

## Sail Chicago's Cruising Boat Courses

*Sail Chicago's* cruising program is tailored after *US Sailing's* Basic Cruising, Coastal Navigation, and Bareboat Cruising Certification requirements. The courses are conducted aboard the *Sail Chicago's* Hunter 34, *Priorities* which is docked in Belmont Harbor.

### Basic Cruising – Course Description

This course is open to any *Sail Chicago* member who is comfortable sailing the Colgate 26 on their own after learning fundamental sailing skills such as are offered in *Sail Chicago's* Skipper Prep Class. In this hands-on, four session program, students learn to operate a 34 ft. sail boat with an inboard engine. In addition to applying the skills and knowledge learned on the Colgate 26 to a larger boat, students are introduced to the operation of enhanced safety features; engine operation and maintenance; electrical systems; local charts and hazards; motoring; effective use of prop walk and prop wash to control the boat while under power in close quarters; leaving and returning to the slip under various wind conditions; and, effective placement of dock lines, spring lines and fenders.

To become a cruising boat skipper, a student must be a current Basic Keelboat skipper.

**REGISTRATION:** This course is offered in each of the four education sessions conducted during the 2016 sailing season. See the instruction page of the *Sail Chicago* website to register.

### Coastal Navigation – Course Description

This course is open to any *Sail Chicago* member, but is required for anyone registering for the **Bareboat Cruising** course. Twelve students learn to identify chart symbols and their corresponding visual observations; define true and magnetic compass readings and application of variation and deviation; plot course and position; calculate time/speed/distance; take bearings and fixes; adjust for set and drift; and, plot danger fixes.

This course is conducted on two, half- days on April 9 and 16 at a convenient south loop location. Students work at a table with charts, dividers and parallel rule. The instructor will discuss a topic and students will complete exercises using the charts and equipment at their table.

**REGISTRATION:** [Click here](#) to register

### **Bareboat Cruising – Course Description**

The Bareboat Cruising graduate will have successfully demonstrated the ability to skipper and crew an inboard auxiliary powered cruising sailboat within sight of land and bring it safely to anchor in a foreign port during daylight hours. Students meet at 1 PM on a Friday afternoon to plan the cruise and conduct checks of boat systems. On Saturday morning the students sail to a foreign port while plotting the course as learned in the Basic Coastal Navigation Course. The boat will overnight in the foreign port and return to Chicago the next day. At the conclusion of this course, the students will be able to: check the location and condition of all safety equipment; perform the daily checks of the engine fluids and mechanical parts, manual and electrical bilge pump, and the electrical, mechanical, fresh water, marine head and holding tank systems; demonstrate the ability to correctly use a hand bearing and ship's compass; maintain a DR plot with time/speed/distance calculations; work up estimated position; and, understand the operation of GPS to locate position.

**REGISTRATION:** This course is offered in each of the four education sessions conducted during the 2016 season. See the instruction page of the *Sail Chicago* website to register.