



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

Commander's Comments

WHAT IS THE COST?

Things have certainly changed in The United States Power Squadrons and Milwaukee Power Squadron since my first stint as commander in 1996. Back then Milwaukee Power Squadron had over 300 members, 100 members at a meeting, a full bridge, and an active education program. The biggest issues facing the Milwaukee Power Squadron were where to move our monthly meeting, due to the rising cost of rent at the old Wauwatosa Lions Club, and if our organization should change its name by adding the word "sail" to Milwaukee Power Squadron to better reflect our true membership.

Today Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron is at a cross roads, our organization has seen declining membership over the last 16 years, both at a Squadron and National level. Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron now has difficulties filling bridge positions, and classes, and attendance at functions averages 30. Repeated studies have been undertaken as to why this is occurring, with no definitive answer as to the reason, or how to stem the tide. True, National membership has leveled off somewhat do to the Cyber Squadron membership; however few squadrons have had success in recruiting members from these ranks. The trial membership program has also brought new members into the fold, however retention has not been what was hoped.

How then do we hope to survive the ebbing tide of membership?. If you look at The United States Power Squadrons triangle you will notice that at the base is a fraternal boating organization. This base forms the foundation for the other 2 sides, for without members, it is impossible to offer the educational opportunities and civic service programs to either fellow members, or the public. So first and for most is to have every squadron member recruit a new member from their fellow boaters. Most of the friends I now have are in one way or the other derived from my membership in the squadron. When you talk to your dock mates, fellow yacht club members, and neighbors at home, expound on what brought you to the squadron. Was it the fraternal aspects of our organization? The Educational opportunities we offer? Or the Civic Service programs we provide to the public?

I joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary because of the Squadron, I wanted to find out why the animosity existed at the time between the two groups, and now

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Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

Commander

Cmdr. Mike Wiedel, JN
(414) 353-8240

commander@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

Executive Officer

Lt/C Chuck Kersey AP

exo@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

Educational Officer

P/D/C Ron Kraase SN

(414) 541-0134

education@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

Secretary

P/C Kim Rutkowski P

(414) 353-8240

secretary@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

Treasurer

Lt/C Paul Langer, AP

(262) 821-9763

treasurer@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

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<http://www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org>



Commander's Comments

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have friends in that organization, many of whom are here today. I also learned they are not so different from us. I am also excited that the two organizations have combined efforts on a number of fronts to promote boating safety. This will offer additional activities for Squadron members to participate in. For me, joining the Squadron and becoming involved opened travel opportunities that I would have most likely never taken; it gave me the opportunity to major visit cities such as Orlando, Seattle, San Francisco, Detroit, Boston, Dallas, Houston, New York and Washington DC. The list goes on. And to visit some smaller cities, Greensboro, Charlotte, Little Rock, Kansas City, Norfolk, and Dubuque, just to name a few.

Joining also opened up educational opportunities, learning from a book, yes, but more importantly, interacting with fellow members who encountered, and survived the storms talked about in the Weather Class. Class mates who grounded their vessel at low tide, as discussed in Advanced Piloting. Members who navigated across the ocean, using techniques taught in Junior Navigation and Navigation classes. Cruisers who overcame difficulties with Customs Officials, discussed in Cruise Planning, and members who watched their boat drift away from them, while on shore because the anchor was not set properly as covered in Seamanship. These interactions were far more valuable than the course work itself.

Joining the Squadron, also introduced me to such programs in Civic Service as Geodetic Markers, Co-operative Charting, and Public Education, as well as making lasting friendships with squadron members in all parts of the country.

I recently had a conversation with a prospective member who, when informed of the cost of membership, stated to me that it was not worth the monetary cost for the benefits he perceived he would derive, which got me thinking... What is the cost to me for the benefits I derive?

Let me offer some thoughts:

I was at a function with fellow members and was discussing a mechanical problem on the boat with the engine maintenance instructor. He offered advice on what to check on my vessel. I found the damaged part, replace it, and it saved me a costly yard repair bill, not to mention the satisfaction of repairing it myself, and got me back out on the water a lot quicker. Is that worth the cost?

I was out on an afternoon cruise and noticed the clouds thickening from the west. Knowing from the Weather Course a major storm is approaching I returned to the dock just as the storm hit, massive amounts of rain, hail, high winds, and lighting. I thought to myself I am sure are glad I'm not subjecting myself and crew to this storm out on the water. Others were not that fortunate. Is that worth the cost?

I was cruising and the electrical system failed. No engine, no electronics, no lights, no nothing. I get out the charts; took some bearings using skills taught in Piloting. I realized the boat will soon be drifting into a very shallow, rocky area. The crew set the anchor, and monitors the situation, using procedures learned in Seamanship. I check all the fuses, and battery switches, and check the wiring; following trouble shooting skills learned in the Marine Electrical Systems Course. Discovering a loose battery connection, I repaired it because I had a spare parts kit I learned about in Cruise Planning, and am on my way in short order. Is that worth the cost?

An electrical fire on board, and I was able to quickly extinguish it using the techniques taught in the Emergencies On Board Seminar, as well as the fire extinguisher training I received at a USPS Safe Boating Week program; saving the vessel, and more importantly the passengers. Is that worth the cost?

When the transom on the boat was discovered to have delaminated and squadron members showed up at the boat yard to help remove the engine, and drive train, and assist with repairs, just because a fellow member need assistance, literally saving me thousands of dollars. Is that worth the cost?

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Commander's Comments

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enjoy the camaraderie of being around people with boating interests, and enjoy educating other boaters in the skills they need to operate their craft safely. I also continue to develop my skills as a mariner. Is that worth the cost?

For me the answer is yes, the benefits I receive from membership far outweigh the monetary cost, but how about you? Is it worth the cost for you? I hope you agree it is. Will the benefits derived inspire you to recruit someone to be a member? Please, take your enthusiasm to your fellow boaters and ask them to join us.

Surely we are a different organization today than we were 25 years ago when I joined. Back then computer networks were purvey only to Government and large research institutions, VCR's were just coming into vogue, and DVD's were just a glimmer in some physicist's eye. "Small" computers were the size of a Volkswagen beetle, and the United States Post Office was the only mail system available. Really top notch instructors had color overhead transparencies, and dry erase boards. A squadron was in the high cotton if it could produce a newsletter with photos. Gasoline was 50 cents a gallon, diesel fuel was 28, and people had more leisure time. Public Education, Advanced Grade and Elective classes were full..., because there was no alternative.

Today the picture is much different. Computers that surpass the processing power of a Cray 1000 by a factor of 10, fit in the palm of your hand. The Internet is awash with information that is constantly changing and instantly available. The United States Post Office no longer delivers most of our correspondence. Instructors rely on PowerPoint, video projectors, animation, and streaming media, to get the point across. Programs such as Publisher, Acrobat, and Quark allow squadrons to produce outstanding publications. The cost of boats and sundries has risen dramatically and fuel approaches four dollars a gallon. Families have more demands on their time and less disposable cash available for leisure activities. States and private companies now offer Public Education Courses to the boating public. Has all of this affected the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron? Most assuredly the answer is yes. Today Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron has 87 members and averages about 30 at a meeting.

Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron and the United States Power Squadrons can, and must change, if we are to survive. Changes are never easy, but have never really stopped changing. Nationally The United States Power Squadrons now has women members. It was a rather controversial change, at that time, forcing The United States Power Squadrons to relocate its headquarters from New York to Raleigh. Milwaukee Power Squadron is no longer at the Lions Club and we have added the word "Sail" to our name. Traditionally Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron published a monthly newsletter, mailed to all members, and every member was issued a printed roster. Most of our members were recruited from Public Boating Safety Classes.

Now the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron has a presence on the Internet with award winning web pages. We now publish our newsletter quarterly, with monthly updates, and distribute the newsletter and updates, electronically and included it on our web page. We now have our roster online, on a member only, password protected, page on our website. Our squadron is more visible than ever with new initiatives in Vessel Safety Check, Program Dealer Visitation and the seminar series of boating topics. We now can offer on water instruction in boat handling, thru the Boat Operators Certification Program and the USPS University Initiative. We are reaching out to cyber members, and are offering free trial memberships to Public Course graduates.

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Commander's Comments

(Continued from page 3)

Not all changes have gone without controversy. Some members have not been happy with the lack of a printed newsletter, cyber members, online education, and other changes. However change we must, the persons we wish to attract as members are accustomed to being able to access information when and where they want it, they are comfortable with technology, and prefer a learning environment that is more interactive, visual and fast paced. It is possible that we have chosen to change course too late to avoid the rocks, however staying the old course will surely put us in the breakers yard.

I hear time and time again that the United States Power Squadrons is the best kept secret in the boating industry, why is that? We look to the National organization to solve our difficulties with fancy marketing programs, flashy new initiatives, and leveraging technology. Despite all this effort and investment, participation in Public Education Classes continues to decline. Online instruction IS taking over the bulk of public education programs, thus the recruitment of members from these classes has almost dried up. We no longer have the luxury of graduates asking us to join our organization. Can the trend be turned around? I think it can, and WE, fellow members, not some fancy marketing campaign, or flashy web page, WE are the solution to our peril. YOU and I are the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron. Each and every one of us needs to ask our fellow recreational boaters to join us. YOU and I need to promote the name of the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron. YOU and I need to make Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron and the United States Power Squadrons a household name in the boating Industry.

So how about the next time you come to a Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron meeting, you bring a guest. The next time you take a class, bring a dock mate to a lesson or two. The next seminar we offer, bring a non member. Let that person experience Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron, and what membership offers.

Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron and the United States Power Squadrons are volunteer organizations, so nothing happens unless YOU and I get involved. The United States Power Squadrons is the premier boating organization in the world, with benefits available only to members that far outweigh the monetary cost of membership. If the rest of the world knows YOU and I are the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron, soon the United States Power Squadrons will no longer be the best kept secret in the Boating Industry.

What's the cost? Priceless

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Commander for the coming year.

Mike





Captain Jerry and Tuggin Along

As you can see from the reprint from the Fort Meyers Power Squadron newsletter "Scuttlebutt" below, "Tuggin Along" and Captain Jerry have been busy promoting Safe Boating and Power Squadron classes to our friends in the sunnier climes.

Tuggin Along



Little "Tuggin Along" spent the day at Upriver RV Park as a guest of the Upriver Boat Club and the members of The Fort Myers Power Squadron that live at the park. The day was the annual upheaval which is a day long party with a parade, food, games and a stage show at night. Little "Tuggin Along" was the hit of the parade. We won 1st place in the boat division and 3rd place over all.

We tried to get the boat in the Spring Boat Show but there was no room in our booth. Plans are under way to get the boat into the booth for the fall boat show in Nov 2012.

Pictured below (from left to right) are members Paul Harvey, John Theofiles, Sallie Rainville, Patty Hartley and Don Hartley; as well as nonmember Sue Smith and P/C Jerry Dilley.

The boat is owned and was built by Jerry Steuerhagel with help from the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron and friends. Jerry is a retired tug boat captain and now is a captain for a dinner cruise boat out of Milwaukee. He is also a Master Captain. The Little "Tuggin Along" has been featured in the Ensign and is available for parades and boat shows to promote safe boating and classes by the Power Squadrons. Jerry has a web site at www.Mastercaptain.us. His E-mail is mastercaptain@yahoo.com. He winters in Bonita Springs.

Article and photos
Submitted by P/C Jerry Dilley, JN





Boating Safety - Wear Your Life Jacket

Every year in spring, when the boating season starts, we are reminded: “Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Wear your Lifejacket”. Again we hear: “Why wear a lifejacket, even if I fall overboard, I am a good swimmer, and I don’t need a lifejacket!”

Why do we use the same slogan every year? Falls overboard can happen any time on any boat. You are on deck. The boom swings suddenly over and you find yourself in the water. This might not be too bad unless the boom hits you head and you lose consciousness. You may be injured or your waterlogged clothing may prevent you from being able to swim. In cold water even experienced swimmers become helpless within a very short time. Your lifejacket can keep you afloat until help arrives.

Falls overboard, capsizing, collisions with other boats or with fixed objects, flooding, swamping and sinking are the leading causes of boating fatalities. The majority of people who die in boating accidents don’t wear lifejackets.

Canoes and kayaks capsize easily. Paddling a raft is great fun primarily for the children. They capsize easily, you find yourself often in the water. Never operate any of these without wearing a life preserver. You make sure your children wear helmets while biking and seatbelts in a vehicle, include the jackets to keep them safe in the water.

Accidents happen very fast and often there is barely enough time to put on your lifejacket. Should there be fire on board, do you have enough time to find your stowed away life jacket and wear it? Fires can spread fast, leaving you little time to organize an orderly departure.

Today life preservers come in many styles and sizes. They are comfortable to wear and often quite fashionable. Therefore there is no reason for not wearing one. Before going near the water, make sure your jacket fits comfortably and is secure and won’t impair your movements. If it is too loose, it might pull up around your face when you are in the water.

Take care of your lifejacket. Periodically check that all zippers, straps, ties and snaps are in good working order. Attach a whistle and/or a small light to your vest.

Boating is fun when you are safe. The responsible boater is aware of the risks of boating. He knows that wearing your lifejacket is the smart thing to do.

Be safe and have an enjoyable summer!

P/Lt/C Gisela Murray, SN
Safety Officer





Boating Safety - NEBULUS

Emergency Flotation Device

At the Spring District Conference in Madison Duffy Kiepl (from Lakeville, MN) demonstrated the Nebulus Flotation Device and asked for input from USPS members about its possible application in the boating industry. How it could be used and what would be needed to make that happen.

As an incentive one Nebulus Flotation device was raffled off. The cost of the device is \$500.00. The winner of the raffle was our own Mel Fabiszak. The Nebulus Emergency Flotation Device is a compact, portable life-saving tool engineered for use in ice and water rescue situations. It lets a first responder do what they have never been able to do before: safely initiate a solo rescue without having to wait for backup.

Small and light enough (17 lbs.) to carry in the trunk of a car or on a snowmobile, ATV, or boat the Nebulus inflates in seconds, helping a rescuer reach the victim quickly and pull them to safety. Fully inflated, it can support up to 3 adults and a submerged snowmobile or ATV. All the responder has to do is pull the ripcord; attach the tether to their belt and then paddle out to the victim. For more information on this product please visit their website:

www.nebulusflotation.com



The "Winner", Mel Fabiszak

A cruise ship passes a small desert island. Everyone watches as a ratty-looking bearded man runs out on the beach and starts shouting and waving his hands.

"Who's that?" asks one of the passengers.

"I have no idea," replies the Captain. "But every year we sail past and he goes nuts."





Events - District 10 Conference



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5

PICTURE GALLERY



Change Of Watch

Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



1. Kim Rutkowski with Associate members Jean and Denny Peterson
2. Mike And Mel saying Hi on Friday night
3. Amy Seeley receives her flag after being sworn into office.
4. Mike Weidel receiving an award from P/D/C/ Mike Skelly
5. Ron Krasse with Associate member Jean Peterson



1. Some attendees of the Change of Watch Brunch at the Golden Mast
2. Gisele Murray receiving the Dist 10 Commanders Award
3. Jim Goodnetter accepting his Life Member Award



Awards - Spring District Conference

Spring is a time of recognition for the accomplishments of the past watch year. The Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron was recognized at the Spring District Conference for its contributions to the District for the 2011 watch year with both squadron and individual awards and certificates.

Squadron Awards and Certificates:

USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit – This was our 28th time receiving this award for our 100% contribution to the Educational Fund. Thank you everyone for your annual \$1.00 donation.

2011 DIR (Do It Right Award) - This award is in its second year and the squadron has received the award both years.

Star Squadron Award – We were awarded three of the four stars for our civic, educational, and member involvement activities within the squadron. The other star is for membership retention and growth.

Individual Awards and Certificates:

Certificate of Appreciation Liaison Home Land Security - Mike Wiedel

Certificate of Appreciation Radio Technical Officer – Mike Wiedel

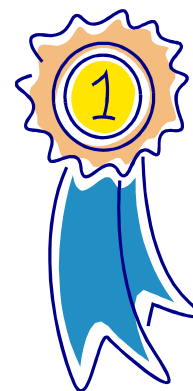
Certificate of Appreciation Property Officer – Gisela Murray

National Communications Committee Awards In Recognition of Distinctive Performance for **USPS Website** – Mike Wiedel and Amy Seeley

for **USPS Publication** (Deck Watch) – Carl Pluckhan

District 10 Commander's Award in Recognition for Outstanding Service and Commitment to the District – Gisela Murray

Life Membership Award presented by the Chief Commander and the National Governing Board for having earned 25 Merit Marks for meritorious service given unstintingly and unselfishly in the interests of the organization – James Goodnetter.



New Members



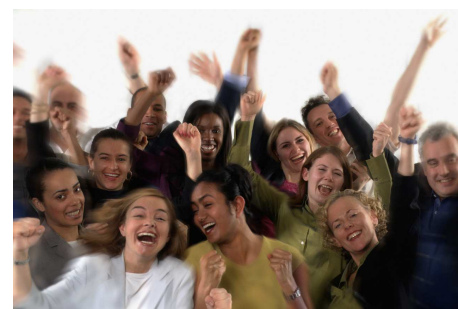
Joseph and Luana Dembiec

James Neumeyer

Charles Kalupa

Also recently transferred from Michigan:

Trevor Kubatzke



Yippee!!



Treasure Hunt

Join your fellow Milwaukee Power Squadron members on **Sunday June 10th** for the "Great Geodetic Survey Marker Hunt". We will spend the afternoon trying to locate the markers (in designated areas) with GPS and written directions. Camaraderie to follow after the hunt, food and drink will be served. Check the June Updater e-mail for additional information on time and place or contact Chuck Kersey at: executive@milwaukeepowersquadron.org or call: 262.939.8726.

What is a geodetic marker you ask and why hunt for them?

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its predecessor agencies have set permanent survey marks throughout the United States. Each survey mark has an exact horizontal and vertical position, defined by latitude, longitude, and height coordinates, in relation to the surface and shape of the Earth. Some of these markers haven't been visited and documented in a very long time, so you may also be rediscovering long neglected objects of American history as well.



June Member Meeting

"Journeys in the Bering Sea"

We have all watched The Deadliest Catch. SSYC member Mary Richter has done commercial fishing in Alaska. Listen to a firsthand account of boating and commercial fishing in Alaska from the Aleutian Islands to the Bering Sea.

Where: SSYC Tent

Time: 6:00 pm cocktails and buffet dinner 7:00 pm program

Date: Tuesday June 19th

Menu: TBD

Cost: \$15.00

RSVP by June 12, 2012 to:

secretary@milwaukeepowersquadron.org





In Memorium



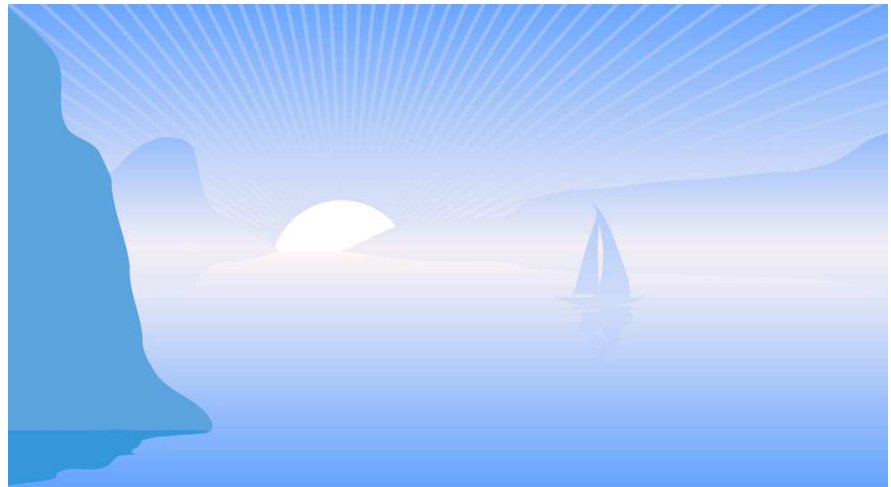
Lyle E Peschke Age 80

Lyle Crossed the Bar on Easter Sunday April 8 2012. May he Sail on in peace everlasting.

Longtime member of MSPS and Past commander of Sheboygan Sail & Power Squadron

Many member will remember Lyle and his portable cocktail bar at many Squadron picnics and rendezvous he attended with Jennifer

Our condolences to his wife Jennifer and his family.



Twilight and evening bell,

And after that the dark!

And may there be no sadness of farewell,

When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place

The flood may bear me far,

I hope to see my Pilot face to face

When I have crost the bar.

From "Crossing The Bar" by Alfred Lord Tennyson

...Birthdays...



June

Janie Besharse
Alan Kuettner
Scott Ziebol

Umberto Napolitano
Mark Wierzbinski
John Goetzman

Peter Kenneth
Bill Whitcroft

July

Arlene Hansen

David Lubar

Thomas Schmidt

August

James Caraway
Ted Smyczek

Karen Kuettner

Cathy Noonan



Link up with your Friends on the Waupaca Chain

District 10 Summer Rendezvous

August 10-12, 2012 Waupaca, Wisconsin

Hosted by Central Wisconsin Sail & Power Squadron



Friday Dinner Cruise on the Chain of Lakes

Saturday - Picnic, kayaking, Shopping, and dinner with your friends

Sunday - Last goodbyes

Early Registration ends June 10th

Register: <http://www.usps-d10.org/Events/2012Rendezvous-reg.pdf>

Event Details: <http://www.usps-d10.org/Events/2012Rendezvous-details.pdf>



**Link up with your Friends on the Chain
District 10 Summer Rendezvous-2012
August 10-12, 2012, Waupaca, Wisconsin
Hosted by Central Wisconsin Sail & Power Squadron**

Registration Form:

Squadron _____ Date _____

Name/Rank _____

Name/Rank _____

Others in Party _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone(s) _____

Event Registration:

Includes refreshments all day Saturday at Shadow Lake Shelter and Saturday dinner at the Waupaca Ale House There will be a cash bar at the Waupaca Ale House.

(Note-all rendezvous attendees must sign up for this item.)

Number of Adults _____ x \$35 = _____

Number of Children (age 12 and under) _____ x \$20 = _____

Optional Planned Events:**Friday Dinner Cruise**-Clearwater Harbor, Highway QQ, King

Number of Adults _____ x \$30 = _____

Number of Children (age 12 and under) _____ x \$20 = _____

Saturday Kayak Instruction on Shadow Lake & Guided Trip on Chain

Number with own kayak _____ x \$10 = _____

Number without own kayak (Limit to first 30 registered) _____ x \$30 = _____

Breakfasts at the Best Western Grand Seasons Hotel (For those not staying at the hotel)

Number on Saturday (Sign-up deadline 7/10) _____ x \$6 = _____

Number on Sunday (Sign-up deadline 7/10) _____ x \$6 = _____

Saturday Box Lunch at Shadow Lake HQ

Number of Box Lunches (Select Choice Below) _____ x \$7 = _____

Sub Choices include: Chicken _____ Roast Beef _____ Black Forest Ham _____

Saturday Shopper's Lunch at Green Fountain Inn, 604 S Main Street, Waupaca

Number of Shopper's Lunches (Select Choice Below) _____ x \$16 = _____



Choices include: Secret Garden Salad _____ Turkey Wrap _____

Citrus Chicken Panini _____ (Limit to first 15 registered)

TOTAL _____

Hotel Information: Reserve by 7/10/12 to obtain group rate See page 2.

Events on your own: Crystal River Trip, Golf at Foxfire, Chain 'O Lakes boating & Hartman Creek State Park

Send Registration Form and checks made out to CWSPS to:

Lt/C Dawn Roberts, AP

1955 Green Tree Road

Junction City, WI 54443

715-340-0043

Early Registration Drawing-Return this form by June 10th and be eligible to win a nautical drink set-see event over-view.

Hotel Information:

Best Western Grand Seasons Hotel and Waterpark - 45 rooms reserved at \$119 group rate until 7/10/2012. The location is at the intersection of Highway 10 and 54. The room includes free breakfast, evening cocktails and four water park passes.

Comfort Suites - 20 rooms reserved at \$110 group rate until 7/10/2012. Room includes free breakfast and evening cocktail. The location is about one mile west of highway 10 on Highway 54 at the Foxfire Golf Course next to the Waupaca Ale House.

Events on your Own:

Crystal River Trip of 3-hour duration from Ding's Dock. The cost will be about \$17 per person based on a 2-person canoe. For reservations call 715-258-2612.

Golf at Foxfire Golf Club. Approximate rates: 9 holes \$20, 18 holes \$35. For reservations call 715-256-9000.

Boating with your own boat or rented boat on the Chain O' Lakes. We recommend the use of Taylor Lake Landing on Pine Ridge Lane off of Otter Drive near the Foxfire Golf Club for your own boat (maximum 19 feet). You can also rent pontoon boats from Ding's Dock by calling 715-258-2612. (A 20 foot pontoon boat will cost about \$140 for 1/2 day.)

Hartman Creek State Park for swimming, hiking, biking and paddle boats. Use Knight Lake Landing. State park fees will apply.

See website page 13 for more detailed information



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

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Please send questions, comments, Roster information, updates/changes, photos, news etc. to:
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.

