



GENERAL MANAGER'S LETTER

Enjoying Dinghy Sailing

We have Sailing Trips on 16 July & 13 August. Parents and children can join these trip to nearby locations; please bring a picnic or enjoy a restaurant's facilities at the destination. The trip always proves a great bonding day, and the chance to join one is not to be missed. Life is short, and a Sailing Trip can be part of living life to the full.

Yacht Sailing- Summer Races and Anniversary Regatta

The Summer Season has arrived, and the Summer Series has started. This year, we've introduced a division C, to cater for boats and sailors who prefer more leisurely sailing. Come join for a morning race, and enjoy lunch at the destination's seafood restaurant to meet up with friends and other sailors. To join a race, you just need to fill out the online entry form: www.abclubhk.com/events/SummerSeries2017_Reg.aspx

Let me take the opportunity here to thank, on behalf of all, the sailing yacht crew and skippers Fuegy and OBMG for supporting the races with discounted fuel and giving prizes.

If you're not yet the proud owner of a fierce racing machine and still want to sail, please come to meet our skippers in the morning of the races, during an early breakfast buffet at the Club. I'm confident you'll find a place on a yacht for the day (Providing your own refreshments), as you discover this major sailing activity in your Club. The next racing dates are Sundays 9 July, 23 July, 6 August and 27 August 2017.

Also, this year we are celebrating the Club's 50 anniversary, and the Opening Yacht Regatta will be sponsored by Sunseeker. This will be a major sailing event. Come join 2 days of amazing sailing and celebrations.

MARINE

PVOL – or your licence to drive a boat in Hong Kong

We have been running very successfully and in cooperation with A & M Boating, the Hong Kong Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competence P.V.O.L. Grade II, (Part A Master and Part B Engineer).

This certification will allow you to drive any boat that is not more than 15m in length overall, in Hong Kong waters. If you have a boat or plan to have one with an engine of more than 4.5CC and within this size, you need a PVOL to operate it.

While if your boat is or will be over 15m long, you will need a grander licence: Grade I certification, which we only do if we have sufficient demand.

The certification course is in two parts. You can choose to sit for one part or both, but one would limit what you can do at sea, and to operate your vessel freely you will need both parts of grade II PVOL.

The first part of the course – or the master section, will teach you about rules at sea, lights signals, shapes to hoist and communicate, buoys and signals that you will see at sea and their meaning. Plus some seamanship, knowledge of local waterways and the laws of Hong Kong. While part B – or the engineering section of the grade II certification, will

look at engine construction, diesel & petrol fuel differences, fuel systems, electrical systems, ignition systems, lubrication, cooling & pumps, transmission systems, operation & maintenance, fire & gas precautions.

The cost per Part is HK\$1,700 for members and HK\$2,000 for non-members; if you take both parts the total cost is HK\$3,400 for members and HK\$4,000 for non-members.

All ABC-hosted courses include course notes, teaching materials and practice exam questions. However, we also sell, at our reception shop, the PVOL Handbook, which covers the syllabus for both Grade 2 and Grade 1 exams.

www.abclubhk.com/upload/Courses/PVOCC/PVOCC-II-2017.pdf

The next classes are planned at the ABC on 1, 3 and 4 August for part A; and on 9, 10 and 11 August. The lectures last about 3 hours each, and start at 7:00pm, in the harbour room.

TYPHOON PRECAUTION

Typhoon season in Hong Kong is from May to October, with most tropical cyclones and typhoons arriving between mid-July and late September. The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) provides advance warning and tracking of typhoons over a wide-ranging area. It tracks storms that threaten to approach Hong Kong and those whose passage brings less wind but heavy bands of rain. As per the ABC Bye-laws, members within the Club premises will be kept informed of tropical storm signals, either by the posting of notices or by announcements through the website and Facebook.

Boat Readiness

It is the owner's responsibility to secure a boat's mooring and look after its overall safety. ABC reminds all boat owners that ABC staff are not supposed to board boats to clear decks, and despite ABC helping to check mooring components for safety, owners must secure their own mooring lines.

Steps to take for boats' safety and security

If a typhoon is approaching, boat owners should prepare to secure their mooring early – it is much harder to work in strong winds and heavy rain. In advance of typhoons, to protect boats and ensure safety, boating members should consider taking the following actions for boats on moorings (note that this is advice supplied by professional mariners):

- Check and ensure your licence and insurance are both up-to-date. An expired licence will automatically invalidate your insurance. Your policy should name your mooring location and you should have checked with your insurance if the location is under their understanding of typhoon protected area;
- Check that your bilge pump and electrical system are in good working condition;
- Clear cockpit drains;
- Securely close all hatches and lockers;
- Lash the helm amidships;