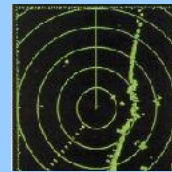


RYA Coastal Skipper (Practical) ~ Motor Cruising Scheme



The RYA Coastal Skipper Practical course (soon to be renamed RYA Yachtmaster Coastal) is an advanced level 5 day course that culminates in an optional examination for those requiring the RYA/MCA Coastal Skipper Certificate of Competence (which can then be commercially endorsed). Whilst the syllabus is broadly speaking the same as for the Dayskipper course this course takes the skills developed at Dayskipper and gives you the competence and confidence to undertake more complex passages by day and night. The course can be undertaken on a school craft or on your own vessel over 7m.

The emphasis of the course is very much on the practical application of the subjects your Instructor trains you in. These subjects will include: all aspects of navigation including pilotage and passage planning during daylight, at night and in restricted visibility; the interpretation and application of weather forecasts, the responsibilities of a Skipper and how to manage the craft effectively, you will also look at how to handle rougher conditions. All of this is put into practice as you plan and execute passages operating as Skipper of the vessel taking charge of the craft and crew under the supportive eye of the instructor.

The full syllabus is to be found on Page 2 of this document.

On our craft there will be up to 4 attendees and each will get plenty of time at the helm in open water and practicing their close quarter manoeuvring. Each will also spend time as Skipper taking responsibility for all aspects of planning and executing a passage. Each day will tend to start at 9am and some days will include a night exercise. Subject to the weather you will undertake coastal passages to the Solent and/or Weymouth. Success on the course leads to the award of the RYA Coastal Skipper Course Completion Certificate. Those with their own craft can undertake the course on their vessel (subject to it meeting RYA criteria) and once again there can be up to 4 attendees. If not all wanted to do the actual course at least one or two people would be helpful as crew.

Entry requirements

The RYA states that to enter the course the experience required is: 15 days aboard, 2 days as skipper, 300 miles logged and 8 night hours plus knowledge of navigation to RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster theory level. In practice this means you should have a good amount of hands on boating experience and be a competent boat handler, possibly already having completed the RYA Dayskipper Practical Course. If you are at all unsure of whether your level of experience is suitable please contact us.

Working commercially

For those that wish to work commercially there is the option of taking the RYA/MCA Coastal Skipper Certificate of Competence examination. The syllabus for the exam is the same as for the Yachtmaster Offshore exam however a greater degree of experience and knowledge is expected from the candidate. Success at the examination would allow you to helm a coded craft up to 24m with up to 12 passengers by day or night up to 20 miles from a safe haven.

The entry requirements for the examination are greater than for the practical course so if you just about have the required level for the course you will need to gain more time at sea before considering the examination. Entry requirements for the exam are: 30 days with 2 as skipper, 800 miles with 12 night hours. This reduces to 20 days with 2 as skipper, 400 miles with 12 night hours for those holding the RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course Completion Certificate. VHF/SRC Certificate, First Aid.

The full syllabus

Aim: To teach the skills and techniques required to skipper a motor cruiser (at least 7m LOA) safely on coastal and offshore passages by day and night.

Passage planning: Can plan a coastal passage including a consideration of the capability of the motor cruiser, navigation, victualling, weather, ports of refuge, tidal heights and tidal streams, publications required and strategy: Understands fuel consumption at different speeds and can calculate fuel required for the passage including reserve; Aware of effects of fouling boat speed and fuel consumption; Knows customs procedures.

Preparation for sea: Is aware of safety equipment for offshore passages; Can prepare a motor cruiser for sea including stowage, safety briefing, watch keeping, delegating responsibilities and equipment, fuel and engine checks; Pilotage; Can prepare a pilotage plan, with consideration of sounding, transits, clearing bearings, buoyage, port or harbour regulations and tidal considerations; Can pilot a motor cruiser by day and night.

Passage making and ability as skipper: Can take charge of the motor cruiser and direct the crew; Can organise the navigation, deckwork and domestic duties of a motor cruiser on passage; Is aware of the significance of meteorological trends. Is aware of the welfare on passage; Can use electronic navigational equipment for pre-planning and undertaking a passage and can update when underway, especially the use of waypoints and routes.

Radar: Understands the use of radar as an aid to navigation, pilotage, collision warning and collision avoidance

Boat handling: Can control the boat effectively in a confined space including all berthing and unberthing situations in various conditions of wind and tide; Can berth and unberth in simple situations using one engine on a twin-engined boat. Use of lines during this; Avoids excessive use of power

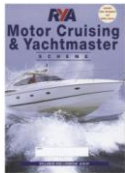
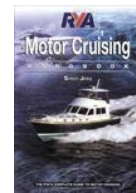
Adverse weather conditions: Preparation for heavy weather and handling in strong winds; Navigation and general conduct in restricted visibility

Emergency situations: Recovery of man overboard. Understands action to be taken when abandoning to the liferaft and during helicopter and lifeboat rescues

Reading material

RYA Motor Cruising Handbook (G24) – Simon Jinks

A very useful publication written to accompany the Motor Cruising Scheme by this respected author/journalist and now head of the RYA Motor Cruising Scheme. £11.55 from PTUK, the RYA or Amazon.



RYA Motor Cruising Logbook (G18)

The Logbook to accompany the scheme. Essential reading for anyone training under the RYA Motor Cruising Syllabus. £4.75 from PTUK or the RYA.

RYA Powerboat Handbook (G13) – Paul Glatzel **NEW VERSION FOR 2009!**

A very useful book which whilst aimed at the Powerboat Scheme has much of relevance to the Motor Cruising scheme. Written in a different style to Simon's book (by PTUK's very own Paul Glatzel) this is worth a read too (but then we would say that wouldn't we!). £13.65 from PTUK, the RYA or Amazon.



Don't have your own vessel? At PTUK we have our own Motor Cruiser available for training those without access to a craft or for charter for Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster examinations. 'Top Hat' is a Botnia Targa with twin Volvo KAD44s and is revered as one of the most practical and sea worthy craft available. In service with many agencies around the world its most notable customer in the UK has to be the Marine Police on the Thames who run 7 of them, if you boat in Poole then you will also have seen the Harbour Authorities with a smaller version than ours (Viligent). Top Hat is Coded to Cat 2 ('60 miles from a Safe Haven') and is fitted with all of the relevant electronics including Radar and Autopilot.