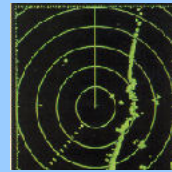
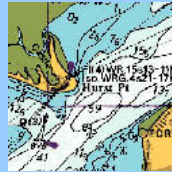


## RYA Dayskipper (Practical) ~ Motor Cruising Scheme



The RYA Dayskipper Practical course is an extremely popular 4 day course aimed at both those with their own craft and those keen to develop their skills on a school vessel. For those keen to boat abroad achieving the Dayskipper qualification also allows you to apply for the International Certificate of Competence ('ICC') for vessels up to 24m\*. The Dayskipper course is aimed at craft over 7m which would typically be vessels capable of coastal passages such as smaller fast fishers, four berth family cruiser type vessels through to larger cruisers.

Over the four days of this course there is the time to really focus on both boat handling and all aspects of planning and executing passages. Time is spent looking at charts and tides, passage planning, pilotage and subjects such as Course to Steer. All aspects of using GPS and chartplotters are covered too and we also introduce the basics of radar. There is plenty of time to address in detail safety from the equipment carried to how to deal with a man overboard situation. We also go out at night and execute a night passage. The subjects we cover include:

- Safety & preparation for sea
- Boat handling including leaving & coming alongside
- Navigation including use of electronic navigation techniques
- Pilotage & passage planning
- Rules of the road
- Engines
- Emergency situations including man overboard
- Night cruising
- Meteorology

The full syllabus is to be found on Page 2 of this document.

**Duration:** Usually 4 days (Alternatively 5 days if combined with Helmsman. Can be completed over 2 x two day periods.)

**Entry requirements:** The RYA suggest that to enter the course you have spent at least two days afloat although not necessarily as skipper. If you don't have any experience then the 4 day Dayskipper course can be combined with the 2 day Helmsman course into a 5 day combined course.

**International Certificate of Competence:** This can be applied for after successful completion of the course. The ICC form is available on our website. Submit a copy of the certificate with the fee (free if you are a RYA member) to the RYA and they will issue a ICC valid for powered craft up to 24m. Please note that the RYA guidance states *"This certificate is available only to British citizens and bona fide British Residents over the age of 16. Evidence of residency for non-citizens will be required in the form of a photocopy of a driving licence, utility bill, Council Tax bill or bank statement etc. Further authenticated evidence of residency for non-citizens may be required. The ICC is acceptable for British citizens or residents using a British flagged vessel for leisure. Other countries may accept the ICC for their native flagged vessels."*

## The full syllabus

**Aim:** The Dayskipper course is taught on board a motor cruiser at least 7m LOA and aims to teach pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a motor cruiser by day in tidal waters with which the student is familiar.

**Preparation for sea:** Is able to prepare a motor cruiser for sea, carry out fuel and engine checks, securing and stowage of all gear on deck and below

**Boat handling:** Can carry out the following manoeuvres under power in various wind and tide conditions. Has understanding of the different styles of hull and propulsions systems; Steering a straight course; Turning in a confined space; Anchoring at a pre-determined position; Berthing alongside; Leaving an alongside berth; Picking up a mooring buoy; Correct use of power trim and tabs; Awareness of other water users

**Navigation:** Is proficient in chart work and can carry out the following tasks: Taking and plotting visual fixes; Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing

Use of waypoints; Working up DR and EP; Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams; Working out course to steer to allow for tidal stream; Knowledge of IALA buoyage; Maintenance of navigational record; Use of echo sounder

**Pilotage:** Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry into, or departure from, harbour; Understands the use of leading and clearing lines; Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage

**Passage making:** Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking into account the relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat, weather, tide and the strength of the crew; Has been introduced to practical benefits and limitations of GPS

**Meteorology:** Knows sources of forecast information, can interpret shipping forecasts and use of a barometer as a forecasting aid

**Rule of the road:** Has a working knowledge of the application of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

**Engines:** Has a working knowledge of the application of the prevention of common engine faults and is competent in the following areas: Checks before starting, whilst running and after stopping; Periodic maintenance checks on engines and electrical installations

Requirements for tool kits, spares, and lubricants; Can clean water filters & knows location of impellers; Knows location of filters & bleed points for fuel; Knows tensions of drive belts & how to change; Fuel consumption at various speeds & the effect of fouling

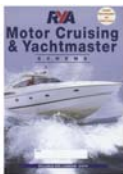
**Emergency situations:** Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard; Can operate a radiotelephone in an emergency and send a distress message; Understands how to secure a tow, rescue procedures including helicopter rescue; Understands distress flares and how to use a liferaft

**Night cruising:** Has experienced motor cruising at night, including leaving and entering harbour, and understands the special considerations for pilotage plans, keeping a lookout and identifying marks by night

### Reading material

#### RYA Motor Cruising Handbook (G24) – Simon Jinks

A very useful publication written to accompany the Motor Cruising Scheme by this respected author/journalist and now head of the RYA Motor Cruising Scheme. £11.55 from PTUK, the RYA or Amazon.



#### RYA Motor Cruising Logbook (G18)

The Logbook to accompany the scheme. Essential reading for anyone training under the RYA Motor Cruising Syllabus. £4.75 from PTUK or the RYA.

#### RYA Powerboat Handbook (G13) – Paul Glatzel **NEW VERSION FOR 2009!**

A very useful book which whilst aimed at the Powerboat Scheme has much of relevance to the Motor Cruising scheme. Written in a different style to Simon's book (by PTUK's very own Paul Glatzel) this is worth a read too (but then we would say that wouldn't we!). £13.65 from PTUK, the RYA or Amazon.



**Don't have your own vessel?** At PTUK we have our own Motor Cruiser available for training those without access to a craft or for charter for Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster examinations. 'Top Hat' is a Botnia Targa with twin Volvo KAD44s and is revered as one of the most practical and sea worthy craft available. In service with many agencies around the world its most notable customer in the UK has to be the Marine Police on the Thames who run 7 of them, if you boat in Poole then you will also have seen the Harbour Authorities with a smaller version than ours (Viligent). Top Hat is Coded to Cat 2 ('60 miles from a Safe Haven') and is fitted with all of the relevant electronics including Radar and Autopilot.