



**Dennis Degner, Instructor**

"Training professional mariners is not a part-time job for me; it is what I do and it defines who I am."

Columbia Pacific Maritime LLC provides professional maritime training courses in a small classroom environment.

- All classes are limited to a maximum of six students and I will never cancel a class do to low enrollment; in fact I am happy to hold a class for a single student.
- All class are US Coast Guard approved for meeting the exam requirements of the endorsement; meaning that after successful completion of the class no exams are required at the Coast Guard.
- All classes are offered over consecutive days; this allows students to get in, get out and get it done in the shortest time possible.

To receive this FREE newsletter electronically email your request to [newsletter@ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com](mailto:newsletter@ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com)

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

## Captain's License

Not every boater needs a Coast Guard issued Captain's License; in fact most boaters do not need a Captain's license. You do not need a Captain's License unless you are carrying passengers or transporting cargo for hire.

- A "passenger" is any person onboard the boat that is not the operator or a member of the crew.
- A "passenger for hire" is any passenger that has contributed anything as a condition for riding onboard the boat.

If you are carrying even one passenger for hire onboard a motorboat or other power-driven vessel on ocean waters or the federally navigable waters of the United States than you need to get a US Coast Guard issued Captain's license to legally operate your boat. These licenses are called "Officer Endorsements" and there are two that allow the holder to carry passengers for hire; the OUPV endorsement and the Master endorsement.

### Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV)

This endorsement allows the holder to carry up to six passengers (AKA 6-pack) for hire, not counting the operator or crew, on an uninspected passenger vessel. For the purpose of this endorsement an uninspected passenger vessel is any vessel of less than 100 tons (about 65 feet) operating on inland or near coastal ocean waters within 100 miles offshore carrying six or fewer passengers for hire.

### Master

This endorsement carries all the authority of the OUPV, plus the additional authority to operate inspected passenger vessels carrying more than six passengers within any restrictions on the endorsement. This endorsement will be issued with tonnage limitations of 25, 50 or 100 tons depending on the qualifying experience of the applicant.



## OUPV Endorsement

## Master Endorsement

Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) is a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) Officer Endorsement issued by the US Coast Guard that allows the holder to carry six or fewer passengers for hire on a small uninspected passenger vessel. This endorsement is issued with either an inland or near coastal route.

An Inland route authorizes authority over all the federally navigable Inland waterways in the United States, including Alaska.

- The sea service requirements for an Inland OUPV is 360 days in the operation of vessels.
- The applicant must pass written exams covering knowledge of Rules of the Road, navigation, chart plotting, seamanship, safety and the federal regulations for small uninspected passenger vessels.

A Near Coastal route authorizes authority over all federal navigable Inland waters in the United States and all ocean waters within 100 miles offshore.

- The sea service requirements for a Near Coastal OUPV is 360 days in the operation of vessels that includes at least 90 days on ocean waters.
- The applicant must pass written exams covering knowledge of Rules of the Road, navigation, chart plotting, seamanship, safety and the federal regulations for small uninspected passenger vessels.

Columbia Pacific Maritime offers an eight-day course for \$900 that will satisfy the US Coast Guard exam requirements for any OUPV endorsement; meaning that after successful completion of this approved course no exams are required at the Coast Guard.

The OUPV endorsement is the most common endorsement held by fishing guides and small charter boat operators.

- This endorsement can be upgraded to a Master 100 tons or less at anytime the applicant meets the requirements for the higher endorsement by completing an approved three-day course at Columbia Pacific Maritime.
- An Inland OUPV can be upgraded to a near coastal OUPV at anytime the applicant meets the requirements for the greater route by completing an approved three-day course at Columbia Pacific Maritime.

Master is a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) Officer Endorsement issued by the US Coast Guard that authorizes the full authority of the OUPV plus the additional authority to operate small inspected passenger vessels carrying more than six passenger for hire. The original issued of this endorsement will be for either an inland or near coastal route.

An Inland route authorizes the authority over all federally navigable inland waters of the United States, including Alaska.

- The sea service requirements for an Inland Master is 360 days working on the deck of vessels.
- The applicant must pass written exams covering knowledge of Rules of the Road, navigation, chart plotting, seamanship, safety and the federal regulations for small uninspected passenger vessels.

A Near Coastal route authorizes authority over all federal navigable inland waters and all ocean waters within 200 miles offshore.

- The sea service requirements for a Near Coastal Master is 720 days working on the deck of vessels that includes 360 days on ocean waters.
- The applicant must pass written exams covering knowledge of Rules of the Road, navigation, chart plotting, seamanship, safety and the federal regulations for small uninspected passenger vessels.

This endorsement will be issued with a tonnage limitation of 25, 50 or 100 tons depending on the qualifying experience of the applicant.

- If all you experience is on state registered boats you will receive a 25 ton limitation.
- If any of your experience is on a documented vessel you will receive a 50 ton limitation.
- To receive a 100 ton limitation you need either 50% your experience on vessels over 37 tons or 25% of your experience on vessels over 50 tons.

Columbia Pacific Maritime offers a ten-day course for \$1,100 that will satisfy the US Coast Guard exam requirements for a Master 25, 50, or 100 ton endorsement; meaning that after successful completion of this approved course no exams are required at the Coast Guard.





## How to Apply for a Merchant Mariner Credential

The US Merchant Marines represent the professional mariners that man US Flagged vessels engaged in the transportation of passengers and cargo for hire. US flagged vessels include everything from the smallest fishing guide boat to the largest super-tanker.

A Captain's License is a Merchant Marine Officer Endorsement issued by the US Coast Guard to professional captains on their Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC). The MMC is a passport type book containing all the merchant mariner's professional qualifications. The cost of getting an MMC is about \$500 (not counting any courses).

The following four steps outline the application process for getting an MMC.

### Step 1 Document Your Qualifying Experience

The first step is to document your qualifying experience. This is easily done using the small vessel sea service form 719S provided by the Coast Guard. Sea service experience is measured in calendar days. Any day you were on a boat with a position of responsibility (handled lines, steered, helped to watch for other boats or cleaned the boat) and away from the dock counts as one day of qualifying experience. A month is 30 days, a year is 12 months or 360 days. You need at least one year of qualifying experience for any officer endorsement.

### Step 2 Get a TWIC

The TWIC (Transportation Workers Identification Credential) is issued by TSA (Transportation Security Administration) and is a requirement by the Coast Guard before they will except your MMC application.

To get a TWIC you need to apply in person at a TWIC enrollment center. Application requires that you provide personal information and identification. The enrollment center will take your digital picture, fingerprints and payment of the \$132.50 enrollment fee. The FBI will conduct a criminal background check and threat assessment and if everything goes well you will be able to pick up your TWIC in a week or two. To locate a TWIC enrollment center near your location and acceptable forms of ID visit the TWIC website: [www.twicinformation.com](http://www.twicinformation.com).

When completing the TWIC application be sure to check the box stating that you are applying for an MMC. This allows TSA to release your file information to the Coast Guard. The digital picture and other personal information will be used for your MMC.

### Step 3 Complete MMC Application Package

All USCG application packages for the original issue of an MMC officer endorsement requires the following documents:

- Application Form 719B requesting the original issue of an MMC officer endorsement.
- Merchant Mariner Physical Exam Form 719K completed by a doctor and stating that you are fit for duty.
- USCG/DOT drug screen completed by an approved facility.
- Three letters of character reference recommending the applicant for an MMC officer endorsement.
- Proof of US Citizenship (passport or birth certificate).
- American Red Cross or American Heart Association First Aid/CPR certificates dated within one year of the application date.
- Social Security Card.
- TWIC.

### Step 4 Delivery to a Regional Exam Center

There are 17 US Coast Guard Regional Exam Centers (REC) around the nation. The completed application package must be delivered to an REC either in person or by registered mail.

- If mailing the application to an REC make copies of both sides of all documents (TWIC, Social Security Card, FA/CPR certificates, etc.). Pay the application and issuance fees online at the GovPay website and include the receipt with the application. Have notary administer the merchant mariner oath and included the notarized oath with the application.
- If delivering the application to an REC in person many of these details can be taken care of at the REC.

Upon approval of your application the Coast Guard will mail a letter stating that you are approved to test for your endorsement. At this point you can either take an approved class or schedule a time to take the Coast Guard exams at an REC.

Visit [www.ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com](http://www.ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com) to download the Coast Guard forms and more detailed information on the application process.





## Approved Courses

The entire 2012 class schedule is published online at [www.ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com](http://www.ColumbiaPacificMaritime.com). For more information or to schedule a course call (503) 841-6066 and ask for Pat. The following USCG approved courses are offered by Columbia Pacific Maritime LLC.

### Lecture Classes

All lecture classes are taught on a highly structured schedule to a maximum of six students. Limiting these classes to six students ensures that each student receives the attention they require to successfully complete the course.

#### OUPV (\$900)

This eight-day class will satisfy the exam requirement for an OUPV endorsement with either an inland or near coastal route.

#### Master 100 tons (\$1,100)

This ten-day class will satisfy the exam requirement for a Master or Mate endorsement of 25, 50 or 100 tons with either an inland or near coastal route.

#### Able Seaman (\$600)

This four-day class will satisfy the exam requirements for any able seaman endorsement.

#### Rules of the Road (\$400)

This three-day class will satisfy the exam requirements for upgrade of an Inland OUPV to Near Coastal.

#### Upgrade OUPV to Master 100 tons (\$400)

This three-day class will satisfy the exam requirements for the upgrade of an existing OUPV endorsement to Master 25, 50 or 100 tons OR it will satisfy the upgrade of an Inland Master 100 ton or less to Near Coastal.

#### Upgrade Master 100 to 200 tons (\$600)

This four-day class will satisfy the exam requirement for the upgrade of an existing Master or Mate endorsement of 100 tons or less to Master or Mate 150 or 200 tons. When combined with the Master 100 ton course completion certificate this course will satisfy the exam requirements for the original issue of an endorsement as Mate 150 or 200 tons.

#### Upgrade Master Inland to Near Coastal (\$600)

This six-day class will satisfy the exam requirements for the upgrade of an existing Inland Master or Mate 200 ton or less endorsement to Near Coastal.

### Self-Paced Classes

All self-paced class are taught one student at a time in an individualized format. This requires students to work through approved workbooks under the guidance of an approved instructor.

#### Radar Observer Unlimited (\$800)

This five-day class will satisfy the training and exam requirements for the original issue of a Radar Observer Unlimited endorsement.

#### Radar Renewal (\$250)

This one-day class will satisfy the training and exam requirements for the renewal of any radar observer endorsement.

#### Apprentice Mate (steersman) (\$300)

This two-day class will satisfy the exam requirements for the upgrade of an existing Master 200 ton or less endorsement to include Apprentice Mate (steersman). When combined with the Master 100 and 200 ton certificates it will satisfy the exam requirements for the original issue of an Apprentice Mate (steersman) of Towing Vessels.

#### Master/Mate Fishing Vessels (\$200)

This one-day class will satisfy the exam requirements for the upgrade of an existing endorsement as Mate 150 tons or higher to include Master or Mate of Fishing Vessels. When combined with the Master 100 and 200 ton certificates it will satisfy the exam requirements for the original issue of Mate of Fishing Vessels.

#### Auxiliary Sail (\$50)

This four-hour class will satisfy the exam requirements for adding "Sail and Auxiliary Sailing Vessels" to an existing endorsement as Master or Mate 200 tons or less.

#### Assistance Towing (\$50)

This four hour class will satisfy the exam requirements for adding "Authorized to engage in Commercial Assistance Towing" to any endorsement as Master or Mate 200 tons or less or to an OUPV endorsement.

#### Celestial Navigation (200 tons) (\$1,200)

This eight-day class will satisfy the exam requirements for the upgrade of an existing endorsement as Near Coastal Master 200 ton or less to All Oceans.

