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AUGUST 2008

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

www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org

DECK WATCH TURNS "GREEN"

As you can see the Deck Watch has a new look! MSPS has joined the 'Eco-Friendly' movement and designed a newsletter that will be easier on the environment. The Deck Watch will be posted on the website in color along with additional articles and content relevant to MSPS membership.

Check out: www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org

Another benefit is lowered costs for printing and mailing. Some of our paper readers will go electronic. If you are a reader who currently receives a printed copy as well as an e-mail version, please print this electronically from your computer and let us know so we can send you the e-version only. Thanks.

And with any change, there will be questions. Please contact Heather McKinney by email at Deckwatch@milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org or call me (262) 966-2743 with your questions, comments, good jokes. Thanks for supporting this Eco-friendly movement.

Your Commander, Mel Fabiszak

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Do You Need ANOTHER Permit To Operate Your Boat?

Due to a recent federal court decision, by September 2008 all recreational boats will be required to have a federal or state discharge permit in order to operate.

The court case was about regulating ballast water from foreign ships. The broad ruling, however, overturned a 35 year old exemption that applied to the water-based, incidental discharges of all vessels, including recreational boats. Incidental water based discharges include rain water run-off, bilge water and engine cooling water. Boaters will need to go through a complex and potentially costly procedure to get permits just to operate their recreational boat.

There is currently bipartisan federal legislation that would restore, for recreational boats, the exemption for incidental discharges. The bill is the Clean Boating Act of 2008. It has passed both House and Senate committees. It is now ready for consideration by the full House and the Senate and is waiting to be scheduled for a vote. For more information check www.boatblue.org.

The Clean Boating Act of 2008 passed in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Passage of this legislation, will permanently and fully restore a longstanding, commonsense regulation that excludes recreational boaters and anglers from the federal and state permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act designed for land-based industrial facilities and ocean-going commercial ships.

P/D/C Ron Kraase, SN
Legislative officer

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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@milwaukeekeepowersquadron.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@milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org

Star Gazing

P/C

This month is a great month for star gazing, the three constellations that form the summer triangle. The bright blue-white star Deneb in Cygnus (the Northern Cross, AKA The Swan), Vega in Lyra, and Altair in Aquila (The Eagle) make up the corners of this large scalene triangle in the night sky.

The 0.77 magnitude star Altair is one of my many favorites. It's the lower south main sequence star. The 19th century astronomer John G. Pearson was named "Altair". It was a nice looking boat, fairly stiff under sail and easy to handle. The star Altair is just not another pretty face in the night sky. It's the 2nd brightest star in the constellation Aquila. It is also one of the closest stars to Earth lying only a little more than a mere 16 light years away.

Astronomers recently discovered that Altair, in addition to being a variable star (brightens and dims every 10.4 hours. The speed at the equator is about 470,000 mph. This high rotation causes a midriff bulge (Our sun rotates once every 30 days and is almost a perfect sphere). The astronomer discovered a star with a midriff bulge. This puts Altair in a class by itself. It's discovery is a fascinating science. It seems almost every month astronomers discover something new.

In April of this year a new planet was discovered in the constellation Leo. This planet is an Earth type terrestrial type planet. This is in contrast to most of the 280 or so planets discovered which are large gas giants similar to Jupiter.

This month the annual Perseid Meteor shower will be visible high in the north-east sky on the 8th and 14th. The maximum number of these "shooting stars" will be on the night of the 12th. In past years the Perseids have produced as many as 90 to 100 meteors per hour. Unfortunately the brightness of a Waxing Gibbous Moon that reduce the number of meteors that you can see around the time the moon sets, around 3 am. Last years shower was a bust due to cloudy weather. Hoping our Squadron Weather Guru—P/C Mike Beckmann, SN can do a little magic and give us clear skies for these nights.

The Perseid Showers are created when the Earth's orbit intersects with the debris litter left by the comet Swift-Tuttle that last passed our way in 1992. The next time this comet will come our way will be in the year 2126.



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WE CARRY WEBKINZ

John Goetzman, P



mmar triangle are overhead.
ga in Lyra (The Lyra) and
ight sky.

ber of the triangle. Our first sailboat, a 26
asy to sail. Unlike our sailboat Altair, the
in the triangle and the 12th brightest star in
e 98 trillion statute miles away.

tness varies), it also rotates a least once
speed has given Altair a pronounced
he first time ever that astronomers have
s like this bulge that make astronomy a
ew and unusual in the heavens.

t is 30 light years from Earth and is possibly
ets discovered outside our solar system

y. The greatest activity will be between the
f the 12th and into the morning twilight. In
rtunately the night of the 12th there will be
can see. The very best viewing will be
louds obscuring the sky. This year I'm

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August 2008

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31						

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

- 19th—Squadron camaraderie, 7:30 p.m. TIKI Tuesday, "Brew City Queen II"
Milwaukee, WI

September 2008

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- 2nd– 7th—USPS Governing Board Meeting Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center
Detroit, MI

- 8th—Executive Committee Mtg, 7 p.m. South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee

- 16th—Squadron Members' Mtg, 6 p.m. Location TBD.

October 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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- 13th— Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Lake Express Ferry Terminal, 2330 S. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, WI

- 21st—Squadron Members' Mtg, 6 p.m., Location TBD

- 24th– 26th—District 10 Fall Conference, Stone Harbor Resort & Conference Center,
Sturgeon Bay, WI

For more information on these events, please contact Ted Smyczek at 262-786-2599

More information: www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

Call Walt Swenberg at 262-567-4426 for your VSC today.

A VSC from a qualified Power Squadron Examiner is quick—it only takes about a half-hour. Moreover, it'll likely make you a safer boater.





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

Membership Director
Ted Smyczek
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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.

USPS GOVERNING BOARD
Bridges, Boats and Borders

Detroit, Sept 2-7 2008



Online registration form at
www.usps.org/php/reservations

More information at www.gb2008detroit.com

Have you ever wanted to talk in person to the National Bridge and the National Committee members to express your thoughts and ideas about your membership in USPS? Then don't miss the opportunity to experience the fun and excitement of a USPS Governing Board meeting.

The Fall meeting will be held just a six hour automobile ride from Milwaukee in downtown Detroit at the Renaissance Center. Join the Milwaukee Bridge and other District 10 members in Detroit and share with us how "you make boating fun".

TIKI Tuesday
AUGUST 19, 2008



Board the "BREW CITY QUEEN II"



A Riverwalk Boats Sunset Cruise
Depart 7:45pm, return around 9:15pm

Dance to Polynesian & Caribbean music as we watch the sun drop deep below the horizon. Sip on Tropical drinks or beer and enjoy chips and Pacific inspired snacks. We are chartering the entire boat, BRING FRIENDS.

Call NOW TO RSVP!!
Nappy at (414)353-8240