

boat operator courses

Sponsored by the United States Power Squadrons, these short seminars each target specific topics of interest to boaters and provide participants with valuable take-away guides. Each seminar grants credits toward the upcoming Boat Operator Certification program.



Using GPS for Boating

RECREATN 1127

GPS has become a common tool for navigation; however, using GPS on the water is distinctly different from using a moving map display in your car. This seminar explains the principles of waypoint navigation and how to relate the GPS to your boating charts. Learn all the steps needed to operate a GPS. After the course, you will be able to store waypoints into a GPS, activate them for navigation, and use GPS to keep you on a safe, pre-qualified course of your choosing. You'll also get some tips for choosing a GPS if you don't currently own one. A waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain's Quick Guide Using GPS is included in the course materials.

Ben Pounds & members of Mid-Illini Power Squadron
4846 Sec. A Tuesday 10/9, 7-9PM, HCC WDC Rm 1402
\$33 (includes materials)

How to Use a Chart for Boating

RECREATN 1128

Charts provide information essential to your safety afloat. Even with GPS and electronic navigation, the chart is needed to tell you what is around you, and between you and your intended destination. A system of symbols is used by cartographers to tell you what lies below the surface of the water and the depths of water. There is key information about visible landmarks and navigation aids to help you navigate your course. The chart also is your link with the GPS via its grid scale, compass rose, and distance scales. A brief introduction to latitude and longitude provides insight to the operation of GPS receivers. This seminar provides you with a Maptech waterproof Chart Symbols and On-the-Water Guide. In addition to showing you all about your chart, this seminar walks you through the essentials of laying out a safe course, steps to measure a course with the USPS plotter, and even a quick guide to the rules of the water.

Ben Pounds & members of Mid-Illini Power Squadron
4847 Sec. A Thursday 10/11, 7-9PM, HCC WDC Rm 1402
\$33 (includes materials)

Onboard Weather Forecasting

RECREATN 1129

Changing weather conditions can convert what was a delightful day on the water into a real challenge. Forecasting what weather you will encounter is one of the top priorities for safe boating. Should we go out? When should we come in? These are important questions, but some fundamental understanding of the weather can help you make these decisions. While not a course in weather, this seminar explains how just using your own senses can help you determine what conditions you will encounter where you are. You'll learn about weather systems, how to understand clouds and their changes, use changing wind direction, temperature and pressure to hone in on emerging weather fronts. The seminar also includes the McGraw-Hill Onboard Weather Forecasting waterproof Captain's Quick Guide to take aboard your boat.

Ben Pounds & members of Mid-Illini Power Squadron
4848 Sec. A Tuesday 10/16, 7-9PM, HCC WDC Rm 1402
\$33 (includes materials)

Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio

RECREATN 1130

VHF radio is the mainstay of coastal communication and essential for emergency communications. Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is rapidly becoming a reality as more Coast Guard Rescue 21 System operations go live. DSC vastly simplifies and improves rescue and routine call signaling – making it easier to make a call while the system frees up Channel 16 for essential communications. However, you need to know how to use it. This seminar answers those needs and explains basic VHF operation. A CD is included with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer at home. A handy waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain's Quick Guide Using VHF is included.

Ben Pounds & members of Mid-Illini Power Squadron
4849 Sec. A Thursday 10/18, 7-9PM, HCC WDC Rm 1402
\$33 (includes materials)