

## **Columbia Pacific Maritime LLC**

The Captain's License School in Portland, Oregon providing USCG approved license training courses for USCG Merchant Marine Licenses and Documents with a focus on vessels of 200 tons and less.

### **March 2008 Newsletter**

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#### ***Unlimited Radar Observer***

Columbia Pacific Maritime has ordered a new PC Radar Simulator from Buffalo Computer Graphics. Delivery and installation of the equipment is expected by mid-April. I am hoping to have everything setup and operational by early May. Look for an update in the April Newsletter

#### ***REC Portland Re-Opens***

The Regional Exam Center Portland will re-open at its new location on Monday February 25<sup>th</sup>. Normal hours are from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM and from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM Monday through Friday and closed to the public on Wednesday afternoons and all Federal Holidays. The new address and phone number is:

USCG Regional Exam Center  
911 NE 11th Ave, RM 637  
Portland, OR 97232  
Phone: (503) 231-2296  
Fax: (503) 231-6738

The status of applications can now be checked on line at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and then look under the Merchant Mariner Tab.

#### ***Documenting Sea Service***

Documenting sea service experience can be one of the biggest challenges facing anyone applying for a USCG license, especially when the experience was on small privately owned vessels. To accomplish this task use the Small Vessel Sea Service Form CG-719s included in the USCG Application package available as a free download from the [Columbia Pacific Maritime Download page](#). You must complete one form for each vessel you are documenting sea service on. If you are using multiple forms I suggest providing a one page summary of your sea service experience. The following tips may be helpful in completing the Small Vessel Sea Service Form.

#### **Section I – Applicant Information**

This section contains general information about the applicant, the vessel, and the area of operation.

Being a passenger or guest does not provide qualifying experience; you must have been responsible for some aspect of the vessel's operation. To document your responsibility on the vessel write in that you "Served As:" Master or Operator if you in charge of the

vessel; Mate if you were not in charge of the vessel, but took control of the helm without direct supervision; or Deckhand if you handled lines, scrubbed the deck, acted as a lookout, or handled the helm under supervision.

It is also important to provide an accurate description of the waters upon which the vessel was operated on. For inland waters this would be the name of the bay, sound, or river; for ocean waters this would include the name of the ocean along with defining landmarks. An example would be the "Columbia River and North Pacific Ocean between Tillamook Head, Oregon and Cape Disappointment, Washington."

## **Section II – Record of Underway Service**

This is where you record your sea service experience. Sea service is measured in eight-hour days; any day that you were on a vessel and away from the dock for four-hours or more counts as an eight hour sea day. Being underway for more than eight-hours a day does not count as addition sea service on non-commercial vessels.

The first part of this section is where you estimate the number of days that you were underway each month. These entries can come from a log book or reconstructed from memory. Once filled out this becomes a log of your underway days.

The second part of this section is where the totals from the first part are entered and the sea service is defined as inland or near coastal.

- Total number of days served on this vessel: this is the total from the first part of this section.
- Average hours underway: this refers to the average number of hours you were away from the dock each day; for most vessel this will be somewhere between 4 and 12 hours.
- Average distance offshore: this refers to the distance the vessel was operated from the shoreline; even on inland waters you were away from the shore line.
- Number of days served on Great Lakes: enter the total number of days that you were on the Great Lakes here; for most of us on the West Coast this will be zero.
- Number of days served on waters shoreward of the boundary line: this refers to inland sea days.
- Number of days served on waters seaward of the boundary line: this refers to ocean sea days; if at anytime during the day the vessel crossed the bar that day becomes an ocean or near coastal sea day

## **Section III – Signature and Verification**

By signing this section the applicant and vessel owner or operator is swearing under penalty of law that the information provided is true.

If the applicant was also the vessel owner than proof of ownership must be provided for the entire time of the sea service. Acceptable proof of ownership includes federal documentation papers; state registration papers; or vessel title. If you no longer own the vessel you may contact your local State Marine Board or the [USCG National Vessel Documentation Center](#) for official copies of these records. A website for searching vessel documentation records is also provided by [NOAA Fisheries](#).

## ***Training Schedule Update***

Columbia Pacific Maritime will be closed March 24, 2008 for Easter Sunday.

At the time of publishing there are two spaces available in the OUPV / Master 100 class beginning March 10, 2008 and only one space for the class beginning April 7. All classes beginning after April 20, 2008 have open seating; for a complete list of all courses available visit [Columbia Pacific Maritime Online Schedule page](#).

## ***Online Registration***

Easy online registration is now available to register for classes. Visit the [Columbia Pacific Maritime Online Forms page](#) and select the course registration form. You will need to provide your name and contact information along with the name and dates of the course you are enrolling in. You will receive a confirmation email from me within 24-hours. All course reservations are on the honor system, meaning that no deposit is required. Payment is due in full the first day of class. If you register for a class and are not able to attend please contact us ASAP so that the vacancy can be filled from our waiting list.

## ***USCG Application***

A good place to begin when applying for an original license or a renewal of an existing license is the USCG application package. A complete application package can be downloaded free from the [download page on the Columbia Pacific Maritime website](#). Once you download the application package look it over and give me a call if you have any questions.

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Thank you for your support.

Dennis A. Degner

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