

HOVERCRAFT TRAINING CENTERS



TRAINING THE WORLD'S BEST HOVERCRAFT PILOTS

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Typical Training Program Syllabus (Standard Class 3)

Course material: Hovercraft Pilot and Maintenance Training Manual
Hovercraft & Trailer Operation, Service and Upkeep

Arrive at Neoteric Hovercraft Inc. facility

Travel to river and conduct 2 - 3 hours of hands-on piloting hovercraft. Start by unloading craft and doing a preflight inspection. Hover into the river and explain:

1. Flotation off and on cushion.
2. Hump acceleration through changing trim wind and river current.
3. Ditching.
4. Turning 360-degree circles between the river banks while remaining above hump speed.
5. Figure 8 turns above hump speed.
6. Tight 360 and figure 8 turns.
7. Begin to use reverse thrust. Reverse applied while moving forward but must not drop below hump speed.
8. Repeat reverse application for 1 km before arrival under road bridge, come to stop under bridge but remain on air cushion. Turn craft 360 degree to port and 360 degree to starboard while hovering stationary in a fixed position under bridge.
9. Hover short distance to next bridge and repeat No. 8.

10. Travel north on river against current and increase speed to 30 km/hr. Perform a 360-degree spin to port at speed and stay above hump speed. Perform a 360-degree spin to starboard at speed and remain above hump speed.
11. Travel upriver and demonstrate hands off operation and control by leaning to the left then the right.
12. If sandbars are present hover across and stop. Then perform in place spins to port and starboard while remaining in one location.
13. Using reverse thrust back off sandbar at speed and continue in reverse over water in a straight line above hump speed.
14. Travelling with the wind increase speed to 30 km/hr then spin 180 degree and applying both reverse thrust buckets continue in reverse at the same speed while steering the craft with the rudders. Throttle and turn may have to be adjusted to maintain speed in reverse. Perform this maneuver until proficient.
15. Travelling downwind at 30 km/hr. Turn the craft 90 degree to port in the direction of travel and maintain a side slipping maneuver. Straighten the craft out and let speed increase until back up to 30 km/hr. Then turn to starboard side and continue going sideways at speed when the craft heads toward the river bank straighten it out and continue along river until speed is recovered. Repeat this exercise several times. This is called a slalom and is used for speed control.
16. Set craft up and demonstrate plough-in.
17. Perform general cruising, stopping and starting.
18. Practice entering and backing out of tight spots.
19. Return to boat ramp.
20. Load craft on trailer.
21. Return to factory. Wash and inspect craft and remove and inspect spark plug color as an indicator of proper engine performance.

Begin shop training on maintenance.

1. Lift system, under hull skirts and fiberglass repairs.
2. Cushion dynamics.
3. Explanation of cushion air supply system.

4. Cushion sealing system (skirts).
5. Lift and thrust fan.
6. Thrust system
7. Control system rudders and reverse thrust push pull cables and computer fly by wire. Throttle and choke cables.
8. Reverse calibration.
9. Instrumentation.
10. Electrical system (fuses)
11. Combustion, piston and cylinder reads
12. Fan shaft bearings
13. Fan belt drive and tension adjustments.
14. Lubrication.
15. Fan guard operation and adjustments.
16. Explanation of cleats.
17. Questions.

Explanation in classroom of lift, hump, turning, ditching, side slipping, plow-in, and maintenance.

Comprehensive test and course review.

Course ends with presentation of training certificate.