

CAPT. MARK KNOWLES

MARITIME TRAINING & INSTRUCTION | VESSEL OPERATIONS | CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Florida, USA | 904-362-0177 | captainmark242@gmail.com | Open to Relocation

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Maritime instructor and USCG 200-Ton Master with 32+ years of professional marine experience spanning recreational boating, boat clubs, passenger vessels, ferries, yachts, dive operations, tourism, surveying, and accident investigation. USCG Approved Instructor and National Safe Boating Council Instructor with experience delivering classroom, virtual, simulator-based, and on-water instruction; developing courses and instructional materials; creating training videos; mentoring instructors; evaluating competency; and supporting the scheduling, follow-up, outreach, and administration behind successful training programs.

TRAINING & INSTRUCTION EXPERTISE

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| • On-Water Vessel Handling Instruction | • Classroom & Virtual Instruction | • Curriculum / Course Development |
| • Training Video Development | • Competency Evaluation & Checkouts | • Instructor Mentoring & Standardization |
| • Docking & Close-Quarters Maneuvering | • Navigation, Vessel Systems & Emergencies | • Safety Briefings & Passenger Safety |
| • Student / Member Follow-Up & Outreach | • Calendly Scheduling & Training Administration | • Adult Learner Coaching & Confidence Building |

TRAINING-FOCUSED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Lead Maritime Instructor | Florida Boating Lessons | Florida | 2022-Present

- Develop and deliver structured private instruction in docking, close-quarters maneuvering, navigation, vessel systems, emergency procedures, situational awareness, and safe boat operation.
- Adapt lesson plans to the student's experience, vessel configuration, local operating environment, and specific confidence or competency goals.
- Provide practical coaching and competency-focused instruction designed to move operators from uncertainty to safe, independent vessel handling.

Training Captain & Curriculum Contributor | Freedom Boat Club | Multi-State | 2021-Present

- Delivered standardized on-water member instruction in docking, close-quarters maneuvering, navigation, vessel systems, emergency response, vessel familiarization, and safe operating procedures.
- Designed boat-operations course content, developed instructional materials, created training videos, and conducted live virtual training courses for members.
- Conducted practical competency evaluations and member checkouts while supporting consistent training and safety standards across locations.
- Assisted with Calendly scheduling, member follow-ups and outreach, and internal training/member systems used to coordinate instruction and track member progress.
- Advised and supported the Lead Training Captain, contributed to instructor mentoring, and helped standardize training delivery and program administration.

Maritime Consultant / Master Marine Surveyor | Independent Practice / SeaPower | U.S. & The Bahamas | 1994-Present

- Evaluate captain, crew, instructor, and operator competency; training adequacy; safety briefings; operating procedures; vessel handling; supervision; and operational risk.
- Provide accident investigation, marine surveying, safety review, and operational analysis that strengthen a practical, evidence-based approach to maritime instruction.

OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUPPORTING TRAINING

Passenger Vessel Captain | Rusty Anchor | Mount Dora, Florida | 2023-2025

- Led passenger safety, crew coordination, navigation, emergency preparedness, safety briefings, confined-area vessel handling, weather decisions, and onboard risk management.

Captain / Operations Manager | Sunshine Scenic Tours | United States | 2020-2022

- Managed passenger-tour operations with responsibility for crew training, operating procedures, vessel safety, emergency preparedness, daily readiness, and performance standards.
- Commanded a 25-meter passenger vessel and an 18-meter dolphin-watch vessel carrying more than 40 passengers.

EARLIER MARITIME OPERATIONS & TRAINING LEADERSHIP

Captain / Operations Manager | Sea Island Adventures | The Bahamas | 2002-2010

- Commanded and managed a 275-passenger commercial tourism vessel operating up to five round-trip voyages per day.
- Supervised and trained crews in passenger safety, vessel handling, navigation, emergency procedures, onboard roles, and coordination with shore-side operations.

Master / Passenger Ferry Captain | Bahamas Ferries | The Bahamas | 1997-2002

- Served as Master aboard a 72-meter ROPAX ferry with responsibility for navigation, voyage planning, crew leadership, passenger safety, emergency preparedness, vehicle/freight loading, and vessel readiness.

Captain / PADI Instructor | Nassau Scuba Center | The Bahamas | 1995-2000

- Combined commercial dive-vessel command with diver instruction, safety education, student coaching, and customer service in daily marine operations.

INSTRUCTOR CREDENTIALS & MARITIME QUALIFICATIONS

- USCG Master 200 Ton, Near Coastal
- USCG Approved Instructor - OUPV, 100-Ton Master & Assistance Towing
- National Safe Boating Council Instructor
- PADI IDC Staff Instructor | Freediving Instructor
- First Aid / AED / O2 Instructor
- Master Marine Surveyor | Accident & Fraud Investigator
- TWIC | Marine Radio Operator Permit | GMDSS Radio Operator | ARPA

ADVANCED MARITIME TRAINING

South Tyneside Maritime, United Kingdom - Previous MCA Master Class IV (3000 Ton) qualification; advanced studies in navigation, ship stability and construction, maritime law, SOLAS, MARPOL, STCW, Bridge Resource Management, radar/ARPA, and GMDSS.

Maritime Professional Training - STCW / GMDSS training.

Sea School - USCG Master 100 Ton training.

S.T.A.R. Center - ARPA training.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING VALUE

Experienced in communicating technical vessel-handling concepts to learners with different confidence levels and backgrounds; combining professional vessel operations, instructor development, curriculum design, safety education, and training-program administration in both in-person and remote environments.

LANGUAGES

English - Native | Spanish - Conversational | Hindi - Conversational