

Making Better Boaters

Reading your boat and crew for departure, starting your engine, safely leaving the dock, getting up to speed, maintaining directional control, turning the boat, crossing waves or wake, bringing the boat to a complete stop, picking up a man overboard, returning to your dock or mooring, and securing the boat... do you remember learning these skills? Now, recreational boaters learning to operate boats will have a standard by which they acquire fundamental skills.

As part of the U.S. Coast Guard's goal to raise the overall quality, availability, and consistency of on-water skills-based instruction, the National On-Water Standards (NOWS) grant management team and the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) announced last fall the approval and publication of EDU-1 On-Water Power Standard, the first of three proposed skills-based American National Standards (ANS) for on-water instruction in recreational boating safety.

"I'm excited about it," says NOWS facilitator K. Brian Dorval. "It's an opportunity to help create something to save lives

and increase enjoyment on our nation's waterways. If you have a safe experience, you're more likely to have a fun one."

The formal announcement in November followed years of hard work. The NOWS Project team of 43 experts, working in partnership with ABYC using its ANS-approved process, and hundreds of volunteers across the country completed the development of the POWER domain standard in just over four years. First developed on paper, the standard was field-tested at six different venues across the country: Edison Sailing Center, Ft. Myers, FL; Annapolis Sailing School, Annapolis, MD; SUNY Maritime, Bronx, NY; Mentor Harbor Yachting Club, Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH; Capital Yacht Club/DC Sail, Washington, DC; Coronado Yacht Club, Coronado, CA.

Functioning as an ANS, the POWER standard identifies the fundamental skills subject matter experts across the country



agree that entry-level recreational powerboat operators should be able to demonstrate after receiving instruction. The standard is freely available for voluntary application by recreational boating safety instructional programs. Also under development are national standards for On-Water Skills-based instruction in human-propelled craft and sailboat operation.

The EDU-1 On-Water Power Standard is available for free download from ABYC's store at abycinc.org. Find more information at onwaterstandards.org. Direct questions to Dorval at grantfacilitator@gmail.com.

Home Port: Oxford, MD

Favorite River to Cruise:

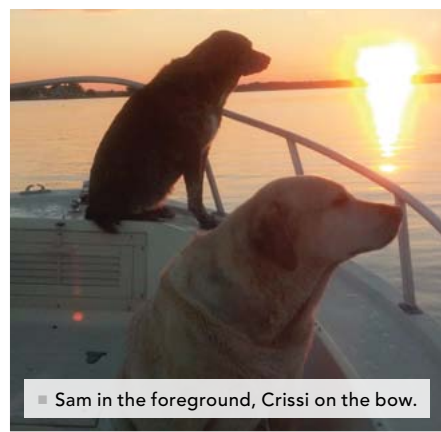
Tred Avon River

Favorite Water Activities

(for the dogs): running, swimming, eating dead "stuff," and Crissi likes to dig up rocks on the beach.

Average Afternoon for the trio:

boat to the beach, swim, run, and then boat home.



■ Sam in the foreground, Crissi on the bow.

Meet Sam and Crissi



Sam is the 12-year old yellow lab on the right; Crissi is the 12-year old mutt on the left. Owner Henry Hale rescued Crissi when she was just a puppy. He drove all the way to a shelter in Iowa to bring her home, and ever since, Mr. Hale has been taking his beloved dogs out on the water with him, cruising the Bay almost every evening. Got a great boat dog photo? Email it to kaylie@proptalk.com!