



Dennis Degner

Do you “Work to Live” or “Live to Work”?

People who dislike their job will say that they “Work to Live”, but those of us who are lucky enough to enjoy our job will say that we “Live to Work”. I have always been one of the lucky ones who enjoy their job and I have helped many people achieve their maritime training goals so that they can join the ranks of us who “Live to Work”.

New and Improved

The newsletter is back by popular demand. I hope you enjoy the new and improved format. Please distribute it to all your friends!

Now on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/CPMSchool

To receive this FREE newsletter electronically email your request to newsletter@ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com

Re-distribution of this newsletter, in its entirety, through electronic or printed format is highly encouraged.

Employment News

Employment Opportunities for mariners this year look much better than they have for the past several years, but the opportunities that you have available are dependent on the Merchant Mariner Credentials you hold. Upgrading your credentials can greatly increase your employment options.

Employment Opportunities Posted on page 2

MMC Renewal Tips

All Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) are issued for a period of five years and can be renewed at any time prior to the expiration date. There is also a one-year grace period to renew an expired credential. Waiting beyond the grace period to renew your MMC will require you to retake the exams for an original issue of the credential. **The Coast Guard does NOT send out renewal notices, so you need to keep track of your MMC expiration date.**

MMC Renewal Tips on page 2

MMC Upgrade Tips

Upgrading your existing Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) can be a cost effective way to increase your employment options.

MMC Upgrade Tips on page 3

Spring 2011 Course Schedule (April, May and June)

I cannot accept drop-ins for courses, so please call to schedule an appointment before stopping by the school. Because of the small class size that I maintain it is recommended that you schedule courses at least six weeks in advance. To schedule a course please call (503) 842-6066 and ask for Pat.

Spring Schedule is on page 4

MMC Renewal Tips

Plan Ahead

It is recommended that you start the renewal process six months before your MMC expires so that you don't get caught in the situation of not being able to work because of an expired credential.

Renew your TWIC

The USCG will not accept your renewal application until you renew your TWIC. A TWIC can be renewed at any time and at any TWIC enrollment center.

Physical Exam

Get a Merchant Mariner physical exam using USCG form 719K. Be sure the doctor signs the form and you have the original form for your application package.

UDCG/DOT Drug Screen

On the back of the drug screening form 719P are options for mariners enrolled in random programs.

Application Form

Complete the application form 719B requesting a renewal of your MMC. Be sure to include a letter of explanation for any "YES" answers to the questions in section III; even if you provided a letter of explanation in a previous application. [Directing the evaluator to "reference information already on file" can cause delays of five months or more. Always provide copies of previous statements or documents and state that the original document is on file to avoid lengthy delays.](#)

Document Sea Service

Use the small vessel sea service form 719S to document your experience while holding your credential. If you can document 360 days of experience in the past five years you will be able to renew your credential without taking any exams.

If you cannot document the qualifying experience you can still renew your credential by either taking an approved course or a renewal exam.

Approved Renewal Course

Many schools offer approved renewal courses that will satisfy the requirements for the renewal exams. These courses generally provide a short review of Rules of the Road, Seamanship and Safety and then supervise students as they take the open book renewal exam.

Renewal Exams

As an alternative to taking a renewal course you can request a renewal exam. This is an open-book exam that the Coast Guard will mail to you. You will have 30-days to complete the exam (using all resources available) and return it to the same Regional Exam Center (REC) for grading.

Delivery Options

I recommend delivering the application to an REC in person to take full advantage of the expertise of the REC personal and an easier method of paying the \$95 renewal fees than using the online government pay site.

As an alternative to hand delivering your renewal application you can mail the completed application to any of the seventeen Regional Exam Centers. To mail your application make copies of both sides of your TWIC and all pages of your MMC. Include all original forms and keep copies of everything for your records. Pay the renewal fees using the government pay website and include your receipt to verify payment. Here is a link for more information on renewing by mail.

www.uscg.mil/nmc/rec_information.asp

Getting the USCG Forms

Visit my website to download the renewal forms and a convenient renewal checklist.

www.ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com

Renewing for Continuity

If for any reason you cannot meet the renewal requirements for your MMC, but you would like to keep your credentials you can "Renew for Continuity Purposes Only". An MMC renewed for continuity never expires, but the mariner may not work on the credential. At any time in the future the mariner can activate the credential by meeting the renewal requirements. Visit this link for more information on how to Renew for Continuity Purposes Only.

www.uscg.mil/nmc/continuity.asp



Employment Opportunities

Tiki Charters (Astoria, Oregon) is seeking charter boat captains for the summer season. Applicants must have fishing experience; good people skills; and hold a Master 25 ton near coastal or higher license. Call Oly at (503) 325-7818 to apply.

Pacific Salmon Charters (Ilwaco, Washington) is seeking first and second charter boat captains for the summer season. Applicants must hold a Master 50 ton near coastal or higher license. Call (360) 642-3466 to apply.

USMariner.info is a free forum for the exchange of ideas and information between mariners with a focus on vessels of less than 200 gross tons. You are welcome to post your resumes and jobs on this site for free.

www.USMariner.info



MMC Upgrade Tips

Sea service experience never expires and is not used up when a credential is issued; it accumulates over the course of your lifetime. Always keep copies of all sea service experience documented with the Coast Guard so that you can provide copies when upgrading your credential.

When upgrading a credential the mariner must meet the sea service requirements for the new credential through previously documented experience; amending previously documented experience; or documentation of new experience.

The following upgrades require examination or completion of an approved course. In the Summer issue I will include MMC upgrade tips for credentials that do not require examination.

Upgrade OUPV to Master

Master 100 ton or less Inland

Master 100 tons for Inland waters requires 360 days of qualifying experience.

Master 100 ton or less Near Coastal

Master 100 tons for Near Coastal waters requires 720 days of total qualifying experience; which must include 360 days, or more on ocean waters.

Tonnage Limitations

Endorsements as Master 100 tons or less are issued in increments using the following formula:

- If all of the qualifying experience was on state registered vessels the endorsement will be limited to Master 25 tons.
- If any of the qualifying experience was on a documented vessel the endorsement will be limited to Master 50 tons.
- To qualify for Master 100 tons either 25% of the qualifying experience must have been on vessels greater than 50 tons OR 50% of

the qualifying experience must have been on vessels greater than 34 tons.

Upgrade Master 100 to 200 tons

Master 200 ton or less Inland

Master 200 tons Inland waters requires one year of qualifying experience that must include six months as master or mate while holding an endorsement as OUPV, master or mate.

Master 200 ton or less Near Coastal

Master 200 tons Near Coastal waters requires two years of qualifying experience that must include one year on ocean waters and one year as master or mate while holding an endorsement as OUPV, master or mate.

Tonnage Limitations

Endorsements as Master 200 tons and less are issued in 50 ton increments using the following formula:

- To qualify for Master 150 tons the applicant must document either 25% of the qualifying experience on vessels greater than 100 tons OR 50% of the qualifying experience on vessels greater than 67 tons.
- To qualify for Master 200 tons the applicant must document either 25% of the qualifying experience on vessels greater than 150 tons OR 50% of the qualifying experience on vessels greater than 100 tons.
- The qualifying experience required for meeting the tonnage limitations does not need to be as master or mate; experience as a deckhand can be used to meet this requirement.

Inland to Near Coastal Route

OUPV Inland to Near Coastal

The total sea service requirements for OUPV Near Coastal is 360 days; which must include 90 days experience on ocean waters.

An OUPV with a Near Coastal Route includes all Inland waters of the US and all ocean water within 100 miles of shore.

Master Inland to Near Coastal

The total sea service requirements for Master 200 tons or less Near Coastal is 720 days; which must include 360 days experience on ocean waters.

A Master with a Near Coastal Route includes all Inland waters of the US and all ocean waters within 200 miles of shore.

Near Coastal to Ocean Route

An endorsement with an Ocean route includes all Inland and Ocean waters.

An Ocean route can be added to an endorsement as Master 25 tons or greater, it cannot be added to an OUPV endorsement.

Master Near Coastal to Oceans

The total sea service requirements for Master Oceans 200 tons or less is three years of qualifying experience; which must include 18-months on ocean waters and two-years as master or mate while holding an endorsement as OUPV, master or mate.

In addition to meeting the sea service requirements the applicant for an oceans route must also meet the following additional requirements.

- Hold any rating of Able Seaman.
- Complete an approved firefighting course.
- Complete an approved Unlimited Radar Observer course.

For more information on Merchant Mariner Credential requirements and approved courses to satisfy the exam requirements visit the following websites:

www.ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com

www.USMariner.info





Spring 2011 Schedule

Course descriptions and the entire 2011 schedule is published online at www.ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com. For more information or to schedule a course call (503) 841-6066 and ask for Pat. If you are unable to reach her at this number please leave a message or call my cell phone (503) 440-9005. Columbia Pacific Maritime will be closed for Easter (April 21-24) and for Independence Day (June 30 through July 10).

Lecture Courses

Lecture courses are taught on a structured schedule using PowerPoint presentations followed by learning activities. These courses are scheduled from 8AM to 5PM over consecutive days that may include a weekend. All lecture courses are limited to a maximum of six students and I will never cancel a class due to low enrollment.

Courses for the Original Issue of an MMC

OUPV (\$900)

- March 28-April 4
- April 11-18
- April 25-May 2
- May 9-16
- May 23-30
- June 6-19
- June 20-27

Master 100 ton (\$1,100)

- March 28-April 6
- April 11-20
- April 25-May 4
- May 9-18
- May 23-June 1
- June 6-15
- June 20-29

Able Seaman (\$700)

- March 31-April 5
- April 14-19
- April 28-May 3
- May 12-17
- May 26-31
- June 9-14
- June 23-28

Courses for the Upgrade of an existing MMC

OUPV to Master (\$400)

- April 4-6
- April 18-20
- May 2-4
- May 16-18
- May 30-June 1
- June 13-15
- June 27-29

OUPV Inland to NC (\$400)

- APRIL 1-3
- April 15-17
- April 29-May 1
- May 13-15
- May 27-29
- June 10-12
- June 24-26

Master Inland to NC (\$700)

- April 1-6
- April 15-20
- April 29-May 4
- May 13-18
- May 27-June 1
- June 10-15
- June 24-29

Master 100 to 200 tons (\$600)

- April 7-10
- May 5-8
- May 19-22
- June 2-5
- June 16-19

Non-Lecture Courses

Non-lecture course use workbooks containing self-paced lessons that build skills and reinforce principles. Students progress through these lessons under the guidance of an approved instructor. These courses are scheduled weekdays one student at a time.

Radar Observer Courses

Radar Observer Unlimited (\$800)

- This five day course is scheduled Monday through Friday.

Radar Renewal (\$250)

- This one day course can be scheduled for any weekday.

Courses for the Upgrade of an existing MMC

Apprentice Mate (steersman) (\$300)

- This two day course scheduled either Monday and Tuesday OR Thursday and Friday.

Master / Mate Fishing Industry Vessel (\$200)

- This one day course scheduled on Mondays only.

Master Inland to Oceans (\$1,200)

- This eight day Celestial Navigation (200 tons) course scheduled Monday through Monday (includes the weekend).

Courses for Adding an Endorsement to an existing MMC

Assistance Towing Endorsement (\$100)

- This 4-hour course can be scheduled any weekday morning.

Auxiliary Sail Endorsement (\$100)

- This 4-hour course can be scheduled any weekday morning.

Other Courses

Flashing Light (\$200)

- One day course can be scheduled on Mondays only.