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March 2010

DECK WATCH

Official Newsletter of the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron

A Unit of District 10, United States Power Squadrons (USPS) ~ America's Boating Club ~

USPS Mission is to promote recreational boating safety through education and civic activities while providing fellowship and fun for our members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

7th (Sun)—Change of Watch, 11:00 a.m.
South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

9th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting,
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

19 - 21—District 10 Spring Conference,
The Sheraton Hotels & Resorts: Madison,
706 John Nolan Drive, Madison, WI

April

13th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting,
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club,
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI.

14th (Wed)—*America's Boating Course* begins,
Menomonee Falls High School,
Room No. to be announced,
W142 N8101 Merrimac Dr.
(use north parking lot), Menomonee Falls, WI

20th (Tue)—Squadron Members' Meeting,
6:00 p.m., Milwaukee Yacht Club
1700 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53202

May

11th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

18th (Tue)—Squadron Members' Meeting &
Safety Demonstrations, 6 p.m.
South Milwaukee Yacht Club
101 Marshall Ave.
South Milwaukee, WI

22nd (Sat)—One Day Safe Boating Class,
Franklin Recreational Department
Franklin High School
8222 S. 51st Street
Franklin, WI



Indicates Changes Made

www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org

USPS ANNUAL MEETING



The USPS Annual Meeting was held February 4-7 in Orlando Florida. At the Annual Meeting all the National Committees have an opportunity to meet. These meetings, with a few exceptions, are open for all members to attend. Informational seminars are also held. This is an excellent chance for members to learn and get involved in what is happening at USPS. The executive, administrative, educational, secretarial, and treasury departments gather to exchange best practices. An Expo is held for all USPS members to attend. At the Expo, committee members and vendors staff booths to provide USPS members with information about their committees and products and recruit new members. Hand-outs, DVDs, and posters are available for members to take back to their districts and squadrons.



The Ship's Store has all its shirts, hats, and accessories available for sale. This year they put on a style show at the Expo showcasing their newest and best pieces.

On Friday night many districts hold meet and greet (hospitality) rooms. These meet and greet rooms allow all members from the Chief Commander on down to share camaraderie. District 10 participated and offered hospitality to all our members and our friends and USPS members from other districts. A good time was had by all.

On Saturday the actual Annual Meeting is held. Department reports are given, awards are handed out, and issues affecting the general membership of USPS are addressed. One of the biggest issues USPS is facing is membership. New marketing ideas were discussed, recruiting methods illustrated, and suggestions for increasing awareness were offered. Saturday night concluded the Annual Meeting with the Change of Watch Banquet.

I, as a member, attended the National Meetings Committee meeting. This committee is charged with planning all future USPS meetings. Stay tuned for further updates regarding future meetings.

Kim Rutkowski

Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

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The Deck Watch is published monthly by the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron, the Milwaukee, WI chapter of the United States Power Squadron, a non-profit corporation located in Raleigh, NC.

Redesign and Editorial Production by Heather McKinney under the direction of the Publications Committee. Items for publication are due the 20th of each month. Please submit items to deckwatch@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

The United States Power Squadron is America's number one boating organization. If you would like information about membership, please contact: Ted Smyczek at 262-786-2599 or tmsmyczek@netzero.net

Please send questions, comments, Roster contact information updates/changes, opinions, photos, news, articles, story ideas, etc. to: Deckwatch@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

BOATING SAFETY Careful Preparation



Careful preparation is the key to a happy and safe boating season. Sometimes, while under way, small necessary repairs, missing proper tools or parts, can spoil the day.

Before the boating season starts consult your service manuals and assemble the necessary spare parts and tools.

Included may be:

- ◇ A spare set of spark plugs. Spark plugs wear out. Keep them in a sealed container to protect them from corrosion or breakage. Unless you have circuit breakers, fuses can blow at any time. Replace them with slow-blow type fuses to withstand the initial starting current.
- ◇ Spare V -belts. Belts have the tendency to break at the most inconvenient time.
- ◇ A spare filter can help with engine problems.
- ◇ You may experience a broken water hose. Duct tape is very useful. Keep electric tape and wire for cut and chafed insulation or corrosion at connectors.
- ◇ If your outboard motor is not equipped with a slip clutch, several spare pins on board could save the day.
- ◇ Small pieces of canvas can be used to prevent temporary chafing of a rope.
- ◇ A small hand ax stowed on deck is useful if needed to cut lines in an emergency.
- ◇ Include a collection of miscellaneous small parts like nuts and bolts, washers, some assorted sizes of hose clamps etc.
- ◇ Spare bulbs for navigation lights, a search light, flashlight or electric lantern.
- ◇ A handheld lead line in case your depth sounder does not function.

Every item of equipment must be well marked and kept in its specific place. Containers with parts should have the contents painted on the outside.

Remove paper labels, they might come off in dampness and cause problems. Use felt type pens, most pens are moisture resistant.



Make a checklist of all the items and where they are stowed. Have a copy of your service manuals on board. Tools and spare parts for the engine and major accessories can be considered part of the boat's essential safety equipment.

Every skipper individually must develop his own list of tools and parts.

Happy boating!

Gisela Murray, SN

Safety Officer

CHANGE OF WATCH

March 7th

Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron
cordially invites you to attend The 71st Annual Change of Watch



Join us for the installation of new officers for the 2010-2011 watch year

A sit down breakfast will be held

Sunday March 7, 2010

at South Shore Yacht Club

From 11:00—13:00

\$15.00 per person

Menu Choices:

Eggs Benedict

Belgian Waffle

One egg, one pancake with 2 pcs of bacon or sausage

Please RSVP with **menu choice** by March 1, 2010

To: Nappy @ 262.567.7818 nappy@execpc.com

Or Kim Rutkowski @ 414.353.8240 kimrutkowski@earthlink.net

Each year, the National Publication Committee reviews the Squadron and District newsletters and selects those which are worthy of the Distinction in Journalism Award.



At the USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando in early February, the 2009 winners were announced.

The Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron newsletter, Deck Watch, was recognized as a winner and can now proudly display the Distinction in Journalism emblem upcoming issues.

Congratulations to the Editor, Heather McKinney! Thank you very much for your effort in publishing our newsletter. And thank you to all members who contribute articles and information monthly. We could not achieve this award without all your support!



Deck Watch
Official Publication of the
Milwaukee Sail and Power
Squadron
A Unit of District 10,
UNITED STATES POWER
SQUADRONS

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Please note: If your address, phone number, or email address changes or you get a new boat, be sure to contact Ted Smyczek at (262) 786-2599.



March 7th - Change of Watch South Shore Yacht Club, Breakfast @ 11:00 a.m. RSVP required

April 20th - Meeting at Milwaukee Yacht Club, Learn about the new sailing center 6:00pm

May 18th - Meeting South Milwaukee Yacht Club, Flare shoot and fire extinguisher demos 6:00 pm

Executive Board Meetings

South Shore Yacht Club Conference Room
7:00 pm. All squadron members are invited.

Dates are as follows:

March 9th, April 13th, May 11th