



Oasis Sailing Club (OSC) Mate Candidate's Program

Welcome to the Oasis Sailing Club. We invite interested and qualified members to participate in the Mate Candidate's program to expand and enrich your sailing experience by becoming an OSC Mate. The primary activity of the Mate is to support the Skipper and act in the Skipper's place when the Skipper is unable to perform his/her duties. Each OSC sailing must have a Skipper. Having a qualified Mate on board is highly encouraged and has been club practice but the final decision is at the skipper's discretion.

Under the guidance of a "Mentoring Skipper" and other OSC Skippers, Mate Candidates learn and demonstrate knowledge of sailing ability, nautical rules of the road, boat-handling skills, docking, and general seamanship. As experience is gained, and verified, they are 'signed off' in the OSC Mate's Manual by your Mentoring Skipper, and other OSC Skippers. The Manual provides a step-by-step guide to becoming a Mate. This includes items such as:

- Location & use of onboard equipment
- Preparing to sail & leaving the dock
- Getting under sail
- Sailing in the harbor & at sea
- Returning and securing the boat
- Navigating, communications and what to do in case of emergencies

In addition to being an experienced sailor, the Skipper is a leader who has the skills to organize and direct the crew, respond quickly and adequately in times of emergency, and is a member of the club's Board or Directors. Therefore, in addition to the objective criteria of the Mate's Checklist, Mate Candidates are evaluated on such criteria as: the ability to organize & lead, judgment, good seamanship, and crew compatibility. Mate Candidates also participate in special "Seaworthy Training Sessions" focusing on Anchoring, Crew Overboard (MOB), Docking/undocking, etc.

While not all Mate Candidates become Mates, and not all Mates become Skippers, no one becomes an OSC Skipper unless first becoming a Mate. Hence, Mate Candidates are the future of our club.

Since there is no additional cost to participate in the Mate's program, it is a great way to build upon your skills while sailing and working on your Mate's

certification, and if desired & qualified, to ultimately be certified as an OSC “Skipper”.

If you are interested in becoming a Mate Candidate, below are the steps to get started:

1. Sail with several Skippers and tell them you are interested in becoming a Mate Candidate. Ask one that you feel you have ‘chemistry’ with if he/she will be your Mentoring Skipper in the Mate Candidate’s program.
2. **When an OSC Skipper agrees to be your Mentoring Skipper, ask him/her to email the Training Officer who will in turn register you as a Mate Candidate.** You can pick up an OSC Mate’s Manual at sailing club meetings or download a copy online, simply Google “Oasis Sailing Club” and click on “Training”.
3. Read the Manual and become familiar with the content and the club’s sailboats. Go sailing, take your Mate’s Manual with you and have items “signed off” by your Mentoring Skipper or other OSC Skippers. Periodically, please email your Checklist progress to your mentor and the Training Officer, so he/she can update your progress on the club’s records.
4. Mates should sail with the Mentoring Skipper frequently and also with other Skippers to learn from their varied experiences. It is good to keep an informal log of the skippers you have sailed with and when. All Skippers will be voting on your candidacy for Mate so it is important that they are familiar with your skills.

Thank you,
Stan Espenship – Training Officer
Bob Gaido – Mate Candidates