



Western Pacific Maritime Academy

Biography



DAVID E. JOHANSEN, VP OF OPERATIONS

Master Mariner, Master of Towing, Master of Sail

David Johansen is a native of Annapolis, Maryland and with his wife, calls Saipan Home since 2008. His parents were avid power boaters on Chesapeake Bay and Dave learned seamanship skills at a young age. When he was 12 years old, friends introduced him to dingy sailing which fostered his passion to learning more about sailing, seamanship skills and the maritime community. Yearning for blue water sailing experience, as a young man, Dave went to sea on sailboat deliveries to the US Virgin Islands and the Bahamas. Learning ocean navigation became an obsession for Dave and that led to him joining the Navy as a Quartermaster.

Dave was enlisted in both the US Navy and US Coast Guard from 1980 to 1988 as a Quartermaster serving both at sea and shoreside. In 1989 he attained his Unlimited Oceans license as a 3rd Mate and then pursued a full career as a Merchant Mariner; he now holds his Unlimited Master's license with endorsements as Master of Towing and Master of Sail.

As a merchant-man he served with Military Sealift Command and commercially worldwide, and sailed as Master on tugs in the Western Pacific.

Dave has extensive teaching experience; first as a junior sailing instructor for Annapolis Sailing School as a teenager in late 1970's, and later teaching as a sailing instructor at Spinnaker Sailing School in Redwood City, CA in the mid 1980's. Dave taught courses for Marine Technical International on Saipan. He is an approved USCG Qualified Assessor and Designated Examiner.

An accomplished sailor, Dave cruised aboard his 41 ft. sloop for 7 years from 2001 to 2008 in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. After years at sea Dave decided to move permanently to Saipan, CNMI in order to sail and dive in the clear waters of the Western Pacific Ocean. He now continues to pursue his passion for sailing through his Mariana Sailing Club and School offering his two sailboats on Saipan to the public. More recently Dave certified as instructor with American Sailing Association. Dave's goal for both Saipan Sailing School and Western Pacific Maritime Academy is to teach sailing and maritime skills the people of the CNMI who already have a proud, rich and enduring cultural legacy as a maritime nation.

The creation of the sailing school and sail charters in Saipan will open a new venue for vacationers / tourists to come sail the Marianas beautiful waters.