INDIAN OCEAN POWERBOAT SCHOOL

RYA Training Centre

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Good day,

The Indian Ocean Powerboat School based at Captain Andy's Fishing Supply, Nyali is now able to provide a wide range of maritime courses suitable for the small boat (less than 24m) user. Some of these courses are available at any location, either marine or inland within the East African region using your own boat.

Does the Kenya Maritime Authority approve these courses? The Kenya Maritime Authority has supported the school from the beginning because of the high standard that is demanded by the RYA and is upheld by the Indian Ocean Powerboat School.

Who is the RYA? The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) is a United Kingdom organization responsible in that country for all training related to boats of less than 24m length. The high standards have been recognized all over the world and they are generally considered to be the best training available. The Indian Ocean Powerboat School is an Overseas RYA Training Centre that must undergo an annual inspection to ensure standards are maintained.

Will I receive a certificate? Yes, an internationally recognized certificate is issued to all successful candidates of all the RYA courses that we offer.

Why do I need to do a course? There is always something new to learn and the more we know the more we enjoy our boating. These courses enhance your skills and instill an understanding of best marine practices making us safer to ourselves and to others on the water. If you own boats as part of your business it is important to ensure that your employees are competent to handle your investment, especially in adverse weather conditions. There is also the risk of litigation should an accident happen on board your vessel if the helmsman does not hold a recognized certificate of competence.

Can I do the training on my own boat? Yes, if you are based outside of Mombasa we are able to teach the Powerboat Level 2 course at any location within East Africa. For training beyond the Kenya border we shall need to seek clearance from the RYA before doing the training. Your boat must comply with certain minimum standards that are listed on our website. The owner is also responsible for the boat and for its insurance.

Since the school is based at Mombasa does this mean that the courses are not applicable to the inland lakes? No, the courses are exactly the same the only difference being that inland waterways are not subject to tides and tidal streams. The powerboat courses taught on inland waters exclude tides and navigation although we do include navigation on Lake Victoria. Certificates done inland will be endorsed accordingly since an inland certificate does not qualify the holder to drive a boat on the coast, but a coastal certificate may be used anywhere.

Are there any age restrictions? Yes, there are minimum ages for almost all of the courses that we offer apart from the Diesel Engine Maintenance and Sea Survival courses and these are indicated against the courses below. Powerboat certificates for young people under 12 years will have their certificate endorsed as being able to drive a boat under direct supervision by a competent adult. Young people from 12-16 years will also receive endorsed certificates but in this case the supervision may be from a neighbouring boat or from the shore. Either a parent or guardian must accompany all young people under 16 years on the course.

THE COURSES:

RYA Powerboat Courses:

Level 1 – is a basic one-day introduction to powerboating best suited to small children with a minimum age of only 8years. Here they can be started on the right path to responsible boating.

Level 2 – known as the National Powerboat Certificate, is an excellent two-day course that covers all the basic skills required to drive a boat. No previous experience is required but even those with many years experience find that they learn from this course. The course instills best marine practices and a high regard for safety. The course includes the safety equipment, approaching/holding off a mooring buoy, berthing, turning in a confined space, high speed manoeuvres, use of trim, man-overboard, anchoring, towing, basic navigation, and rope skills. The minimum age for the course is only 12 years.

Intermediate Level – this course involves more in-depth navigation and revisits many of the skills covered in Level 2 but under more challenging conditions. This is a two-day course with a minimum age of 16 years and pre-course requirement of the Level 2 certificate. This course, together with the Advanced Level must be done in Mombasa.

Advanced Level – this course takes the training one step further with at least one night exercise using passage plans and pilotage. The navigation is quite detailed and challenging especially at night. The pre-course requirements are that your navigation skills must be to the Intermediate Level, a valid First Aid Certificate and a Short Range Certificate (VHF). The minimum age for this course is 17 years.

The International Certificate of Competence

This is an international certificate that is required by some countries, especially those that are signatories to Resolution 40 of the United Nations Convention of the Sea. The certificates are classed according to the type of boat that you drive, i.e. powerboat less than 10m or powerboat over 10m. We are able to offer practical testing for both of these certificates:

Powerboat less than 10m on either our boats or on your own boat; or

Powerboat over 10m on your boat.

Other Courses:

Short Range Certificate (VHF) – this is a one-day VHF operator's licence that is required in many parts of the world in order to operate a VHF radio. There is much more to the modern VHF radios than simply calling/receiving calls on Ch.9 with Digital Selective Calling (DSC) being one of the important functions. Don't wait for an emergency to happen before learning how to send/receive a distress message. The minimum age is 16 years.

RYA Radar Course – if your boat is equipped with radar or you are contemplating getting one we strongly recommend doing this one-day course. This course is designed for users of small craft radars, which are becoming more powerful and user-friendly. Understanding what the radar picture is telling you is very important and may not be as obvious as it at first seems.

Sea Survival Course – this is a new one-day course that the Indian Ocean Powerboat School has become recognized to teach. Understanding how to use your life jacket, life raft and knowing what should be included in a grab bag is essential before putting to sea. Disasters can happen at any time and doing this course may just make the difference between survival or not. We are putting together the course material following which the school needs to be inspected. Hopefully by end 2012 we should be able to teach the course.

Diesel Engine Maintenance – not everyone that puts to sea is a mechanic and understanding the basics of how to look after the diesel engine as well as carry out basic servicing and make minor repairs can make a huge difference to confidence and enjoyment on the water. This course will soon be available once the training materials are in place.

If you should have any further questions that are not answered here please get in touch either by email info@iops.co.ke or call Dr. Simon Hemphill, the Chief Instructor on +254 – 722-796198.

Regards,

Dr. Simon Hemphill

Chief Instructor