

Education Report to AGM, May 17, 2021

The Covid-19 situation and a ban on face to face meetings has changed the way education is provided to our members and newcomers. The report last year provided information on how we transitioned from the classroom scenario to an online version. Completion of those courses carried into the current education year with some exams written online and others requiring mailing exams and certificates to students and markers, which certainly made things more difficult.

For the current education year, we have continued to offer the core courses but have let the advanced and elective courses idle for the time being. While some courses can be taken totally online, such as Maritime Radio, we have adopted a blended method for Boating. The online course material includes the text, videos of narrated Powerpoint presentations and quizzes but is augmented weekly with an online meeting using GoToMeeting, usually facilitated by Cdr. Elizabeth Zygmunt. This blended approach limits the class size to approximately 15 students and also requires tutors (proctors) assigned to provide more individual help. The results are summarized as follows:

Course	Start	End	Number	Pass	
Boating 2&3	Sept. 15	Dec. 1	13	12	
Boating 2&3	Jan. 19	Apr. 6	15	15	
Boating 2	Apr. 13	May 25	16	In progress	
Boating 1			16	16	4 Mandarin classes
Maritime Radio			108		5 VPS classes
Maritime Radio			24		Private classes

As can be seen, Maritime Radio is by far the biggest winner and the numbers above do not include some 201 people that have signed up on the National site which does not provide any instruction. Peter Bennett conducts a one day course using Zoom. Regardless, Industry Canada requires all exams to be conducted individually using Zoom, Skype or equal and each exam takes about one hour to complete. A monumental task and kudos to Peter Bennett and his small group of just five Recognized Examiners for managing it. We could certainly do with more help in this area.

To make all this work, we have a group of dedicated volunteers as Registered Examiners, teachers and tutors that includes Art Rendell, Paul Heeney, Ralph Herten, Sylvia Steede, Mary-Ann Isinger, Ron Kothlow, Roger Middleton, Sarah Burwood, Paul Dylla, Elizabeth Zygmunt and myself. Paul Dylla is a new recruit from the last Boating 2&3 class. The prime facilitator for the Boating 2 and 3 courses has been Elizabeth using GoToMeeting and we all owe her a big vote of thanks for her commitment to making sure it all works.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Girling, SN
Education Officer