

US NAVAL SAILING ASSOCIATION

Preserving Our Sailing Tradition

NEWSLETTER 1

MARCH 2012

Has your USNSA membership expired or about to expire? Here is how you can check. If you look at your membership card, below the "Dues Paid Thru" line, you will see, for example the date (1212), the **first set of numbers** indicates the year, **the second set of numbers** indicate the month. So, for the aforementioned example, membership will expire on the December 31, 2012.

If you need to renew, you can do so 1) Online at our website: www.navysailing.org; 2) You can also send us a check at USNSA, P.O. Box 4702, Annapolis MD 21403; or 3) Calling our office at 443 510 1421 and using your credit card.

The cost to renew your individual membership is \$32.00/year or \$80.00 for 3 years.

SECTION 1: MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the sun returns to the Northern Hemisphere sailors start thinking about warmer days out on the water. The spring is a time to begin thawing out and burning our socks but it's also time, to think about spring commissioning. While this effort is an annual rite we thought we provide a refresher on those commissioning tasks to help us get on the water as soon as possible! The association welcomes our members to share their tips and tricks and photos on our [Facebook](#) site, US Naval Sailing Association.

Happy spring and we look forward to seeing you on the water!

Michael Christman, Executive Director of USNSA

SECTION 2: PREPARING YOUR BOAT FOR THE SEASON

PRE-SEASON CHECKLIST

GENERAL:

- o Do a general cleaning of hull, deck and topsides using a mild detergent
- o Make sure drains and scuppers are clear
- o Put on a good coat of wax
- o Clean and polish metal with a good metal polish
- o Clean teak and oil
- o Clean windows and hatches
- o Clean canvas, bimini and dodger
- o Clean interior including bilges

- Check spare parts and tools and replace as necessary
- Make sure registration is current and onboard
- Check and replace wiper blades

HULL

- Check for hull abrasions, scratches, gouges, etc. and repair
- Check and replace zincs
- Check for blisters and refinish is necessary
- Check rub rails
- Check swim platform and/or ladder
- Inspect and test trim tabs
- Check shaft, cutlass bearing, strut and prop
- Check rudder and fittings
- Touch up or replace antifouling paint

DECK, FITTINGS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

- Check stanchion, pulpits and lifelines for integrity
- Check ground tackle, lines, fenders, etc.
- Check chain plates and cleats
- Check hull/deck joint
- Check deck, windows, and port lights for leaks
- Inspect anchor windlass and lubricate
- Clean and grease winches
- Check and lubricate blocks, pad eyes, etc.
- Check dinghy, and life raft

BELOW DECKS:

- Check, test and lubricate seacocks
- Check condition of hoses and clamps
- Make sure below waterline hoses are double clamped
- Check bilges pumps for automatic and manual operation
- Check for oil in bilges

- Check limber holes and make sure they are clear of debris

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND COMPONENTS:

- Check battery water level
- Check/recharge batteries
- Check terminals for corrosion, clean and lubricate
- Check bonding system
- Inspect all wiring for wear and chafe
- Test all gauges for operability
- Check shore power and charger
- Check for spare fuses
- Check all lighting fixtures (including navigation lights) and make sure you have spare bulbs
- Check all electronics for proper operation
- Inspect antennas

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT:

- Sound signaling device
- Check distress signals and expiration date
- Check Pfd's
- Inspect life rings and cushions
- Check fire extinguishers and recharge if necessary
- Check and adjust compass
- Check navigation lights
- Check charts and replace as necessary
- Check radar reflector
- Check and replace first aid supplies
- Check bailer and hand pump

INBOARD ENGINE(S):

- Change oil & filters - have spare onboard
- Check and change fuel filters - have spares onboard
- Check and change engine zincs
- Check cooling system change coolant as necessary - have extra onboard
- Record engine maintenance log, especially date & hours of last oil changes
- Check belts for tension
- Check transmission fluid
- Check and clean backfire flame arrestor
- Check impeller
- Check and clean water strainer
- Check bilge blower

HEAD SYSTEM:

- Checked for smooth operation - lubricate and clean as necessary
- If equipped with treatment system, have chemicals on hand
- Y-valve operation checked, valve labeled & secured

WATER SYSTEM:

- Flush water tank
- Check water system and pump for leaks and proper operation
- Check hot water tank working on both AC and engines
- Check for tank cap keys on board
- Check and clean shower sump pump screens

GALLEY:

- Fill propane tank, check electric & manual valves, check storage box vent to make sure it is clear
- Check refrigerator, clean and freshen, operate on AC and DC
- Clean stove, check that all burners and oven are working
- Check microwave, if fitted

OUTBOARD MOTOR:

- Replace spark plugs
- Check plug wires for wear
- Check prop for nicks and bends
- Change/fill gear lube
- Inspect fuel lines, primer bulb and tank for leaks
- Lubricate and spray moveable parts

TRAILER:

- Check for current registration
- Check rollers and pads
- Check and lubricate wheel bearings
- Clean and lubricate winch
- Lubricate tongue jack and wheel
- Test lights and electrical connections
- Check tire pressure and condition
- Check brakes (if equipped)
- Check safety chains
- Check tongue lock

SAILS:

- Check general condition
- Look for wear and chafing
- Check battens and batten pockets
- Check all sail attachments
- Inspect bolt rope

MAST AND RIGGING:

- Check mast and spreaders for corrosion or damage
- Inspect spreader boots and shrouds
- Inspect rivets and screw connections for corrosion
- Check reefing points and reefing gear
- Clean sail track

- o Check rigging, turnbuckles and clevis pins for wear and corrosion
- o Inspect stays for fraying and "fish hooks"
- o Check forestay and backstay connections
- o Check masthead fitting and pulleys
- o Check and lubricate roller furling
- o Check halyards and consider replacing or swapping end for end
- o Tape turnbuckles, cotter pins, and spreaders

Additional suggestions that we add three more items to the spring checklist. They are as

follows:

1. Lubricate stuffing boxes, shaft and rudder logs
2. Empty water separator filters
3. Shock the drinking water tank. Barry suggests pool shock not bleach. Pool shock breaks down in a few days and then can be flushed out.

SECTION 3: WELCOME ABOARD!

USNSA wants to take this opportunity to welcome aboard the following new Branches and Commands:

LeaderSail, Inc.

NROTC University of California Berkeley

29 Palms Marines Sailing Association

Blue Water Cove Marina

We are looking forward to working with you all to improve and help your sailing programs grow and prosper.

SECTION 4: 2012 USNSA SAILING INSTRUCTOR COURSE DATES

EAST COAST: AT Short Stay, South Carolina will be held on the following dates:

1st Session:

- Pre-Course: **May 19 & 20**
- Instructor Sailing Course: **May 21 to 25**

2nd Session:

- Pre-Course: **June 23 & 24**

- Instructor Sailing Course: **June 25-29**

WEST COAST:

1st Session: At Del Mar Marina, Camp Pendleton, CA

- **There will be no Pre-Course at this location**
- Instructor Sailing Course: **July 23 – 27**

2nd Session: At Fiddler's Cove Marina, Coronado, CA

- Pre-Course: **August 25 & 26**
- Instructor Sailing Course: **August 27 - 31**

For more information, Email us at [USNSA](#) or call us at (443) 510-1421.