



# 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



## A BOATERS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING GUIDE

With the Holidays approaching I was browsing through the boating magazines and noted a number of excellent boating gift ideas. As a public service I am passing a few along to you. I am sure you will see something that is appropriate for one of your boating friends.

First item is the “**Bore No More**” game set. This electronic marvel plugs into your GPS and allows you to play video games on the GPS screen. The game card slips into the GPS data port and the trim tab buttons provide finger control while the throttle lever becomes a joy stick. With the “Bore No More”, you can set the boat on auto throttle and play video games on the GPS screen as you cruise home. On those long runs home, you no longer will be bored by having to stay alert and keep watch. You can play games all the way home. You will find the “Bore No More” at *Shurto Crash Electronics*, for only \$139.95.

Another winner is the “**Real Deal Heel**”. This is for those ladies that want to be “looking good” while boating! The shoe line has high heels, but get this. The heel telescopes into the shoe. This way the ladies can look sharp and yet remain stable. As the boat rocks the telescoping heels act as sea legs and absorb the rolling motion. Another unique feature is a soft rubber tip on the heel that leaves a black mark on the deck if there is a slip. That way mi’ lady can see all the black marks and know where the slippery spots are located. These shoes are available in various styles and colors at the *Slipenfall Shoe Emporium* starting at \$89.95.

A very useful device is the “**Always Right**” navigation guide. For boaters without charts or compasses, this simple felt circle Velcro’s into the middle of the steering wheel. It points an arrow in the direction of travel and indicates left at the 3:00 and right at the 9:00 positions. When you return home, you flip the “Always Right” over and it reverses the right and left. This way, if a hazard was on your right as you left your dock, the “Always Right “ will show it still on the right when you return. This eliminates that confusion that exists from hazards and channels being on the right when you leave and on the left when you return. Now ‘Always Right’ keeps them on the same side. Find it at the *Miss D’Channel Marine store* for \$29.95.

For the fisherman whose target species has a slot limit. You know, the guy with

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Merry Christmas

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## A Boaters Christmas Shopping Guide

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the false bottom in his well for undersize fish, you must get him a “**Magic Window**”. This neat device is a stiff coiled spring that you stuff into the fishes mouth and down into the gullet. If the fish is too big for the legal window, simply compress the fish and the spring will collapse and hold the fish shorter. If the fish is too short, simply pull simultaneously on the head and tail and the spring will expand and hold the fish in its elongated position. The “Magic Window” is guaranteed to increase your take home catch. They are in stock at *Ketchum Cheetum and Keepum's*, for \$19.95.

My favorite is the “**Thump-O Meter**”. This accessory works through a calibrated load cell that attaches to the pick up of your depth finder. This unique device senses the force from any object your boat hits, and the software converts the signal into a digital read out on your depth finder screen. The sensitivity of the software is good enough to differentiate between a beer can, crab pot, swimmer, marker buoy, manatee, or another boat. With the “Thump-O-Meter you no longer have to wonder what you hit or take the troublesome time to turn around and check. You can continue merrily on your way at full speed and never look back. Heck, you wouldn't even have to stop playing your game on the “Bore No More”. While the standard model provides a digital read out, the deluxe model shows a graphic image of what you hit. The deluxe model also comes with a game board for your crew to play “**Guess What Made That Thump**” An entertaining way for them to pass the time on those long runs home. I found this gift at the *Get Touta Miway Gift Shop* for \$119.95.

As you read through the various gift suggestions, I am sure at least one of them was appropriate for someone you know or have seen on the water. As ridiculous as that may seem, unfortunately there are people out there that behave this way.

If you have trouble finding these products on your local store shelves, I have a better idea. Why not treat that boater to a United States Power Squadrons Safe Boating Class and eliminate the need for further shopping. Now there is a singular gift that will benefit not only the recipient, but all of the other boaters on the water.

*Bill Hempel is the Assistant Safety Officer for the Peace River Power Squadron and a member of the USPS National Marketing Committee. You can contact him at [billmarl@comcast.net](mailto:billmarl@comcast.net).*



### Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers Commander

Cmdr. Chuck Kersey AP  
(262) 939-8726

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

### Executive Officer

Open

### Administrative Officer

P/D/Lt/C Ted Smyczek SN  
262-786-2599

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

### Educational Officer

P/D/C Ron Kraase SN  
(414) 541-0134

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

### Secretary

P/C Kim Rutkowski P  
(414) 353-8240

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

### Treasurer

Lt/C Paul Langer, AP  
(262) 821-9763

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

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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



**“Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends.”**



## District 10 Updates from the 2014 Fall Conference

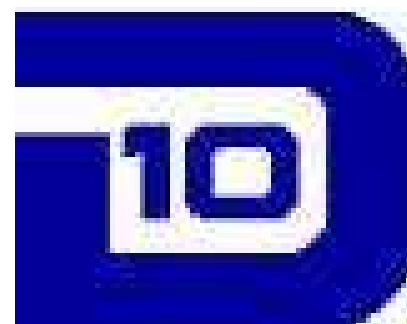
### Executive Department

- ◆ **Cooperative Charting:** the summer activities are being readied for submission to NOAA.
- ◆ **Radio Technical:** New *Sea Tow* automated VHF radio check stations have been installed: - At Gill's Rock by the Door County Sail & Power Squadron; - At Nest Egg Marine in Marinette by the Marinette/Menomonee Sail & Power Squadron. This brings the number of automated VHF radio check stations to eleven in the District 10 area: on Lakes Michigan, Superior, Green Bay, the Mississippi River and Lake Minnetonka.
- ◆ **Vessel Safety Checks** completed in 2014 by D/10 members have exceeded the total done in 2013.
- ◆ **Boating Safety:** Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) pilot project application is being refined. Funding for placing ESD signage at area marinas is being explored.
- ◆ **Public Relations:** Besides the usual Boat Show, parades etc, outreach activities such as Hiawatha Valley's annual Shrimp Boil, Minnetonka's annual Hope Kids family picnic for terminally ill children and their families, St. Paul's new Wounded Warrior Project "Fun Day on the Water" for Wounded Warriors and their families and similar civic service activities are encouraged. Long standing recognition projects like "Adopt a Highway" are encouraged to constantly keep Squadron names in public awareness. District 10's "Recreational Boating Safety Visitation Program" has 4 certified Visitors.
- ◆ **VSC Program:** The US Coast Guard Auxiliary has a new Vessel Examiner Manual. All previous versions are obsolete and should be destroyed. You may download the new manual at [http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/FILES/CIM\\_16796\\_8A.pdf](http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/FILES/CIM_16796_8A.pdf) I strongly urge you to replace your manual with the current version as numerous changes have been added



### Educational Department

- ◆ An Instructor Re-certification Seminar was held on Saturday Afternoon during the Fall Conference and an on-line Re-certification Seminar was held via webinar Nov. 5 using GoToMeeting software.
- ◆ A seminar was held on Sunday morning on how to use the newly acquired GoToMeeting software District 10 has purchased. Instructors are encouraged to use this software for distance-learning purposes.
- ◆ Door County Sail & Power Squadron won the Prince Henry Award this year and Central Wisconsin Sail & Power Squadron won the "Squadron Educational Achievement" (SEA) Award.
- ◆ From surveys taken and information gathered, the median age for the pool of new members is 47 years of age.



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## District 10 Updates From The 2014 Conference

(Continued from page 3)

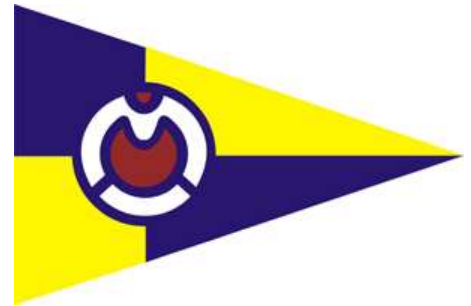
- ◆ Expect a 10% rise in the cost of educational materials with the exception of ABC3.

### Administrative Department

- ◆ In District 10, the decline in membership for 2014 (3½%) is less than in previous years (10%).
- ◆ The program for New Membership has been revised to offer membership for 18 months for the price of 12 months.

### Secretary's Department

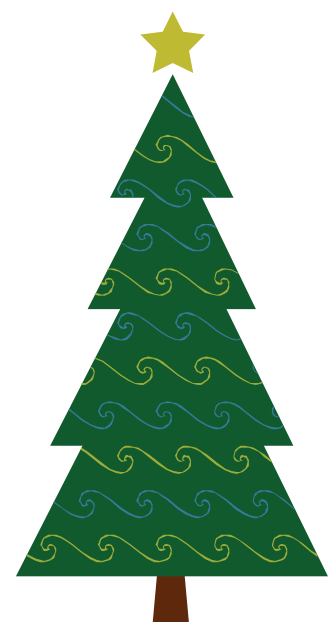
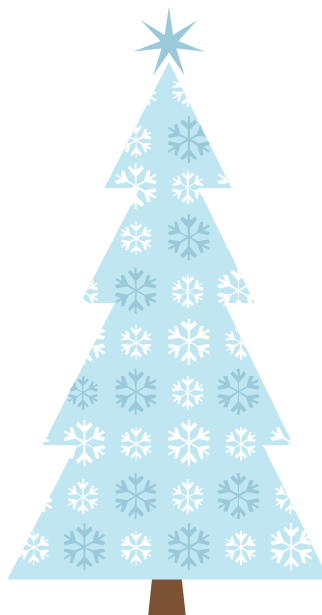
- ◆ The delay in revamping the USPS web-site is attributed to a failure by the software developer; USPS is pursuing an alternative developer.
- ◆ A monthly electronic newsletter is directed to new members and recent graduates of America's Boating Course (ABC3).



### Treasurer's Department:

The Governing Board passed a resolution to increase the National dues by \$2.00.

Fly our *Ensign* proudly,  
D/Lt/C Ted Smyczek, SN





## A New Year's Resolution

Resolve to take a CPR and First Aid Course in 2015 to ensure that your family and friends are in the hands of a safe boater who knows what to do in the event of a medical emergency when out on the water. On Wednesday, 21 Jan., during the 2015 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, we will hold an American Heart Association course geared to boaters that covers situations that can and will occur while on the water. Upon completion of the course, you will receive the American Heart Association course card that meets requirements for US Coast Guard licenses and the USPS BOC Program. More information and a registration form can be found on the USPS CPR/First Aid webpage. Please let us know if you want to attend this course. Be prepared to handle medical emergencies by taking this lifesaving course. Let's work together to make 2015 the safest boating year of all times. —Alan Karpas

READ MORE <http://www.usps.org/national/safety/cpr-1staid+.html>

## Who Are Our Online Students?

With three interactive online seminars now available, let's take an initial look at who has taken these USPS seminars. As of 30 Sept., 390 customers have taken 421 seminars, of these, 75.4 percent are non-members, 4.4 percent are cyber members and 20.3 percent are members associated with a squadron. We have had customers from eight countries, though the overwhelming majority (97 percent) are from the United States. The 12 states providing the most customers are, in descending order, Florida, California, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington, Michigan, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Nebraska. Forty-seven percent of students are between the ages of 46 and 65. —Eileen Rickard

READ MORE <http://www.usps.org/edonline>

## Office Depot Merges With Office Max

USPS is privileged to offer its members a discount at Office Depot via the Member Benefit program. Recently, Office Depot and Office Max merged into one company. Until their computer systems and programs are combined, the benefit is not available for use at Office Max. For members to use the discount at Office Depot, you must have the Office Depot benefit card and can use this in the store or online. Discount cards can be printed out from the Office Depot USPS website; squadrons and districts can order cards from headquarters. To find out more information on this or any other Member Benefit program, please view the Member Benefit website. —Kristi Anderson

## Welcome First Timers to Jax!

The National Membership team welcomes and encourages members to attend their first national meeting in Jacksonville, Florida! We have lots of information to make your first time memorable. Please register as a First Timer when you submit your general registration for the Annual Meeting. There will be a special drawing just for First Timers at the Friday welcome reception! Look for us at the First Timers' table near the registration table! Can't wait to meet you in sunny Florida! —Lynda Leque



*Excerpted from the*

**"USPS Blast",**

*an informational Newsletter distributed monthly by USPS*





**Events**

**ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION**

**A CHANGE IS COMING FOR THE MEMBER'S MEETING!!!!!!**

The member's meeting for January, February, April and June will be held the **SECOND TUSDAY** of the month instead of the third. The meetings will continue to be held at Saz's on State Street. Please RSVP to Ted tmsmyczek@netzero.net h: 262-786-2599 or 262-786-1475 for every meeting you are attending or if you want to be on the permanent dinner list let him know.

- **Executive meeting 5:00pm**
- **Cocktails and Social 6:00pm**
- **Dinner 7:00pm**
- **Program to follow**



Missed in the last Birthday Listing:

**November**

**Jennifer Chiak-Peschke**



**DECEMBER**

**Roberta Caraway**

**Mary Goodnetter**

**Michael Millirin**

**Mary Swenberg**

**Walter Swenberg**

**David Wiertzema**

**JANUARY**

**Joseph Besharse**

**Ruth Durkin**

**Craig Ellis**

**Dorinda Himmelsbach**

**Jeff Himmelsbach**

**Charles Kalupa**

**Mike Krohn**

**Jerry Steurnagel**

**February**

**Tim Cimbalnik**

**Fran Pauls**

**Michael Schulz**

**Kim Rutkowski**

**Delores Ziebol**



## Boating Safety - Warm Waters Call

During the long winter months while we see oceans of snow that make Wisconsin a winter wonder land, boating is not far from our mind. For some of us the snow and ice becomes too much to bear and we plan to escape the cold by going to Florida or to cruise the Islands of the Bahamas.

Both Florida and the Bahamas offer many reputable charter companies whose rental inventories offer sail and power boats that suit the needs of most boaters.

Most boat rental contracts specify “completely equipped” or “with all equipment required by regulations”. Carefully check all the equipment on board, ensure that everything is in good working order and meets required standards. Discard outdated and excess items, they take up room on board and may be mistakenly used in an emergency. Don’t forget to add a First Aid Kit, sunscreen, raingear and warm clothing. Include your navigation equipment and obtain all necessary charts. Make sure that the charts are the most recent available.

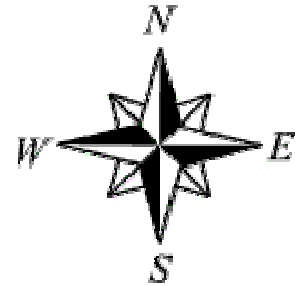
Before deciding on the type of vessel for your cruise, take the time to familiarize yourself with the conditions of the area you wish to visit. The Bahamas are surrounded by areas of shallow waters. A boat that draws more than five feet of water may prevent you from visiting some islands, or keep you from snorkeling or fishing along the reefs.

In some areas buoyage is not as good or as plentiful as in US waters. Piloting your boat will often require using ranges and bearings of objects on shore, as well as following navigation markers. Practice reading water depth by its color; it is often better than using a depth finder. By visually scanning water around your boat, you can predict the depth of an area before you are right on it. Darker water usually means greater depth; however, this can also be influenced by the color of the bottom or by cloud shadows. Very light water is shallow – stay clear of such areas. Remember that some dark shades may be caused by coral heads that are much more shallow than the surrounding bottom. When cruising in areas of shallow water, keep the sun behind you and high enough so that you can read the water.

The weather is usually friendly in the Bahamas, but squalls containing high winds and lightning can appear quickly. These squalls are usually easy to spot and your radar readings can help you determine the direction of the squall.

Whether you like cruising, snorkeling or fishing, a small reprieve from the winter will pass the time until you can get your boat here in the water again for a long summer of boating.

*Gisela Murray, SN*



## National Fall Governing Board (the fun side) Touring Washington D.C.

The Fall Governing Board for USPS was held September 10-14, 2014 in Washington D.C. I was excited to go not only for the USPS information, but a chance to see more of Washington D.C.

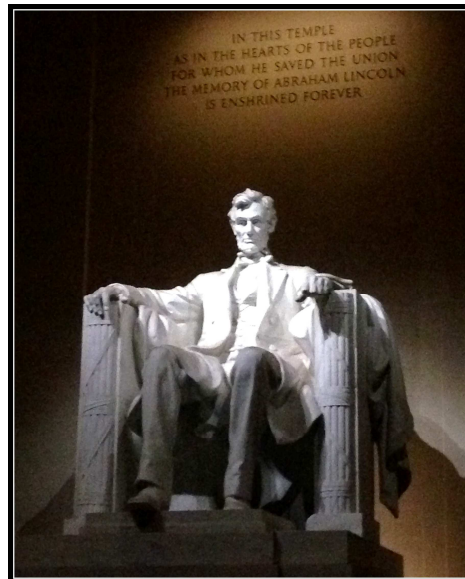
I first saw Washington D.C. when I went there on a class trip when I was in high school. That high school trip was the first time I had flown in an airplane. We flew in over an expressway and the Potomac River. We got to tour the White House (must less security than today). We also visited Alexandria, VA.

The next time I visited Washington D.C. was on a one day trip, when we were at a USPS Governing Board in Baltimore. This time Mike and I saw the Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian. The WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials and drove by the White House.

On this trip, Mike and I started out by seeing Washington D.C. at night. It was a three hour bus tour. We were on a double decker enclosed tour bus. As we headed for our first stop at the White House we passed Arlington Cemetery. We reached the White House for a photo stop just before the sunset. As we were leaving a couple of the black suburban's of the Secret Service pulled up and the Air Force One Helicopter landed on the South Lawn. The White House has no front door or back door, just the North Entrance and the South Entrance. Nobody wants to be said to have entered through the back door.

Next we moved on to the memorials. First stop WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials. The WWII Memorial is circular and surrounds beautiful fountains, The Vietnam Memorial is the wall with the names inscribed and the Korean Memorial is a squad of soldiers dressed in combat gear on patrol. Mike and I had seen the Korean and Vietnam Memorials in the day time but never at night. The night gave the Korean Memorial more of a feeling as if it was actually happening. While at the WWII Memorial you could also see the Washington Memorial. We never stopped at the Washington Memorial, but you could see it from many of our stops. Next stop the Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool, again with a view of the Washington Memorial. Again having seen the reflecting pool during the day seeing it at night from the Lincoln Memorial gave it a whole new prospective. We did not stop at the Jefferson Memorial but were able to see it in the distance also. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Roosevelt Memorials were next. While at the Roosevelt Memorial we also viewed the tidal pool which was at high tide and the water was rising up the sides of the garbage cans and benches. The last memorial on the tour was Iwo Jima, the five men raising the flag on Iwo Jima. As you walked around the memorial it appears as if the flag is actually rising. As we headed back to our hotel we could see the US Air Force Memorial in the distance which is a representation of the contrails of three Air Force Thunderbirds. D.C. at night is definitely a worthwhile tour.

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**Lincoln Memorial**



**Iwo Jima Memorial**





## National Fall Governing Board (The Fun Side)

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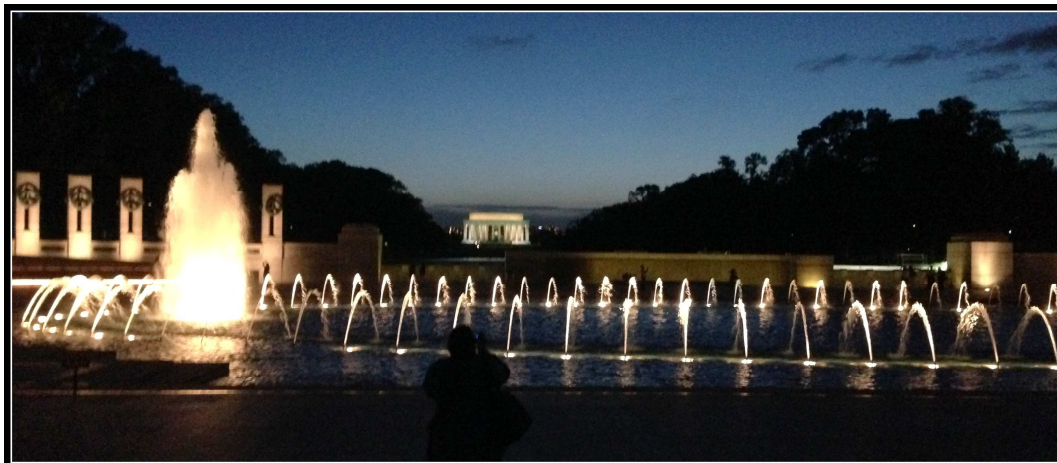
Next on my list was the Smithsonian Institute. Mike and I had seen the Air and Space Museum so that left me the rest of the Smithsonian to see. The Smithsonian contains 19 museums and galleries, indoors and outdoors. My first stop was the American History Museum. The American History Museum is devoted to the scientific, cultural, social, technological, and political development of the United States. A Military String Band was performing in the lobby. This is where you can see some of the gowns the First Ladies wore for the inaugurations. The next stops were the Smithsonian Castle and Gardens, and the Natural History Museum. The Castle is an information center with samples of some of what you can see at the different museums and galleries of the Smithsonian. The Natural History Museum looks at the development of man and animals; also the solar system and the earth. They have a gem room which contains the Hope Diamond, Hooker Emerald Brooch, and the Star of Asia Sapphire. The Heirloom Garden contains plants that have been cultivated in American Gardens prior to 1950. The Enid A. Haupt Garden surrounds the Castle.

All 99 acres of Washington D.C. are worth the time to go see. It is an educational as well as spiritual experience.

*P/C Kim Rutkowski, P*



**White House**



**World War II Memorial**



## THERE IS DANGER IN BEING ALONE ON A BOAT

*William B. Hempel, P  
Assistant Safety Officer  
Peace River Sail & Power Squadron  
Member of the Marketing and  
Public Relations Committee,  
United States Power Squadrons*

Over the past month I have noticed a trend in fatal boating accidents. In Michigan a lone fisherman was found floating dead in the water one day after his empty boat was found. Off the Florida Keys a solo boater was found drowned, and his empty boat was located near by. In the Gulf, just off the Naples shoreline, a solo boater was reported missing. Again the empty boat found adrift and the body found the next day. In the gulf, just off from the Boca Grand Pass, a fortunate solo sail boater was rescued by air. He was found clinging to the mast of his sail boat, which was aground on the Johnson Shoal. Three fatalities and one near fatality, all in a month and all occurred where only one person was on board.

I have often said that boaters just do not realize the dangers associated with boating. While many beginners are totally oblivious to the dangers, experienced boaters are sometimes just as bad due to a casual approach that comes from being too comfortable and confident. No matter how well you think you are equipped and prepared, there is always the potential for the unexpected. The rapid onset of bad weather, a mechanical problem, out of fuel, fire, overcome by CO, heat stroke, running aground, overboard without a boarding ladder, hypothermia, blunt trauma, a sever cut, etc- etc- etc . I could go on and on with possible emergencies that can pop up without warning.

When you are out on the water alone, remember, YOU ARE ALONE! There is no one to help you. Think twice about the possible emergencies I listed above. Think once about the emergency with you alone on the boat, and think the second time about having a companion along. Which situation do you prefer? When you are alone, you not only are without help, you are also a long way and a long time from receiving any help. Depending on how disabled you or your boat is, you might not even be capable of calling for help. Trust me boaters, you do not want to be alone on your boat. Call a friend to join you. Even a boating novice can provide assistance in most emergency situations. Another good idea is to join a boating or fishing club and plan your outings with other boaters.

If for some reason you just have to be on the water alone, I have two suggestions for you. Firstly, be sure to leave a float plan. A float plan is a simple form indicating where you will be boating and the anticipated time of return. Forms for a float plan are distributed in the United States Power Squadrons basic

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## There Is Danger In Being Alone On A Boat

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ABC class.

Without a form, you can simply write out the information on your own. Leave the float plan with a friend. If you fail to return within reason of the anticipated return time, the friend should notify the Marine Authorities. The description of where you are boating will also assist the search team by identifying a search area.

Secondly, but most importantly, WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET ! Danger is always near and seldom gives you a warning. If you are alone on a boat, you are in danger at all times. There are life jackets available that are designed for comfort and freedom of movement while being worn. They are no more bulky than a pair of suspenders or a belt. They inflate at the simple pull of a cord, or automatically upon contact with water.

If you are going to be boating alone, you should be wearing a life jacket at all times. With these new comfortable types available there is no reasonable excuse not to be wearing one. It is a real gamble for a lone boater to be without a life jacket. Like Dirty Harry said, "Tell me, do you feel lucky today?" If you are going to rely on being lucky, then I guess the proper response would be "you bet your life!"

To learn more about the ways of the water remember that the United States Power Squadrons say: "Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends."



## USPS 25 Year Pin

Congratulations to the following USPS members on receiving their 25 year pins. This pin is given in recognition of 25 years of membership and service to USPS.

Jennifer Cihak-Peschke of the Sheboygan Squadron and associate member of the Milwaukee Sail & Power Squadron. Jennifer received her 25 year pin from National.

Doris Reisel and Phil Pfroemming of the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron received their pins at the October Meeting from Commander Chuck Kersey.





## International Boat Builders Expo - Tampa, FL

By Mike Wiedel



I had the opportunity to attend the International Boat Builders Exposition and conference in Tampa Florida in September. This annual meeting brings together boat builders and equipment suppliers from all over the world for 3 days of seminars, workshops and social activities. It is the largest technical trade show for the marine industry in North America.

I was amazed at the sheer volume of companies that supply equipment, materials, and accessories to the small boat manufacturing industry. Represented at the show were companies that supplied everything, from raw fiber glass fabric and resin, used to lay up the hull and deck, to engines, transmissions, deck equipment and finishes and polishes that make those components shine. Vendors that represented anything that could be used in or on a boat including electronics, lighting, and navigation equipment, line, fenders, and the hundreds of other items that go aboard a boat, had their wares also on display.

Manufacturers, Mercury, Yamaha, and Suzuki also demonstrated completely outfitted vessels, some with 2, 3 and 4 300 HP outboard engines. Boat builders also had various completed craft on display. The most unique was a 34 foot river patrol boat with two 1500 HP diesel engines, surface piercing drives and twin 50 cal machine guns. Top speed? Over 60 knots!!

Attending this show gave me some great ideas on how to improve the look and performance of my boat, as well as insight into the marine manufacturing industry. I attended seminars on Government Regulation, Emerging Technology, Safety Equipment, Electrical Equipment, and Marine Architecture and Survey. The information gained will help me as an instructor, VSC Examiner and a boat owner. Attending was well worth the time spent.





## 2014 Holiday Party Charity Event

As many of you know each year at our Annual Holiday Party the members of the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron take a collection and donate those funds to a worthy cause. In past years we have supported Toys For Tots, Battered Woman's Shelters, Animal Rescue, Medical Needs for the Indigent, Food Pantries, Juniors Sailing Programs, and other worthy causes.

For this year the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Executive Committee has voted to have the International Ship Masters Association Lodge 3 Scholarship Fund as our designated charitable organization.

One of the goals of the International Ship Masters' Association is to encourage and support advancement within and entry into the maritime field. As such the Chicago Lodge of ISMA is offering a \$500.00 scholarship to any qualifying individual in support of this goal. The award is to be applied towards tuition at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy at Traverse City, Michigan or to other committee approved courses to gain or upgrade a Coast Guard issued Merchant Marine License, Rating or Endorsement.



Since 95 percent of world trade moves by ship at one point or another, it serves us all to keep these vessels crewed with the best talent we can attract. The Executive Committee hopes you will support this worthwhile cause with your generous tax deductible contribution to this organization that serve to educate our future merchant mariners.

See you all at the Holiday Party:

**Tuesday December 9th :**  
**Weissgerber's Golden Mast Inn**  
**W349N5293 Lacys Ln, Okauchee Lake, WI 53069**  
**Gathering: 6:00PM**  
**Dinner: 7:00 PM**  
**Program: 8:00 PM**  
**Cost: \$35.00 per person**



### Meal Choices:

- Filet Mignon - Baked Potato
- Prime Rib - Baked Potato
- Alaskan Salmon - Rice Pilaf



**Call or email with your reservation and menu choice: to:**

Ted Smyczek, email: [tmsmyczek@netzero.net](mailto:tmsmyczek@netzero.net) Tel H: 262-786-2599 - O: 262-786-1475



**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



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



United States Power Squadrons  
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.

