

2023 SBSA Meeting Minutes

12-4-2023 Meeting Day 1

Monday, December 4th (1:00pm-5:00pm) **Location:** SDSU Coastal Marine Institute

Attendance: 32 in person and 7 on zoom.

1:00 - Welcome & Introductions

Q: Unique challenges you have delt with managing boat operations or close calls / incidents? (40 mins)

- Solo boating. Do other programs allow solo boating? The majority response was no, some exceptions if adequate shore support is present.
- Tips for how to roll out new boating policies at your institution. Use a boating safety committee to enforce new rules not the individual BSO. Make regular updates (every 4 years or so) to your institution's boating safety manual.
- How do others navigate the challenges of setting up a hands-on boat safety training program? Independent contracts and liability waivers can be used for bringing in outside instructors. It is important to correctly gauge the up-front time and financial commitment needed to roll out a training program the right way. The SBSA can help by providing training opportunities for you and your staff as well as connecting you with qualified instructors to work with.
- Will SBSA consider being the home for instructor training liability insurance? This could open a path to collaboratively work with other training programs. It is possible, but it would cost the board significant time and money to pursue. It is unclear how many members this would benefit. Further exploration is needed.
- Can SBSA look into boating instructor insurance through DAN or another insurance provider? SBSA would need to define insurance needs and to provide data to insurance companies to create a policy. AAUS is looking into doing something similar through Gallagher Insurance for dive instructors, but this is still a work in progress.
- Case of a boat trailer tire failure. Trailer tires need to be replaced based on physical wear or date of manufacture (6years from manufacture date), whichever comes first. This is a DOT policy as well as a safety concern specific to trailer tires.
- Does anyone have any new toys to recommend to the group? SealStop is an anti-sea lion mechanism to keep them off your boats. EPIRB with AIS capability is a newer and more informative safety mechanism for vessels. StarLink on your boat provides good internet connectivity. Apple air tags can be used to track vessels and gear. Nautilus lifeline radio line of sight beacon for divers. This is an intermediary tool for divers in between normal surface signaling and satellite distress signaling. Garmin in reach is another strategy.
- Can SBSA look for vendor discounts for OM's? AAUS is approaching GARMIN. SCRIPPS – has an institutional deal (20% off) Garmin units. PMDP has a Zodiac Inflatables Dealer deal (up to 40% off). Mustang has a discount program too.

2:00 – Break (20 mins) and SDSU Coastal Marine Institute Tour (60 mins)

Tour of SDSU lab from manager Renee.

3:00 - SBSA 2023 Membership Update (zoom available)

a. Welcome Zoomers and Membership Update – Jason Felton (5mins)

b. Elections - Eric Hessel standing in for Steve Clabuesch (5 mins)

President Elect – Taylor Eaton shared some of his SBSA Goals (5 mins)

- Outreach – increased membership and engagement from membership.
- Training – support eLearning development, strengthen SBSA MOTC standards and continue to provide annual training opportunities for membership.
- Online merch store to help fund and promote SBSA.

c. Financial Report -Eric standing in for Steve Clabuesch (5 mins)

d. Training Awards – Taylor Eaton (5 mins)

Recipients- Katherine G. (UH) and Ethan P. (OSU)

Q: 1. How do you share this information with your organization / students?

2. Should we increase the value of this award. If so, to what amount? How will SBSA pay for this increase – OM dues, online merch store, other ideas?

A: The consensus was that an increased award amount would be good, so it helps to cover closer to the full cost of a training. Most members share information about the training award directly to students who could benefit from the award by expressing a need for training and a need for financial support. Adding a STA flyer to the website might be a good idea to spread awareness.

e. Annual Statistics Report – Taylor Eaton (5 mins)

Q: Should SBSA expand the statistical categories that it currently collects? An example could be breaking out vessels in use from vessels in program.

A: SBSA could do this if it would benefit the membership.

f. Training Update – Dan Battaglia (40 mins)

Presentation from Jamie Barlow and James Morioka on how to build a training program (MOTC) at your home institution. This was a case study that described the challenges they faced and how they were able to work with the SBSA to overcome them.

4:00pm Eric Hessel – reviewed updates to SBSA Guidelines made in 2023 (30 min)

Q: Any recommendations from members for updates to the SBSA Boating Safety Guidelines?

- Is SBSA considering tracking all MOTC courses and providing reciprocity for boaters between institutions? Full reciprocity for boaters is not practical due to the different types of vessels and operating environments but we (SBSA OM's) do agree on a minimum training standard (MOTC). SBSA currently does not have the administrative bandwidth for keeping records on all MOTC classes. This responsibility rests with the course administrator at the host institution. A VOT letter can accompany the certification for a transferring boater. Web boater has a VOT section for boating, but it is not widely used yet.

- What is the nature of SBSA: a resource group, support group, or program standards group? Should SBSA look to expanding more into a standard setting organization rather than just being a resource hub? A: SBSA could but it would cost time and money that the current volunteer board of directors does not have. Is this something the membership would want...?

Henery C. Fastenau Instructional Excellence Award – 2023 recipient: James Fitzgerald UC Davis. (10 mins)

Taylor Eaton- presidential recognition award presented to Eric H. (10 mins)

17:20. Meeting Ends

12-5-2023. Meeting Day 2

Tuesday, December 5th (9:00pm-12:00pm) **Location 1:** HUBBS SeaWorld (9:00am - 12:00pm)

Location 2: UCSD SCRIPPS (2:00pm – 5:00pm)

Attendance: 32 in person and 9 on zoom.

9:00 - SBSA: Past, Present & Future (zoom available) (60 mins)

Q: What does SBSA mean to you and your program? Is it a source of guidelines, support, resources, community, or industry standard?

- Should SBSA focus on growth? SBSA wants to grow and include new members, but we should not grow just to grow. We need to prioritize our current goals and work with new and current members who can help us achieve those goals.
- Is SBSA looking to seek a USCG, CFR or OSHA designation for Scientific Boating? Gordy talked about this several years ago and SBSA did form a subcommittee on this matter. Scientific Boaters often operate in a gray area between recreational standards and commercial standards. For example, when small research vessels carry paying students or donors on research outings with operators that do not have MMCs. Institutional risk is also a consideration and BSO's should be working with their department of risk management when making determinations on vessel and operator qualifications. It is up to the BSO and BSC to understand the limits of the law in your region. The activities determine if COI or ORI designations are needed for boats and if operators need a MMC. SBSA needs specific case studies of operations that fall outside "recreational" and "commercial" boat operations as well as statistics to approach law makers to discuss a CFR designation. SBSA members need to compile a list of situations where a designation/ written clarification would benefit them. The SBSA BoD could collect these examples and work to provide this to the USCG or law makers with the answer we seek to start change. Nate S. – WA NISH is beginning to consider SBSA the industry standard for Sci boating ops but isn't there yet.

- Is SBSA working to provide outreach to underrepresented areas of the country (east coast and central states). Yes, the eLearning initiative could be our best tool to attract members further away.
- Can SBSA collect success stories from its members and share these to attract new members? This would help make the case for the SBSA MOTC as the “industry standard” for scientific boat training. Examples of success stories the membership could share with the board include: The number of missions run without incidents, boarding cases from law enforcement with no violations. If an incident does occur, how was it handled and what was the outcome? These are easy to miss when they are right under our noses, but it is important to document and share our experiences for others to learn from. Testimonials from students who take the MOTC training are usually overwhelmingly positive, which also speaks to the success of the SBSA and its mission.

10:00 break (5 mins) – Break

10:05 – Utilizing the AAUS eLearning Platform (zoom available) – Carly H. (60 mins)

Q: Does SBSA want to pursue an eLearning platform for boat safety training on the AAUS Moodle platform?

- Cost to SBSA? Noting (currently- and in the foreseeable future. Derek is willing to put this in writing) as long as SBSA does not monetize by using the platform.
- Will this be worked into an MOTC or be a stand-alone tool? SBSA can decide how to use this. Standards and reciprocity approval from NCTC would be needed if this is going to be part of an MOTC.
- Who would be managing this? Who would provide updates as necessary. AAUS did a community approach where an SBSA board member is the chair of a committee made up of a few SBSA members who work to help with updates.
- How do instructors access registration. SBSA would have to register instructors (course administrators). SBSA keeps admin access for all students. More details would be sorted out during the development process if SBSA want to pursue this.
- Does SBSA need to seek a formal partnership or MOU with AAUS on this. We have permission to proceed now and something would be set in writing if we want to pursue this.
- I am concerned about eLearning and how it may leave out vital skills from boat training especially if it is used in an MOTC. This would be optional for instructors.
- We also need to set up a timeline for updates to the material. Could there be a way for instructors to customize pictures or content for their area when teaching? Adding supplemental area specific content is an option in the system.
- There is already an eLearning approach to MOCC developed by the DOI that could serve as an example of how to incorporate eLearning into an MOTC. Need to include instructor resources like FTA’s and a prescribed format on how to incorporate eLearning into an MOTC – provide schedule.
- How do we deal with students who skip to the test and don’t learn the content. The program keeps track of content and tests. This is meant to be one more tool in your tool

box, use this only when your audience and program can benefit from it and you can keep your old ways as well.

- eLearning allows for greater accessibility to the content and doesn't need to replace in person lectures but could be added as pre-work.
- Will SBSA instructors / students need to be AAUS members to access this? No, this is a partnership between SBSA and AAUS and users do not need to be AAUS members.
- One way to use this would be to consider eLearning as more of a pre-test but you could still use your exam or the old exam in addition. eLearning speaks to the younger generation and provides another method of learning for more accessibility.
- This is added value to SBSA membership. The MOTC instructors here need to have a conversation on this and provide input on what product you would like.
- Will content be accessible after the course or downloadable for remote location access? Yes, it could be if we want it to.
- What are the expected outcomes from the training? What are the certifications that come out of this. What instructor certifications are needed to support this? We could ask Gary Schetrompf from NCTC to help us vet our product and maybe for access to how to use eLearning in a course. Gary may also be willing to share access to the DOI eLearning for reference (minimum standard).
- Will AAUS members who are not SBSA members have access to this? AAUS members would also need to be SBSA members to access this.
- What are the time costs on managing this program? We can look at the AAUS model and estimate what it might cost in time and resources. The Board would have to decide who would be best to manage this when the time comes.
- **Membership Vote:** Should SBSA pursue development of an eLearning platform in partnership with AAUS? Yes, the majority of the present membership agrees to pursue this as an optional tool for instructors to use.
- **eLearning Working Group:** Create an eLearning working group – Chair: Eric Hessel
Members: Carly Haack, Dan Battaglia, Jamie Barlow, Ian Moffet, James Fitzgerald.
- eLearning Goal: Develop a beta by early next year.

11:05 - Break (10 mins)

11:15 -Tour of Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (30 mins)

12:45 -Lunch

Location: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

2:30 - Tour of Boat and Marine Facilities (90 mins)

4:30 - Membership Discussion and Meeting Wrap Up (30 mins)

5:00 - End meeting

5:30 - Dinner (no host): Shore Ryder, 2168 Avenida de La Playa (15 min walk)