

# Voyageur Squadrons

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## Do I need a boat "license"?

The correct term is Pleasure Craft Operators Certificate or PCOC. And, yes, if born after March 31, 1983, you must obtain the card as soon as possible. Enforcement



began September 15, 1999. If born before April 1, 1983, and if 16 years of age, or older, and operating a small (less than 4 metres) power boat, you need your card as of September 15, 2002. All other boaters, not covered by the above criteria, must obtain a card no later than September 15, 2009.

How can I get one? There are 4 ways to get your card.

- 1-The Good way: PCOC Challenge exam. (Contact your local Squadron for dates, times and locations)
- 2-The Better way: Boat Pro Seminar. (Contact your local Squadron for dates, times and locations)
- 3-The Best way: The CPS Boating Course (Contact your local Squadron for dates, times and locations)
- 4-No exam required (past graduates of the 'Boating Course' - Contact CPS for details).

CPS National Headquarters:  
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Toronto, ON M1P 3A5  
1-888-CPS-BOAT  
[www.cps-ecp.ca](http://www.cps-ecp.ca)

# Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons (CPS)



## Canada's Leader in Boating Safety

## Safe Boating Courses in the Voyageur District



[www.voyageur-cps-ecp.org](http://www.voyageur-cps-ecp.org)  
District Commander: Jack McIrvine  
(705) 646-0763

## PUBLIC COURSES:

### BoatPRO - 8 hours

This is the Canadian Coast Guard accredited course which upon passing the exam, provides the recreational boater with his/her PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR CERTIFICATE required by law. Please contact your local Squadron for course locations and dates.

Many Squadrons will teach/examine BoatPRO at other venues ie. Clubs, marinas, and places of employment, etc.

### Boating - 12-15 weeks

The Boating course is designed to help boaters become more competent and safe. The course consists of approximately 30 hours of classroom instruction covering such topics as government regulations, mandatory equipment requirements, rules of the road, handling boats under power and sail, aids to navigation, anchoring procedures, chart reading, plotting courses, responsibilities of the skipper.

This is the main course offered by CPS to the general public. Successful completion qualifies you for membership in CPS and eligibility to take more advanced courses. Successful completion gets you your PCOC card, reduced insurance rates, the privilege to fly our flag, and many other benefits.

### Navigating with GPS - 3 nights

This course is for the boater who wants to know more about modern electronic devices for navigation and safety afloat.

### Fundamentals of Weather

Enables the skipper to understand more fully the factors involved in weather systems, to interpret weather signs and data and to make his/her own local forecast.



### Seamanship Sail

Explains in detail, the principles and practices of sailboat operation. Topics covered include hull design, rigging, the bending, setting and care of sails, marlinespike, safety, true and apparent wind and a brief introduction to organized racing

### VHF Radio Talk Seminar

A recreational marine radio operator seminar. Learn the phonetic alphabet as well as correct radio telephone operation procedures. This course will enable you to pass the ROCM Radio operators certification examination which will be given at the conclusion of the training session.



### Do I Need a License to Use my VHF Radio

To operate a Marine VHF Radio, you must have a license. CPS has been delegated authority to issue Restricted Operator Certificates (Maritime) to Pleasure Craft Operators. A comprehensive theoretical and simulated practical short course (as little as 3 evenings) culminating in an examination for the Industry Canada Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Certificate which is required by anyone who operates a marine radio. The course provides a well structured drilling in all radio-related procedures, with sufficient background information to



### Our Mission

To increase awareness and knowledge of safe boating, by educating and training members and the general public, by fostering fellowship among members, and establishing partnerships and alliances with organizations and agencies interested in boating.

## ADVANCED COURSES (For CPS members only):

### Piloting - 15 Weeks

#### (Prerequisite - Boating)

This course builds on the knowledge acquired in the Boating Course, dealing with precautions to be taken and methods to handle emergency situations. Emphasis is on navigational and piloting skills, seamanship skills, and the boat's capabilities and performance.

### Advanced Piloting

#### (Prerequisite - Piloting)

Teaches coastal navigation principles as a "pilot" to determine a course, and fix a position by using landmarks and aids to navigation - allowing for current, leeway and the prediction of tides and tidal currents.

### Celestial Navigation

#### (Prerequisite - Advanced Piloting)

This course provides students with the fundamental knowledge and practical skills of celestial navigation. Emphasis is placed on "how" to navigate, and with basic math and calculator skills, the student will have little difficulty.



### Our Flag

*When you see this flag being flown from a boat, you can be assured that the operator has taken thorough boating safety training and belongs to the largest safe boating organization in Canada. The operator has also sworn an oath to render assistance, whenever possible, to anyone afloat who is disabled or in distress, and to promote and perpetuate high standards of navigation and seamanship.*

