



OASIS SAILING CLUB

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. Prior sailing experience is required to enter the Mate's program. Generally speaking, each OSC sailing must have a Skipper and Mate on board.

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 Candidate's 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 advise me by email at mread@OasisSailingClub.com and I will 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. Please report your progress on the Checklist to me periodically, by email, so I can update your progress on the club's records.
4. I suggest that you sail with your Mentoring Skipper frequently and also with other Skippers so you can learn from their varied experiences. All Skippers will be voting on your candidacy for Mate so it is important that they are familiar with your skills.

If you have questions, email me at mread@OasisSailingClub.com or call me at (949) 294-7770

Thank you,
Malcolm Read, Vice Commodore and Training Officer