

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
Advanced Sail Training Program
Quonset Point, Rhode Island
By
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During July 2008, I attended Advanced Sail Training in Newport, Rhode Island. I had previously attended this same training in 2007. I enjoyed it so much I had to return for a second visit. Upon arrival, I was transported to the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) at Quonset Point. This area was the original home of the Seabees, the Navy's 'go-to-guys' for construction. We were housed in quonset huts, one assigned for males and one for females. There were about 15 Sea Cadets who attended the training. I was fortunate enough to have another member of the Annapolis Division who also attended.

Our first day was dedicated to getting to know one another through small team activities. At the end of the day, we would play cards, talk on the phone (we only had our phones for 30 minutes at night), or basically anything that wouldn't get us into trouble. The second day, we went to a small town outside of Newport and learned the basics of sailing on *The Truth*, a small sailboat owned by a local sailor.

The following day we went on *The American Eagle*, a famous 12-meter racing vessel that once won the America's Cup. We sailed around Narragansett Bay with the help of the crew. The winds were so intense that it almost felt like the boat was on the verge of breaking apart. We were then introduced to motor boating. We went aboard the CO's small craft, *The Sea Princess*, and motored over to Prudence Island. Once there we fished off a large dock but sadly caught nothing. It was my first experience fishing so I was very excited. The island was home of the state's densest population of deer, and with deer comes deer ticks. Fortunately no one found a tick.

On Day 4, we once again rode on a large sailboat, a schooner about 90 ft that was used for sailing tours around the bay. We took the same course as *The American Eagle*.

Our final day was Regatta Day! We were split up into teams and were tasked to build a craft that would float, be able to support about four people and be able to reach a marker in the water. I was in a group with 3 girls, including Jodie Shumacher. The boats were to be made within a certain time period of 4 hours and we had limited tools. Some tools you had to run for to use, others required push-ups to acquire. Of course our boat won.

The next morning I said my goodbyes and headed for the airport by about noon. Overall I enjoyed my experience in Rhode Island and I hope to return in the future. I recommend this training to any sea cadet who is interested in the art of sailing or anyone who wants to have a good time.