



“ASK BOATS”

Archived as of 01-June-06

[Bosun-M8](#) and [1Navy.com](#)



The following Q & A's have been submitted to the “ASK BOATS” section of [Bosun- M8](#) and [www.1navy.com](#). This document contains all archived Q & A's as of 01-Jun-06. All underlined text is a link to an Internet site or email address.

Q: I was always told that the present us coast guard (cutter revenue service) is senior to the US Navy. Is this true?

A: No it is not: As we know, the United States Coast Guard is one of the country's five armed services. They can trace their history back to **4 August 1790**, when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of the federal revenue. Known variously as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, they expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The United States Navy traces its origins to the Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on **13 October 1775** by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning, and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. The legislation also established a Naval Committee to supervise the work. All together, the Continental Navy numbered some fifty ships over the course of the war, with approximately twenty warships active at its maximum strength.

Q: Senior, I'm a BM2 and have been for some time, believe it or not, i still have not learned how to "trill" do you know of any tricks to making a "cheater" pipe. I have heard many different ways but none seem to work. Thanks!

A: I know quite a few BMs that can't trill due to physical limitations. Try placing a small cork (pea size) in the bowl. Once you modify the pipe, it will only be sued for trilling.

Q: I'm looking for a soundtrack of a USN bosun pipe, which I can play as part of a celebration for a friend's re-enlistment party. Can you help me? The party is on this Friday night.

A: Should have sent me your email address... look here: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>.

Q: where can i buy a bo'sn pipe?

A: At the NEX, eBay (of course) or directly from Vanguard at http://www.vanguardmil.com/store/view_product.php?product=4923&searchlink=yes&search=CALL&page=1.

Q: Where can i find the online Navy's 11 general orders quiz?

A: Here's one I found: http://www.chadduck.com/y Marines/quiz/quiz3_gen_orders.html

Q: What does a retirement ceremony consist of for a Navy Captain?

A: In a nutshell – there would be a ceremony that would include various awards such as Letters of Appreciation from dignitaries as well as personal awards. There would also be a gift from the command, usually a “Shadow Box”. The retiree's spouse would receive recognition of some sort also. Special guests of honor would say a few words about the person retiring. At the ceremony's conclusion, the retiree would be “piped ashore” by the Boatswain's Mate and saluted by the Sideboys. Here is some additional info: http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/upd_CD/BUPERS/MILPERS/Articles/1800-010.pdf

Q: Have you heard anything on the quotas for the March exam?

A: Reserve BMCs: 80

Q: Where can I find info on RP and YN merge?

A: <http://www.navygirl.com/rates/Merger%20Proposal%20ECM.pdf>

Q: Senior, how does a call sound when using a pipe to retire someone? Never been to a retire ceremony and now have to pipe at a ceremony?

A: The Pipe is called “Piping the Side”. You can here it here: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>.

Q: How many side boys does a PO1 get for his retirement?

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A: All Enlisted personnel rate 2 Sideboys.

Q: Senior, on ships railings, some MB's wrapped small stuff around and around tightly and once done, painted it white. It looked real sharp. Where can I find pictures of such fancy line work on the Internet? EN1...old Navy.

A: There are tons – do a “google” for coxcombing...

Q: My ship does not currently use a BMOW while underway. It will be coming back on our next deployment. I want to get my guys prepared, especially for my new BM's squared away for this watch. The POOW inport, and QMOW underway are the current word passers over the 1MC. They use a cheat sheet provided from ships instruction to ensure the word is passed properly. I am looking for something similar for pipe calls. What to pass, when to pass. The senior BM's disagree on how it should work due to the "that's how we did it on my last ship" syndrome. I'd like to find something that get us all on the same page so we can make this work and not look like fools when it starts up again. Any help is appreciated.

A: The BM NAVEDTRA has the instructions for all the pipe calls. It defines when the calls should be utilized. It all gives standard examples of what words are to be passed for various 1MC announcements. I suggest reviewing that and developing a procedure for your command. You won't “look like fools” if you develop and implement a standard procedure.

Q: I what to know what makes boats go, because I am doing a report for school.

A: For all practical purposes, you cannot compress water. Force applied to water creates a high pressure, and water flows to a low-pressure area, producing a force known as DYNAMIC PRESSURE. High- and low-pressure areas in a ship or boat are created by the propeller and the rudder. As the propeller revolves to go forward, the shape and the pitch of each blade develops a thrust derived from a low-pressure area on the forward face of the blades and a high-pressure area on the after face of the blades. The force set up by this displacement of water is transmitted along the propeller shaft to thrust the boat ahead as the boat moves in the direction toward the low-pressure area. This force is PROPELLER THRUST. The rudder exerts its force in a somewhat similar manner. When the rudder on a moving boat is set at an angle to the centerline of the craft, a high-pressure area forms on the leading surface. As a result of the difference in areas, the water exerts a force against the leading surface of the rudder, which, in turn, forces the stern in the direction opposite that to which the rudder is set. This is called RUDDER FORCE.

Previous question update: The NSN for a Funeral Flag is: Flag, National, United States of America, Interment, NSN 8345-00-656-1432. **(Thanks Kim!)**

Q: Senior, Is there a web site that has all the latest NSTM chapters on it? If there is can't find it.

A: Navy Knowledge Online has “most” of the NSTMs on it for download. Log on and go the BM homepage.

Q: Why are ships referred to as she?

A: Although women were considered to bring bad luck at sea, mariners always use the pronoun "she" when referring to their ships. Whether its proper name is masculine, or whether it is a man o'war, a battleship, or a nuclear submarine, a ship is always referred to as "she."

This old tradition is thought to stem from the fact that in the Romance languages, the word for "ship" is always in the feminine. For this reason, Mediterranean sailors always referred to their ship as "she", and the practice was adopted over the centuries by their English-speaking counterparts.

One source suggests that a ship "was nearer and dearer to the sailor than anyone except his mother." What better reason to call his ship "she"?

Chester Nimitz once said “A ship is always referred to as 'she' because it costs so much to keep one in paint and powder”.

Q: Senior, how many Sideboys honor the President?

A: The maximum – 8.

Q: What is the correct ranks and number of Sideboys necessary for a CDR/O5 change of command ceremony with a RDML guest speaker?

A: Ranks do not matter. The number required may be found in Chapter 1 of the BM NAVEDTRA.

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Q: Which is the sequence that NPT-13 (B) refers to when hanging Signal Flags to the rigging of a PT Boat at "full dress" scheme.

A: (1) Flag 3 (2) Flag 4 (3) Pennant 1 (4) Sierra (5) 1st Sub (6) Alfa (7) Prep (8) Charlie (9) Mike (10) Speed (11) Juliett (12) Pennant 5 (13) Romeo (14) Pennant 9 (15) Zulu (16) Corpen (17) Flag 8 (18) Uniform (19) Flag 6 (20) Xray (21) Negat (22) Flag 2 (23) Port (24) November (25) Pennant 2 (26) Tango (27) 2nd Sub (28) Bravo (29) Delta (30) Turn (31) Flag 5 (32) Station (33) Kilo (34) Pennant 6 (35) Whiskey (36) Pennant 0 (37) Flag 1 (38) Oscar (39) 3rd Sub (40) Hotel (41) Echo (42) Emerg (43) Lima (44) Pennant 7 (45) Flag 0 (46) Int (47) Div (48) Pennant 4 (49) Flag 9 (50) 4th Sub (51) Papa (52) Form (53) Victor (54) Golf (55) Starboard (56) India (57) Foxtrot (58) Quebec (59) Pennant 8 (60) Yankee (61) Desig (62) Flag 7 (63) Pennant 3 (64) Squad (65) Ans

Q: Senior, I am a retired RM1 and preparing for my father's funeral. He was a WWII veteran of the US Army and served with the U.S. Navy in the Aleutians throughout his service. I will be in dress uniform (service blues) for his service and would like to acknowledge his navy connection by use of the bosun pipe. Is it appropriate for a military funeral ceremony, and if so, is there a proper call that is used. Additionally, I would like to be the "Piper". Is that proper? How can I learn the call if it does exist, which I assume it does.

A: Yes, it is quite appropriate. I would include the piping as the casket was either leaving the ceremony or at the cemetery as the casket is being lowered into the grave. The call would be "Piping the side". Check my site for the actual calls and instructions: Boatswain's Pipe Info. My condolences.

Q: What's involved in an "inserv inspection"

A: Check out the USN's "inserv" site with plenty of info: <http://www.spawar.navy.mil/fleet/insurv/>

Note: If there are any Sailors out there looking for a good Boatswain's Mate or Deck website, have them check out my new site www.thebosnslocker.com. I'm a newly retired Bos'n and just started this business. I sell knives, spikes, sheaths, boatswain's pipes, lanyards, etc, etc, etc. I add more BM stuff to the site everyday, so if they can't find what they're looking for, just have them go to the website and e-mail or call me. All for one and one for all! Thanks! CWO2 Bill Wieber, USN(Ret)

Q: I was told by my LCPO during my OOD board that BM is not the oldest rate in the navy. That there is an older rate before BM. what instruction if any or where could i find out this information to show my LCPO?

A: The USN History site lists the dates of when the various ratings became established: The BM rate was in use in 1775 and established in 1797. No other rate can say that. Look at [Enlisted Ratings in U.S. Navy](#).

Q: Where can i go to take an online able seaman's test?

A: The USCG does provide the Q & A's for all Merchant Mariner Document Examinations - [USCG MMD Q & A's](#).

Q: How many Sideboys are required for a retiring Captain? Thank you.

A: BM NAVEDTRA Chapter 1. (4).

Q: Senior, what is "small stuff"?

A: Line 1 3/4 inches or less in circumference is called small stuff and is designated as to size by the number of threads (or yarns) that make up each strand. You may find anywhere from 6 to 24 thread, but the most commonly used sizes are from 9 to 21 thread. Some small stuff is designated by name. One type is marline—left-laid, two-strand, tarred hemp. Marline is mainly used for seizing.

Q: What date did the navy introduce YNs to the fleet and where do they fall in respect to all other rates in the navy?

A: There were two Yeoman ratings in the Navy. 1) Yeoman - Established 1835; disestablished 1884. Re-established from Ship's Yeoman 1893; pay grades C, 1c, 2c, 3c established 1896. 2) Yeoman of the Gunroom - Established 1797; disestablished 1813. Check the other ratings history at [Enlisted Ratings in U.S. Navy](#).

Q: Senior, I recently bought a shell casing. Written on a piece of tape attached to the case is 5"x54 navy. Can you tell me more about this? Thanks and thanks for your service.

A: That would signify that the shell casing is from a 5"/54 Gun Mount. Here is site with great information: [Naval Gun Info](#).

Q: Senior, I was reading some of the questions and answers and came across this one "Q: I was wondering, when piping the sides where does the Honors Bosun stand? I do believe it's to the left and he's closest to where the official party enters?? A: That is correct." Can you tell where to find this information in writing?

A: I have not seen this in writing. It is illustrated in the BM NAVEDTRA and this is the way that I have been taught when I was a junior BM.

Q: Senior, I am Bm2 Hein. I have a question for you Senior. What exactly did BM(CBB),BM(CBS),BM(SRC),BM(SRS),BMB, BMA, BMG, BMK, BMR, And BMS do? And why were there so many different kinds of Boatswain's Mate ratings? What is a Stevedore? Thank you Senior.

A: Good question...here is a listing the various designations of the BM rating that were utilized throughout the history of the U.S. Navy:

BM - Boatswain's Mate

BM(CBB) - Boatswain's Mate (Construction Battalion) (Boatswain)

BM(CBS) - Boatswain's Mate (Construction Battalion) (Stevedore)

BM(SRC) - Boatswain's Mate (Ship Repair) (Crane Operator)

BM(SRS) - Boatswain's Mate (Ship Repair) (Canvasman)

BMA - Boatswain's Mate (Master-at-Arms)

BMB - Boatswain's Mate (Seabee)

BMG - Boatswain's Mate (Shipboard)

BMK - Boatswain's Mate (Canvasman)

BMR - Boatswain's Mate (Rigger)

BMS - Boatswain's Mate (Stevedore)

A stevedore is a cargo handler or military longshoreman.

Q: Where did the flatboats originally start?

A: "Flatboats" were designed for two-reasons. One was for use in shallow water harbors and the other was for use in amphibious assaults or landings on beachheads. Where and when they were originated can probably be dated back to the earliest days of ship construction.

Q: This is more of a statement than a question but it could maybe be answered by you, with some of these questions that these sailors have been asking, how have they made rate with not know what materials to study for the fine Boatswain Mate Rate??

A: I can understand getting some questions from junior sailors, but when I get asked basic BM questions from senior POs, it is a little dis-heartening to say the least. It seems junior people are not opening the books anymore and not as many senior BMs are doing the right thing by their people. You'd think that with all the electronic technology and educational resources that are available now, you would see this trending in a more positive direction. Go figure...I'm just happy to be able to still help.

Q: Do you have any history of the Boatswain?

A: The early Boatswain was appointed Warrant, and was among the most important men on board ship. He was usually a grizzled old salt who wasn't timid about giving orders and it never occurred to him that they wouldn't be obeyed. His mates, or Boatswain's Mates assisted him, and though it was unlikely that he was unrecognizable, he nevertheless carried a silver Bosn's pipe and rattan cane that identified his position. His pipe was the sailing ship's PA system. It could be heard 120 feet up in the rigging and in the deepest and darkest hold. His cane was an instrument of persuasion which it was said, cured more scurvy than the doctor, made cripples take up their beds and walk, and made the lame skip and run up the shrouds like monkeys...

As you know, the Boatswain's Mate play an extremely important role in replenishment at sea in today's Navy. However, transfer-at-sea methods were actually used as early as 1804. During the war with Tripoli, for example, the ketch Intrepid transferred a cargo of fresh provisions to USS Constitution, which was engaged in enforcing a continental blockade of the port of Tripoli. This cargo included four bullocks, one calf, 13 pigs, 300 pounds of hay, two baskets of peas, and three casks of old Hock. This maneuver was the springboard for the modern, mobile logistical support now provided through underway replenishment that enables the fleet to remain at sea almost indefinitely.

Not all ratings of this early era have retained their identity, because the majority of our ratings today

resulted from later technical developments. While jobs and duties have changed, the rating titles of Boatswain's Mates, Quartermasters and Gunner's Mates have remained the same since the American Revolution.

Q: My recently new-husband is an EM in the U.S. military. He is currently attending A-school. Is there any way he might be able to get more time on land, or is he actually guaranteed to be on a ship most of the time for the next 4 years?

A: That all depends on what his duty station will be after completing his A School. He will have the option to not be spending his whole 4 years on a ship.

Q: Where can I find correct 1MC standard phraseology?

A: The BM NAVEDTRA 14343 page 1-10.

Q: I'm the only ex-navy engineer in an all-air force team and I've been trying to find a cell phone ringtone that sounds like a bosun's whistle (Just to drive them nuts.) Have you run across this in your travels?

A: I have all the calls on my cell phone. I even "pipe" chow sometimes before I have lunch. Depending on what phone/service you have – download the files and add them to your phones audio files. They are available here for download: [Boatswain's Pipe Calls](#)

Q: What is, if any, protocol of using a bosn's pipe at a funeral? Pre taps, post taps, etc??

A: I did not see any noted. I would imagine "piping the side" as the deceased member is taken out from the ceremony would be appropriate and also quite respectful.

Q: My command has made it a word of mouth policy that E-4's cannot receive higher than an 3 in the leadership block on their evals. Is this acceptable? And if so where? I cannot find it in the BUPERSINST 1610.10A can you please shed some light on this for me.

A: You won't find it in the BUPERSINST, or will you need to – it is your command's policy, which makes it acceptable.

Q: Can you tell me the history of taps, and does the song have words? Thank you.

A: Here is some of the history: [History of Taps](#)

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.

Fades the light; And afar
Goeth day, And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well; Day has gone,
Night is on.

Thanks and praise, For our days,
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know,
God is nigh

Q: What is ATCS?

A: Aviation Electronic Technician (AT) Senior Chief Petty Officer (CS).

Q: Where can I find the regs for lashing a conex box to the deck using chain? We have 10,000 lb. boxes and 3/8" chain w/ gripes but we can't seem to trace reference requirements...

A: There are guidance manuals available - Try to get a hold of MTMCTEA Marine Lifting and Terminal Handbook. When I secured containers on MARAD and MPS ships we always used "X" lashing on opposite ends into the cloverleaves.

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Q: Where can I buy a tuned pipe?

A: From someone who took the time and effort to tune their pipe themselves. Pipes do not come tuned.

Q: Senior 'On the bib for BM2 it has listed a sar manual I've had great difficulty in locating this book is there any place I can go to to get it or order it considering I'm over seas in Japan.

A: The SAR Manual listed on the BIBS must be obtained by your command. It is not available on NKO or any other online resource that I know of.

Q: I'm looking for information on the number of side boys an O-6 and below CO rates. I could only find the number for rear admiral and above. Thanks.

A: 0-6 (Capt) / 0-5 (CDR)= 4 Sideboys, LCDR (0-4) and below = 2 Sideboys. Check page 1-22 of the BM NAVEDTRA.

Q: What instruction governs how many side boys an officer gets?

A: BM NAVEDTRA 14343 Chapter 1

Q: I am a Navy Reserves vet and I am looking for one of my instructors at APG School in New Orleans, Dec 98. We called him Boats. Can you tell me how to find him?

A: Do you have access to NKO? If so do a search in the white pages. If not, check the various "shipmate" locaters that are available online.

Q: Quote from a previous Question: "Q: Most Honorable Senior Chief, I have a question about Navy Customs and courtesy. How do you announce the arrival of a visiting CO from a DDG? Is this the same as all CO's or is it different for a DDG? I know I am reaching but could you throw me a bone? This is what I know. The CO is coming up the brow; "Ding-Ding-pause-Ding-Ding-pause-"shipname" arriving." The CO steps aboard at the top of the brow; "Ding" If this is an expected visit, you should know who the CO was coming to see and called them as soon as you were sure it was the expected CO arriving. That way the person being visited has a chance to either come to the quarterdeck to meet them or can send someone in their place. I believe the the "stinger" was only authorized for the CO of the ship that you are on, not for another CO."

A: Thanks for the email clarifying that!

Q: What is the tradition of the ships bells?

A: There is quite a bit of history here. Check out <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq83-1.htm>.

Q: Where exactly does it say that a retiring petty officer or chief petty officer will typically have four side boys and receive 4 bells?

A: All enlisted personnel rate two Sideboys and two bells.

Q: 1) How many bells for a two star? 2) How many side boys does a LCDR get at his retirement? The guest speaker is a CAPT. 3) How many Sideboys does a Commander rate for his Retirement? 4) How many bells, if any, does a State Congressman receive at an official ceremony?

A: Please open the BM NAVEDTRA and look at the table in Chapter 1.

Q: My name is BM1 and I am getting married in May. I am looking for an instruction on a military ceremony if there is one. I was also wondering, can a white lanyard be worn with the Dinner Dress Blues? I appreciate all of the help you can give me.

A: NAVREGS Ch. 6, 6407 deals with weddings. Ch. 5, 5404 states that the boatswain's pipe and lanyard may be worn around the neck while carrying out official ceremonial duties and military watches.

Q: Can you have Sideboys that are senior to the retiree at a retirement ceremony?

A: Yes.

Q: Senior, looking for any navy training or manuals on docking and undocking, dealing with line handling during the evolution.

A: Take a look at NSTM 582 Mooring and Towing and also the Seaman and BM NAVEDTRA, there is plenty of info there.

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Q: I am an MASN currently up for Blue Jacket of the Quarter of my Security Dept. I have been looking for a study guide for questions that they may ask me on the board. Do you know of one, or could you direct me somewhere where I may be able to find one?

A: I have never heard of an actual board for a BJOQ selection, it is usually decided through package submittals. There is no Navy-wide BJOQ board study guide. Check with your COC to see if they have developed some command program.

Q: Hello there, I am currently working at NNSY, VA. Could you direct me to a web site where I can gain access to NSTM 582? One of the senior riggers needs info on line handling and docking (dry dock that is.) If you can help, or know of any other sites that can provide info, we would appreciate it, Thank-you.

A: NSTM 582 is available in the BM library on NKO. You'll have to be a service member to access and download.

Q: I am located in South Carolina near Lake Thurmond. I am interested in getting a license that would allow me to take 6+ passengers out on a houseboat in inland waterways only. I know the Coast Guard does the training and testing but I have been unable to find a website with any info as far as training, testing schools, etc. I've tried several Coast Guard sites for Charleston SC but can't find any info...can you help!

A: The USCG will conduct the testing and license issue, but not the any training or schooling. You will have to study on your own or enroll in a training school. There are quite a few – Houston Marine, Sea School and some others. Info for the license as well as Q & A's that are in each part of the examination can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/mmhc-deckexquest.htm>.

Q: I am looking to get a tattoo, and I am being told by other shipmates that I am required to turn in a special request chit requesting permission from the CO before I can get the tattoo. I understand that the tattoo cannot show while in uniform and cannot be derogatory in any way shape or form, but am I required to route this request chit?

A: Yes, this policy was released in NAVADMIN 021-03, dated January 2003. In summary - No tattoos/body art/brands on the head, face, neck, or scalp. Tattoos/body art/brands elsewhere on the body that are prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the Navy are prohibited. For example, tattoos/body art/brands that are excessive, obscene, sexually explicit or advocate or symbolize sex, gender, racial, religious, ethnic or national origin discrimination are prohibited. In addition, tattoos/body art/brands that advocate or symbolize gang affiliation, supremacist or extremist groups, or drug use are prohibited. Tattoos/body art/brands will not be visible through uniform clothing. Waivers may be requested for prior service and existing tattoos from the Chief of Naval Operations.

Q: Senior, I am non prior service and am a BM; I am a female; when I tell people, they make a face that begin to tell me it isn't a good rate is why is that so?

A: Did you ask them why? The BM rate has a great history of pride and service within the U.S. Navy. Do BM's get dirty, work long hours; perform some "not so pleasant" task at times? Sure they do – they also a member of one of the most diversified ratings within the Navy. The BM rating includes everything from small boat ops and amphibious duties to rigging and cargo operations to traditional seamanship duties to security. I am a Boatswain's Mate and I know quite a few female BMs that are some of the best Navy personnel that I ever had the honor to work with. There are a wide variety of ratings within the Navy today; administrative, engineering, general service; construction, electronic and so on. As long as you enjoy what you do and continue to improve yourself within that field – then who's to judge your rate. The BM rate was very good to me, both while performing my military service and a key reason for my successes now in my civilian career.

Q: Where can I find the exact location of a formal line handler instruction? I tried the SORM, and some other pubs.

A: NSTM 582 and the BM NAVEDTRA, both are available on NKO.

Q: How do I tune a Boatswain's pipe?

A: Check the BM NAVEDTRA or here: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/id20.html>.

Q: Are there any programs for enlisted men to become officers?

A: There are quite a few programs in place for enlisted personnel to become Commissioned and non-

Commissioned (Warrant) Officers. I won't give you any info as these programs do change quite frequently, so check with your unit/command CC or Officer Recruiter.

Note from previous inquiry: The funeral flag question... There is no standard issue funeral flag. Usually it is the Cotton type found in Vol. 5 of the afloat shopping guide. Class 8345. Ensure that it is the one without the tabling, only the cotton and the grommets. Bos'n Worley (former SMCS)

Q: I need a book DUTTON'S NAVIGATION AND PILOTING fourteenth edition, but I need it in hispanish, I do not know if it exist.

A: No tengo ninguna idea.

Q: I wanted to start saying that this is one awesome site, a good BM corner ... now question, with Navy education (i.e. NKO) and courses (i.e. BMR, rate courses) that are available online... are they a waste of time or a good foundation for further advancement and college credit? What is your take??? Thank you for your time...

A: I am a huge supporter of continued education; from college courses to the Navy correspondence courses –they are all beneficial. A requirement to have a college degree for CPO selection shall probably be official in the near future.

For all you BMs out there – contact your Command ESO or College Office and see what credits you already have and focus on obtaining that degree!

Q: Where can one find pictures or descriptions of the types of buoys and the types anchoring devices (Chains, blocks, semi submerged) used to keep them in place?

A: There are illustrations and descriptions of the various types of buoys in the Boatswain's Mate RTC in Chapter 6.

Q: Does the Navy have a police force besides the MAA in which a commissioned officer may serve in?

A: Yes. The Navy's Force Protection Unit has both enlisted and Officer billets.

Q: Just trying to figure out how to word the standard mortise of a mooring shackle to be asked in a question.

A: How about "What is 7 inches?"

Q: i leave to go to basic training for the U.S. navy on July 5,2006. When i come home what color/type of uniform along with the hat will i be wearing.

A: The Navy changes from "whites" to "blues" in October. Assuming you'll be graduating Boot Camp in September, you'll probably be in whites.

Q: How do you properly announce a foreign ambassador on the 1mc?

A: "Ambassador, (Country)" arriving/departing.

Q: are there leave and liberty chits on pdf?

A: Yes, they are available at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Forms/NAVPERS/>

Q: Am I correct when I say that a Rear Admiral rates six bells and six side boys? Also can you tell me where I can find how many bells a first class rates for their retirement? Thanks.

A: All enlisted personnel rate 2 bells and yes, a Rear Admiral rates 6. Check page 1-22 of NAVEDTRA 14343 Boatswain's Mate RTC.

Q: I'm an e-7 initiate in the us coast guard. I'm looking for the meaning of the chief's hat box. can you help me out your honorable eightness.

A: Slug - Are you looking for the history of the USN CPO Hat Box or the USCG CPO Hat Box? (Congrats!)

Q: I am trying to find the history of the Coast Guard Coxswain pin, where can I look?

A: I could not find any info on the actual history of the USCG Coxswain pin. I have reached out to some USCG BM sources and if I hear back from them I will post the response.

Q: Where could I find decorative rope splicing basics??

A: The NAVEDTRA 14342, Boatswain's Mate RTC for starters. My favorite book is Ashley's Book of

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Knots, which is available at most bookstores and online.

Q: where can i find about lci 733

A: The Navy Source Online website has information at <http://www.navysource.org/archives/10/150733.htm>.

Q: Senior, what do the three parts of The SWCC warfare pin?

A: The three parts of the surface warfare pin are the bow and superstructure of a modern naval warship on two crossed cutlasses, on a background of ocean swells.

Q: Well I stumped you a year or so ago on life rail pin lanyards, let's see if I can do it again. I am still on the same LCU but now am in need of a COMPLETE 1mc system. Have the optar to cover the cost of procurement and installation, but do not know where to start looking. Again any help would be much appreciated.

A: Last time you stumped me, now your scaring me (lol)...Are there any SK's on that ship of yours?

Q: I have a question regarding the display of the National Ensign on a shore activities quarterdeck, in the NTP 13 it clearly states the flag ornament shall be a battle axe some one thinks it should be a ball or a star for the grade of our C.O. Please give me some direction and if possible tell me if there is a newer revision of the NTP 13 the only one I have found is from August 1986. Thank you,

A: NTP 13(B), which is the current revision, states in section "802. TOPPING ORNAMENT", that "Flagpoles at Naval shore activities shall be topped with a brass ball of appropriate size."

Q: I know that the Monkey's fists of heaving lines used to be weighted with lead balls. Do you know what is currently used on heaving lines in today's Navy? Size weight, composition, etc?

A: Due to the accuracy of some Boatswain's Mates resulting in hitting the "white hats" on the pier, monkey fists are no longer used. The Navy now uses a flexible ball with an opening for the heaving line to be fairlead through and secured. The heaving line balls are orange and also buoyant.

Q: I made e-4 of the sept exam 05 and was 05 jsoq and jsoy for november and year of 05. I was told i would get an ep on my next eval so would I be able to take the exam in march 06 for e-5?

A: This is correct. If you are an EP, you will be eligible to sit for your advancement exam early.

Q: colors are the flags on the phone and distance line

A: Starting at "0", marking every 20' and repeating as follows: Green, Red, Yellow, Blue, and White. (NWP 4-01.4)

Q: I'M SEARCHING FOR THE YN2 2006 BIBLIOGRAPHIES

A: Access this site: <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/>.

Q: BMR requirements for the 2006 e-5 advancement

A: See the above answer.

Q: Senior, What is the number of bells at a memorial service for a past commodore?

A: A Commodore rates 6 bells.

Q: Is there any regulation for or against the wearing of knives, marlinespike or sheath on your belt in uniform? Thanks, EM1.

A: Knives and such are authorized for wear with a working uniform as long as they are necessary for the proper performance of one's duty and authorized by the proper authority.

Q: How did the tradition come about to "pipe" someone over the side during a retirement, and is it traditional for the boatswain to surrender the pipe to the retiree?

A: Tending the side with side boys, as we know it in modern practice, originated long time ago. It was customary in the days of sail to hold conferences on the flagships both when at sea and in open roadstead; also, officers were invited to dinner on other ships while at sea, weather permitting. Sometimes the sea was such that visitors were hoisted aboard in boatswain's chairs. Members of the crew did the hoisting, and it is from the aid they rendered in tending the side that the custom originated of

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having a certain number of men always in attendance. Some have reported the higher the rank, the heavier the individual; therefore, more side boys.

Over the years this has developed into a tradition of respect such as is displayed at Retirement Ceremonies. It is also a tradition for the Boatswain to present the pipe as a final gift.

Q: Can a member with 19 years and an approved Fleet Reserve request be separated for three PRT failures before reaching their 20?

A: According to the current PRT requirements – yes you can.

Q: OLDEST RATE IN THE NAVY

A: Boatswain's Mate - In use in 1775; established 1797.

Q: It is a sad day to see so many Boatswain's Mates asking where they can buy a lanyard. What happened to the days when you were presented your pipe after you presented your own lanyard. The sennits are not difficult, ok a little time is needed but the pride in your accomplishment goes along with the pride of being a BOATSWAIN'S MATE!

A: No argument here! Part of the proud history of being a BM was making your own lanyard when you were advanced to BM3. I remember the Senior BM's helping me out when I made BM3. If our new BMs are not taking the time to make their own, maybe we should be looking at the rated BMs to step up and provide some guidance and instruction...

Q: i am going up for hm3 this march and i was just wondering if you know a good web site to look for instructions.

A: Here is a GREAT link that has the bibs and other advancement resources for HMs on it: <http://www-nmcp.mar.med.navy.mil/HMTraining/index.asp>.

Q: Trying to find information as to what the rating/grade was like for Navy personnel back in the 1940's, from Seaman on up. Example: StM3c-StM2c, StM2c-StM1c. I'm told that the order in rank was different from today's ranking.

A: Here is a good link: <http://www.cv6.org/company/muster/organization.htm>.

Q: Senior, I need to learn the boatswain's signals. Is there a book of instruction to tell me what signal is what and how to make that signal come from the pipe? Thanks for the help.

A: Here is some of the info:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/boatswainpipe.pdf>.

Q: What is the proper tie up procedure for small boats?

A: Refer to Chapter 6 of the BM RTC. There are too many variables that may change how a small boat moors, tide, current, wind speed and direction and of course where are you mooring i.e. dockside, boat boom...

Q: where can i find nstm 581?

A: Between 580 and 582... just kidding – 1) Log on to NKO, 2) Go to the NKO Library, 3) Scroll down to "Search and Subscribe", 4) Click on that and scroll down until you see "Surface Combat Systems" and click "View", 5) Scroll down until you see the BM page. Click on that link and you'll be in BM heaven with all the material and references that are available there.

Q: Senior, what is a chip log?

A: The "chip log" was a device that sailors used to make their speed measurements. Chip as in chip of wood, and log as in to record in a log. The chip was a wedge of wood about 18" in size; it was tied to one end of a line on a large spool. The rope had knots tied into it about every 47'3". The wooden chip was thrown overboard at the ship's stern. Because of its wedge shape, it would "grab" the water and start pulling out line as the ship moved forward at some yet unknown speed. One man would hold the spool of line as it paid out; another man would start a sandglass filled with 30 seconds of sand; and a third man would count the knots as they passed over the stern board. When the 30 seconds of sand expired, the timekeeper would call out and the counting of knots would stop.

Q: I am looking to get a web site or area I can look up all my ribbons and medals that I/my ships have earned while I was on those ships. I served on the USS Willamette AO-180 from Mar 93-Nov 96 (with one

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last name), had a break in service, and then went on the USS Reuben James FFG-57 from July 03 until Feb 05. I have looked around even on the old Willamette website but found nothing.

Also I have been having trouble keeping my record straight with all my qualifications due to my adoption and name change during my break in service. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

A: Hopefully you made copies of everything that was awarded to you... To obtain information about unit awards earned, contact the Chief of Naval Operations, Awards and Special Projects Branch at the below address. This office can identify awards earned by Navy units.

Chief of Naval Operations

Awards and Special Projects Branch (Code N09B33)

2000 Navy Pentagon

Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Q: where, if i can, can i download the 23rd edition of the blue jackets manual?

A: I do not know of any place you can download the current edition (23rd) of the Blue Jackets Manual. It is available for purchase from the NEX online.

Q: where can i find "basic millitary requirements navedtra 10054-f

A: Is that a current edition? If so log onto Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and search the libraries.

Q: Senior, How can I find the location of chief petty officer Clarence Donovan retired? Last know in Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

A: If you are a member of the USN, log onto to NKO and search for him in the white pages. Even though he is retired, he will still have contact info posted.

Q: HEY SENIOR, WHAT COLOR IS A WORKING LANYARD?

A: There is no "working" lanyard as described in U.S. Navy Regulations Chapter 5 Section 4. However...black lanyards are usually worn as "working" lanyards.

Q: Where can I find instructions on how to blow/use the boatswain's pipe. My father wants to learn, so he can pipe his friend when he passes away.

A: The best place would be from the Boatswain's Mate NAVEDTRA and with the assistance of a "salty" BM. If you're not a sailor and don't have any BM buddies to help you – there are quite a few websites that show how to perform the various calls and even have sound files to listen to.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>

Q: Senior, How can I find a Blue Jackets Manual from the 1950,s

A: Go to http://www.bluejacket.com/books/books_used_bluejackets_manual.html. They have various editions for sale there. And of course don't forget ebay...

Q: I am performing in a Stars & Stripes concert with an all alumni drum & bugle corps. We are playing the Navy Hymn as one of our (final) selections and I was thinking that a lead in on the boatswain pipe would be nice. What call do you think would be appropriate for such an occasion? All Hands? PS: My father was a "Boats" and a Pear Harbor vet, serving on the USS Nevada. I, myself, was a Sea Bee. (MCB 7)

A: "All Hands" would be appropriate. Thanks for serving!

Q: Senior, what is the NSN for a FUNERAL FLAG?

A: I had no luck with this one. Any help out there?

Q: where do you order the manuals. From what web site do you order them from.

A: You may download them from NKO. Log onto the NKO site and go to the Boatswain's Mate homepage. They are available for download there. You can also order a CD from www.1navy.com.

Q: Senior, find blue jacket manual

A: The Blue Jacket Manual is available from any NEX store or www.navy-nex.com. You can also find older editions of the book at www.bluejacket.com.

Q: Senior, I'm a BM2 in the reserves. I am seeking a way to earn my ESWS pin. Do you know of any ships that can fund me to come onboard to work on

my ESWS?

A: Qualifying for ESWS as per the ESWS instruction in the USNR is difficult. There is usually \$\$\$ available for fleet support billets where you can start on obtaining qualification for ESWS. Check with your NRC to see what opportunities are available.

Q: Senior, where can I buy a boatswain's mate lanyard and pipe, besides e-bay?

A: You can purchase U.S. Navy Boatswain Pipes from vanguard at http://www.vanguardmil.com/store/view_product.php?product=4923&searchlink=yes&search=BOATSWAIN&page=1 .The only site that I know of where you can purchase lanyard is at <http://www.oramasnautical.com/lanyards/lanyards.htm> or make your own at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/index.html>.

Q: Is INSERVE inspection criteria online anywhere?

A: Yes "INSURV" checklists are available. Go to <http://www.spawar.navy.mil/fleet/insurv/> and click on the "Inspection Preps" link.

Q: Hello , I am a BM3 and i am stationed in hawaii with the marines i just have one question for you SENIOR i have just hit my 6 years and i have taken the test 5 times and i just miss it by like 3 points i am a very good sailor and i love the navy i am worry about higher tenyear if i dont make it what happens does the navy give me any money on my way out.

A: You only missed by a few points, so don't give up just yet. Are all you medals and awards documented in your service record and your advancement profile sheet? Have you looked at your exam results and see what areas you need to study a little harder? Do you reference the exam bibliographies prior to doing any studying? All these items will help with raising your exam scores and getting you that 2nd chevron. The Navy doesn't give out any bonuses for HYT...

Q: How many bells for a 4 star general?

A: AHHHHHHHHH! Open the damn book!!!! (8)

Q: Happy Holiday, I'm trying to get all the study material for BM2 exam for Feb.2006.

A: Happy Holidays to you also, Thanks you. BM advancement CDs are available from www.1navy.com. You will have to provide proof of service prior to the CD being sent out due to distribution restrictions. You can also access and download most of the BM info yourself from the BM homepage /library at NKO.

Q: Questions about Leadership, Today the Navy is not about much Leadership the Chief's Mess an Master Chief Walk around as though they are better than you and don't have much involvement with the troops. Crazy but being on Active Duty for Fourteen years,, an watching is really something, The uppers in the military lack Leadership, and guidance,,It is somehow lost. How could the CMDCMC stand there an tell the new Chiefs of today okay so now is your time to shine with leadership, though as it may seem I think maybe they should have this before they decide to promote them so they can sit around and eat donuts and play on the internet all day and walk around and show off, instead why don't they take their troops under their wing and show them guidance.

A: I retired last October. I never had time to sit around and eat donuts, play on the Internet, or show off. I was usually too busy taking care of my command's personnel and operational commitments. I have also witnessed MANY fellow CPOs providing outstanding leadership and guidance to junior enlisted members in an effort to assist them with all sorts of professional and personal issues. Unfortunately, like you have stated, I have also been witness to the small minority of Navy "Leaders" whose priority is pinning ribbons on their own chest. The Navy is by no means a perfect society and neither is the Navy's advancement system. No place is, and that's a reality of life. It would be unfair for me to comment on your specific experiences, but if you've witnessed this at each command during your 14 years of service..something is not adding up...

Q: Confused on Chief Leadership with small amphib staff command. Why would leadership, give higher eval marks to personnel that have been on board less than a year and are new first class, and give the senior first class lower evals and non sufficient collateral duties to make the shine, why if your in a leadership position would you want junior first class to shine above senior first class that are lookin for leadership and guidance from the chief mess.

A: Again, I will not comment on "Command specific issues" as there are usually various versions of the actual "truth". I do know that people "shine" due to performance, not due to their seniority.

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Q: this is a more career related question. i am currently a BM2 on recruiting duty, i transfer in 2008, and i want to go to bahrain or afghanistan, and from there go to RTC to be a RDC. i don't know if it would be good for me to go overseas next or go back to another ship first. i'm just trying to do duties that will enhance my chances on making chief the quickest, and i really don't know which route to take, would just like a senior's opinion. thanks.

A: My opinion - If you are coming off of recruiting duty - get yourself back onboard a ship. BMs belong on ships. Try to show some diversity in your sea duty - tin cans - carriers - amphibs.

Q: Why would they merger RP's with YN's, most RP's can't get a clearance or joined the navy on a drug waiver, My Opinion but they should keep the rates seperate, I can't see, taking care of officers and admin as a religious job,,What is the Navy thinking,,I don't think they are.

A: You say "Most RP's can't get a clearance or joined the Navy on a drug waiver". That is a pretty ignorant statement. Here's why the merger: Combining the RP, LN, and CTA, and YN ratings into one administrative rating falls in line with the CNO guidance of streamlining Navy manpower. Merging repetitive, redundant and superfluous efforts will maximize the capability of the administrative community while minimizing the total number of manpower requirements. Through this merger, Navy can minimize redundancy in functions and training and improve business processes, thereby reducing infrastructure costs while improving service for the customer and quality of life and professional opportunity for the Sailors. Merger of these four ratings will provide increased detailing flexibility, broader career paths and advancement opportunity for personnel, and enhance overall quality within ship and shore administrative departments. A merger will also align all of the Navy administrative skills with commercial Administrative Assistant, Executive Assistant, and Paralegal professional certifications and qualifications. Additionally, savings from training consolidation and billet reductions will allow Navy to recapitalize for modernization.

Q: Senior, I'm PS2, currently station on NAS Lemoore in a squadron. We have a senior chief retiring soon and I said I would be proud to pipe him off. I've heard time and time again the famous sound of the bosn pipe, but there has to be more to it than just blowing in it. Where can I look to find some directions such as hand and finger placement, since there is not a BM on a Naval Air Station?

A: Your best bet would be to take a look at the Boatswain's Mate NAVEDTRA. That has illustrations and info for all the pipe calls. You can also check out sites that have mp3 files of the Pipe Calls so you can hear them and practice. Here is mine: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>.

Q: How do I moor to a buoy?

A: Check the BM RTC 4-11 thru 4.14 and also NSTM 582, Section 582-2.1.3. That has all the info for how to properly moor to a buoy.

Q:The question was asked; "Q: I was curious as to what person has had the longest tenure in Naval service?" Thanks to USAF MSgt/Ret for this info:

A: Admiral Hyman G. Rickover graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1922 and retired in 1981 making his tenure 63 years. I believe he had the longest tenure in the Navy.

Q: Have you ever seen any guidance with regards to making stoppers? I've always seen 3 strand nylon unlaid and formed into a flat sennit for the parts involved with the "knot" - with the three strand left for the bight. NSTM 613 describes sizes and stopper types - but nothing about general construction. Thanks for your time.

A: I checked NSTM 613 & 582 and could not find any details on construction of stoppers. Like you have said, I have used unlaid 3-strand nylon mooring lines and have also seen riggers utilize smaller 3-strand nylon line (intact) in the same fashion. I'll keep looking.

Q: When an officer is coming on board or leaving, does the officer on deck call him/her by his/her command? That is, if the CO of the Enterprise is leaving the ship, does the OOD say "Enterprise" leaving. If a gun turret commander is leaving do they say "Gun 5" leaving. I saw that in a movie once and I can't find reference to it anywhere. I once asked the mother of the XO of the Enterprise that questions and she didn't know. Hope you can help and point me to right reference materials.

A: Passing the word and the use of boat gongs to announce the arrival and departure of senior officers are not means of rendering honors, nor are they intended to be. Passing the word and boat gongs are used to indicate the arrival and departure of commanders, chiefs of staff, chief staff officers, and commanding officers for interested personnel. Arrivals and departures are to be announced only during

the hours between reveille and taps. Commanding officers should be familiar with local SOPA regulations concerning the use of topside speakers for passing arrivals and departures and other shipboard announcements.

Sound the boat gong, special gong, or gas alarm (as specified locally) in groups of two corresponding to the number of side boys to which the officer announced is entitled. Announce the officer's title followed by "arriving" or "departing". You can find this information in the NAVEDTRA 14343, Boatswain's Mate RTC.

Q: Where do I find all of the answers to the Boatswain's Mate NRTC? I really don't feel like doing any of the work myself, I'd rather let someone else sweat that one out. Thanks! Signed, Someone who has to take the BMC exam but isn't really a BM.

A: Until you change your attitude (for the better) - Do us all a favor and don't bother. Hopefully your command has recognized that you lack the qualities of a CPO and will not recommend you for advancement. Have a nice day!

Q: I was just wondering what the Naval Rank of FC2 means. My father was in World War II and I was told that was his rank but I have no idea what it means.

A: Fire Controlman Second Class Petty Officer.

Q: how do you locate a dc1 in mil/navy?

A: If you are a Navy member look that person up on NKO by using the "white pages" search link. If you are not - there are several locator websites (i.e navymail.com)

Q: how many sideboys will you need for a o-7

A: I won't need any. You on the other hand should be opening up the BM RTC and looking at page 1-22 for this answer. (6 Side boys)

Q: my name is BM2 i have been in the NAVy for 6 years this december 28th. in my world there is no job i can say i love more than being a boatswainmate. i have my bm1 exam coming up in march and i am having a real hard time studying for my exam. right now i am a recruiter in chicago, sometime "this" job is like doing 24hr unreps. i read my bm1 book but i find it hard to remember the stuff i read. any pointers? thanks so much for your time. maybe one day i will be able to call myself "chief" boats.

A: Nothing beats OJT!... and as a recruiter, you're probably not getting your hands as dirty as some other sailors who will be taking the same BM1 exam. I would recommend using the exam bibs, which will minimize what you should be studying. Good luck...

Q: where can I find the NWP 4-01.4 and 3-50.1 on the internet to download?

A: The NWP 4-01.4 (UNREP) is available at NKO in the BM library and on the BM homepage. The 3-50-1 (SAR) is not available for internet download.

Q: where can i buy a pennant for small boats? like the 1 star the 2 star and so on. ive been looking for it all over the internet but i couldnt find one...

A: Did you try ebay?

Q: My dad was a 30 year navyman from the Yangtze River to Vietnam. In WWII he was a W-1 & CWO Boatswain Mate on destroyers in the North Atlantic. I have been trying to assemble a little display of Bosun things in his memory. I'd like to find the collar, cap, and shoulder devices for W-1 & CWO (with the crossed anchors) and some shoulder boards, along with a whistle and lanyard. Can you direct me to a place that sells WW II era navy warrant officer things please? Thank you.

A: Check out <http://www.vanguardmil.com/store/splash.php>. They have most WO items available for sale.

Q: I'm a BM2 and proud but, the test is killing me. I need all the information and prefer it on cd so I can study and review it. Is there a web site that I can get all the information of a Boatswain's Mate and study guide for the test?

A: Yes there is. A BM advancement CD with all the reference material is available from YN2 at www.1navy.com. Just follow the links for the advancement CDs. Quite a few of the BM referenced material is also available on NKO for download on the BM homepage.

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Q: Senior, I'm an SK3 with 4 years in the Reserves and it doesn't look good for advancement. I'm interested in switching to Mineman but can't find the advancement opportunities for this rate. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

A: I didn't see this info listed online. Check with your unit or command Career Counselor. They receive periodic updates that list advancement opportunities and rate/rank manning levels.

Q: Senior, just what did the bosun rattan cane look like, straight, crooked top, or very thin and straight?

A: I was fortunate enough to never have to use one, but I would have to imagine that it was only a couple of feet long, rather thin and straight.

Q: Senior, what's a good rule of thumb to remember the blasts during towing operations.

A: The best rule of thumb for me to remember the signals was to learn them all. There is a table in NSTM 582 Mooring and Towing page 82-90, that lists all the signals and their meanings. There are only ten signals, so I'm sure you won't have any problems...

Q: I have been showed several ways how to pipe belay. I would like to know where to find the correct boatswain call.

A: You can hear "belay" and download it right from the U.S. Navy site at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic/AUDIO.htm> or from my site at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/id20.html>.

Q: Is there any instruction governing how many bells are sounded for the liberty boat while at anchor? Thanks!!

A: I am assuming you mean over the ship's 1MC? If so the bells are used to signify the estimated time to departure: 3 bells = 10 minutes; 2 bells = 5 minutes and 1 bell = 1 minute.

Q: do we have a boatswain's mate association?

A: I have not seen a BM association anywhere. I have seen an ABM association online. If anyone knows of one - pass the word.

Q: How do I display the 50 state flags at a formal ceremony?

A: They should be displayed in alphabetical order...

Q: Where online can I find and download the NWP 3-50.1 U.S. Navy Search and Rescue Manual?

A: After searching and inquiring at NKO, it appears that NWP 3-50.1 is NOT available online (The SAR Joint Pub Manual is).

Q: What is a dragon bowline?

A: This is in the same category of a "BT punch" and the mail-buoy watch. First you make a regular bowline; then you hold it by the bitter end and drag the eye along the deck. That's why it is called a "draggin" bowline.

Q: I am able to wear my global war on terrorism service and expeditionary medal/ribbons but I have been wondering if I am able to wear the Afghanistan and Iraqi campaign medals/ribbons? My deployment times was from the end of August 2002-May of 2003, would those times qualify me to wear the ribbons/medals?

A: Wearing of medals and ribbons must be authorized. Have you received the authorization from your unit and have a service record entry noting the same?

Q: Can you give me the different kinds of knot tying in scouting?, just the lists, please....

A: I was not a Scout, but according to their website: The Boy Scouts have selected five knots that will fill most of the Cub's needs. These knots are Square Knot, Sheet Bend, Bowline, Two Half Hitches and Slipknot.

Q: My ship (USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58) HAS JUST RECIVED SPECTRA MOORING LINES (1 1/2") . MY SHIP IS ABOUT TO GO THROUGH INSERVE ,THE INSPECTORS ARE TELLING US THAT WE HAVE TO INSTALL TATTLETALE'S OF 1/4 POLYESTER FIBER LINE. MY PROBLEM IS I CAN NOT FIND OUT THE PROPER LENTH. IN THE NSTM 583 ALL IT SAYS IS TO USE IT TO DETERMINE STRAIN OF THE LINE AS PER APPENDIX D .CAN YOU HELP ME OUT ?

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A: SPECTRA lines are designed to not require "tattletales". This line was engineered with one strand slightly shorter than the others, causing it to break first when the line was about to fail, dissipating energy and alerting sailors to clear the premises.

Q: Senior, How many side boys for an admiral?

A: Does anybody open a book anymore (NAVEDTRA 14343, the Boatswain's Mate Nonresident Training Course, starting on page 1-22)..??? An "Admiral" rates 8 Side Boys.

Q: I am looking for the bibliographies for the March 2006 HM3 exam

A: Here is GREAT link that has the bibs and other advancement resources for HMs on it: <http://www-nmcp.mar.med.navy.mil/HMTraining/index.asp>.

Q: I am trying to get a copy of the NWP 4-01.4 for my BM2 Exam and I need some help finding it could you help me.

A: Log on to NKO and follow the directions above. The NWP 4-01.4 is available in the BM library.

Q: How do you make the knots in the monkey lines?

A: Use either overhand or figure-eight knots - evenly spaced.

Q: My dad, MMC (ret) just passed away this morning. I want to know where I can find the info to send him off. How do we have a service for him. The Navy was his life. 1954-1977. I am a BM1 USNR, I have not had to do this before.

A: My condolences. May he rest in peace.

Funeral honors kits have been provided to most funeral homes. This kit contains all the information required to request funeral honors. A funeral home or the family representative can request funeral honors for any eligible member. The funeral home will coordinate everything with the area coordinator.

For further information call:

Navy Personnel Command (NPC-621)

Casualty Assistance Branch

5720 Integrity Dr.

Millington, TN 38055-6210

1-800-368-3202

e-mail: NavyCasualty@persnet.navy.mil

The office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday, but your call will be automatically routed to the Navy Personnel Command Duty Officer during off-duty hours.

Q: Are commissioned officers authorized to wear a boatswain's pipe and lanyard on watch?

A: Navy Regs state that "The boatswain's pipe and lanyard may be worn around the neck while carrying out official ceremonial duties and military watches." Does a Commissioned Officer use the Boatswain's Pipe to carry out official duties at ceremonies or while on watch? The answer to that is "no" and the answer to your question is "NO". Boatswain's Pipes and Lanyards are for Boatswain's Mates.

Q: I know what USN is, but what is FTS?

A: "FTS" is part of the Active Duty Reserve Program and stands for Full Time Support. The FTS enlisted community includes 12,000 Sailors in a variety of ratings. Some ratings have well over a thousand Sailors while others may have less than 200. FTS' mainly deal with the Reserve side of the USN.

Q: How do I tie a bowline??????

A: Begin with a small overhand loop (the loop goes over the standing part). Be sure to leave enough in the bitter end for the size of the eye that you'll need; Form the eye of desired size; Pass the bitter end up through the small loop, around the standing part, and back through the small loop, this time going down. Tighten it up.

Refer to figure 3-15, 3-16 and 3-17 on page 3-12 and 3-13 of the Seaman RTC for the different variations of the bowline.

Q: How do I chip paint??

A: With either hand tools such as a paint scraper and chipping hammer or with pneumatic and electric power tools such as needleguns, knuckle punchers and grinders. Enjoy the hours of fun...

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Q: Senior, do you know where I may be able to purchase a lanyard for a call?

A: [Scroll down there is a link to a website that sells Boatswain's Lanyards...](#)

Q: I have a member who has been looking for the origin of "The green Carpet" or "Green table cloth" for CO's NJP proceedings. Any tips or stories.

A: I had no luck in finding any specific significance to the "green table cloth".

Although no longer true, there was a time when only the top officers had carpets in their offices. Hence the carpet referred to the office of a senior officer. In military parlance, called on the carpet refers to having to present oneself to a superior officer, report at attention and receive a disciplining for some offense. Sometimes a defense is allowed, but often, the communication is quite simple, clear, and unidirectional, with the recipient being forced to stand at attention while the abuse takes place. I do have some stories, but not to be shared here... ;).

Q: An old friend was in Navy in ww2. On left sleeve of uniform is a crest about the size of a coast guard crest. He was a BM2 (Right arm rate) and a Deep sea diver. Any suggestions?

A: Until 1949 rating badges were worn on either the left or right sleeve, depending on the watch section of the individual. The port section wore their badges on the left arm.

However, one hears the term "right arm rate" which from 1841 until 1949 denoted men of the seaman branch. These rates included boatswains mate, turret captain, signalman, quartermaster, gunners mate, fire controlman, mineman and torpedoman. Other ratings wore the rating badge on the left sleeve.

The eagle on the petty officer rating badge is derived from the Napoleonic eagle. This eagle was usually embroidered facing left. Why the Napoleonic eagle faces left is unknown. In 1941, the Navy changed the eagle's facing direction to follow the heraldic rules which face right toward the wearer's sword arm. This rule continues to apply and the eagle now faces to the front or the wearer's right. Bluejacket slang for the eagle is "crow."

Q: How much time will I have after bootcamp, to pack my family up and move to our new order destination?

A: That all depends on a number of variables - Where is your duty station; Deployment date of command / unit; is there housing available, and more. Time is allotted for moving, but there are a lot of other questions that must be answered first...

Q: Senior, How can I obtain the prep test for a Able body seamans test?

A: The USCG has a site where you can download Q & A's at <http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/mmic-deckexquest.htm>. There are also commercial companies that provide training and instruction. (Houston Marine is the one I used to get my USCG License - <http://www.houstonmarine.com/>)

Q: For FAS why dose the npw4-01.4 ask for a 10 or 12 inch fairlead block for the star messenger if the largest cir size on it is only 3in plated.

A: A good rule is to use a block 3X the size of the line as a minimum. Taking into consideration the beackets that must also pass through the block, 10" or 12" is ideal.

Q: Senior, Is BELFAST twisted cord or Twine still available.??? In the 1940's and 1950's I used to make square knotted (and Granny knots)belts out of it. It was about 1/64 of an inch in diameter and came in white or black. Thank you for your answer and I hope it is a positive response. I want to start making belts again.

A: True Belfast Cord is next to impossible to find (if at all anymore). You can use "cable cord" which is extremely similar and comes in various sizes. Cable cord is available at most arts and crafts stores and dyes quite nicely.

Q: I was curious as to what person has had the longest tenure in Naval service?

A: I did an awful lot of searching and could not find the answer to this question... Does anyone know who holds this honor?

Q: I am a BM1 currently attached to a Pre-com Destroyer unit and I'm the only one here from my division and I want to start constructing deck instructions. I need guidance on where to start? Is there a set list of instructions required for small boy deck divisions? Help.

A: Is this the first of a new class? If not check with the deck division of one of your sister ships. You state that you are the only one assigned to your division... you may want to wait till more shipmates arrive...

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Q: Senior, my senior chief is retiring next month I need to get him a dress blues lanyard with fancy work on it do you know where I can order or buy one?

A: The only place online that offers lanyards for sale that I know of is <http://www.oramasnautical.com/lanyards/lanyards.htm>. Have you thought of making one for him...?

Q: I am trying to locate specific Medals or Awards that I am entitled to wear with pride despite being Honorably Discharged for the past 14 or so years. I upon discharged received a certificate in the mail for a Humanitarian Award but no metal enclosed. I was discharged after DS in 2/1991. Can you point me to the information that I seek? I want my medals, awards, ribbons, etc. as well as I would like to have them reflected on my DD-214.

A: "Despite being Honorably Discharge"...??? Here is how you can get info for your medals and awards: Veterans are entitled to one replacement set of their medals. The Standard Form (SF 180), Request Pertaining to Military Records, is recommended for requesting medals and awards. Provide as much information as possible and send the form to:

Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office
Room 5409, 9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

To obtain information about unit awards earned, contact the Chief of Naval Operations, Awards and Special Projects Branch at the below address. This office can identify awards earned by Navy units.
Chief of Naval Operations

Awards and Special Projects Branch (Code N09B33)
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

Q: I spent a lot of time on highline details (I was an FT 1960-69), but I never learned the proper names for the lines and pieces we were working with. What's the names of the device carrying the high line hook, the lines we used to pull that device back and forth and the main line that it rode on?

A: The trolley block is the device that holds the hook; the inhaul and outhaul lines are used to move the cargo between ships; the highline is the line the trolley block rides on.

Q: Senior, where did the title coxswain originate?

A: Scroll down, the answer is below...

Q: Senior, when are you going to update the website?

A: All updates will be posted at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/id21.html> while YN2 deals with her current situation.

Q: I'm trying to find a web site or store I can buy a marlin's pie. Do you know where I can find one? Thanks.

A: They are available from the Navy stock system. You can also do a search on google, they are available from numerous websites.

Q: Senior, I was wondering if you sell all of the nstm's on a c.d. rom or something because trying to find them all just isn't that great on the internet.

A: They are available on CD from YN2 at www.1navy.com or you can download them from the BM homepage on NKO yourself.

Q: Senior, I need a phone number to call you about the CD on line.

A: Email me at bosun-m8@earthlink.net.

Q: Whom Do I contact to volunteer for Mobilization?

A: Check with your unit and NRC for Mobilization Opportunities. They should be able to provide you with a listing of available opportunities.

Q: Senior, what's the standard mortise of a mooring shackle?

A: The standard mortise of any size mooring shackle is 7".

Q: What is the official publication/instruction for standard Navy 1MC phraseology announcements?

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A: They can be found in the NAVEDTRA 14343, the BM NTC starting on page 1-10.

Q: I'm preparing a retirement program, and would like to know if the proper terminology is "side boys" or "side buoys"?

A: Side boys.

Q: I am a second class petty officer. I recently failed my 3rd prt in a four year period. There is talk of me being separated early. Does this make me entitled to some severance of some sort?

A: IAW OPNAV INSTR 6110.1H (August 2005): COs are authorized to initiate ADSEP of personnel who have failed 3 PFA cycles in the past 4 years, if in their judgement, they are not trying or have indicated that they are unwilling to meet standards. There is no "severance package" associated with ADSEP due to not meeting physical standards.

Q: Can the E6 and below female wear the uniforms made from the manufacture "Flying Cross", which are more expensive and also designed for the E7 and above?

A: Yes, female E-6 and below may wear the "Flying Cross" brand of uniform.

Q: Where can I get information online that would help me to prepare for my oilers tests?

A: I am assuming that you are trying to study for your USCG Merchant Mariner's document. The USCG has a webpage with most of the reference material you'll need for the test. The link is: <http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/mmic-engexquest.htm>. There is also information on NKO for obtaining your USCG Merchant Mariner's License. Good Luck.

Q: I am a former Zoomie that enjoys reading about the Navy. I came across a reference to a device called a "Franklin Buoy", but have been unable to find out anything about it. Is there such a device?

A: From what I was able to piece together, a "Franklin Buoy" was a buoy that has a device on it to signal the distress through the use of a built in flare. As I get more info I will update this answer...

Q: What is the origin of the number of sideboys required at naval ceremonies?

A: Tending the side with side boys, as we know it in modern practice, originated long time ago. It was customary in the days of sail to hold conferences on the flagships both when at sea and in open roadstead; also, officers were invited to dinner on other ships while at sea, weather permitting. Sometimes the sea was such that visitors were hoisted aboard in boatswain's chairs. Members of the crew did the hoisting, and it is from the aid they rendered in tending the side that the custom originated of having a certain number of men always in attendance. Some have reported the higher the rank, the heavier the individual; therefore, more side boys.

Q: Do you happen to have a copy of the old pars? I am a BM1(SW) of 8 years, I remember doing pars and I know how much they helped me out. They are not required for advancement anymore and we are getting away from the basics of being a BM.

A: Sorry, but I do not have a copy of the BM PARS. They were done away with quite a few years back. As the 5-Vector Model advancement program gets implemented and becomes Navy wide - you will probably not see any more advancement exams. I was also reading on NKO that the Navy has ran a pilot program for video examinations..so advancement requirements are changing. Look for a "College Degree" requirement for CPOs in about 5 years also..

Q: I was wondering if you could tell me all the animals on the focal of a agess cruiser.

A: Ah yes, the still infamous forecastsle animals...anyone know what they are?

Q: I'm trying to find a book or a web site with designs for sheaths. I made mine a lone time ago off the top of my head, it works but I just want to make more. Can you help me?

A: I do not know of any books off the top of my head that have good sheath designs. I did a search on 'google' and found some sites with various styles of sheaths. Check them out and see what you can come up with.

Q: How exactly do you make lanyards and what kind of string are they made of?

A: Lanyards can be made a wide variety of ways with various senttits, knots and hitches. Check out my webpage (<http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>) with BM Lanyard info and get together with some senior BMs for better guidance.

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Q: How many side boys does a vice admiral receive?

A: C'mon folks! All the Side boy requirements can be found in NAVEDTRA 14343, the Boatswain's Mate Nonresident Training Course, starting on page 1-22. A Vice Admiral rates 8 Side boys.

Q: Does anyone have the name of a supplier of Belfast Cord. It seems impossible to find. Thank you.

A: True, it is nearly impossible to find. I've searched all over the web, I don't believe it is manufactured anymore. There are some good cotton cords that are available at various arts and crafts stores that come close to the quality of Belfast Cord...

Q: Where can I find the NWP 3-50.1 REV A Naval Search and Rescue Manual?

A: It is available on NKO. Log on and check the NKO library.

Q: Senior, What is the purpose of ID cards?

A: ID Cards are obviously used for identification purposes. In these "Post 9-11" days Military ID cards are used to allow service members, retirees and dependants access to various military installations and facilities.

Q: I'm having trouble finding answers in the seaman course navedtra 14067?

A: All the answers can be found in the book...The questions usually run in sequence with the Chapters in the book. Take your time and read the Chapter on the topic that you are testing on again...If that doesn't work then email me the questions that you are stuck on and I'll see if I can't help navigate you in the right direction.

Q: I want to find out information about a navy boat The AG-78 Kent Island. My father on this boat at the end of World War II.

A: Kent Island (AG-78) was launched 9 January 1945 by New England Shipbuilding Corp., South Portland, Maine, under a Maritime Commission contract; sponsored by Mrs. Nan Hatch; transferred to the Navy 19 January 1945; commissioned the same day, ferried to Todd Shipbuilding Co., Hoboken, N. J.; decommissioned 23 January 1945 for conversion to a barracks and issue ship; and recommissioned 1 August 1945, Comdr. W. C. Ball, USNR, in command.

After shakedown in Chesapeake Bay, Kent Island cleared Norfolk 31 August for duty with the Service Force of the Pacific Fleet. She arrived Pearl Harbor 9 October via San Diego to commence operations in Hawaiian waters. She sailed for Okinawa 17 October to receive Navy veterans for transportation to the United States, and returned San Francisco 30 November. Kent Island cleared San Francisco 3 January 1946, transited the Panama Canal, and arrived Hampton Roads 26 January. Following upkeep, she put into Orange, Tex., 15 March where she was placed out of commission in reserve 22 June 1946. She was redesignated AKS-26 on 18 August 1951 and struck from the Navy List 1 April 1960. Kent Island was sold to Southern Scrap Material Co. 2 November 1960 to be scrapped.

Q: Senior, I'm trying to study for my bm2 exam and I'm looking for information on nwp3-50,1 us navy search and rescue manual, thanks for your help.

A: Log onto NKO. That manual can be found in the NKO library.

Q: What directive tells you how many Side boys each paygrade is entitled to have during a ceremony?

A: That information may be found in NAVEDTRA 14343, the Boatswain's Mate Nonresident Training Course, starting on page 1-22.

Q: I know there's no such thing as a dumb question but I have to ask (because I'm having a brain fart) what are the two types of small crafts that Carriers bring deployments? I know one is the UB (Utility Boat) but I forget the name of the one that the officers use.

A: You will find utility boats, the Officer's Motor Whale Boat and the Captain's Gig.

Q: Where does the word coxswain come from?

A: A coxswain or cockswain was at first the swain (boy servant) in charge of the small cock or cockboat that was kept aboard for the ship's captain and which was used to row him to and from the ship. The term has been in use in England dating back to at least 1463. With the passing of time the coxswain became the helmsman of any boat, regardless of size.

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Q: How many sideboys for a LT's retirement if the CO (a CAPT) will be part of the official party and wishes to be piped?

A: The LT rates 2 Side boys and the Captain rates 4.

Q: I'm a BM2(sw) and im making a lanyard for my soon to be father in law. hes a retired AWCS. and i want to make this one just out of the ordinary and cant seem to find a place to get nice bends and knots. ie how to make a fender out of line. can you help?

A: There are directions for making a fender in the Navy BM NTC. Ashley's Book of Knots, which is available in book stores and on the web has a wealth of information on various knots, bends and hitches.

Q: I know you weren't a career counselor but I was wondering if you would know what the advancement quota will be for BM3 this last September cycle. If you don't know or are unable to answer my question could you please direct me to where I could find out.

A: Check the Navy Advancement Center at <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/>.

Q: Would you know or be able to find out what the name and location of the UIC 3421B?

A: I looked at the Navy's UIC list found on NROWS and that UIC was not listed.

Q: I have done numerous retirement ceremonies, and I always pipe the person retiring , then afterwards the person with there family. I am piping someone next friday, and she wants to have, me pipe her with her family going through the first time, and thats it. Normally we just go by whatever the person retiring wants to do, Is this standard, or should I pipe her the first time and make her go back and get her family for a 2nd time , like most do?

A: The person retiring should be piped upon completion of the retirement ceremony. As you have said, the norm is to have the retiree pass through the Side boys alone. If she has requested to be piped with her family...then so be it.

Q: We Have CART II coing up and we have a argument on how long the cheater messenger has to be on a fueling station. I say it doesnt matter becuase every station is diff he says 200 feet whos right or wrong.

A: NWP 4-01.4 page 2-20 describes the messenger extension: 200' of 1 1/2" plaited polyester or three-strand nylon.

Q: I was recently awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Device retroactively from 1972. All I received was an awards letter authorizing the award with no ceremony or other recognition. Am I missing something? I was hoping my command would make a presentation to mark this important but bleated event in my career.

A: Occasionally some personal awards do not reach the Service Member until he/she has reported to a new duty station. I am guessing here - but was that award mailed to your home? Was your COC aware of the award? Regardless, run your request up the COC and I'm pretty confident the award will be presented as you requested (and as it should be). P.S. Congratulations!

Q: Why did CG BM's wear their rating badge on the right arm?

A: I'm in the Navy; I don't know - ;). Here is some info on the U.S. Navy "Right Arm Rating Badges": Established in 1841 and disestablished 2 April 1949, originally signified men of the Seaman branch. During WW II these rates included Boatswains Mate, Turret Captain, Signalman, Gunners Mate, Fire Controlman, Quartermaster, Mineman, and Torpedomans Mate. Other ratings wore rates on the left sleeve.

Q: I'm 58 years old I served in the navy from 65 to 68 I would like to know how to get a navy blue jackets manual.

A: It is available at the NEX and NEX Online. It is also available from Book Store sites such as Amazon for @ \$30 in hardcover. The version that was in use in the years of your service would have been the 17th Edition. The current version is the 23rd Edition. Check out http://www.bluejacket.com/usn_bluejacket_manual.html for the various editions of the Manual and a link to Amazon to purchase the Manual.

Q: Senior, Hey BMCS How are you? Is this CD the best thing to study for the test for Chief?

A: I am fine - Thanks. No, the CD is not the best thing to study for the BMC exam. The CD provides the references that are found on the BM advancemnet exam bibs. The CD is a great tool to utilize to use as a

reference when studying. The BM RTC and the BMR (now a major part of the BMC advancement exam) are the two areas that you should spend the most time with. There is no substitute for OJT and a working knowledge of the numerous topics associated with the BM rate. That is the absolute best tool for exam preparation. Exam prep should be a year round event, not something that gets accomplished just prior to the exam date.

Q: In what Navy manual can I find the requirement for a boat crew member to be qualified as a 2nd Class Swimmer?

A: That can be found in NAVPERS 15560C.

Q: Where is the 2006 march bib for advancement?

A: <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil>

Q: I'm just wondering how many sideboys are required for an O-6 during a commissioning ceremony?

A: An O-6 rates 4 Side boys.

Q: Senior, a U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), which is the next State Dept Rank below an Ambassador, should get how many sideboys?

A: 8 Side boys

Q: Can you provide me with the name and address of a company that sells CD's, tape's and/or video's consisting of all the Bos'n Calls in the Navy. I still have my old Sterling Bos'n Pipe which I received in the early 1940's and would like to practice the calls in time for our next ship reunion next year. Thanks for your attention to this request.

A: You can download the Boatswain Pipe Calls from two sites: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/id20.html> or <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic/AUDIO.htm>.

Q: I am a seaman on the USS Peleliu (LHA 5), and I just wanted to know what was the history behind the lanyard?

A: The Boatswain's Pipe and Lanyard, whose original use goes back as far as the Crusades, is one of the oldest pieces of nautical equipment. The pipe and lanyard are named after the Bosun; a warrant or petty officer in charge of a ship's rigging, anchors, cables, and deck crew - one of the oldest titles in seafaring history. The pipe and lanyard were the Bosun's badge of office, and were worn around his neck, and was used to "pipe" his to orders to the crew. In the days of sailing ships, verbal commands were often misunderstood - or not heard at all above the the howling winds and the roaring seas. However, orders issued by the shrill tone of the Bosun's pipe could be heard above even the worst of gales.

Q: I am a tour guide aboard the USS Constellation Museum. I am looking for the Civil War era "Taps/Lights Out" Boatswain's Call or modern equivalent if necessary. The "music" or sound sample would be a big help.

A: At Taps the words "Taps, taps, lights out! All hands turn into your bunks! Maintain silence about the decks! The smoking lamp is out in all berthing spaces." is passed. There is no Pipe Call to precede this 1MC announcemnet. The Navy site <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic/AUDIO.htm> has Navy music and Boatswain's Pipe sound files for download.

Q: Which hand do you salute with while using the Boatswain's Pipe?

A: You should salute with the hand that is not holding the Boatswain's Pipe. It may be either your left or right.

Q: How many sideboys for admirals? Please start with 1 star through 4 stars. I have the information on vriers, but need to know about the number of sideboys that rank is entitled to.

A: Fleet Admirals, Admirals and Vice Admirals rate 8 Sideboys. Rear Admirals and Commodores rate 6 Sideboys. Check the table on page 1-22 in the BM RTC.

Q: In what situation in a change of command with both COs being O6s can six side boys be used? I'm told two can stand back a step, is this true?

A: An O-6 would rate 4 Side boys. A situation where two additional Side boys would be 'step up' would be when an Officer rating 6 Side boys would be an Official guest of the ceremony.

Q: I am having a hard time find a reference on braiding leather to hold boat hooks.

A: Check the USN BM RTC page 2-34. It shows how to do coxcombing, which is a common covering for boat hooks. Another great book that I always recommend is Ashley's Book of Knots, which can be found at most book stores.

Q: I am piping for the pinning ceremony. What uniform should I be wearing - all other participants are in khaki.

A: What rank are you? If the Uniform of the Day for the Ceremony is Khaki and you are an E-7 or above then it would be khaki. If you are E-6 and below, check with the CMC.

Q: I am piping the side for a Chief pinning ceremony and I am not quite sure if there is a proper or ceremonial way that I should be lowering my pipe holding hand after I complete rendering my salute. I am also hoping you can tell me where the casing (beer) tradition originated from. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

A: You should lower your hand and return to attention upon completing the pipe call.

Q: I am looking for a sight that I might purchase a US Navy boatswain pipe and lanyard for a ceremony that all submarine USSVI bases do every year.

The ceremony is Tolling Of The Boats and it is to remember all submarines and their crews that have been lost since the submarine service first was commissioned (52 boats were lost in WWII alone) The ceremony begins with the piping aboard the dignitaries and senior officers of the different groups we invite for this very solemn and dignified ceremony. I am a former EN-3 (SS) and have been practicing on a very cheap pipe but I would like to get the real thing if possible. I guess I am a frustrated boatswain mate. Can you help?

A: You can purchase a U.S.N. Boatswain's Pipe at

http://www.vanguardmil.com/store/view_product.php?product=4923&searchlink=yes&search=BOATSWAIN&page=1.

I have a website that shows how to make a "basic" BM lanyard at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>.

A site that actually sells some pretty nice lanyards is

<http://www.oramasnautical.com/lanyards/lanyards.htm>.

Q: What is the definition of the size of a Hawser?

A: Hawser lines are measured by circumference.

Q: Do you know where I can find a North Star BMR book you know the one with the Question and Answers in it?

A: They are available online at: <http://www.studyguides.com/html/products.html>.

Q: Where can I buy beeswax?

A: Beeswax is available at numerous Arts & Crafts stores. In the NY area I have seen it at A.C. Moore.

Q: Senior, there's a BM2 that keeps tying an extension cord in some kind of a knot and he said it's a French something knot that can be a single or double and he asked me to find out why he keeps tying the extension cord like that and the purpose of the knot can you help me out?

A: Do you mean a "French Bowline"?

Q: I was wondering, when piping the sides where does the Honors Bosun stand? I do believe it's to the left and he's closest to where the official party enters??

A: That is correct.

Q: Senior, Can you explain the "Rule of 3's and 6's"? I have been told by my BMC to find it. It relates to "for every 3 minutes at 10 knots you travel 3 miles" or something like that.

A: Speed = Distance divided by time. If you mark your distance at intervals of 3 and 6 minutes, it will be easier to quickly figure the solution in your head as 6 is one tenth of an hour.

Q: How many side boys are required for a CDR's retirement ceremony?

Also, should they be in rank descending from CDR to ENS or is it okay to have higher ranks?

A: 4 Sideboys. They should be in height order.

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Q: What does the CO want to do when he gives the order to "bend on ten turn"

A: I am assuming that he wishes to make a turn at 10 RPMs...?????

Q: How would you turn white line black for a lanyard?

A: White line can be dyed using dye found at any arts and crafts store.

Q: Boats, what are ruffles and flourishes? I am A BM2 and for the life of me can't find the answer

A: Ruffles and Flourishes is a musical arrangement played at certain Official functions. You can find it for download at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic/AUDIO.htm>.

Q: How many bells do you strike for a Three Star General (LTGEN)?

A: 8 bells

Q: I'm studying for the September advancement exam for BM, E-4 and was hoping you could help me. I've downloaded all the pubs on the bibliography but there's just so much information, I don't really know where to start. I was wondering if there was a condensed version of the pubs, like cliff notes or something. I don't mean to seem like I'm trying to take the easy way out, but I don't really work in my rate, and never went to school for it, come to think about it, I've never even been on a ship in the two years I've been in the Navy.

A: Review the Q's and A's in the back of the BM NTC. That will 'probably' cover all the BM related info found on the BM3 exam. Referencing the pubs listed in the bibliographies seems like a lot, and it is...not working in your rate doesn't help either – especially for the BM3 exam.

Q: Where did the BM actually come from? I know that we are the oldest rate in the Navy and all but where did our name come from? I am a BM3 and I was just wondering as to where we named from?

A: Over two centuries before Columbus sailed, the comparatively small ships of England were each under the command of a boatswain. The boatswain is the oldest known title of any seagoing officer or man and is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "batsuen" - meaning boat's "swain" or husband.

Q: do you know the history of the boatswain mate?

A: See above question.

Q: How many bells for retiring enlisted, PO1, CPO, MCPO, MCPON?

A: Unofficially – two.

Q: How many bells do a Navy Captain gets when he retires?

A: 4 bells

Q: I've looked high and low and either I'm not looking in the right place or the question I'm about to ask you is just being elusive. I would like to know when the Boatswain's Mate rate began. The best I can find is the mid 1800's.

A: The rate was in use in 1775; established 1797. Pay grades 1c and 2c established 1893; pay grade 3c changed from Coxswain 1948.

Q: How ya doing Senior Chief, I am DC1 in the Navy Reserves, I am also a Navy Civil War Reenactor and I am looking for a Lanyard for my U.S. Navy Rope Knife, can you help?

A: Sure I can: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>

Q: How many sideboys for an 0-6 retirement/change of command ceremony?

A: 4 Sideboys (On page 1-22 of the Boatswain's Mate NTC).

Q: Senior, How can I find out how many female E7 and above boatswain's mate's are in the Navy?

Thanks

A: This sounds like a "slug" question... Just count them.

Q: I just got out back in April, and I've been missing the Salt air, you recommend a young BM3 going back in? Well I appreciate your advice. Thanks.

A: Whether you go back in active or reserve duty – we could always use some motivated BMs!

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Q: I've been in for 17 years now, and I've always been fond of the BM's pipe, where can I purchase one?? Thanks for all of your service.

A: Check the bottom link on my site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>

Q: Senior, I am a CM1 trying to help a deployed BM2 by making him a cd with study material on it. I am having a hard time finding a downloadable copy of 2 things: the U.S. Navy Towing Manual and Dutton's Navigation and Piloting (14th edition). I have googled it and searched all over NKO with no luck.

A: I have looked for Duttons electronically and was unable to find it. The other electronic versions are available from YN2's site: http://www.navygirl.com/cd/boatswainsmate_cd.htm.

Q: As a recent CPO Selectee one of my taskings is to find out how many female BMCs, BMCS', and BMCM's we currently have in the Navy. I've been looking all over the place and have come up short for this answer. Could you guide me in the right direction to find out this information? Thank you.

A: Count them yourself or try getting the info from BUPERS. (Congratulations!)

Q: Where can I find the rope to make a lanyard? What is the correct name for it? I try to make my own lanyard.

A: Traditionally Belfast cord has been used. It can be found at various "craft" shops.

Q: What type vessels do full Commander's captain?

A: Commanders usually command vessels other than carriers and larger amphib

Q: Senior, What do Oak leaves signify?

A: Oak Leaves in the Navy - Silver: Commander; Gold: Lt. Commander

Q: What's the year of the fouled anchor? I can find out all kinds of information about the anchor itself but not the year of its origin.

A: Here is some info on the history of the CPO <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq46-1.htm>.

Q: Most Honorable Senior Chief, I have a question about Navy Customs and courtesy. How do you announce the arrival of a visiting CO from a DDG? Is this the same as all CO's or is it different for a DDG? I know I am reaching but could you throw me a bone? This is what I know.

The CO is coming up the brow; "Ding-Ding-pause-Ding-Ding-pause-"shipname" arriving."

The CO steps aboard at the top of the brow;

"Ding"

If this is an expected visit, you should know who the CO was coming to see and called them as soon as you were sure it was the expected CO arriving. That way the person being visited has a chance to either come to the quarterdeck to meet them or can send someone in their place. Am I close?

A: That is it in a nut shell!

Q: Historically "side boys" performs what function during a retirement ceremony?

A: During a retirement ceremony, Sideboys stand in formation of either side of the retiree as he departs the ceremony, rendering a salute as the Boatswain pipes.

Q: What kind of rope and how long is needed to make a lanyard? Thanks.

A: Traditionally, Belfast cord has been used to make a BM lanyard. You can use any quality cord that will not fray or lose its coloring.

Q: How many side-boys are used for O-6'S and below? And where do I find the protocol for retirement ceremonies.

A: Check the table on page 1-22 of the BM NTC.

Q: I have to get a bunch of drawings and OSHA regs, and misc stuff for cart where is the best place to get those such as a dwg 804-5000900, pilot ladder or ANZI Z358.7 Article 4.6.1 to 5.51?

A: Check out www.osha.gov.

Q: Senior, hey Senior I'm a BM 3 that just made rate and I need to know how's a good way to impress my chain of command and stand out among my shipmates?

A: Basically just work hard, be respectful and look out for your shipmates. If you want additional responsibilities, then inform your supervisor.

Q: How you doing Senior? Quick question for you, I'm a FC2 on a Cruiser, just got a question by a junior guy and I couldn't give him an answer but I told him I'd get back to him. He asked me who was responsible for shining the ships bell. I have heard 2 different things, 1. the cooks traditionally are responsible. 2. The owner of the deck that the bell sits. I know on my last boat, a DDG, the seaman were tasked with this. Here I guess it's the FSA's which to me sounds like the CS's are shirking their duties, any insight?

A: Unless it has changed, and I don't believe it has – the CS's have the responsibilities of polishing the ships bells.

Q: I know it seems pretty late to be requesting info right before the exam, but I am actually more interested in learning how to find the study material for the next exam in March. I have been underway for most of the last 6 months. I have failed in trying to acquire GM1 study material. Training in Bahrain pointed to ESO and ESO told me to go to Advancement.cnet.navy.mil. Of course the website is down right now because it is so close to test taking time and none of the GM's around here are taking the GM1 exam. My command said they will help me next exam period. Is there anything besides BMR that I can study relating to my rate right now before the test?

A: Unfortunately there are limited capabilities when trying to study overseas in the environment that you are currently serving in. Utilizing the Bibliographies and studying the resources listed there will give you more specific items to study. Most of the references on the bibs can be found at NKO. I have not seen a GM advancement disc from 1navy.com yet...

Q: Senior, R/R the answer to the following trivia question.

What is the only brass on a ship not polished by the BMs/ I believe it has something to do with the CSs. Thank you.

A: That would be the ship's bell.

Q: Hi, my youngest daughter got diagnosed with cancer when she was 10 mo. old. She has been 3 and a half years cancer free now. We go to a camp and do activities with all the children there. I have been looking for directions on how to make a monkey fist. One of the guys there showed me, and he used a marble in the middle. This is something I want to share with all of the other children there as well as my Girl Scout troop. I am looking forward to your response. I also would love it if you can point me in the direction of a good site with detailed pictures, and also the legend behind the Monkey's Fist.

A: Here is some information on the Monkey's Fist from two sources. The first one is from "The Ashley Book of Knots" by Clifford Ashley and the second is from the United States Navy Boatswain's Mate Training Course.

In the days of piracy, when there was only wind power, the sailors had to somehow get the ships together in times of distress. This was almost impossible on the high seas. Someone got the idea to throw a rope to the other ship to pull them together. This didn't work. Then it was decided to tie a rope around a cannonball and sling it to the other ship. The problem was that they needed a knot that would stay secure on a round object. This knot became known as a "Monkey Fist" knot because as with a monkey, it won't turn loose of an object. A monkey will put its fist inside a jar, grab hold of an object and won't turn loose. Therefore anyone can use this plan to catch a monkey. Since this knot has long leads, it can be thrown to another ship and became known as a lifeline. It was used to rescue people when ships were in distress.

Ashley's Book of Knots:

The first person to picture and name the 'monkey's fist' was E.N. Little in Log Book Notes (New York 1888). No directions were given for tying. It was adequately described for the first time by Dr. Cyrus L. Day in 1935.

U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate Training Course:

In addition to its familiar place on the end of a heaving line, the monkey fist is sometimes used as fancy work on the top of lifeline stanchions.

The monkey fist is composed of four sets of turns taken at right angles to each other. For clarity, figure 2-31 shows only three turns in each set; four turns per set are more commonly seen aboard ship.

To tie a monkey fist, start as in view A in figure 2-31, taking a set of turns around your hand. Then slip this set off your hand. Holding it as

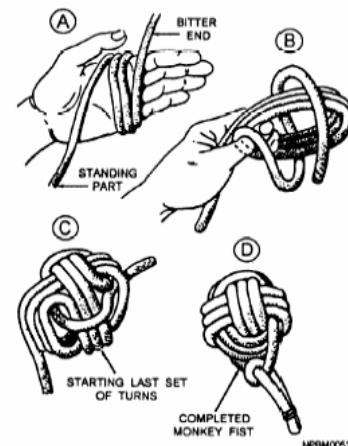


Figure 2-31.—Monkey fist.

shown in view B, run the bitter end over your thumb, and down, under, and around the first set. Complete this set of turns. The last set of turns goes around the second set and through the first set, as shown in view C. Notice that the first turn of the last set serves to lock the first two sets in place. Complete the last set of turns. Tighten up by working the slack back toward the standing part. Keep enough bitter end to secure with a half hitch and a flat seizing (view D). In a properly tied monkey fist, the ends come out at opposite corners on top, as shown in view D.

Here are a few great website that also shows how it is made:

<http://www.igkt.net/beginners/monkeys-fist.html>

http://131.230.57.1/knots/m_fista.htm

<http://www.cooperativeadventures.com/mf.htm>

Q: What is the difference between a Navy SEAL Delivery Team and a Navy SEAL Team? Many thanks for your time.

A: When you say “A Navy SEAL delivery team” you are probably referring to the Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman (SWCC) who operate and maintain the Navy’s inventory of state of the art, high performance boats and ships used to support SEALs and special operations throughout the world. Check out <http://www.seal.navy.mil/> for more info.

Q: In response to the Boatswain’s Lanyard questions – a shipmate pointed me to a website were you can actually purchase a lanyard.

A: This is to the shipmate who is looking for a Boatswain’s lanyard. There is a Boatswain’s Mate who will make you a custom lanyard and other BM related items. The website is www.oramasnautical.com. Hope this helps.

Q: I am a 21-year Chief Boats in the Naval Reserve. I am piping off one of my fellow Senior Chiefs in the next couple of weeks. I made a lanyard, but I don’t have an extra pipe. Where can I purchase an original Navy issue pipe. Help!

A: You are a 21-year-old Chief Boats in the Naval Reserve? Who’s Naval Reserve? Not the United States Navy at 21 years old. You can purchase a U.S. Navy Boatswain’s Pipe at

http://www.vanguardmil.com/store/view_product.php?product=4923&searchlink=yes&search=BOATSWAIN&page=1.

Q: Respectfully Requesting to know where I can find a Study Guide for the YN Rate for the BIBS Test.

A: As a BM, I haven’t seen a study guide for YN. Try doing a search on Navy NKO, check with the YN “Go-to” shipmates on www.1navy.com, or order YN2’s YN Advancement CD.

Q: Another question for the USS Salt Lake City CA25 reunion in New Orleans . . . we are honoring our shipmates that have passed over the previous year (and always those that have passed in years gone by, either during war or in peace). Is there a prayer or toast that can be made during our banquet that would be appropriate for this occasion?

A: There is quite a “Navy” presence in New Orleans...I would check with the local commands and submit your request. Another great idea would be to check with the American Legion Posts in the area. I am sure a BM Legioner would be honored to help you out.

Q: Where can I find Electricians Mates references for 2006 Bib?

A: You can probably find most of them on Navy NKO.

Q: Senior, I am looking for all NSTM.

A: That is an awful lot of books; can you be a little more specific? NKO has many available.

Q: Would you please tell me how many fathoms of anchor chain on the starboard anchor of the LSD-41 Class Amphibious Assault ship?

A: Slug, anchor chain is not measured in fathoms, it is measured in shots. Congrats on the selection, but I’m not giving you the answer that easily.

Q: Senior, Hey Bosn I need to find the old Boatswain’s Mate prayer my chief has me looking for it every were but no such luck I only found one but is not the one my chief is looking for the one I found goes (I think there’s nothing quiet so great or as salty as a boatswain’s mate etc, etc then it goes on can u please help me. V/R

“

A: All Prayers help, here's one for the BMs:

I think there's nothing quite so great,
or as salty as a Boatswain's Mate.
A Boatswain's Mate with a hairy chest,
who never gives his yap a rest!
Upon who's bicep is tattooed,
a dancing lady in the nude!
Yes, a fool could make a thousand rates,
but only God make Boatswain's Mates!!

Q: Where can I find information on making a Boatswain's mate lanyard?

A: My website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8>

Q: Hi I am a BMSN out of Bastrop, LA. My drill is in Bossier City and I was wondering how long it takes for them to put you in the system so you can order your books you know the BMR and also if you can answer my other question how do women play in the role of a BMSN I look forward to learning my new job it seems like a lot of stuff to remember so if you could please give me a little info on the questions it would be great.

A: 1) You should be able to get the requested books immediately. If not, then check with your LPO and Career Counselor.

2) From my work experiences, gender has played no part in the effectiveness of performing as a good BM.

Q: Is the correct term sideboy or sidebuoy?

A: Sideboy

Q: How do I determine what type topper goes on a flagpole. The command is CDS28 with the Commodore rank as Captain. We are stationed on Naval Station in a BLDG. Was thinking of purchasing flags but needed to know the correct topper and any other information (flag size, stock numbers, etc) you are willing to provide. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

A: From page 4-26 of the BMR:

The flagstaff for the ensign and for the personal flags or pennants is fitted at the peak with these special devices, as follows:

- Spread eagle: For any civilian official or flag officer whose official salute is 19 guns or more.
- Halbert: For a flag or general officer whose official salute is less than 19 guns or for a civil official whose salute is 11 guns or more but less than 19
- Ball: For an officer of the grade, or relative grade, of captain in the Navy, and for certain diplomatic officials
- Star: For an officer of the grade, or relative grade, of commander
- Flat truck: For an officer below the grade, or relative grade, of commander, and for civil officials entitled to honors of a lesser nature than those previously described.

The BMR also has an illustration of these devices on page 4-26.

Q: Where can I get audio of bosun pipe calls?

A: At my new website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/id20.html>

Q: How many bells is a Congressman afforded (this is for a Change of Command)? A: Table 1-5 of the BM NTC:

A: 8 bells

Q: How many bells does a four star admiral get?

A: Scroll down and check out the table that lists the requirements.

Q: I am at a precom unit right now. I need to make up the words to be passed over for underway and inport. Where can i find them online or in a book? I appreciate the help boats.

A: Standard Phraseology for making 1MC announcements is found on page 1-10 and 1-11 of the BM NTC.

“

Q: I am trying to get a hold of the nwp4 and some of the NSTM's. Will you please give me direction?

A: [NWP 4 and many other NSTMs can be found on NKO where they are available for download in PDF format. They are also all available on one CD from YN2 at \[www.1navy.com\]\(http://www.1navy.com\).](#)

Q: How many side boys are required for a 1 star?

A: [On page 1-22 of the Boatswain's Mate NTC: 6 Sideboys.](#)

Q: I am looking for a Mobilization billet in Bahrain. Where should I look?

A: [Check with your NRC for mobilization opportunities, there should be available.](#)

Q: Senior, I am arranging a retirement ceremony for an O-6 in a theater where the Sideboys will be seated until the piping ashore ceremony. What are the commands starting from the seated position to the rail?

A: [Sideboys should not be seated. They should be in formation and upon the command "Side Boys Post", they will march and fall in at the pre-set area.](#)

Q: I am a retired ATCS who did a lot of Bo'sun duty for retirement ceremonies. I was recently contacted by one of my former shippies who requested that I make him a lanyard for his retirement. This I did with pride, for he served well, but he has since been given flack for planning to use a "Navy Blue" lanyard for his ceremony in whites. I have tried downloading the uniform regs to send him, to avail. Please advise.

A: [He's is correct. The authorized colors of a Boatswain's Lanyard are white and black.](#)

[U.S Navy Uniform Regulations Chapter 5 Section 4 states:](#)

["5404. BOATSWAIN'S PIPE AND LANYARD. The boatswain's pipe and lanyard may be worn around the neck while carrying out official ceremonial duties and military watches. The lanyard is braided with Belfast cord in a traditional style and sennit. When hanging free, the bottom of the pipe shall not fall below the top of the belt. Wear white lanyards with dark/blue uniforms and black lanyards with white uniforms. Men place the pipe in the left breast pocket when not in use. Women wearing Service Dress Blue place the boatswain's pipe attached to the lanyard between the top and second button of their jacket when not in use. Do not wear them on liberty."](#)

Q: I have seen a Coast Guard Gunner's Mate Motto but Does the Navy GM have one or do we share with our shallow water brothers?

A: [Can't help you there shipmate. I found that the USCG GM motto translates to "I bring not the rays of the sun but the thunderbolts of Jupiter"...not a bad one...](#)

Q: Senior, I was a gator sailor and a BMSN back in the 80's.I got my old uniform in order found and sharpened my old boat knife and even found my pipe lanyard but I gave my pipe to an old friends family so they could mount it in his shadow box. Is there a place to get a new pipe? I see all the garbage on line but know my ships bosn' would keel over if he saw any of us with that junk. I just want to get a "Real pipe".

A: [They are usually available at the NEX or online from Vanguard at \[Vanguards Military Website\]\(#\).](#)

Q: Senior, were can I find NWP 4-01.4 chapters 1-4 and 8-9 for my up coming BM2 exam?

A: [Log onto NKO and run a search in the library. You can download it there.](#)

Q: hey boats I'm having a problem I cant find a branch of the service that will take me in I have retained hardware in the form of an i-m rod in my fumer i had the accident 4 years ago I am now 23 and have made a full recovery and I am now the Forman for a roofing company in Tampa, Fl. it doesn't hold me back from nothing please help.

A: [There are various medical conditions that are automatic disqualifiers for enlistment. From what you have written, it seems that you have one of them. I'm not educated on medical disqualification criteria...](#)

Q: Senior Chief, I am unable to find a clear history of the BM rating? Information I have located is vague at best. Please, Steer me in the right direction I have lost my bearings.

A: [A lot of the traditional duties of the Boatswain's Mate rating are mirrored by the duties of the Boatswain in the early Royal Navy. Here is an excerpt from the U.S. Navy History website:](#)

[The early Boatswain was appointed Warrant, and was among the most important men on board ship. He was usually a grizzled old salt who wasn't timid about giving orders and it never occurred to him that they wouldn't be obeyed. He was assisted by his mates, or Boatswain's Mates, and though it was unlikely that he was unrecognizable, he nevertheless carried a silver Bosn's pipe and rattan cane that identified his](#)

position. His pipe was the sailing ship's PA system. It could be heard 120 feet up in the rigging and in the deepest and darkest hold. His cane was an instrument of persuasion which it was said, cured more scurvy than the doctor, made cripples take up their beds and walk, and made the lame skip and run up the shrouds like monkeys...

As you know, the Boatswain's Mate play an extremely important role in replenishment at sea in today's Navy. However, transfer-at-sea methods were actually used as early as 1804. During the war with Tripoli, for example, the ketch Intrepid transferred a cargo of fresh provisions to USS Constitution, which was engaged in enforcing a continental blockade of the port of Tripoli. This cargo included four bullocks, one calf, 13 pigs, 300 pounds of hay, two baskets of peas, and three casks of old Hock. This maneuver was the springboard for the modern, mobile logistical support now provided through underway replenishment that enables the fleet to remain at sea almost indefinitely.

Not all ratings of this early era have retained their identity, because the majority of our ratings today resulted from later technical developments. While jobs and duties have changed, the rating titles of Boatswain's Mates, Quartermasters and Gunner's Mates have remained the same since the American Revolution.

Q: I have been looking for good quality sound files of all the Bos'n pipes. Do you know where I can find them all, I have found some, but they aren't all crisp and clear.

A: Check out my site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/id20.html>. They are available there.

Q: Senior, Hello I am trying to take the E-4 exam in September and I am looking at my BIB and don't understand it! Mostly the NSTM's. Where do I find those? It seems as if they are chapters that don't belong to a book.

A: The NSTMs are Navy Ship Technical Manuals. You can download some of them after logging on NKO. I suggest investing the \$5.00 and get the BM advancement CD that is available on www.1navy.com. They will all be on there.

Q: I have had numerous requests on how to make a Boatswain's mate lanyard. I have made a website with instructions on how to make a very basic BM lanyard:

A: Take a look at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>

Q: I am a BM1 on my first sea tour. Can you tell me where I can find things like prop wash, chow line and water line? I really want to show my DIVO that I know my stuff at our next at sea period.

A: If you are a BM1 and just now going on your first "sea tour" than you are probably sharp enough to find them all. If not, go down below to the engineers and ask them where you can get a BT punch.

Q: I'm a GM2, TRYING TO GET READY FOR MY GM1 RATING EXAM, WHERE DO I GET MY STUDY MATERIAL?

A: First check out the GM bibliographies for advancement to see what materials will be referenced on the exam. The references listed can be found at various locations such as your command's and the GM's library, the Navy's NKO website and other websites where you can perform a search for the requested references.

Q: Senior, I am a BM1 in the NR. When I was active we had a BM practice test on our ship computer. I was not sure if this was available anywhere else, or if was the work of a busy BM to make on and put in our system. If there is a practice quiz out there, where can I find it?

A: I have also seen that practice test program quite a few years ago. I looked around and could not find an updated one anywhere. Do some searching on NKO...someone may have constructed one.

Q: Where can I get information and instruction on how to tune a bosun's pipe?

A: From the BM RTC page 1-6: "Most pipes are too open at the pee and have to be flattened and soldered at the sides of the pee to fill the space between the pee and the bowl; otherwise, a hissing sound of escaping air will interfere with the clearness of the call. Some pipes are improved by filing the wind edge, which is the edge of the bowl farthest from the pee. The hole should be filed down until the blast of air from the pee is split exactly by the sharp edge of the bowl. A test of this can be made by pushing a broom straw through the reed. The edge of the hole should split the straw."

“

Q: What are the three parts of the piping of chow on the bosun's pipe?

A: From the BM RTC page 1-9: MESS CALL—Mess call is the longest of the calls; it should cover no less than 1 minute. It consists of “All hands,” a long “Heave around,” and a long “Pipe down,” in that order.

Q: Hi, I would like to know if a pam-1 beach master announcing system with a enough parts still sealed to rebuild it twice over + schematics 2 manuals is worth anything?

A: I'm sure it is worth something to somebody. If a piece of toasted bread with the image of the “run away bride” is worth \$\$\$ on ebay, then I'm sure that piece of equipment has a buyer somewhere looking to pay for it.

Q: What does LPH stand for?

A: Amphibious assault ship (helicopter). Check out <http://www.navsourc.org/archives/10/11idx.htm> for info on the various LPHs.

Q: How many bells does a Vice Admiral Get?

A: BM RTC, page 1-22, a Vice Admiral rates 8 bells.

Q: Hey Boats, I am trying to get a copy of the NWP 4-01.4, for my up coming BM1 exam, do you know how I can get one. Also do you have any pointers on making rank? The last cycle I didn't study at all, but still PNA the test. This time I have been studying the book and BMR, what else should I study?

Thanks for the help.

A: BM2: Log onto to Navy Knowledge Online and do a search for NWP 4-01.4. You can download it there. I just checked and it is there. When you study for the exam utilize the advancement bibliographies. That is the best way to do specific studying for the cycle's exam.

Q: BMCS, how many side boys does a PO1 get for his retirement ceremony?

A: This question gets raised quite a bit...Usually four, but, as a service member's retirement ceremony is an extremely special event in one's career, the number of sideboys may vary. There is no problem with having more sideboys as it is a show of respect and a great honor to be a Sideboy at a shipmate's retirement.

Q: Where can I find when the flag should be flown at half mast?

A: Excerpt from Section 7 of the U.S. Flag Code: The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, and then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff. The flag shall be flown at half-staff 30 days from the death of the President or a former President; 10 days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day. As used in this subsection -

(1) The term "half-staff" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;

(2) The term "executive or military department" means any agency listed under sections 101 and 102 of title 5, United States Code; and

(3) The term "Member of Congress" means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

Q: What does a Boatswain's Mate generally do in the Navy?

A: This is a very long list. The early Boatswain was appointed Warrant, and was among the most important men on board ship. He was usually a grizzled old salt who wasn't timid about giving orders and

it never occurred to him that they wouldn't be obeyed. He was assisted by his mates, or Boatswain's Mates, and though it was unlikely that he was unrecognizable, he nevertheless carried a silver Bos'n's pipe and rattan cane that identified his position. His pipe was the sailing ship's PA system. It could be heard 120 feet up in the rigging and in the deepest and darkest hold. His cane was an instrument of persuasion which it was said, cured more scurvy than the doctor, made cripples take up their beds and walk, and made the lame skip and run up the shrouds like monkeys...

The Boatswain's Mate play an extremely important role in replenishment at sea in today's Navy. However, transfer-at-sea methods were actually used as early as 1804. During the war with Tripoli, for example, the ketch Intrepid transferred a cargo of fresh provisions to USS Constitution which was engaged in enforcing a continental blockade of the port of Tripoli. This cargo included four bullocks, one calf, 13 pigs, 300 pounds of hay, two baskets of peas, and three casks of old Hock. This maneuver was the springboard for the modern, mobile logistical support now provided through underway replenishment that enables the fleet to remain at sea almost indefinitely.

Not all ratings of this early era have retained their identity, because the majority of our ratings today resulted from later technical developments. While jobs and duties have changed, the rating titles of Boatswain's Mates, Quartermasters and Gunner's Mates have remained the same since the American Revolution.

In today's Navy, BMs train and supervise personnel in all activities relating to marlinspike, deck and boat seamanship and the maintenance of the ship's external structure and deck equipment. They are the key personnel onboard for UNREP and cargo operations. They act as Petty Officers in charge of small craft and may perform duties as

Master-at-Arms, serve in or take charge of gun crews and damage control parties. BMs deal with amphibious operations and some flight deck operations. The scope of the BM taskings depend upon the type of duty station that he/she is attached to.

Q: How do I start a lanyard with 3 strings?

A: There are a few ways to start a 3-strand lanyard. You can use repeated half hitches, tied in either the same or opposite directions. These variations will produce a twisted or straight lanyard. You can also use a simple 3-strand braid. Using 4 strands will allow you use various round and square sennits that will look much nicer.

Q: Where can I find lookout training other than the handbook?

A: Other than the lookout duties covered in the Lookout Training Handbook, NAVEDTRA 12968, they are also discussed in Basic Military Requirements, NAVEDTRA 10054-F. Telephone talker procedures also are covered in it and in the Sound-Powered Telephone Talkers' Manual, NAVEDTRA 14005-A.

Q: Boats, I have a fellow chief that is retiring this August. He would like a Boatswain's Lanyard presented to him. Do you know of any websites that sell these items? Thanks.

A: I did a search and found a few sites:

<http://guidinguk.freesevers.com/lanyard.html>

<http://members.tripod.com/~knots/knotvideos.html>

You can perform a search using the various search engines, but there are not many out there.

Q: Surgeon general whom is a O-9 3 star General arrives, who many bell tolls does he receive? Thank you

A: An O-9 rates 8 sideboys.

Q: I am looking for the History of the Sideboys. Specifically how it applies to today's retirement ceremony.

A: Piping as a ceremony with side boys is a custom evolving from the days when visitors were hoisted aboard by use of the boatswain's chair. The pipe was used for the commands "hoist away" and "avast heaving." Members of the crew of the host ship did the hoisting. It is from the aid they rendered in tending the side that the custom originated of having a certain number of men, known as side boys present. In time it became a courtesy for high ranking officers and diplomatic officials to honor by Sideboys and piping ceremony.

Q: How many side buoys are used for an O7 and above?

A: O-7 and O-8 rate 6 Sideboys, O-9 and above rate 8 Sideboys. (Ref: BM RTM page 1-22 Table 1-3).

Q: I am a 3 months pregnant BM3 at a shore duty command and my command wants me to pipe for their change of charge ceremony but they said I can't wear maternity white because it doesn't look professional. Can they do that?

A: No they cannot.

Q: A shipmate that is TAD to my command is being told he is not eligible for his Surface pin due to not being here for at least a year. I've seen people on 6 month deployments (squadrons) and come home with this pin. What steps does he need to take?

A: The requirement calls for being stationed onboard the same class of vessel for a period of one-year. This requirement can and has been waived. Even though this sailor is TAD, he should start the qualification process and PQS.

Q: My name is (Name deleted) and I am stationed at Naval station Pearl Harbor, I was stationed on the USS O'Kane DDG 77 from 2000 to 2004, plenty of RIMPCAS , Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Free Iraq, my situation is that I am getting out due to a torn ACL in my left knee. It's getting better in time, I want to keep in my rate when transfer out of the Navy to S>C>, what if possible would u maybe suggest that could "feed the hunger" when I get out...I'm proud to be called Boatswain's Mate.

A: There are numerous BM related civilian job

Q: How do I make a pipe lanyard?

A: There are a few websites (listed in other "Ask Boats" questions) and knot books available to assist in making a BM Lanyard. The best way is to ask some of the senior BMs onboard to help you out.

Q: I heard about a school in Norfolk Virginia that is for BM's. They show you how to set up for unreprs/towing and other tasks. Where can I find out more information on this? I am up for BM1 this next cycle and would like to have hands on training.

A: There are a few schools that I know of. STREAM school (or UNREP School) teaches the various methods of underway replenishment. This school is available at Little Creek, Virginia and at NWS Earle, Colts Neck, NJ. There is also a BM training class that is offered at Little Creek and another BM rate training class that is available at the GMATS at the USMMA. Each of these classes are outstanding tools to help BM with rating knowledge.

Q: How many sideboys does a Captain have during a retirement ceremony?

A: A Navy Captain (O-6) rates 4 sideboys.

Q: How many bells for a Flag Officer?

A: The bells will coincide with number of sideboys. See the chart in the BM RTM page 1-22 Table 1-3.

Q: Hey Senior where is a good website where I can buy a tuned pipe and do you know another place where I can buy shot line for doing lanyards?

A: I have never seen a website where you can purchase a "tuned" Boatswain's Pipe. Part of the pride and honor of having your own Boatswain Pipe and Lanyard is tuning the pipe and making the lanyard yourself. The BM RTC does have instructions on how to "tune" a pipe. Various Boat shops and hardware stores have good quality line similar to shot line to make the lanyard from. I have not seen "Navy Shot Line" on any website.

Q: Where can I find a check off list for anchoring?

A: There are Equipment and Personnel Safety Precautions found in NSTM 581, 1-2.

Q: Boats I am Looking for Boatswain.....Stand by to pipe the Side. For a retirement but I Cant find it can you help? The full version.

A: If you are referring to "The Watch"... <http://goatlocker.org/watch.htm>.

Q: Senior, were can I find a website to order a boatswain's mates ring? Thank you.

A: There are a few. When I retired I ordered a ring from <http://classicrings.com/mercantool/catalog/Navy/ratings/NV-7.html>

Q: Hi Senior Chief Where can I find out the steps on how to do a mooring to a buoy.

A: NAVEDTRA 12100, Boatswain's Mate Rate Training Manual Chapter 4.

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Q: Senior, I have been racking my brain trying to find info on how a retirement ceremony is to happen. I have heard that it is the way the retiree wants it, also I have checked ATP(B) 13 Chapt. 12, I have as well checked USN regulations chapter 12, none of them are clear, they leave a "gray" area of interpretation. Having done as "Honors Boatswain's Mate" myself many times I have a very good understanding; however this understanding was taught to me by my BMC's over the past 18 years. Now I have a Master Chief (of a non-BM rate) telling me different, he is using his pay grade as authority. I need in writing a definitive instruction on a USN retirement ceremony. Do you know of any and how and where to get it?

A: There is some "grey area" as to how retirement ceremonies are conducted. A lot of it depends on what the retiree wants. If there is some disagreement as to how part of the ceremony will be conducted, ask the person being retired...no sense in doing battle with the Master Chief over something as special as a fellow shipmate's retirement.

Q: Where does the new Chief Selectee go to get the CPO Training Request Chit?

A: You can get the chit in the CPO Goat Locker.

Q: Senior, I am looking for a place online were I can learn how to make a lanyard for my pipe well soon to be pipe...I a deck seamen at a command (spec ops) that has no fleet BM's. my neighbor from back home (RET BMCM) is going to give me my first pipe but he told me to make the lanyard and BM 3 or SN before I get home or he will not give it to me... Thanks for you time Senior.

A: This seems to be a very popular question. I still have not seen a website that provides guidance in making a lanyard. There are plenty of books...

Q: What the best way to tune a standard issue BM pipe?

A: Info can be found in the Boatswain' Mate RTC Page 1-6.

Q: What is the MIL designation for a mail buoy used in the North Sea?

A: Do any new sailors know the answer to this...???

Q: Hi Senior, is there a motto for Bos'n Mates?

A: I have never heard of a "fleet wide" Bos'n Mate Motto, but there are some good ditty's that I have heard through the years.

Q: IRT... Q: How can I get fedlog on my computer here in hanger 6?

A: I need a little more info before I can help you with that request: What is a "fedlog"? Where is "hanger 6"? FEDLOG is "federal logistics" it's a monthly program that Supply uses on a daily basis to verify part numbers & prices of their supplies. The directions are mailed with the disc. If not, ADP at the command should be able to assist in downloading to local/share drive, unless on NMCI.. then you got problems. Takes too long to put in a MAC request to have it installed each month. Anybody that asks about FEDLOG can email me at joshua.palmer@navy.mil VR/ SK2 PALMER, ASSUALT CRAFT UNIT ONE (San Diego) THANKS SK2!

Q: Do (E-7) and above rate side boys and piping when they retire off a navel vessel?

A: At a retirement, all sailors rate side boys and piping out of respect for their years of service.

Q: I am a BM2 going up for 1st this September. Should I purchase the Northstar and will it help me on advancing?

A: There are various ways of preparing for the advancement exams. I personally have never used the Northstar guides. Some other sailors I know find them extremely useful. There are plenty of USN advancement tools available to assist you in advancing where you don't have to spend the \$\$\$ for a private company guide. I do not advocate the Northstar or any other study guides. Experience, basic knowledge and understanding are a lot more valuable in preparing for an exam, then just studying the Q's & A's.

Q: How can get info on my dad's ship- LCI(L) 1020 he was a coxswain?

A: <http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/151020.htm>

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Q: I am GMC Smiler, trying o help a BM2. Where on the web, can I find The NSTM's and most other BM publications?...We are in the OIF right now, and cannot obtain hardcopies.

A: They are available at YN2's website: www.1navy.com

Q: What would you recommend as a study tactic for an STG, recruiter, not stationed near a base and having issues gaining access to study materials that are rate specific?

A: This has always been a problem for certain rates and a major reason why the CD sets that are available on YN3's website have been are covering more ratings. I am a big advocate of utilizing the advancement bibliographies and studying the references listed there.

Q: I'm looking for information on NWP 4-01.4 UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT. To study for BM1 exam thank you for any help you can offer.

A: It should be available from your command in hard copy and can be requested on CD in a PDF format. The NWP 4 is available on the www.1navy.com BM advancement CD.

Q: Senior, just scrolling down thru your questions and didn't see any that relate to the boatswains pipe. I recently came across a gold pipe with a gold chain. It looks and sounds just like the ones from the NEX. I searched thru the regs and online to if it's ok to wear with the dress uniform. I did not come across anything. Is there any written Navy policy that states BM's can't wear this fine piece of ornament?

A: The "gold Pipe" that you speak of is probably a British Pipe. The U.S. Navy Boatswain's Pipes are silver. Some things don't have to be written in the regs.

Q: How do you get chosen as a side boy in the Navy?

A: Selection as a Side Boy requires a few things: being squared away and looking sharp while wearing the Navy uniform. Mention it to your Supervisor or BM and let him/her know that you are interested.

Q: Below you answer a questions about "side buoys." I thought it was side "boys." Which is correct according to Navy tradition?

A: Sideboys. I do not spell check the incoming questions...

Q: Boats, I am a retired Master Chief; is there anyway that I can get a copy of the BM CD since it seems the distribution of it is restricted to active duty and reserve personnel?

A: Master Chief, email me bosun-m8@earthlink.net.

Q: Where can I find the requirements for the correct number of sideboys for arrival ceremonies?

A: On page 1-22 of the Boatswain's Mate NTC.

Q: Hey there Senior. What is a pip pin and what it is used for and its safe working load. Thank you.

A: Pip pins are quick release securing pins used in many applications. The SWL depends on the size and material of the pin. They lock into place by small "ball bearings" that release upon pulling a ring or handle on the top of the pin.

Q: I gots to change commands due to harassment, poor evaluations by seniors who dislike me. What 1306 do I file?

A: 1306/7: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/26B9D594-5981-42F7-BB37-E31AD3E9EC71/0/NAVPERS13067.pdf>

Q: Where are the Senior Chief Results?

A: On the NPC website at http://www.npc.navy.mil/Boards/ReserveEnlisted/SCPO_MCPO_SelBd.htm.

Q: Quite a few sailors have been asking for the NWP 3.50.1

A: I have been informed that the NWP 3.50.1 is available on NKO under "Combat Systems", "SAR Swimmer page". – Thanks whoever forwarded that message!

Q: Are there any good web sites that show how to make a lanyard for my pipe?

A: I have used numerous search engines and have not been able to locate one. There are plenty of great knot books at any bookstore.

Q: I am on a CVN. Is life going to change much when I report to my new DDG?

A: Yes. You will be able to remember all your shipmates' names. Obviously smaller space onboard and

you will probably learn that the crew depends a little more on each other, as there will probably be more interaction with a smaller group of shipmates. Don't get me wrong; CVN sailors depend on each other also, but with the smaller compliment of crew you'll find aboard the DDG, you'll probably see each crewmember everyday in the passageways and on deck.

Q: BM1 here at RTC. I will be heading back to sea soon, would like to get a hold of the BM ADVANCEMENT CD you spoke about where and how can I get one?

A: They are available through YN3 at her website: www.1navy.com. Just follow the links for the advancement CDs.

Q: I am the Naval Reservist going IRR. Earlier Question. I found out that my request chit is at New Orleans COMNAVRESFOR from the YN at the Naval Reserve Center. The problem appears to be there is no tracking mechanism with reserves for VTU, IRR Requests. The System appears to be broken, and the ship is sinking!

A: The tracking mechanism for VTU and IRR requests is a problem that should be addressed at the NRC level. I know that NRC Earle has a VTU unit that performs as a regular unit as far as their admin responsibilities for their members. The "ship is not sinking", just a minor spill in the passageway. Stay in contact with your NRC YN1 and existing chain of command to stay updated.

Q: Once IRR, I am wondering about ADT, and retirement without pay. My understanding is the last six years would have to be in a reserve unit to get a paid retirement. I understand that. I also understand that in the IRR if you do your correspondence courses, keep NAVRESPERCEN informed of your address etc. (continue to be the shining Sailor you were in SELRES you can retire without pay) but get all the other benefits.

A: At the risk of giving out-dated or "mis" information, you'll have to direct that admin question to your Admin Department or Command Career Counselor. They can give you more exact information that will fit your specific situation.

Q: I am working in the supply department for MSCHQ, I am trying to find out info on the NWP-4-01.4 Underway Replenishment pub, I am trying to download a copy for are supply would you be able to give me help on locating this pub, I have check NLL, and one touch and could not find the pub.

A: The NWP 4 should be readily available at MSCHQ. MSC is becoming more and more active in the underway replenishment of USN ships. The NWP 4 is available on the BM Advancement CD that YN3 has available at her website (www.1navy.com). Check with the deck department at MSC also.

Q: What kind of jobs can a Boatswain's Mate get in the civilian sector?

A: I know BMs that are now Harbor Pilots, Policemen, Firemen, stockbrokers, marine engineers, marine deck officers, teachers, safety specialists, crane operators, riggers...the list is endless. Although the BM rating is one of the dirtiest, you do learn many skills from knot-tying to personnel management, each of which are very valuable assets that can be applied to a civilian sector job.

Q: Is it possible to transfer from the Navy to the Coast Guard without losing rank?

A: The USCG should be ADDING a rank to anyone transferring over from the USN...That is a great question for a USCG recruiter...

Q: How can I get fedlog on my computer here in hanger 6?

A: I need a little more info before I can help you with that request: What is a "fedlog"? Where is "hanger 6"?

Q: Where do I find NWP 3-50.1 Navy SAR?

A: This is popular pub and extremely hard to get a copy of...Due to U.S. Navy distribution requirements, this publication is not available online. It can be obtained in hard copy or CD (PDF file) through your Command or Unit. The Joint Pub 3-50.1 (not NWP) is available on the BM Advancement CD (once your USN service has been verified).

Q: The cd when is it updated for the next advancement exam for august?

A: When the CD was first made, I used all the references from the previous 3 cycles of all pay grades of the USN and USNR Boatswain's Mate exams. The only references that would not be included are any new pubs or manuals that may be an added item to the actual BM exam. Unless the BM rating

requirements change, the CD will have all the referenced documents.

Q: BM1 where can I find the uniform regs. Online

A: Here is a link that lists each Chapter of the Uniform Regs:
http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/508/unireg/uregMenu.html

Q: am trying to find out how i can find info telling me that an e-7 is eligible for a ncm when they retire.

A: Anyone is eligible for a NCM, as long as his or her performance warrants it. It is a Navy tradition to award retirees in good standing with an end of service medal. The Chief, or E-7 as you have stated, needs to touch base with their command and address or maybe remind his/her superiors concerning this matter.

Q: I been In the Navy for 41 months and I'm a BM3. My ship decommissioned and I went to a bigger deck where They're saying unless I make 2nd class I can't leave the ship. How true is this statement.

A: How long have you been a BM3? Your command may have a "Make Rate Initiative" Program where they conduct after hour training for the advancement exam. As far as forbidding you from leaving the ship...that sounds a little far fetched.

Q: What's Going on boats? I need to know if there's a place online where I can take a online test for the rate.

A: I have never seen an online website that allows you to take practice exams...sorry.

Q: Can I get a list of UICs on-line?

A: They can be obtained from the tool bar on the left hand side of the NROWS log-in page or from here:
<https://nrows.cnrf.navy.mil/nrows/public/AllNavyUICs.xls>

Q: What is the job of a Beachmaster Unit?

A: Info courtesy of BMU 1:

During amphibious operations of World War II, the Shore Party was an integral part of a combat division and organized around a Marine Pioneer Group or an Army Combat Engineer Group. In both services, Army and Marine, the Shore Party formed the nucleus to which the various land and naval elements were assigned for an operation. The naval elements included the Underwater Demolition Team, a Naval Pontoon Unit, and a Boat Pool.

It quickly became apparent that separate organizations were essential to ensure the mass movement and orderly flow of troops, equipment and supplies, through the surf zone, onto the hostile shore, and across the assault beaches to achieve the success of the amphibious operations. To accomplish this task, units called Beach Parties were formed and were composed of members of the ship's crew. When the landing of the troops from their ship was complete, the beach party returned to the ship.

In order to keep the initial landing beaches open to be used as temporary ports for bringing in supplies, a navy shore unit, independent of any specific ship was needed. The Naval Beach Battalions (NBB) were formed to fill this gap. A NBB was composed of 3 companies; 3 platoons to each company. Each of these 9 platoons had four sections: communications, medical, small boat repair, and hydrographic. Their specific duties were to handle all ship to shore communications from the beach, mark and clear sea lanes for landing craft, perform repairs on damaged boats, and arrange evacuation of casualties from the beach.

Each sector of an invasion beach assigned to a regimental combat team was run by a (Battalion Beach Group), composed of an Army Engineer Special Brigade and its assigned NBB platoon.

The beachmaster was the commander of the NBB, and was in charge of everything up to the high tide line. The beachmasters have been called the (traffic cops of the invasion), as they were the ones that directed the actual landings of every craft, no matter how large or small.

Post-war analysis led to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) decision on 19 July, 1948 to commission Navy Beach Groups (NBG) as afloat commands. The NBG mission is to provide naval elements to the Amphibious Task Force to support the landing of a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) or to the Maritime Pre-positioning Forces to offload equipment and supplies for a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF). A Beachmaster Unit was later commissioned for the purpose of maintaining the special teams to control boat traffic and conduct boat salvage operations in the surf.

Q: How many side buoys would normally be used at a retirement ceremony for a Captain in the USNR?

A: A United States Navy Captain, either Active or Reserve service, requires 4 side buoys.

Q: What is the history of the BM rating in the U.S. Coast Guard, and where can I find information on the subject?

A: The USCG's roots stem from the establishment of the Revenue Cutter Service and Lighthouse Establishment in 1790 to regulate and protect commercial shipping as well as carry out maritime search and rescue, and the federalization of volunteer beach life-saving patrols as the Life-Saving Service in 1871. These two organizations merged in 1915 to form the Coast Guard. The history of the USCG Boatswain's Mate is linked to the USN Bosun. Today there are quite a few differences in the USN BM and the USCG BM. I searched many web sites and could not find more specific info on the USCG BM history. Check out www.boatswainmate.net.

Q: What aircraft carriers made up carrier division 3?

A: Do you mean Carrier Group 3? If so, The USS Carl Vinson. <http://www.cvn70.navy.mil/>

Q: Do you know of an on-line resource that contains the Table of Honors for the number of side boys each rank rates?

A: I could not find one, but that doesn't mean that it does not exist.

Q. Back when I was a 1st LT I remember using a manual that had information and diagrams on all of the USS and USNS Oilers. I'm on a new ship now trying to train new Ensigns and I can't remember what the pub was called. Any ideas?

A. Sorry, but I can't recall the actual name of that pub. Here is a link with all (most) of the AOs and T-AOs listed w/ additional info: <http://www.navsource.org/archives/09/19idx.htm>

Q. I have a change of command ceremony soon and need to know what and when to pipe. PS, where's a good place to find a template for a lanyard?

A. Here is a link to let you hear the various pipes. You will be "Piping the Side" when you render honors to the dignitaries walking through the side boys.

You start to pipe as the person approaches the side boys and stop when he passes the last side boy. <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic/AUDIO.htm>

Q. Boats: I am a Naval Reservist. Applied for transfer to the IRR. Been waiting for months. What is the current situation with IRR Requests? I've served over ten years and wish to spend the last years in the IRR.

A. Have you done any follow-up on your IRR request? There have been some instances where IRR requests and other administrative requests have gotten "lost" or have been routed improperly. That may be where the hold-up is. The IRR request depends on a few variables, such as rate and rank, time in service and unit / billet. If you have been waiting for "months", I would bet there is an administrative glitch causing the extended wait. Check with your unit or NRC Admin Department.

Q. What is the opposite of a forecastle?

A. The forecastle is the bow of the ship, so the opposite would be the stern or fantail.

Q. I am a BM2 with 14 yrs and need to know what is the best ship to take for well rounding (BMC) I have done 2 Tenders, 1 LPH, LCCAC's shore= NSWC and HSL SQUADREN where I am now.....

A. A BM on any amphib ship can surely get a lot of the various BM training required to become well-rounded. I don't see a "tin can" on that resume. A BM2 on a cruiser, destroyer or frigate may have a lot more responsibility than one of the larger vessels...

Q. WHERE CAN I FIND A PRACTICE TEST TO TAKE FOR HM3?

A. I have never seen "practice tests". I have seen questions that were in the RTC and Military Requirements on the tests. Your best bet is to focus on the references that are found on the HM3 bibliographies.

Q. When you lower a boat where does the monkey lines hang, inboard or outboard? My shipmates and I were discussing it and everyone from our BM1's to our junior BM2 said outboard and that is the way we've been taught our whole career. The Navedtra 14067, Boatswain's Mate book chapter 5 page 5-11 second column paragraph 5 it states; "During lowering, have the monkey lines hang over and inboard,

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between the ship and the boat. Please help us to solve this question. Thanks!

A. The monkey lines should lay inboard of your boat. The reasoning is that as you pull away with your boat, the monkey lines will not get "snagged" on your boat or someone in your boat.

Q. I am looking for a site that sells Lanyards for wear during dress blues inspection. I just don't have the time or knot tying skills to make one myself.

A. I did some quick searching, but could not find one. I have seen them before, but I cannot remember the site name...keep searching-they are out there.

Q. SENIOR, I AM A BM3(SELRES) AND I HAVE BEEN OFF ACTIVE DUTY FOR 8 YEARS. I AM UP FOR BM2(TOOK EXAM ON 2/6/05). I FEEL THAT I DID WELL ON THE EXAM AND HAVE A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF MAKING 2ND ON MY 1ST TRY. I REALLY WANT TO GO BACK ON ACTIVE DUTY. IF I MAKE IT, HOW SOON CAN I RETURN?

A. You have to speak to a Navy Recruiter and see what opportunities are available for you. Depending on your situation with the advancement results, you may want to wait until you actually get paid for BM2, should you be selected. Speak with a Recruiter or the Career Counselor from your command or NRC.

Q. I was told by some Navy Reservists that we could be awarded a NAM for serving Military Honors at 10 funerals. Can you confirm this is true, and if it is, refer me to the source justifying (chapter and verse) so I may pursue getting this award. Thank you.

A. According to a source in Northeast Region, this is NOT true. Although performing additional duty as a Navy Reservist performing numerous Funeral Details, would be something that a Command may use to award a NAM.

Q. BMCS, I have just been made my Reserve Units Honors Boatswain and have no idea what I am supposed to do. Where can I find this information and what do you think is the most important part of the job?

A. Congratulations! What command are you from? I would like to know which command it is, seeing as they appointed you to a position and you have no idea of the responsibilities...?????

The Honors Boatswain's duties vary at each various Command. I would guess that you would be doing all the piping at official ceremonies such as retirements, change of command and awards ceremonies. You will have to train the side buoys on the proper honors they will be rendering to anyone you will be piping. Here is a link that has the Bosun Calls so that you can practice with your pipe:

<http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyMusic/AUDIO.htm>.

I would check with your LPO or Department Head to see what is exactly expected of you with your new duties...Again - Congratulations Boats!

Q. WHERE CAN I FIND THE NWP 3-50.1 US NAVY SEARCH AND RESCUE MANUAL AND THE US NAVY TOWING MANUAL?

A. Due to U.S. Navy distribution requirements, these publications are not available online. They can be obtained in hard copy or CD (PDF file) through your Command or Unit. The Joint Pub 3-50.1 (not NWP) and the USN Towing Manual are available on the BM Advancement CD (once your USN service has been verified).

Q. At or when may you talk in formation? When formation to fall in, what position do you take to the left or right if the row is vacate?

A. 1. You may only talk in formation when you are at "Attention", and only when asked to respond or speak out. 2. You fall in to the right when starting a new rank.

Q. What does BMCS stand for? Im interested in Naval facts and just getting started on studying them.

A. BMCS stands for Senior Chief Petty Officer Boatswain's Mate. BM= Boatswain's Mate CS= Senior Chief

Q. When did they change from the monkeys fist to the international orange life balls.

A. That change was quite a few years ago. I could not find the actual date/year...I'm going to guess...early 90's. The older "monkey fists" were filled with anything that would give them good weight. We used to smash old lead battery terminals into a somewhat round shape and use them. I heard some

people actually used pool balls...The reason for the change was that the international orange balls do much less damage than a monkey fist filled with ??? when they strike someone on the pier.

Q. I have been in the Navy for 3 1/2 years, I made BM2 a year ago and no one really takes me serious on my recommendations to the senior leadership. There are people that are still seaman when I was one and they don't take me seriously either. What should I do?

A. Your request is a little too vague for me to really comment on. Some things you could answer for me and yourself that would help: What is your command? What specific duties do you hold as a BM2? Have you been tasked with any collateral duties since being selected to BM2? What means of communication do you use to voice your recommendations to senior leadership? Do have a history of NJPs or poor evaluation marks?

Q. I am a BM2 and I had an NJP a year ago, article 92. Will that hurt me in the future if I want to submit an officer package or when I go up for chief?

A. It will not hurt you as long as you have shown an improvement in your behavior and performance since the time of your incident. Staying away from NJPs and having significant changes to your EVAL is what will help you. I had some issues early on in my career, and I managed to be selected to BMCS. Most everyone makes mistakes and uses poor judgment at some time in their life. The way you react and improve yourself afterwards is what shows people your true character.

Q. I would like to know if there is any kind of interactive question and answer test, program etc.. that I can download or purchase from somewhere ?

A. The "U.S. Navy" does provide some interactive learning programs on the Navy Knowledge Online website. Some commercial companies, such as "Northstar" have developed advancement study guides with CD, books and cassettes. I am not sure if the CDs are "interactive".

Q. I am having allot of trouble trying to find a site where I can download nstm chap582 and 581 I have found the 583 but no luck with the other two.

A. You cannot download the NSTM 581 and 582 from any web site. Check with your Command's supply department about ordering the manuals on CD.

Q. I am looking for the stock number for the boatswain mate pipe stock number do you know where I can find it?

A. The stock number from an actual 'Vanguard' Boatswain Call box has the follwing SN: 2476801009.

Q. Senior, IM studying for BM1 like a mad-man. I have the BIBs and all the courses listed on the BIBs for the March exam. Honestly Senior, is the BM Northstar a waste of time or is it a legitimate study tool?

A. Studying and reviewing the material listed on each advancement cycle's BIBS is the best tool for final preparation for the exam. As everyone's knowledge retention varies from person to person, different people can have varying study habits that work well for them. Some people study for hours, some don't study at all, some research the references on the advancement bibs and some people use the Northstar as well as other various study tools and exam preps. I have personally never purchased nor used the Northstar exam preps; therefore I cannot give an opinion on their product. ...Is this your first time going for BM1? Have you had difficulty on the BM2 exam? If not, then keep your head in the books and you'll probably make BM1 and have saved some \$\$\$....

Q. What is the breaking point of a 3/4" span wire during underway replenishment?

A. The 3/4 " (19mm) spanwire weak link end fitting has a breaking strength of 30,000lbs (13,608 kgs) as found on pg 2-35 of NWP 4-01.4 (Underway Replenishment). Hopefully you'll never see that happen...

Q. Will there be updates to the BM cd for the next exam cycle to include subject mater in the bib that is not on the cd-rom yet?

A. The subject matter that is included on the BM CD was taken off of BM bibs from different cycles of exams and from both USN and USNR pay grades E-4 thru E-7. I will be periodically checking to see if any additional references need to be included on the CD. If so I will send YN3 an update.

Q. Were can I purchase a call pipe?

A. "U. S. Navy" Boatswain Call Pipes can be obtained through the Navy Supply System and are also available for purchase at the NEX. They can usually be found in the Uniform Shop. There are other

styles of pipes that are also available on the web and in different nautical stores. Here is a link with most of the BM calls on it. You can save them into a file and use that to practice against. The BM RTC has a chapter on the BM pipe and calls in it also.
<http://www.bupers.navy.mil/navymusic/audio.htm>. The pipes are available at some NEXs. I saw a bunch of different ones on Ebay also...

Q. I am trying to order some marlinespikes and the sheaths to go with them, for my guys (BMs). I need some information as far some "NSNs" so I can get some ordered. If you could help me with this info I would appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

A. The Stock Number from the barcode on the marlinspike is : 5120002212731. I do not believe that the sheaths are a "stock item", they are usually crafted by the BMs themselves...

Q. Does a PRT failure automatically mean that a Sailor stands no chance of getting an outstanding (EP) Eval? I know numerous Sailors who can out perform many other Sailors on a daily basis but just can't seem to pass the run. What's more important, job performance or running fast?

A. Does a Sailor who cannot even meet the Navy's minimum Physical Readiness Standards qualify as an "outstanding sailor"?...I understand that some truly "Outstanding" Sailors have trouble with the PFA, mainly the run/swim portion. Receiving an EP on an eval signifies that the Sailor being evaluated is an all-around top notch Sailor. A PFA failure would indeed be a disqualifying factor..."Running fast" or in other words, being in good physical condition coupled with other factors such as job performance, leadership, rating knowledge and so on are what make an Outstanding Sailor (EP)...

Q. Can a HYT ER in the IRR get active duty training or be recalled? I used to be in the Marines, I would like to serve with them but Im in the USN IRR now. I reached HYT 14 years for and E4.

A. You can request a HYT waiver, if approved return to SELRES status and then volunteer for recall. The trick is getting a waiver approved in accordance with OPNAVINST 1160.7B. Stop by your NRC recruiting office and see what they can do for you. Your being an able-body that is willing to volunteer for active duty recall should look favorably with your HYT waiver package...

Q. One question I am dying to ask. With all the rates merging here, is it true that qm's, bm', and sm's will eventually merge into one. I know qm's and sm's already merged, but what about bm's.

A. The USCG has merged these rates already. I have not heard of any plans yet to do the same with the USN ratings. With all the latest rating mergers throughout the Navy, it is something that may quite possibly happen in the future...but nothing definite yet.

Q. Where can I go and find online BM courses?

A. I have never been able to find "online" BM courses...sorry.

The USMMA at Kings Point (Long Island, NY) does offer an excellent two-week BM training course. More info here: <http://gmats.usmma.edu/info/course.aspx?BW>.

Q. What does the Specialty Mark for a Communications Technician look like?

A. Interior Communications Electrician (IC): ICs operate and repair electronic devices used in the ship's interior communications systems, SITE TV systems, public address systems, electronic megaphones and other announcing equipment. They are also responsible for the gyrocompass systems. The rating specialty mark is a globe with a telephone handset over it.



Q. MY BMCS, I'M A BM2(SW) I'VE TRIED SEVERAL WAYS OF STUDYING, I HAVE THE NORTHSTAR STUDY GUIDE, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE WHEN I TAKE THE EXAM I CAN'T EVEN COMPARE OR COME CLOSE TO AND ANSWER THAT WOULD BE RIGHT, I HAVE A TOTAL OF 15YRS IN, I GOT OUT FOR FIVE YEARS AND GOT BACK IN SEPT99, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST HOW I SHOULD STUDY, BECAUSE I KNOW THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF THE RATING IT JUST APPLYING IT TO THE EXAM, I'VE BEEN ON FIVE SHIPS SO I HAVE EXPERIENCE IT JUST MAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

A. As each sailor has different ways of preparing for the advancement exam, some work for some and some do not. I have seen people that have no "hands-on" skill do very well on advancement exams. I have also seen some of the most knowledgeable BMs fail the exam...

There are 4 types of questions on an exam:

1. Taken from the BM rate training manual
2. Publications listed in bibliography
3. References listed in the BM RTM, but not the bibliography
4. Other references in bibliography.

Some things that may help:

1. Check your BM bibliographies for that cycle's exam.
2. That will minimize what you should actually be studying.
3. Review or even re-complete the BM RTC.
4. Use the Navy's Exam Strategy Guide (see below).

The Navy's Enlisted Exam Strategy Guide should be up and running in December 2004. Here is the site for the BM guide: <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/study/asg/sailor/>
Hope that helps...

Q. What is a bible?

A. A bible is any book used or accepted as an authority. If you heard sailors on deck speaking of the "bible", they could be referring to the Boatswain Mate RTC Manual. If they were referring to the "bible" in a specific topic, they are probably referring to a specific NWP or NSTM for that subject. Of course the "Bible" is also the sacred writings of the Christian religion found in the Old (also Jewish) and New Testaments.

Q. Where can I find a stock number or noun name for life rail pin lanyards? I remember ordering it on the ship, and getting it in huge rolls. Am in charge of an LCU now and we don't even have fedlog here! Have searched the internet, and called numerous ship's. No one seems to know what I'm talking about. They keep giving me NSN for lock wire. Any help would be much appreciated.

A. You stumped me on this one. I looked around with no luck. Are these something you can fabricate yourself?

Q. I am going up for chief this coming next cycle and am trying to get to a Leadership School for E-6. Do you know of any sites where I can see what's available out there in the near future?

A. Here is the Navy's site with LTC info: <https://www.cnet.navy.mil/leadcon.html>

Q. I want to change my rating from EO to BM Can you tell me all the Info I need to do this. I have been told so many things I have to do in order to make this happen. I took a 2 week course on BM in NY and also doing the BM courses online. I am very interested in crossing over.

A. According to the info posted on <http://www.bupers.navy.mil/pers8/PERS-81/PERS-811E.htm>, the requirements for conversions are:

- NAVPERS 1306/7 (signed by Commanding Officer and the member) - DO NOT submit an electronic NAVPERS 1306/7 via BUPERS ACCESS for conversion consideration (ref: MILPERSMAN 1306-112, NAVPERS 1306/7 (REV. 1-03), Enlisted Personnel Action Request)
- copies of last THREE evaluations (front and back) - or as many as are available
- copy of latest ASVAB scores (see Page 4 of member's service record)
- copies of any documented training/experience related to desired rating (not required - but helpful)
- copies of Endorsements, Security Questionnaires, Drug Screenings, or other required documentation as specified for conversion consideration for each respective rating (i.e. MAA Endorsement for MA; Drug Screening & Medical Officer endorsement for HM; etc.)

Conversion requests can be faxed, mailed, or scanned and emailed to PERS-4811E (MILL_Conversions@navy.mil). You will need to check the CREO status of BM and EO to see what the manning levels are as I am not sure if you are USN, FTS or USNR.

Q. How do I iron my dress blues to get the creases?

- A.
- 1) Turn the pants inside out and iron flat with no center crease.
 - 2) Turn the blouse inside out also and iron flat.

3) Fold the blouse flap from outside-inside to get the proper creases.
or...take it to the dry cleaners...

Q. Where could we find NWP 3-02.1 ship to shore movement?
A. NKO

Q. why are Seamen in Deck treated like garbage?
A. Seamen in deck are not "treated like garbage". I am hopeful that no-one in today's United States Navy is treated like garbage, as you suggest. I hate to speculate, but you may be confusing "treated like garbage" with a group of people who are not afraid of getting their hands dirty during their normal work day. I spent my first years in the Navy, onboard ship, as an E-1, E-2 and E-3. I was never treated like garbage. I did perform various rigorous tasks that left me tired and dirty at times. Looking back, I am well aware that performing the "dirty" work as a non-rate, gave me an appreciation for hard work. More importantly, as I achieved higher ranks, it gave me more respect for the junior personal onboard and made sure that I always tried to look out for them. I hope that answers your question.

Q. Where can I find NWP 3-50.1 U.S. Navy Search and Rescue Manual. I need some information about SAR.
A. NKO

Q. I like to collect old BM rate related items. I recently found a blues arm device for a chief. The strange thing is the crow and the anchor are woven with a gold thread and stand out. I have asked several people about and no one seems to know how long ago it was used. Could you help me with this?
A. According to some of the websites I looked at: Dating bullion rating badges is very difficult and that in 1942 the manufacture of silver and gold bullion embroidered rating badges was suspended for the duration of the Second World War. John A. Stacey's book U.S. Navy Rating Badges, Specialty Marks, Distinguishing Marks.

Here is a link with some photos of rating badges from WWII. I think the first BMC rating badge shown here may resemble the one that you have:
<http://www.angelfire.com/md2/patches/other2/ngrade4.html>

Q. I need a picture of the fore-castle setup for mooring to a single point buoy for training purposes.
A. Page 582-11 of NSTM 582 (attached) shows the single point mooring so does pg 4-12 of the Boatswain Mate RTC. [Click here for photo in .pdf](#)

Q. What is the second oldest rating in the Navy?
A. Second oldest rate in the Navy is the Boatswain's Mate. The oldest rate is Gunner's Mate.

Q. What is it that Boatswains Mates do?
A. History of the Boatswain's Mate:
The early Boatswain was appointed Warrant, and was among the most important men on board ship. He was usually a grizzled old salt who wasn't timid about giving orders and it never occurred to him that they wouldn't be obeyed. He was assisted by his mates, or Boatswain's Mates, and though it was unlikely that he was unrecognizable, he nevertheless carried a silver Bos'n's pipe and rattan cane that identified his position. His pipe was the sailing ship's PA system. It could be heard 120 feet up in the rigging and in the deepest and darkest hold. His cane was an instrument of persuasion which it was said, cured more scurvy than the doctor, made cripples take up their beds and walk, and made the lame skip and run up the shrouds like monkeys...

As you know, the Boatswain's Mate play an extremely important role in replenishment at sea in today's Navy. However, transfer-at-sea methods were actually used as early as 1804. During the war with Tripoli, for example, the ketch Intrepid transferred a cargo of fresh provisions to USS Constitution which was engaged at the port of Tripoli. This cargo included four bullocks, one calf, 13 pigs, 300 pounds of hay, two baskets. This maneuver was the springboard for the modern, mobile logistical support now provided through undersea fleet to remain at sea almost indefinitely.

Not all ratings of this early era have retained their identity, because the majority of our ratings today resulted from later technical developments. While jobs and duties have changed, the rating titles of Boatswain's Mates, Quartermasters and Gunner's Mates have remained the same since the American Revolution.

Boatswain's Mate today:

BMs train and supervise personnel in all activities relating to marlinspike, deck and boat seamanship, and the maintenance of the ship's external structure and deck equipment. They are the key personnel onboard for UNREP and cargo operations. They act as petty officers in charge of small craft and may perform duties as

master-at-arms, serve in or take charge of gun crews and damage control parties. BMs deal with amphibious operations and some flight deck operations. The scope of the BM taskings depend upon the type of duty station that he/she is attached to.

Q. CAN U PLEASE CLARIFY HYT FOR RESERVES E-4 -E-6?

A. THE SELRES HYT limiting gates are different from active duty limiting gates. SELRES gates are computed by adding the number of years listed to the PEBD. During the calendar year in which a member reaches their HYT limiting gate, they may remain in a pay status until 31 December. If a waiver has not been obtained by this time, then the member must be transferred to the VTU on 1 January of the next calendar year.

E3 - 12 yrs

E4 - 14 yrs

E5 - 22 yrs

E6 - 24 yrs

E7 - 26 yrs

E8 - 28 yrs

E9 - 30 yrs

Great website with HYT FAQs and info:

<http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers9/pers91/pers913/HYTFAQ.htm>

Q. Boats, where could I find all the info I need to conduct a the proper pipes for a major change of command (it's for a 3 star Admiral?) I have never done it before, and filling space for a BM. Requesting advice.

A. The info for "Piping the Side" can be found in the BM rate training manual on pgs. 1-8 and 1-9. The call is the same for each person who is being piped aboard with the exception of the length of the pipe. The piping starts as the dignitary passes the Bosun doing the piping and ends when he reaches the last sideboy. Therefore the more sideboys a person rates, the longer the pipe. I have attached a sample of the "Piping the Side" pipe call for you.

Special Thanks to BM1 Rollan (jhroll16@earthlink.net) for her assistance and research.