

**Sam Houston Area Council  
Sea Scouts  
Five Year Plan – 2015-2020**

**Training Review**

**Introduction** – This review discusses what we believe should be the training plan for SHAC for the coming five years. It incorporates some input from Capital Area Council where we have joint activities. Each topic will be addressed under a separate header. In some cases, topics will affect each other because we may accomplish the purposes of one topic at a separately identified event. A calendar has been prepared, and is at the end of the paper. The subcommittee consisted of Eloy Valdez, Richard Lipham, and George Crowl.

**Sea Scout Adult Leader Basic Training (SSALBT)** – BSA intends to transition SSALBT to a video class available on the BSA website. At this time it is not complete. Even when it is complete, many leaders will not take an on-line video class, or do not feel they get as much from it as they do from an in-person group training. Therefore, we recommend that we adopt a schedule four regular group training classes. These would be at Minto (September), Sea Scout Academy (January), and University of Scouting (February), and at a weekday evening in late April or early May. Minto, SSA, and April are targeted at Sea Scout leaders. University of Scouting is actually targeted at other Scouters who may be interested because they want to form a ship or learn more about Sea Scouts. This will provide group training about every four months, and considers most Scouters' availability. In addition to the scheduled group classes, we need to actively offer group training to each new Sea Scout ship immediately after it is formed, by sending a qualified trainer to their ship at their convenience to conduct the training. Finally, we need a roster of those persons qualified to give the training. At this time, George can think of Dan Wilson, Cassie Johnson, Mike Walker, George Crowl, Ron Sunker, Eloy Valdez, Chris Skeen (and there are probably several more).

**Seabadge** – We have held Seabadge every 18 months in the south Texas area for several years. Every course has been full at 32 people or more. Because of that, we suggest that we consider moving the interval to 15 months (skipping summer). A course given more often is more available to potential students. This course is given with three sponsoring councils (SHAC, CAC, BAC) so an informal agreement among the key Sea Scout course director candidates will be required, but should be pursued.

**University of Scouting** – Council event, normally held first or second Saturday in February. We have taught SSALBT there every year, and attendance has justified the effort. The SSALBT often draws non-Sea Scout adults who have an interest in starting a ship or in joining Sea Scouts, and is therefore a good outreach. In addition, we recommend that we ask to teach several other classes, some/many of which would be of interest to Sea Scouts as well as leaders.

a. USPS has several two-hour seminars that could be useful to Sea Scouts and/or leaders. It may be that USPS seminars may be cost prohibitive, but some of the topics could be taught by qualified Sea Scouters without using USPS materials.

b. ILSS is designed to be taught in the ship, but it often does not get done. An ILSS/ILSC may be a useful class for those ships and crews who can't seem to get it together to do their own.

c. Additional suggestions were: Introduction to Kodiak, Introduction to NYLT, Introduction to SEAL, How to put on ILSS/C/T, How Sea Scout Advancement Works, Introduction to Sea Scouts.

**Crisis Afloat** – This is a key training for SHAC. It is the culmination of an education process supervised by the ship skipper (or another qualified AVO in the ship). The candidates first are qualified

through the training outlined in the Fleet Manual, “Sailing Vessel Operator Self-Study Progress Record,” which outlines the competencies expected of an Authorized Vessel Operator. Next, the skipper must recommend the individual for AVO. Finally, the individual must pass the Crisis Afloat course, including the presentation and the on-water emergency exercises. This course should be readily available to encourage people to become AVOs. We recommend that it be scheduled four times a year, in the months of January (SSA), May, August, and November. Those months seem to have fewer conflicts. By having it on the calendar, as an expectation, leaders can set goals to meet those checkout dates. This does not prevent a leader from doing a checkout at other times if needed. At this time, George knows of three qualified instructors: Dan Wilson, George Crowl, and Richard Lipham. In addition, the committee recommends that SHAC personnel be given a card/certificate stating that they have met the requirements to be a SHAC AVO. We note that this course is not mentioned on the SHACFleet web site, nor is the remainder of the Fleet Manual yet posted there.

**Marina Seminars** – These are hands-on seminars on topics of interest to Sea Scouters that have to do with boat maintenance and operation. We don't know if they will generate enough interest, but think it is worthwhile trying. We suggest four seminars, two morning, two afternoon, 0900-1200 and 1300-1600, on a Saturday during the warmer months of spring or fall. Suggested topics (subject to revision/addition) are: Boat electrical orientation, fibreglassing, inboard engine maintenance, outboard engine maintenance, trailer operations (including backing) and maintenance.

**USPS Courses** – We are trying an experiment with the USPS Piloting course starting August 30<sup>th</sup>, giving four hours of class once a month. If it is successful, George will recommend that we do the USPS Seamanship class in the spring. Doing both is an Able elective. It meets most of the requirements for ORD-10, ABL-10 and really prepares a Quartermaster candidate to do a better job of teaching ORD-10 and ABL-10. In addition, we regularly publicize all the USPS courses and seminars, and have a low price for Sea Scouts and their leaders to take the courses. We suggest that this relationship be continued as it is currently.

**Sea Experience Advanced Leadership (SEAL)** – SHAC Sea Scout ships do an excellent job of promoting SEAL. Nearly every course in the nation has at least one, sometimes two SHAC Sea Scouts on the course. Sea Scout Academy provides an “Introduction to SEAL” course which motivates many to go and (properly) scares off a few. However, we should be actively recruiting every Ordinary Sea Scout to go to SEAL because of what it can do for them and their ship. We recommend that we take an inventory of Ordinary Sea Scouts in about November, encouraging them to attend the SSA SEAL prep course and follow through with an application.

**Sea Scout Academy (SSA)** – SSA is a multi-council effort, hosted in the past by SHAC, now by BAC. It appears that SHAC will still have major input into SSA's program, BAC does not have the skill set to host it without help. We note that there are more Sea Scout leaders attending than there are jobs for them to do. We believe that we should offer some additional adult courses to help their technical skills.

a. We have already identified SSALBT. Last year we did Crisis Afloat using SSBG Lasers.

Richard Lipham expressed a preference for using 30' sailboats, if possible, by bringing our own down.

b. Additional courses for adults are proposed: Piloting (ORD-10, ABL-10, each will take about four hours), Marlinspike (APP-6,7, ORD-6), How to Prepare for a Long Cruise, How to Assist a Youth in Preparing for a QM Cruise and/or QM Project, How to Prepare a SEAL Candidate, Introduction to Sea Scout Advancement and Training (APP→QM, and ILSS, NYLT, NAYLE, SEAL). For these courses, we recommend that we informally survey the units this fall to find out what they want. If this is done over an extended time, some courses might alternate.

c. We have no recommendations for changes to the youth training at SSA.

**Minto Rendezvous** – Minto is held the second weekend in September, often at Camp Bovay, sometimes at Lost Pines. Both are reasonably located and have good attendance. The youth program is generally set, and doesn't seem to need much change. Again, as a SSA, there seem to be more adults available than needed. We think some of these leaders could benefit from basic courses, such as those proposed for SSA, or the miscellaneous courses mentioned below. For both SSA and Minto, some of the courses on SEAL, Quartermaster, and the like, may be very useful to non-SHAC units which do not have the support structure that SHAC does.

**Miscellaneous Topics** – There were several suggestions that did not seem to fall into a specific category. Some of them can be accommodated at SSA or Minto, some need a completely separate weekend to themselves. These would only be put on if there were a demand expressed after making public announcements and asking for sign-ups.

a. Trailing – Lots of people need trailer advice. USPS has a seminar on it, we could probably poach some of it. Basic info – electrical hookups, backing (real practice with a trailer!), getting the boat on and off the trailer (launching/recovering), tongue weight, pulling vehicles, securing the boats, storage, on and on.

b. Someone in CAC wanted a “Getting Underway” course that would help a new person and new ship get started. I understood it to concentrate on boat handling and practical seamanship.

c. Eloy thought we ought to promote a Kodiak course that could include ILSS, would require two weekends for the youth.

d. Some small discussions or courses: How to work with FOTSS, Sea Scout Ship Administration, Relationships with Marinas, etc., and some of the courses mentioned for University of Scouting. Some of these strike George as more discussion than formal course, but many don't have a good knowledge of the vast bureaucratic requirements of the BSA.

### Draft Training Calendar

#### 2015

Aug – Crisis Afloat?

Minto – SSALBT

Fall – Seabadge

Nov – Crisis Afloat

#### 2016

SSA – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

UofS – SSALBT, Seminars, ILSS, others

Winter - Seabadge

May – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

Aug – Crisis Afloat

Minto – SSABLT

Nov – Crisis Afloat

#### 2017

SSA – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

UofS – SSALBT, Seminars, ILSS, others

Spring – Seabadge

May – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

Aug – Crisis Afloat

Minto – SSABLT

Nov – Crisis Afloat

#### 2018

SSA – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

UofS – SSALBT, Seminars, ILSS, others

May – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

Aug – Crisis Afloat

Minto – SSABLT

Fall - Seabadge

Nov – Crisis Afloat

#### 2019

SSA – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

UofS – SSALBT, Seminars, ILSS, others

Winter - Seabadge

May – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

Aug – Crisis Afloat

Minto – SSABLT

Nov – Crisis Afloat

#### 2020

SSA – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

UofS – SSALBT, Seminars, ILSS, others  
Spring - Seabadge  
May – SSALBT, Crisis Afloat

Aug – Crisis Afloat  
Minto – SSABLT  
Nov – Crisis Afloat