



# DECK WATCH



A Quarterly Publication Of The **Milwaukee Sail And Power Squadron**

*A Unit of District 10, United States Power Squadrons (USPS) – America’s Boating Club*

## Linda’s Birthday Cruise

By: *Chuck Kersey & Umberto (Nappy) Napolitano*

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Umberto (Nappy) & Linda Napolitano and Chuck & Sue Kersey left Milwaukee via Southwest Airlines to Ft. Lauderdale. After a short shuttle ride we arrived at our hotel, the Best Western. The next morning after breakfast we took the hotel shuttle to Port Everglades.

Our cruise ship was the Royal Caribbean Cruise Liner the ‘Navigator of the Seas’, a 1020’ ship with a maximum width of 157.5’, a 29’ draft and a 212’ mast height above waterline. She displaces 142,000 gross tons and has a cruising speed of 22 knots and her maiden voyage was on Dec. 14, 2002. Her passenger capacity is 3114 double occupancy, 3807 maximum. We boarded the Navigator about 1430, and were scheduled to set sail at 1700. Unfortunately someone on board got sick and had to be taken off. This caused us to lose our place in line and we had to wait until all the other ships left. It was fun to watch how the other 7 ships maneuvered to get out of the harbor. These included our sister

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Commander’s Comments

The new watch year is upon us and so is the first issue of our quarterly news letter, The Deck Watch. As reported earlier The Deck Watch will now be a quarterly publication with monthly e-mailed updates. You can read the Deck Watch and monthly updates on line on our website: <http://www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org> or have them sent to your e-mail by sending your e-mail address to: [commander@milwaukeepowersquadron.org](mailto:commander@milwaukeepowersquadron.org) This new watch year comes with challenges and hopefully rewards. As always we (the bridge) wish to bring you the best organization possible that will meet your needs and goals. We continue to search for new venues and meeting ideas. We are always open to suggestions and ideas, just call or e-mail anyone of us with your suggestions and ideas.

Again this year getting public “face time” will be an important goal. This will be accomplished by participating in local “safety day” events, holding public boating courses and seminars, flare shots, and doing Vessel Safety Checks (VSC). Squadron member involvement is key in achieving this goal.

*Kim*

### Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

Cdr Kim Rutkowski P

(414) 353-8240

[commander@milwaukeepowersquadron.org](mailto:commander@milwaukeepowersquadron.org)

#### Executive Officer

Vacant

#### Education Officer

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, JN

(414) 353-8240

[education@milwaukeepowersquadron.org](mailto:education@milwaukeepowersquadron.org)

#### Asst. Education Officer

P/D/C Ron Kraase SN

(414) 541-0134

#### Administrative Officer

Vacant

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Lt/C Paul Langer, AP

(262) 821-9763

[secretary@milwaukeepowersquadron.org](mailto:secretary@milwaukeepowersquadron.org)

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## Linda's Birthday Cruise

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ship the 'Voyager of the Seas', another larger Royal Caribbean ship, the 'Oasis of the Seas', two Carnival ships, a Princess line ship, the 'Crown Princess', A Holland America ship, the 'EuroDam', A Celebrity Cruise Ship, the 'Constellation' and a freighter. We also watched as numerous small and large craft cruised around the harbor, a water-taxi for about 10 passengers, USCG boats, pleasure and recreational fishing boats and even a Yacht transporter that must have been making a few final deliveries, as there were three yachts still aboard. The company Dockwise Yacht Transport has been written about in boating and sailing magazines. They transport yachts all over the world.

At 1630, a half hour before our scheduled departure we got to participate in the 'guest assembly drill, better known as the 'life jacket drill'. After our first dinner aboard we attended the 'Welcome Aboard Show' featuring the Cruise director Simeon Baker, our host for the 5 day trip. Many activities were available on board, way too many to mention, but the most unique would have to be Ice skating in the ice skating rink. We did attend the full blown extravaganza Ice Follies a few days later in the cruise.

Nappy and Linda had a Balcony Stateroom on the Starboard side forward, and were able to see the dolphins when they were swimming and jumping alongside the ship. Chuck and Sue were in an inner stateroom overlooking the Promenade deck.

The next day was spent sailing towards Grand Cayman. Our route took us from Ft. Lauderdale heading south. We could have continued straight south but Cuba is in the way, we had to turn west to go around, we cruised as close as 15 to 16 miles off Cuba, inside their territorial waters. Weather was slightly overcast with light fog, visibility down to about 20 miles. None of us realized Cuba was so mountainous. We saw mountains off the port side all day. Once we got to the west end of Cuba we turned south again then East to get to Grand Cayman. 'Santa' was there on vacation, getting ready for the Christmas rush, he

*(Continued on page 3)*



Pirate Vessels in the Harbor



The Travelers



Above:  
The Buggy ride on Cozumel

Left:  
Swimming with the Sting Rays





## Linda's Birthday Cruise

*(Continued from page 2)*

was on the cruise having fun with the kids and parents. The cruise line provides a daily information flyer called 'Cruise Compass' and also a planner for the next day, full of ideas, activities, suggestions, etc. to stay busy and enjoy the cruise.

On our ship, on deck 11 forward, there is a 'Peek-A-Boo Bridge'. This is a viewing area where you can look directly down into the bridge and see most of the helm station. There are also 2 monitors showing the 'chartplotter' display. This shows a chart of our location with waypoints marked every hour, our heading, speed, apparent wind and outside temperature. This display was also available on the TV sets in the room. Too many dining options were available. Bottom line, every meal we had was delicious.

We arrived in Georgetown, Grand Cayman at 0700. We had an early wake up call, as we needed to leave at 0800 in a ship tender. We took an excursion to Stingray City and went swimming with the Stingrays. Pay attention and listen to the guides when they tell you to keep your thumb and fingers tucked in, they don't bite but they have serious suction when they feed, ask Nappy who forgot to tuck in his thumb. The male rays get up to 25 lbs. while the females can reach up to 250 lbs. One of the good luck charms is to kiss the rays. We have the pictures to prove it. While we were swimming with the stingrays we met and enjoyed the company of one of the Make-A-Wish families on our cruise. Royal Caribbean is a big supporter of the Make-A-Wish foundation. This cruise had three families on board, they have had as many as five families at a time. The last tender from Georgetown was @ 1545. The Navigator departed Grand Cayman @ 1600 and headed West for Cozumel, Mexico. We experienced a beautiful sunset from the deck above the bridge before going down to dinner.

We arrived in Cozumel at 1000 on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, Linda's actual Birthday. We had breakfast in the Windjammer. Nappy stayed aboard ship nursing his bad back. Sue, Linda and Chuck went ashore, took a cab to Margaritaville, had lunch and then took a horse drawn buggy ride to see some of the sights of the island. The horse's name is 'Superman'. We saw the Governor's house and the oldest church still standing in Cozumel to name a few. 'All Aboard' at 1830, ship departed Cozumel at 1900 heading north to go around the west end of Cuba. We enjoyed dinner in the Swan Lake dining room for Linda's Birthday, excellent service and food, and a special birthday cake.

We awoke with clear skies on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> and a better view of Cuba on the starboard side. Chuck & Sue participated in a mile walk for the Make-A-Wish Foundation lead by Captain Patrik Dahlgren. In the afternoon we watched a towel folding demonstration put on by the housekeeping stewards who showed us how to fold towels into different animals and figures. We enjoyed the Ice



### Margaritaville

Show that evening in the 'Studio B' Lounge. We watched a beautiful sunset from the upper deck and dined in the Swan Lake dining room again.

The next morning we arrived in Port Everglades at 0700, we hand carried our luggage off the boat and through customs. We took a taxi to Ft. Lauderdale airport, and departed for Milwaukee at 1240. We had a 3 hr layover in Orlando and had to change planes. With a reality check we were advised near the end of the flight the Mitchell Airport was closed for snow removal. We circled for a half-hour or more before we could land around 1900. It was good to be home but, the snow on the ground was a real surprise.

We had such a good time. Many times we thought how much more fun we could have had if more of our Squadron friends were with us. We're thinking on going back next winter, possibly to the Eastern Caribbean....anybody interested ???

Want more information or pictures, contact Nappy at:  
[nappy212@gmail.com](mailto:nappy212@gmail.com) or Chuck at :  
[ckersey@wi.rr.com](mailto:ckersey@wi.rr.com).





## Educational Department

Winter has certainly set in with a vengeance, so how about thinking about warm weather, gently breezes, and summer fun? I have just the thing for you. How about taking a class?

We are starting an Advanced Piloting class with Ted Smyczek at the helm, so if you are interested in learning new skills, or just brushing up on ones that may be a little rusty, contact Ted at 262-786-2599 for class date and times. For Piloting contact Ron Kraase at 414-541-0134 for class date and times.

We also have a JN class in progress, but it is never too late to jump in, call me at the number listed below for information

The Milwaukee Power squadron has added two on water classes to our spring lineup: Seamanship will begin on Monday May 23rd at McKinley Marina. The class will be aboard the vessel "OneCat2Cat". The cost of the 9 lesson seamanship course is \$50.00. We will also be offering Marine Communications Systems on 3 consecutive Saturdays June 11, 18, and 25<sup>th</sup>, at McKinley Marina. This class details the myriad of communications systems available to the mariner, and will be held onboard a vessel to give the student practical knowledge. The class will begin at 9:00am and run for 4 hours each Saturday. The cost of the class is \$35.00

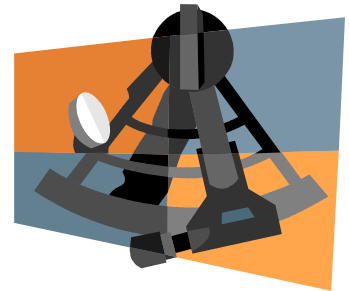
See the Website for other information. Call Mike Wiedel at 414-353-8240, or [educational@milwaukeepowersquadron.org](mailto:educational@milwaukeepowersquadron.org) to register



**Be sure to check out our new Website.**

The Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron has remodeled our website. We have a bold new look and more information available to our members on our new website. Information such as a meeting and event calendars, descriptions and schedules of courses and seminars, and updated links to other boating organizations, just to name a few. So check out our new site at the old address <http://www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org>

We welcome any comments on our site, if you would like to suggest changes or corrections, or have features you would like to see added, please contact us at [webmaster@milwaukeepowersquadron.org](mailto:webmaster@milwaukeepowersquadron.org).





## Boating Safety— Prevent Fire On Board

**B**oating is an enjoyable pastime, but it presents a certain amount of danger. One of the most frightening events is fire on board. If you have a fire, you have only 30 seconds to extinguish it before skipper and crew will be forced by heat and smoke to abandon ship.

Before the start of the boating season check the fuel system, including fuel lines not normally visible. Look for leaks and corrosion of the lines. Assure that your fuel system is liquid- and vapor-tight. Gasoline fumes mixed with air form an explosive combination. Fumes are heavier than air and will settle in the bottom of the bilge.

When you equip your boat with fire fighting devices, it is of greatest importance that you know where the fire fighting equipment is stored. Locate these where you can easily reach them in an emergency.

If you have fuel tanks on board (in boats with outboard motors) locate an extinguisher near the fuel tank. Another extinguisher should be located in the cabin near cooking equipment.

If you detect a fire, shut off the engine, close all doors and hatches. Fire cannot continue to burn without oxygen. If you must open a door or hatch, have a fire extinguisher ready, open the door slowly, stay as far away as possible and keep door or hatch between yourself and the fire.

Preventing fire on board and being prepared will add to a safe and enjoyable boating season.

*Gisela Murray, SN*



## New Members

### Welcome to New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest members to the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron:

**D. Scot Singer**

**Amy Seeley**

**Brad Bilgo**

**Jeff and Dorinda Himmelsbach**

**Keith and Marcia Rosyneil**

**Frank and JoAnne Shansky**

**Thomas and Denise Meyer**

### WELCOME ABOARD





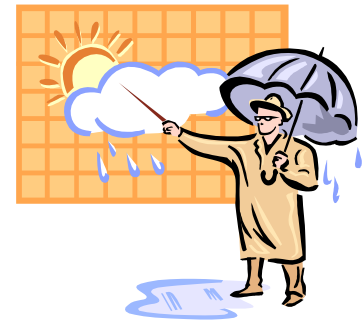
## Events

**March 27 Sunday | 1:30 – 3pm | Pilot House at Discovery World**  
**This presentation is FREE**

### **Spring Weather Watch 12**

Don't miss this first in a series of Weather Watch 12 weather presentations only at Discovery World. Join the Weather Watch 12 weather team: Mark Baden, Jeremy Nelson, Luke Sampe and Sally Severson, and learn all about our spring weather in Wisconsin.

Spring weather in Wisconsin can be mild, blustery, stormy, and at times dangerous. From snow storms to balmy breezes; from tornadoes to lightning storms, Wisconsin's weather has it all, and the Weather Watch 12 team will help you understand and appreciate our ever-changing climate. They'll show you dramatic video of Wisconsin's weather and share their knowledge about our weather and the steps the whole family can take to stay safe – with plenty of time for questions.



**March 25-26, 2011 – Wyndham Hotel & Convention Center, Milwaukee, WI**

### **2011 Ghost Ships Festival**

The Ghost Ships Festival is Wisconsin's largest trade show devoted to **Scuba Diving** and **Great Lakes Maritime History**. Exhibits, workshops, and presentations cover just about every aspect of Great Lakes maritime history and scuba diving. You can listen to and interact with leading dive industry professionals, extreme explorers, maritime historians, and Great Lakes authors.



Tickets to the presentations on Friday night and Saturday are \$20.00 until March 24th, 2011 and \$25.00 if purchased at the door.

The Exhibit Hall is **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Port Pirate Festival - June 3 – 5, 2011 @ Port Washington, WI**  
[www.portpiratefestival.com](http://www.portpiratefestival.com)



The first full weekend in June, the scenic harbor of downtown historic Port Washington, Wisconsin, provides the perfect, picturesque setting for all the mayhem & merriment of the Pirate Festival. It has become the “must attend” event for boaters, bikers, re-enactors & families alike from all over the Midwest & beyond.

The event includes: Invasions, a Thieves Marketplace, a Gruel Galley, a Buccaneer Bash, fireworks, children's activities, demonstrations, educational exhibits, musicians, comedians, a parade, a pirate ship & much more. Walk the Plank!



# PICTURE GALLERY

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



## Change of Watch



Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron cordially invites you to attend The 72nd Annual Change of Watch. Join us for the Installation of Officers for the 2011-2012 watch year.

A sit down luncheon will be held Sunday March 20, 2011 at BRAVO! In Brookfield Square 95 N. Moorland Rd Brookfield, WI 53005 From 12:00-14:00 \$22.00 per person

*Class A Uniform or Business Attire*

Please RSVP by March 11, 2011 To: Kim Rutkowski @ 414.353.8240

1. Mary Goodnetter receives the Proficiency in Education Award from Jim Pahl-Washa
2. Mike Wiedel and Ron Krasse at the Fall District Conference
3. Milwaukee Commander Kim Rutkowski accepting an Award from National V/C Robert A. Baldrige SN and DEO Bob Stierna at the Fall District Conference
4. Milwaukee EO Mike Wiedel receives Teaching Aids Award from Asst DEO Bob DeNoto at the Fall Conference
5. Lyle and Jennifer Peschke at the District Fall Conference



## Bulletin Board

### Bristol Services, LLC

A new 'Green' company started by USPS Lt. Chuck Kersey, AP, Chuck Kersey Jr. and Peter Lameka.

**Specializing in Exterior and Interior Porter-ing/Detailing** of Boats, Autos, RV's and Bikes 'Green' products when available. Weekly, Monthly, Pre and/or Post-Event, One Time or On Call

Also offering Compound and Wax, in the water or out.

**Brightwork, Teak Restoration** – Clean, Refinish

**Pest Control** – Spray for Spiders and other Critters

**Diver Services (Soon)** – Bottom Cleaning, Check for Damage, Clean Water Intakes

**Maintenance Services** – Oil Changes, Tune-Ups, Winterizing and Spring Commissioning

*For More Information or a Free Quote Call*

Lt. Chuck Kersey, AP - 262-39-8726

### Captain Chuck Kersey

USCG 50T Masters License  
USPS Vessel Safety Examiner



7617 Birch Lane  
Waterford, WI 53185  
262-939-8726

[captchuck@bristolservicesllc.com](mailto:captchuck@bristolservicesllc.com)

### Classes

#### Basic Boating Class Schedule 2011

May 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:45 AM Franklin High School – One Day Class

May 4<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 PM Menomonee Falls High School for 5 weekly sessions

### Vessel Examiners Needed

Want a really fun way to get to crawl around on other people's boats, meet other boaters, swap stories AND know you're directly promoting boating safety?



*There are two ways you can help*

#### 1. Become a Vessel Examiner

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/23tcm7g> Read/study the manual on line or download and print. Then take the test at: <http://tinyurl.com/4fbrkx3> (It's open book, and you can retake it as needed.) Finally, Complete your first five VSCs with a qualified examiner and then do at least five checks on your own.

Don't see yourself crawling on the boats but want to meet other boaters, swap stories AND know you're directly promoting boating safety?

#### 2. Be a VSC Coordinator/Promoter

Offer boat owners a complimentary check to confirm they have all the required safety equipment aboard and to make sure it's working properly and make an appointment for a Vessel Examiner to stop by.





# 2011 Spring Conference

March 25 -27, 2011

## DoubleTree Hotel Minneapolis Park Place

- \$89 room rate
- Includes breakfast buffet
- Fitness area, pool, whirlpool
- Great meeting rooms
- Restaurant & Bar on premises



For Hotel Reservations: 1-800-245-9190 or 952-542-8600

Ask for the District 10 – United States Power Squadron group rate

Great workshops and speakers!  
Children’s Activities!  
“The West End” across the street – restaurants,  
movie theatre, shopping and more!

Friday Night: Country Western Reception & Dinner  
Continue the party at Toby Keith’s “I Love This Bar & Grill”



Saturday Night: 2011 District 10 Change of Watch

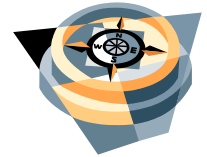
Hosted by: Minnetonka Power Squadron

[http://www.usps-d10.org/Conferences/Current/2011Registration\\_Spring.pdf](http://www.usps-d10.org/Conferences/Current/2011Registration_Spring.pdf)



**For information regarding membership in the Milwaukee Sail & Power Squadron contact:**

Membership Director, Ted Smyczek  
 12600 W. Crawford Ave  
 New Berlin, WI 53151-5422  
 262-786-2599  
[tmsmyczek@netzero.net](mailto:tmsmyczek@netzero.net)



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*Please send questions, comments, Roster information, updates/changes, photos, news etc. to:*  
[capluck@yahoo.com](mailto:capluck@yahoo.com)

*P/C Carl Pluckhan SN  
 Editor*



**The Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron is part of the United States Power Squadrons (USPS)**



United States Power Squadrons

Organized in 1914, USPS is a non profit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation and related subjects. Our members are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating through education. We enjoy participating with our fellow members on the water and in the classroom. USPS has some 45,000 members organized into 450 squadrons across the country and in some US territories. USPS is America's largest non-profit boating organization and has been honored by three US presidents for its civic contributions.

