – 7:00PM - 9:00PM

SESSION 7: Chapter 5: Variation, Deviation, TVMDC, 24-Hour Clock, 60D=ST, in-class Exercise 1-3 using Bowditch Bay chart.

INSTRUCTOR: Dave Atwood

GROUP ACTIVITY: Exercise 1-3

3-steps to certification. This is a basic course...just enough to make you a safe and more confident beginner. Note that the material for each week undergoes a 3-step process: reading & doing homework; attending the session; reviewing the homework. The proctors are there to review homework, tutor in knots, and provide individual assistance as requested. Our experience is that everyone who devotes reasonable time and effort to the 3-step process passes the exam, often easily.

Let us know if you would like additional tutoring or clarification on any topic. Proctors are available from 6:30PM before each class for individual assistance. If you miss a class, be sure to keep up with the reading and homework, and ask a proctor for the homework answers.

boating is fun . . . let's do it together®

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