

July 18, 2020

Dear Members of D5,

Main Line will start a Virtual (Online) Navigation (N) Course on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:30 PM (EDT). The prerequisite to enroll is to have successfully completed the Junior Navigation (JN) Course. We know that some of you have been waiting for the opportunity to complete N for years. Now is the time! Please send an email to Jim H. if you desire to enroll in the online N course.

Even though you may have completed JN years ago you will be given the opportunity to review JN by accessing video recordings of an online JN course completed in 2019. Once you inform Jim H. that you wish to enroll, we will give you immediate, free access to the JN recordings using a learning management system call Moodle. You will be able to review JN at your leisure. In addition, we will send you information about how to log onto the online N course. To access the course, you will need a high-speed internet connection as well as a computer, preferably one not more than 5 years old.

N Course Enrollment

We will handle the course enrollment as we did recently with the online JN course. First, inform Jim H. that you wish to enroll. Next, each student should contact the SEO of their respective squadron and ask that person to order the N student kit or the eBook (see below). Each squadron, if they desire, may add an additional fee to the price charged by National for the kit or for the eBook. When a squadron orders the kit, they will commit to ordering the N exam, when we give them the OK to do so, as well as handling the paperwork related to the N sight folder. Using this procedure will allow each squadron to receive credit for their candidates. The instruction will be provided by a District 5 team of instructors.

The first online session and your sights

The course will start (8/4) with one online lecture which will introduce the course and present the N sight requirements. It will be recorded, as will all the online sessions. The remainder of the online course sessions will begin in the middle of September. You will be encouraged to take your sights during August and early September.

You will need to use the program "Celestial Tools" (the link to it can be found in the Moodle N course described below) to plan for the sight taking session, to reduce the sights and determine if they meet the sight requirements. We are working on a video tutorial on how you can plan an N Course sight taking session. After we place it on Moodle, we will let you know. The N sight requirements and all the information you will need to take the N sights will be on Moodle. The sight folder will need to be submitted to an (instructor) sight checker for review and then submitted to National for grading.

Instructors we could use your help in reviewing the sight folders! There are also opportunities for N instructors to present lectures.

One significant difference from the JN sight requirements is that the N course requires each LOP to be within 3 nm from the known position (KP), DR, or Fix from which you took your sight. You will not need an instructor to supervise your sight taking sessions but will need a timekeeper to help you because you will be taking 2 body fixes. Though you will have reduced the sights using Celestial Tools you will still need to reduce them using the methods and techniques presented in the N course and submit them using the standard forms as part of your N sight folder. You will also need access to a 2020 Nautical

Almanac. A link to the company that distributes the 2020 Nautical Almanac can be found in the N Course on Moodle. Be forewarned! The free online nautical almanacs may be inaccurate. Their use could result in many hours of wasted time.

The eBook version of the N student manual

The eBook version of the N student manual will soon be placed in the National Course/Seminar order catalog. It is an exact electronic version of the printed N student manual. To download it you will need to ask your SEO to order a key for the N eBook. The cost of the eBook to the squadron will be identical to the cost of the printed version. Your squadron may add an additional fee to that cost to cover their expenses. Your SEO will send you the key which you will enter in the eBook redemption page on the National website along with your certificate number. Upon doing so, you will be able to immediately download the eBook file to your computer.

You will not need either the printed or eBook version of the N student manual until the N online sessions resume in the middle of September, however it is a good idea to get the material early so that you have a current reference for your sight work. Be sure to order the printed version at least three weeks before you need it. If you order the eBook version, you will be able to download it immediately upon receiving the redemption key from your SEO.

The Moodle JN Review Course and the Moodle N Course

You will need to use the tools located in the online learning management system called Moodle. The description of how to access and use Moodle will be sent to you when we receive your email saying you wish to enroll in the N course. The information on Moodle will help you to prepare to take and reduce the N sights. A simple click on links to the tools will give you access to them.

Moodle will give you access to two “courses”. One Moodle course, Junior Navigation (JN), is designed to help you review the JN course. Among other things it contains recordings of a recent JN course and descriptions on how to reduce sun sights. The JN course, or parts of it, would be a good way to review if it has been a while since you took JN. The other course is called the Navigation Course (N). It contains information on taking and reducing N sights. It also contains links to lectures presented during the N course we presented in 2014. In the future it will be the principal repository of the recordings of the upcoming N course and documents related to it.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jim H.!

Jim Heckman

SEO Main Line Sail and Power Squadron (aka America's Boating Club Valley Forge ABC VF)

Bill McManimen

National Educational Officer