

DTO Report _Niagara District Meeting_ Jan 18, 2011

PCOC Online Course

1. Boating Basics -PCOC Online course became operational on Jan 3 and all Squadron and District Officers have received numerous e-blasts from HQ and forwards from Commander Bill. -----

The one that came from Marketing Susan Mellow on Jan 10 was:

Effective immediately, our PCOC online course is now live on our CPS-ECP Website. It can be viewed by visiting <http://www.cps-ecp.ca/card.html> . In conjunction with the launch is a limited time introductory offer for those wishing to take the course online. The discount code is **237304** and valid from **January 14th to February 15th 2012**. Please promote this to your membership and community by social media and public service announcements to help with the launch of this very exciting program.

Remember that each successful PCOC graduate from your community that elects to accept the complimentary CPS Associate membership may be transferred, at your request or his or her request, into your squadron to become an active member of your squadron. Further details on the transfer process will be announced later.

Best regards,

Susan Mellow, P
Coordinator - Internal Marketing & Communications
National Marketing Committee

The discount referred to above is an "Introductory Price" of \$39.95 until February 15th when the price will then become \$49.95.

I know that the PCOC Online is unpopular with many, if not all, of our Squadrons, but it is a business necessity, and NOT intended to detract from our classroom courses. It does mean however that each Squadron will have to step up to upgrade their online presence and access so that potential students going to the CPS website can easily find and sign up for our classrooms instead.

2. Ordering Exams

Please order all exams from your DTO - (Lem Tamm), well in advance of exam night to ensure availability and delivery.

PCOC Transport Canada Tests must be ordered on the WBAS system from HQ.

Declarations need to be signed and received by Bill Spicer at the beginning of each term in order for the exams to be shipped out. These exams are to be ordered by the squadron, by sets. Each set is \$15, which includes three different exams, five of each, one grid per exam, along with 30 application and student answer sheets. These exams have a six month life span. See the store for the particulars if need be. There is a \$17.00 shipping charge for these and each additional set ordered \$4.00 shipping.

3. CPS Training Department Weekend

The CPS Training Department Weekend will be at the Delta Airport West March 2nd to March 4th. I will be attending and would like your input. I'm hoping that next year's DTO will also be able to attend.

4. Boating, Engine Maintenance and Extended Cruising are new content courses.

I have been asked for feedback from STOs and Instructors - positive or negative. Problems with exams and exam answers are known to exist but these are being corrected. Comments will be graciously received.

5. Course Updates

5.1 Boating - Part 2 is being developed to complement Boating Basics

Some Squadrons - like Brant- are already offering the two part version from the current course.

5.2 Seamanship - status quo is being maintained

5.3 AP - all of the chapters have been revised and are currently being reviewed - the target date is Fall 2012

5.4 Offshore Navigation - nothing much has changed

5.5 Marine Electrical Maintenance the final review and edit has all but been done - production scheduling is pending

5.6 Sail - nothing much has changed

That being said, Gary Chase – Course Director - Sail sent out the following request

This email is BCCed to all DTOs, Sail course committee, and the NTO.

As the Course Director for the CPS Sail course, I want to get as much feedback as I can on all aspects of the Sail course. I would appreciate receiving the names of the Sail instructors in your district. I realize that this means contacting your STOs and may take some time. However the information received will help the Sail committee maintain a high quality course.

Here are some of the things instructors should report on:

Errors in the text notes

Perceived quality of the material including any ambiguous areas

Errors in the homework questions and answers

Errors in the test or in the answer template

Errors in the evaluation sheet

I would also appreciate receiving stats from the classes:

Number of students

Pass/fail numbers

List of incorrectly answered questions (with the incorrect answers that were given) for each student (do not include student names)

This last one may require a little more time but will provide valuable analysis for the validity of the test items

Thanks very much for your help

Gary

5.7 Instructor Development - the much anticipated Webinar is about to be scheduled - Charlie and Carlos will advise soon

5.8 Weather - one or two small changes

5.9 Curriculum - the navigation software for each course is currently being reviewed

5.10 Youth - a calendar is being developed instead of the note cards

6. Online Registration and Reporting

I would encourage all Squadrons to take full advantage of WBAS capabilities for setting up classes and registering students and collecting fees. WBAS has added features such as Training Reports etc. that are rendered useless by not all Squadrons entering relevant details. The following report was generated for Boating from September 2011 until Jan 18 2012.

Boating & PCOC_Niagara_2012_Sept 2011_Jan
2012

Course	District	Squadron	Provider	CourseStatus	CourseMark	Count
Boating & PCOC	NIAGARA	Brant		In Progress		3
Boating & PCOC	NIAGARA	Burlington		In Progress		19
Boating & PCOC	NIAGARA	Fort Erie		In Progress		1
Boating & PCOC	NIAGARA	Guelph		In Progress		23
Boating & PCOC	NIAGARA	Port Dalhousie		Did Not Write		1
Boating & PCOC	NIAGARA	Port Dalhousie		In Progress		8
Boating & PCOC	NIAGARA	Port Dalhousie		Pass		10

Several Squadrons, including my own, will recognize that their students remain unaccounted for negating the value of such a report.

Please use WBAS to make life easy for everyone, yourself included. This will ensure exams and certificates when required. Course Directors should not have to beg for numbers when they want to know how their courses are being used.

7. SKYPE

Don Macintosh – ANTO sent the DTO's this comment about updating to Skype for all Officers. I am told that Skype was used successfully to conduct the Niagara District Nomination Committee meeting the other week.

DTO Skype Addresses

Note: For my home computer I recently added a Skype address - it was fast and free. Despite my frugal Scots heritage I splurged on a video/audio connection by buying the USB camera/microphone package for less than \$20.00. I assigned my own Skype name and was up and operational in under 15 minutes. On my first day with Skype I spoke with North Caroline, Vancouver Island, New Zealand, Scotland and Afganistan, all for free. The point of my bragging is that I am encouraging each of you to add Skype capability. Then please forward me your Skype addresses. Here in Ontario as elsewhere E-meetings are becoming increasing useful and very common.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lem Tamm _DTO Niagara