



# "The Bosun-M8"

A Boatswain's Mate Newsletter

2nd Edition - July 2006



## STANDARD PHRASEOLOGY

You must use the customary phraseology of the service when passing the word as Boatswain's Mate of the Watch (BMOW) through the ship's general announcing system. Pages from the shipboard standard organization and regulations listing the watch routine are generally available somewhere near the watch station. Any word listed that is enclosed in quotation marks must be passed exactly as written. Here are some examples selected from a typical list:

<b>Arrivals and Departures</b>	Title of Officer proceeded by proper number of boat gongs
<b>Eight O'clock Reports</b>	In Port: "On deck all eight o'clock reports." At Sea: "Lay before the mast all eight o'clock reports."
<b>Extra Duty Personnel</b>	"Lay below to the Master-At-Arms Office (or designated area) all extra duty personnel" (also used for restricted personnel).
<b>General Quarters</b>	"General quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations".
<b>Mess Gear</b>	"Mess gear, clear the mess decks till pipe down." " Early (breakfast, dinner, supper) for messmen, cooks and watch reliefs."

Reference the BM NAVEDTRA 14343 Pgs 1-10 for more information and additional custom phraseology.

### **Boatswain's Mate Resources Update**

Many sailors inquire as to where they can find the BM references on the bibliographies.

**Recent changes to NKO have resulted in previous "mapping" to the reference site to be obsolete.**

Here is how you get there:

1. Log on to NKO;
2. Go to the NKO Library;
3. Scroll down to "Search and Subscribe"
4. Use that drop down box and scroll to "Surface Combat Systems", then click "View"
5. Scroll down until you see "BM Rating". Click on that link and you'll be in BM heaven with all the material and references that are available there.

**YN2 Martin** also has CDs available with the BM bibliography references and other great info.

**Check her site for details.**

### **Boatswain's Mate Schools**

There are numerous BM schools that are available. Sailors should take full advantage of the training opportunities that are made available. Here are just a few:

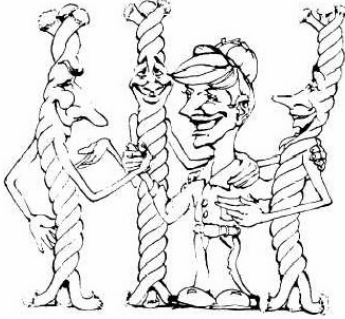
- ✘ BM "A" School is geared towards E-3 and below. SN ATD / BM A OFFICE NUMBERS: (847) 688-7019/7020
- ✘ MSC offers STREAM (UNREP) schools in Norfolk, Va. & NWS Earle, NJ. They provide other UNREP related schools that you can attend as well (i.e. material handling equipment, ordnance handling equipment and others.)
- ✘ Navy Cargo Handling Battalion in Cheatham Annex, Va. offers a few cargo handling and crane operator courses.
- ✘ The USMMA (GMATS) offers a few different Boatswain's Mate training classes:  
[http://gmats.usmma.edu/info/courses/selres/#CatalogueCategory\\_ID\\_24](http://gmats.usmma.edu/info/courses/selres/#CatalogueCategory_ID_24)
- ✘ Additional courses related to boat handling, landing signalman (Helo), load planning as well as others are available.

**Take advantage of the training that the Navy offers you!**

### **U.S. Merchant Mariners Licenses / Able-Bodied Seaman**

Studying for your USCG Merchant Mariner's Document? Looking for study material for the Deck Officers and Able-Bodied Seaman exams? All of the test information is available online at the USCG website. You can access the information here: <http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/mmic-deckexquest.htm>

## Boatswain's Mate Rating – Know the Ropes!



A big part of the Boatswains' Mate duties deals with line. Line  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " 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. When you need something stronger than marline, you will use houseline, which is a left-laid, three-strand, tarred hemp. Rope yarns can be used for temporary whippings, seizings, and lashings. The yarns are pulled from strands of old line that has outlived its usefulness. Pull the yarn from the middle, away from the ends, or it will get fouled. Line larger than  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " is designated by its circumference, in inches. A 5" line, for instance, would be constructed of natural or synthetic fibers and measure 5" in circumference. Line is available in sizes up to 21". Ref: NSTM 613.

Small Stuff	
Inches	Thread
$\frac{3}{4}$	6
1	9
$\frac{1}{2}$	12
$1\frac{1}{4}$	15
$1\frac{1}{2}$	21
$1\frac{3}{4}$	24

Line larger than  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " is designated by its circumference, in inches. A 5" line, for instance, would be constructed of natural or synthetic fibers and measure 5" in circumference. Line is available in sizes up to 21". Ref: NSTM 613.

**There have been various designations of the BM rating that have been utilized throughout the history of the U.S. Navy. Here they are:**

- 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)



### Why is a ship a "She"?

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".

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## BOATSWAIN'S MATE SAFETY



The Maritime industry is perhaps the most international of all the world's great industries - and one of the most dangerous. It has always been recognized that the best way of improving safety at sea is by developing regulations to be implemented when performing our duties.

Boatswain's Mates perform many dangerous duties – cargo operations, boat operations, sea & anchor details and more. Each of these evolutions brings with it its own specific hazards. Over time, the hazards associated with these tasks have been identified and procedures have been developed, implemented and revised to ensure our shipmates safety.

Senior BMs are responsible to ensure that safety precautions are properly communicated to their shipmates. This is accomplished by performing required safety briefs prior to commencing work and through drills & training. Some people say that "Safety is common sense". Unfortunately, common sense is not that common.

**Look out for your shipmates!**

Newsletter Information is developed from "Ask Boats" questions submitted through [www.1navy.com](http://www.1navy.com) and from inquiries from BMCS(Ret) Walsh's "Bosun-M8" website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bosun-m8/>.

**USCG Boatswain's Mates – Check out [www.boatswainmate.net](http://www.boatswainmate.net) , A great USCG BM website!**