



You've Finished your Basic Cruising Course... Next Steps?

Welcome to the terrific and rewarding world of sailing! Advantage Boating would like to congratulate and thank you for taking your Basic Cruising course with us. More than likely, you are now "hooked" and have realized that sailing is much more than just a sport. It's a lifestyle - one that embodies a happy and carefree approach to living. On the water, sailors can be the masters of their own domain and one can find a peaceful tranquility where you are removed from the hectic day-to-day 'life on land'. Every outing on the water is a new journey and every sailor is a captain searching for adventure.

So how can you keep that magic alive? Let Advantage Boating help you with your next steps.

1. Write the Exam!

Make sure you complete your certification by writing the exam. Having this certification in your hand can be an important stepping-stone for further adventures in your sailing career. We strongly recommend you to write your exam within two weeks of having completed your on-the-water course. We offer free 'Basic Cruising Review Nights' to help our students prepare for their Basic Cruising exam. Review and Exam nights are held once a month on Wednesday evenings. Please go to www.advantageboating.com for specific dates. Also for your convenience, arrangements can be made to write your exam during office business hours Monday-Friday. Feel free to call us at 613.721.8683 if you have any questions leading up to the exam.

2. Take Advantage of your Grad Sail!

Celebrate completing your Basic Cruising course by heading back out on the water for an enjoyable and relaxing sail! Twice a month on Wednesday evenings during June, July and August, Advantage Boating alumni & passionate sailing club members from Nepean Sailing Club (NSC) and Britannia Yacht Club (BYC) will be taking out Basic Cruising graduates for an evening sail. RSVP your spot online at www.advantageboating.com so we can plan how many boats to arrange.

3. Sign Up for Sail Share

Enjoy all the pleasures sailing, without the work of owning a boat. Advantage Boating Sail Share members have access to our well-maintained large and small keelboats throughout the sailing season. Enjoy unlimited sailing for cruising or for racing. Build new friendships and sail with both new and experienced sailors. Other Sail Share benefits include hassle-free sailing, regular mentorship sessions and opportunities to sail with instructors to help you build your sailing skills, fun socials and other seasonal favourites like our cruising flotilla up the Ottawa River. With Sail Share you can sail on your schedule in a fun and relaxed environment. Contact the office for more information.

4. Book Some Sailing Tutor Time

Are you looking to practice some skills one on one? To help ease the transition from student to skipper, consider hiring one of our instructors to act as coach and mentor for a few hours. Whether it's a Sail Share boat or your own boat, you will be the 'skipper' of the boat and the instructor will be there to provide guidance and advice. This is a great option for those wanting to polish up on specific skills or for someone wanting a bit more time on the water to build up your confidence. Contact Advantage Boating for more details.

5. Join the Community!

Did you know that as a first time Advantage Boating Basic Cruising or CANSail student you qualify for complimentary crewing memberships at BYC and NSC? Don't miss out! Make sure you take advantage of this \$450.00+ value and get to know other sailors within the Ottawa sailing community. Come down and join in on the many social & sailing events held by both clubs or just stop by after work for a bite to eat and a beverage while watching Ottawa's amazing sunsets!

6. Look for a Cruising Buddy or Skipper!

Many boat owners are continually on the lookout for crew to go sailing. You will soon learn that sailors generally love passing on their passion for sailing to others. Good old-fashioned word of mouth still goes a long way in sailing communities. Spend time at your local club and introduce yourself as a new sailor who is willing to help crew. You may be pleasantly surprised at the number of invitations you receive to go sailing. Most sailing clubs also have 'crew banks' where you can add your name. Skippers and boat owners will look through these lists for potential crew. If you do end up going out with someone, please remember that the rules of hospitality apply even on a boat. Remember you are there to help the skipper, so come prepared for the weather conditions, be pleasant and helpful, and do your part to make the experience enjoyable for everyone.

7. Become a Racer

Getting involved with racing is another way to polish and improve your seamanship skills in a fun team environment. If you want to take your experience up a notch, then consider becoming part of a racing crew. It's not as daunting as it sounds. Most skippers are happy to provide directions to new (and old) crew members. Often skippers will set up practices so everyone can familiarize themselves with their positions and responsibilities on the boat. The process is similar to that of cruising: sign up via a crew bank or meet skippers by socializing at the clubs and offer your availability as a crew. Keep in mind that for racing, skippers will want a commitment from you to show up regularly and on time for the races. This is especially true if you become a 'regular' on a boat. Skippers count on their crew on race nights, and an absentee crew member can mean that the boat might have to forfeit the race.

Learn More about sailboat racing Advantage Boating also offers 'Intro to Race' clinics in the spring of each year for those who are interested in augmenting their racing & sailing knowledge. Advantage Boating's Sail Share racer program is another way to practice those racing and sailing skills. Contact the office for more details at 613.721.8683 or info@advantageboating.com.

8. Charter a "Boat with Skipper"

Now that you are "hooked", are you looking for a way to get your family or friends involved in sailing? Take the first step by inviting them out and chartering a boat & skipper through Advantage Boating. Spend a morning, afternoon or evening out on the water. Review and practice your sailing skills while the rest of your 'crew' have a chance to experience the joy of sailing in a relaxed and safe environment. Sailing is without question a great way to bond with friends or family! Give us the chance and we can show the rest of your bunch just how much fun sailing is. Contact the office at 613.721.8683 to find out more.

9. Join Our Next Flotilla!

Sail away with Advantage Boating by joining us in the fall and winter seasons as we head off exploring some of the world's best cruising grounds. Sailing flotillas are a great way to continue practicing and reinforcing your Basic Cruising skills. Join us for a vacation of a lifetime! We guarantee that you will take away memories to last a lifetime! Come as a single sailor, a couple or an entire crew. We supply the skipper while you bring your enthusiasm. Start planning now to join us for one or both of our upcoming flotilla vacations:

- February 2020 to the Grenadines in the Windward Islands of the Caribbean and,
- September 2020 to Greece

In summary, no matter how you choose to get involved, we encourage you to stay active in sailing now that your Basic Cruising course is complete. Sailing – both racing and cruising – is an extremely enriching pastime not only for you, but for your family and friends too. **This summer, make sailing a part of your life!**