

## Weather Course Description

The objectives of this course are to develop awareness of weather phenomena, to learn to read the weather map and the sky, and to understand and anticipate weather developments for more pleasurable boating. Subjects studied include: characteristics and structure of the atmosphere, what weather is and its basic causes, normal development and movement of weather over the earth, and the factors considered in weather forecasting. Observations that the skipper can make afloat include both instrumental and visual data: cloud sequences and the weather they predict, air masses, fronts, storms, and fog; and the use of radio and television weather broadcasts. By midway through the course, students should be able to understand the significance of and answer correctly, two basic questions: Why does the wind blow? Stable or unstable? Throughout the course the student is encouraged to make observations and prediction in order to gain experience in applying the principles taught and develop greater insight into weather phenomena. We will have regular discussions based on observations made on class days and on the current surface weather analysis. We also will have laboratory demos to help students understand the basic concepts of physical meteorology.

Students will receive:

Weather Manual - *USPS Weather* - an explanatory text with full color photographs and drawings covering weather in the United States and its coastal and inland waters;

Three Daily Weather Maps - learning aids with a complete explanation of map symbols designed to develop weather map reading and analysis skills; and

*NOAA's Sky Watcher Chart* - a reference to assist in identifying cloud types – helpful indicators of approaching weather.

The Weather Course is designed to be conducted over ten two-hour sessions or perhaps 5 Saturdays, including time for review and the multiple choice closed book exam. Course times will depend on Instructor's and students' availability.

Course will be in the home of Ron Schwiesow, Instructor in Boulder.

We are looking at an early March 2012 start date. Course price will be around \$75 for members; additional member, same book \$30; Non member surcharge of \$35.00