



April 1, 2008

# WATCH CAPTAIN (WC) COURSE

## Certification Checklist

**Instructor (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Voice or Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Student (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Voice or Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Boat Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Boat Length:** \_\_\_\_\_

This course prepares you to supervise a watch section sailing an offshore capable, inboard auxiliary powered cruising sailboat with a qualified skipper (Cruising Skipper (D-CS), Senior Skipper (D-SS), Master Skipper (E-MS) aboard during continuous passages across unfamiliar waters day, night, and reduced visibility in protected to moderate wind and sea conditions.

**Recommended Equipment:** It is required that the Watch Captain (WC) Certification course and examinations be conducted on greater than 30' sloop-rigged cruising keelboats with tiller, wheel, and gas or diesel auxiliary power, with adequate equipment inventory to complete all required certification outcomes.

**Prerequisite:** The prerequisite for Watch Captain (WC) Certification is to be qualified as a Senior Crew (SC), successful completion of the Piloting and Navigation (P&N) Course, and the physical capability to perform duties under conditions presented.

**Certification Requirements:** Watch Captain Certification requires the successful completion of the following knowledge and skill requirements. These requirements are expected to be performed safely and with confidence in a wind range of 4 to 27 knots. Some regions may have stronger prevailing conditions. The certified candidate will obtain a minimum of forty eight (48) daylight hours underway on watch of which at least 16 hours are under sail and a minimum of twelve (12) night hours on watch of which at least 6 hours are under sail. Candidates will demonstrate practical knowledge to supervise operations aboard a sailing vessel, which is greater than 30' feet in length.

### Control:

Requirement	Conditions: Waves, Winds, and Tides	Date & Time	Instructor: Name and Signature
1. Demonstrate under power; speed and momentum control, windage and propwalk control, backing and filling, and command of the crew.			
2. Demonstrates a recovery plan for an engine failure.			
Instructor Notes:			



4. Demonstrates leadership and navigation skills in unfamiliar waters at night and reduced visibility.			
5. Demonstrates preparing, raising, changing, sails and running rigging to include storm sails.			
6. Demonstrates under sail: starting, stopping, speed control, tacking, jibing, steering control, sail luffing, the No-Go Zone, getting out of irons, backing the jib, proper boat heel, crew coordination, and communication.			
Demonstrates proper sail trim with accurate sheet adjustment of the main and headsails. Makes use of the sail telltales and identifies point of sail.			
Instructor Notes:			

### Heavy Weather Sailing:

Requirement	Conditions: Waves, Winds, and Tides	Date & Time	Instructor: Name and Signature
9. Demonstrate proper reefing techniques: determining when to reef, roller furling or changing headsails, reefing the mainsail, dropping the sails, shaking out a reef, and rehoisting underway.			
10. Demonstrates helm and boat control while sailing under reduced sail.			
11. Demonstrates the use of a boom preventer and explains overcoming its inherent dangers.			
12. Demonstrates deck work performance using safety harness and jacklines.			
13. Demonstrates boat control using storm sails.			



14. Demonstrates rigging of a sea anchor and a drogue, if available. [Sea anchor _____] [Drogue _____]			
15. Demonstrates heaving-to, lying ahull, and running off.			
Instructor Notes:			

### Overboard Recovery:

Requirement	Conditions: Waves, Winds, and tides	Date & Time	Instructor: Name and Signature
16. Demonstrates the Quick-Stop recovery method under sail, maintaining constant visual contact with the victim. Performs overboard recovery upwind, reaching, and downwind in daylight, nighttime and adverse conditions.			
Instructor Notes:			

### Safety and Emergency Procedures:

Requirement	Conditions: Waves, Winds, and Tides	Date & Time	Instructor: Name and Signature
17. Simulates the proper procedures for using approved distress signals.			



18. Simulates procedure and operation of VHF radio for spoken emergency signals.			
19. Simulates failure of steering system, and demonstrates steering and boat control with sails.			
20. Demonstrates use of emergency steering system.			
21. Simulates a plan of action for a vessel in danger of sinking due to fire, water intake, dismasting, collision, or grounding. Demonstrates all safety considerations given the situation.			
Instructor Notes:			

### Anchoring/Mooring:

Requirement	Conditions: Waves, Winds, and Tides	Date & Time	Instructor: Name and Signature
22. Selects an anchorage, and demonstrates appropriate helm/crew coordination and skills for properly anchoring with a single anchor under power.			
23. Demonstrates appropriate helm/crew coordination and skills for retrieving an anchor under power.			
24. Demonstrates ability to pick up a mooring.			
25. Demonstrates ability to join and depart from a nest or raft of boats.			
Instructor Notes:			



**Approval:**

<b>Requirement:</b>	<b>Conditions: After Senior Crew (SC), logged 48 daylight hours under-way of watch, at least 16 hours under sail and 12 night hours underway of which, 6 hours under sail. (yes or no)</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Instructor: Printed Name and Signature</b>
<b>Approved as Watch Captain (WC):</b>			