



ASA 105: Coastal Cruising Curriculum

This course will teach you the navigational theory required to safely navigate in coastal or inland waters.

Pre-study is vital to the success of your course. The written exam for this course includes questions on navigation publications, charting, and reading tide and current tables. Upon successful completion of this course, you will receive your American Sailing Association Coastal Navigation certification.

The study material we suggest for this course is “Coastal Navigation & PowerPoint Presentation CD” by Mike Pyzel. This material is available directly from the American Sailing Association, Amazon.com or your local book store. Be sure to compare prices listed on the ASA website before purchasing from another source.

The Annapolis Book of Seamanship is an excellent book for your sailing library and can help you in your preparation for this course.

We normally offer this course in conjunction with Advanced Coastal Cruising (ASA 106) as our “Advanced Cruise and Learn” course. Coastal Navigation (ASA 105) is a “classroom course”. No one wants to come to the Caribbean and sit in a classroom – so we strongly encourage you to self-study the material for the Coastal Navigation course. We will give you the written examination when you arrive. We will review and practice all of the navigation techniques taught in the 105 course throughout your Advanced Cruise and Learn vacation. If needed, you will have an opportunity to re-test at the end of your trip.

Listed below are the standards set by the American Sailing Association which you will have mastered upon successful completion of the course.

Prerequisites: None

Description: Able to demonstrate the navigational theory required to safely navigate a sailing vessel in coastal or inland waters. There is no Sailing Skills part to this Standard and practical application of this sailing knowledge is found in the Advanced Coastal Cruising Standard.

Coastal Navigation Standard (ASA 105)

SAILING KNOWLEDGE

A Certified Sailor has successfully demonstrated his or her ability to:

1. Explain the chart symbols and conventions on U.S. nautical charts in accordance with the terminology of Chart #1.
2. Identify a source of official U.S. Coast Guard navigation publications.
3. List the publications required for prudent navigation in the local area including the following ASA minimum requirements:
 - Large scale charts of the area and Chart #1
 - Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats
 - USCG Navigation Rules
 - State small vessel regulations
 - Local rules and regulations, if applicable
 - Local Cruising Guides
 - Tide and current tables, (paper or electronic)
 - List of lights, buoys, and fog signals
4. List the instruments required for prudent navigation in the local area including the following minimum requirements:
 - Steering compass and deviation table
 - Handbearing compass and / or pelorus
 - Binoculars
 - Protractor or parallel rule
 - Depth sounder or leadline

- Pencil, eraser, and notebook
 - Dividers
 - Watch or clock
 - Log / Knotmeter
5. Describe the purpose of "Notice to Mariners."
 6. Use the tide and current tables to find:
 - Times and heights of tides at reference and secondary ports.
 - Direction and rate of current at referenced and secondary stations.
 7. Convert courses and bearings between true, magnetic, and compass.
 8. Check compass deviation by means such as a transit bearing.
 9. Plot a dead reckoning position on a chart using speed, time and course to steer.
 10. Allow for the effect of current and leeway to plot the estimated position.
 11. Determine a course to steer which takes into account known current and leeway.
 12. Determine current given the course steered and speed and two observed positions.
 13. Plot a chart position from terrestrial objects using:
 - Two or more bearings on different objects taken at one time.
 - Bearings at different times (i.e. a running fix).
 - One bearing and transit range.
 - One distance (i.e. a sounding or dipping a light) and one bearing.
 14. Use the above techniques to chart a course of at least 20 miles and 3 course changes.
 15. Explain the terms and characteristics used for lighted navigation aids.
 16. Explain the significance of shapes, colors, and lights used in the buoyage system.