

# Bavaria sea school

Bavaria launched their sea school recently and we went along to find out what it is all about.

I accepted the offer, as part of the first group ever to attend the course, at the newly established BAVARIA SEA SCHOOL. On a bitterly cold Monday morning I met the rest of the group in the Waterfront, next to the Victoria & Alfred Hotel. After a warm cup of coffee, we were all introduced to our tutor, Capt. At du Plooy. He is hugely qualified, and as it turned out he proved to be the ideal person to teach a course of this magnitude, especially considering that it is so much for a lot for a novice's to take in. The captain however kept us entertained with all his 'tales from the sea'. It was tea time again.

I recently attended the Skippers Course at the Bavaria Sea School. Wiltel, the local distributor of Bavaria Motor Boats in South Africa, offers a skippers course to all new owners of Bavaria power boats as part of their package when purchasing a boat from them.

This was the ideal time to chat to Capt. At on a more casual platform, to get a bit more info on the 'man behind the man'. He has a certain presence that gives you an impression that he has reached immortality in the sea. It seemed like he had the answer to anything you needed to know. It makes a lot of sense when you learn that he has trained more than six thousand applicants (for their skipper's tickets), and with more than 40 years experience at sea, its safe to say he has the right credentials for the job.

The syllabus includes the different boat types, hulls, boat equipment, anchors, ropes, safety equipment and everything else regarding the boat. Procedures and checks before going to sea, is one of the subjects that were discussed in detail. Boat stability, centre of buoyancy, boat handling, and securing a boat to a berth, are just some of the other subjects regarding the boat side of the course

that was discussed by Capt. At. Then it was time to tackle the serious stuff, like weather patterns, tides, currents etc. However, there was always a little joke or something light hearted to break the ice.

Lunch was served in the Victoria & Alfred Hotel. After lunch it was time to tackle the even more serious stuff, like the "Rules of the road", and what to do when you are at risk of a collision with another vessel, how to sound your signals, all other signals, and finally the markers at sea and

what it means. Another part of the syllabus, which deals with life and death, is when help is needed, and what you as a skipper of a vessel needs to know and how to react. As I mentioned before, one has to absorb a large amount of information in a short space of time and that you needed to break the tension with a light hearted story at appropriate times, and this is where an experienced person comes to



Some of the group that attended the first ever intake at the bavaria sea school. From left to right: Geoff Tregaskis, Jonathan Paarman, Capt. At du Plooy, Desi Moon, Willie Truter, Colleen Kemp, Peter Kemp, Linda Basson, Frans Basson

the fore. Capt. At is definitely one, we were so at ease the whole day, even with the heavy workload, we never felt overworked. When it came to navigation and chart plotting during the late afternoon, we were still fresh. The course went on till after 18h00 that evening, and it was still a bunch of eager students that went home. It was all anticipation for the

raining quite heavily at times. Capt. At showed us the different markers on the water, we used the manual compass to plot our coordinates, then we had to plot our route back to our destination. After about two hours at sea, we retired back to the shore.

I can just say thank you to Bavaria Sea School. They make the skippers course plain sailing, especially with



*Captain At showing the pupils how to plot your course while doing the practical on day two*



next day's practical.

The next morning was slightly overcast, with a few bursts of rain every now and again. Luckily we were divided into two groups for the practical, because the Bavaria boats had covers, our group never got wet, even though it was

a tutor like Capt. At at the stern. If you want to do your skippers diploma, get hold of the guys at the school and do it the "fun" way. They know how to make hard work fun.

The Bavaria Sea School is exclusive to Bavaria Boats owners, and just another perk

offered by Bavaria. Now I have to hit the books in preparation for the exam. ♦

**For further information contact Erik on 072 6881444 or Geoff on 082 5625145. You can also visit their website on [www.bavariaboats.co.za](http://www.bavariaboats.co.za)**

# With Bavaria Motor Boats cruising into the sunset is now a lot easier!

Purchasing a boat can be the easiest part of getting into boating. Once you have chosen the right boat you now need to get to grips with safety, manouvering, docking, training, surveys, navigation, the list is never ending... With the BAVARIA SEA SCHOOL we take care of all this for you. Once you are the proud owner of a Bavaria Sports Cruiser, you not only get a boat fully surveyed and ready to go, but we will also train you on how to use it. The training includes your SAMSA approved skippers ticket\* overseen by the South African Skipper's Institute. That sunset cruise is now only a phone call away!

Contact us today or visit our website [www.bavariaboats.co.za](http://www.bavariaboats.co.za) for further information.

\* Offer only available to Bavaria Motor Boat owners. Terms and conditions apply

