



"The Bosun-M8"

A Boatswain's Mate Newsletter from

www.1navy.com

1st Edition - June 2006



Welcome Aboard!

The number of "Ask Boats" questions from YN2 Martin's 1Navy.com has been steadily increasing ever since the site feature was developed.

"The Bosun-M8" Newsletter will be used to find answers to recent Ask Boats questions as well other Boatswain's Mate information.

Feel free to provide feedback to make this newsletter a more resourceful instrument of communication.

Boatswain's Mate Resources

Many sailors inquire as to where they can find the BM references on the bibliographies. The majority can be found on NKO:

- 1) Log onto [NKO](#)
- 2) On the "Organizations and Communities" drop down box, click on "List of All Communities"
- 3) Scroll down the "Learning Centers" column to "Surface Combat Systems".
- 4) Click the BM Homepage Link
- 5) Bookmark the page for future reference!

[YN2 Martin](#) also has CDs available with the BM bibliography references and other great info.

[Check her site for details.](#)

Sideboys

One question that is submitted over and over again pertains to the number of Sideboys required when "Piping the Side" during ceremonies such as Retirements, Change of Command and Official Visits. This information can be found quite easily in Chapter 1 of the Boatswain's Mate Rate Training Course (NAVEDTRA 14343), so I get a little upset when I see sailors not taking the time and effort to do a little old fashioned manual research. Here is some guidance on the required number:

Rank	# of Sideboys
Fleet Admirals, Admirals & Vice Admirals	8
Rear Admirals & Commodores	6
Captains & Commanders	4
All other Commissioned Officers	2
All Enlisted	2

For additional information on the Sideboy requirements - reference the *BM NAVEDTRA page 1-22*.

The Boatswain's Pipe

If you've been onboard a U.S. Navy Ship then you have probably heard the 'beautiful' sound of the Boatswain's Pipe. Of course not everyone appreciates being woken up to the shrill sound of the Boatswain's Mate on Watch (BMOW) as he blasts away from the bridge over the 1MC.

The Pipe or Call was originally used as a badge of rank also and as such was worn by the Lord High Admiral of the Royal Navy and was known as the Whistle of Honor. It was made of gold and suspended from the neck by a gold chain.

These officers also carried a Whistle of Command, which was of silver, and was used for passing orders and blown as a salute to certain personages. It was enjoined that it should be blown on these occasions "three several times."

The first time it can be found being used to actually to pass an order was during the Crusade of 1248, when the Cross-bowmen were piped to come on deck and engage the enemy.

The present form of the Bosun's Pipe is actually a facsimile of that taken from the body of the infamous pirate *Andrew Barton* by *Admiral Lord Howard*.

At times the whistle seems to have been a somewhat weighty instrument. It is believed that it was Henry VIII who laid down the names of the parts of the whistle, and the weight of the Whistle of Honor was put at 12 "Oons" or ounces of gold, while the chain was to be of a certain value of golden ducats."

You can hear the various pipe calls at:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/id20.html>

U.S. Navy Historical Origins

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.

The navy's squadrons and cruisers seized enemy supplies and carried correspondence and diplomats to Europe, returning with needed munitions. They took nearly 200 British vessels as prizes, some off the British Isles themselves, contributing to the demoralization of the enemy and forcing the British to divert warships to protect convoys and trade routes. In addition, the navy provoked diplomatic crises that helped bring France into the war against Great Britain. The Continental Navy began the proud tradition carried on today by our United States Navy, and whose birthday we celebrate each year in October.



The *Boatswain's Mate* rating was in use as of 1775; established in 1797. Pay grades 1c and 2c established 1893; pay grade 3c changed from Coxswain 1948, making the Boatswain's Mate one of the oldest rates in the U.S. Navy!

Find the Boatswain-related words in the word search:

AMPHIBIOUS, ANCHOR, BMOW, BOATS, BOOMS, BRIDGE, CANVAS, CARGO, CEREMONIES, COMMUNICATION, CONREP, DECK, GIG, HONOR, HIGHLINE, HISTORY, LANYARD, KNIFE, KNOTS, LEADLINE, LASHINGS, LIFEBOAT, LINES, MOORING, LOOKOUT, MARLINSPIKE, PAINTING, NYLON, OVERBOARD, RESCUE, PIPE, PRIDE, SEAMAN, RIGGING, SEA, SUPERVISE, SECURITY, SPANWIRE, TRADITION, TRAINING, UNREP, VERTREP, WATCH.

S S O V R H A I P B T S N S U E U L
O C C L O O K O U T N L E I K I I W
A R H I S T O R Y C I P R I A G A C
E L L F C G N I T N I A P H L T L O
U C A E S I V R E P U S S S C S I R
C I S B A G A F V E N E G H R A T L
S P B O A D I I N I O N O H O V A L
E R O A I N E A L Y I I S C C N N C
R R T T K E M R K H T L A T Y A O A
I N I S P S A C S E A I R A O C G R
W O M B L M E A N H C A R W P N V G
N E L E A D L I N E I D E U I E K O
A T H P N Y L O N N N P P R C P V O
P B A M P H I B I O U S O E P E P C
S L R I G G I N G S M O O B R R S O
I T E I O A G E C E M E H T I N T S
I B H O D O V E R B O A R D U O U H
G N A A C G R S I G C E E E N C N N
O O N A M A E S G O P R O H C N A N

Did you know there is a BM rate-training course available?

Check out <http://gmats.usmma.edu/>
And follow the links...

What is the best method to prepare for the Navy wide advancement exam?

There are many tools available for BMs to study for the exam.

- 1) You should check your previous profile sheets to see where you performed the weakest.
- 2) Utilize the Bibs to minimize the material that you should be studying.
- 3) Do the questions in the back of the BM NAVEDTRA prior to each exam. That sounds like a lot, but it will help you each time you test.

Start working on your college degree! The Navy offers numerous programs to assist you...

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT IS OFFERED!

Future editions of "The Bosun-M8" Newsletter will include other BM and Navy topics. The topics will be selected from the questions submitted through the "Ask Boats" section of www.1navy.com.

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