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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On-Water Standards Program Sails with Maritime Law Association

Baltimore, MD, August 2016. The National On-Water Standards Team hosted members of the Maritime Law Association's (MLA), Recreational Boating Committee for two harbor sailing cruises during the MLA's recent meeting in Baltimore. While on board, committee members were briefed about the national recreational boating entry-level skills standards development work. They experienced first-hand a demonstration of some of the components of the SAIL standard (Version 4 of 5) while underway. Once finalized, the SAIL standard will be submitted to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for approval as an ANS.

On Friday, August 12, MLA members boarded the 56 ft. schooner "Adventurer" captained by Duncan Hood for two separate cruises. On-Water SAIL Standard Team Leader, Jeff Riecks, narrated as the vessel engaged in a variety of the sailing maneuvers, called elements, included within the draft SAIL Standard. SAIL Standard elements prior to casting off addressed proper fitting of life jackets, a safety briefing, and checking weather and waterways for potential hazards. While underway, several MLA members took the helm to perform some of the SAIL Standard elements like, "Sail directly downwind... avoiding an unintentional jibe for 10 boat lengths."

The On-Water Standards initiative aims to advance the overall level of quality, availability and consistency of On-Water skills-based instruction in recreational boat operation through the development, integration and application of On-Water Standards that work in conjunction with Knowledge-based standards. Once approved as an ANS, the Standard will be available at no cost to boating instructors, students, and enthusiasts to use as a resource. In addition to the SAIL Standard, the Team has already developed a POWER ANS and is currently submitting the HUMAN propelled Standard to for ANS approval.

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More information on The National On Water Standards can be found at <http://www.onwaterstandards.org/>

[National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation.](#)