



Volume 53, Issue 4

JULY 2008

# DECKWATCH

**Official Newsletter of the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron**  
A Unit of District 10, United States Power Squadrons (USPS) ~ America's Boating Club ~

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### July

- 11th – 13th— District 10 Rendezvous
- 14th—Executive Committee Meeting
- 15th—Dinner and a Movie
- 19th –20th—Lake Michigan Rendezvous with Racine

### August

- 11th—Executive Committee Mtg
- 19th—Squadron camaraderie

### September

- 2nd– 7th—USPS Governing Board Mtg
- 8th—Executive Committee Meeting
- 16th—Squadron Members' Mtg

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[www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org](http://www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org)

## **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

The Public Boating Education Team, chaired by P/D/Lt/C Ted Smyczek, SN, conducted a Boat Smart class at the Franklin High School on May 31<sup>st</sup>. I am delighted that we had 50 students at that class, and had a 96% passing rate. Thanks to all who helped with the registration, teaching, exam correcting, and clean up for a job well done. I believe we showed the attendees that "Boating is Fun" and the members of USPS did "Show them How". The Spring member classes are coming to a close, and thanks to the hard work by both students and instructors I am please to report the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron has graduates in 4 classes and they are listed below:

## **Congratulations!**

**Seamanship Kim Wiedel**

**Piloting David Brown  
Lawrence Lauer  
David Wiertzema**

**Timothy Cimbalk  
George Mitchell  
Lori Wiertzema**

**Advanced Piloting  
Arthur Dietrich**

**David Lubar**

**Junior Navigation  
Edward Horn  
Walt Swenberg**

**Daniel Noonan**

I am working on a schedule for the fall classes and it will be completed soon. So watch the Deckwatch and the website for the class schedule. If you have a class or seminar you would like to see the educational department offer this fall, please feel free to contact me.

I'll see you in class,

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP  
Education Officer

## Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

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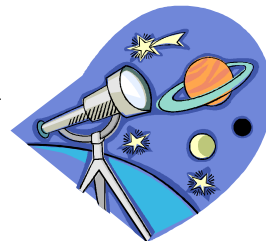
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The United States Power Squadron is America's number one boating organization. If you would like information about membership, please contact: Ted Smyczek at 262-786-2599 or [tmsmyczek@netzero.net](mailto:tmsmyczek@netzero.net)

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

## STAR GAZING

John Goetzman



Arizona is known as the "Grand Canyon State" because of the spectacular Colorado River Canyon in the Northern part of the state. It is also called the "Stargazer State" because of the many astronomical observatories located there.



Mary Ann and I have visited two of these on our visits to Arizona.

Just west of Flagstaff is the

Lowell Observatory on top of a 7,180 foot high mesa known as Mars Hill. It's easy to get here from Flagstaff (elevation 6,875 feet). Lowell Observatory was founded in 1894 with his own funds by Percival Lowell, a wealthy Bostonian and amateur astronomer who became interested in the planet Mars.

*Continued on page 5*

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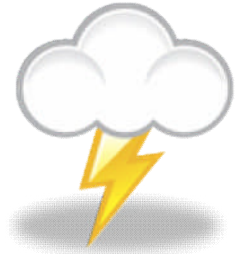
**A New Approach to Boat Repair**  
[www.nautiking.com](http://www.nautiking.com)

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## BOATING SAFETY

## OBSERVE THE WEATHER

On a perfect sunny morning you leave the shelter of your marina and head for the open water. Before you depart, listen to the latest Weather Service Forecast. Usually the computerized weather models are correct, but not always. Occasionally the professional forecaster misjudges the future rate of travel of the weather pattern, it could be faster or more slowly than anticipated. Even if the forecast is for sunny skies and fair wind, you may observe a thunderstorm approaching. The simplest plan would be to go back to shore early and seek the security of a marina. However, you may not have the time to reach a safe harbor. Thunderstorms can travel at speeds of over 50 mph and in the span of a few minutes, give way to hurricane force winds, torrential rain, hail and even waterspouts.



At the first signs of severe weather close all hatches and port holes, Jig the jack lines, see that everyone wears his life jacket and adjusts the safety harness. Do not allow anyone to go forward on deck without wearing a safety harness secured to the jack lines.

If you are in a sailboat, drop all your sails at the first sign of bad weather. Make sure the sails are well secured and no section is exposed to the wind. Ride downwind, possibly streaming a long heavy warp, a drogue or storm anchor. Make certain to keep your boat running as straight as possible before the wind and waves, be careful not to breach.

If you are in a power boat maintain headway with wind 15 degrees off the windward bow. *Remember to listen to the weather report.* Don't leave port in the face of a bad weather conditions forecast. Never underestimate bad weather!

Gisela Murray, SN  
Safety Officer

## SAFETY SATURDAY

On May 17, 2008 the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron participated in the New Berlin Target Store annual Safety Saturday.

It was a beautiful sunny day. Many people attended the safety demonstrations of the Police and Fire Departments and enjoyed the displays of a number of other organizations. Both the US Coast Guard and the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron organizations promoted Boating Safety. Mel Fabiszak, Chuck Kersey, Ron Kraase and I (Gisela) answered many questions. Boaters and future boaters were very interested in the various life preservers on display. During the day, Chuck Kersey and Ron Kraase conducted a Vessel Safety Check for one of the boats on display.

It was a very successful Saturday and we were able to answer many questions.



## JULY—Schedule of Events

- 11th – 13th— District 10 Rendezvous  
Red, White and Blue  
Dubuque, Iowa
- 14th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Mel Fabszak's Home
- 15th—Squadron camaraderie, 7 p.m.  
Dinner and a Movie  
McKinley Marina-Center Section  
1750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, WI
- 19th—20th— Lake Michigan Rendezvous – to  
Racine, WI. **Note the change in date!!**

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

## AUGUST—Schedule of Events

- 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—Schedule of Events

- 2nd– 7th—USPS Governing Board Meeting  
Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center  
Detroit, MI
- 8th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.  
South Shore Yacht Club  
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee
- 16th—Squadron Members' Mtg, 6 p.m.  
Location to be announced.

More information:  
[www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org](http://www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org)

## July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



## STAR GAZING

Continued from page 2

From here Lowell sought evidence of what he thought was martian canals and intelligent life on Mars. He also studied the behavior of the planets Uranus and Neptune and decided that there must still be another planet to explain the irregularities in their movements. After many years, the ninth planet was found when Clyde Tombaugh, an astronomer at Lowell, identified it on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1930. They named the new planet Pluto (rumor has it that the first two letters in the planets name are the first initials in the founders first and last name).



One of the interesting sights on the observatories grounds is the beautiful tomb of Percival Lowell, yep he never left.

Lowell is a working observatory; they conduct ongoing research on asteroids, the Kuiper Belt (a region of our solar system extending out from the orbit of Neptune that is thought to contain remnants from our solar system's formation) and other galactic objects. They have a very nice visitors building and guided tours of Percival Lowell's telescope housed in its "wedding cake" dome (it looks like a big white cake). Visitors can do hands on viewing; they have a night viewing program. You use a 16" telescope and the day is spent there. We got to use a solar viewing unit to watch solar flares on the sun.



We also visited the Kitt Peak National Observatory located in the Quinlan Mountains about 60 miles southwest of Tucson in the Sonoran Desert on the Tohono O'odham Reservation. It is a nice scenic drive from Tucson, but the last twelve miles to Kitt Peak's 6,875 foot summit is a real white knuckle drive on a narrow road cut into the side of the mountain.

Kitt Peak is home to the world's largest collection of optical telescopes. It presently has 25 optical telescopes and 2 radio telescopes. Due to its height and lack of light pollution it gives astronomers some of the finest viewing conditions in the world.

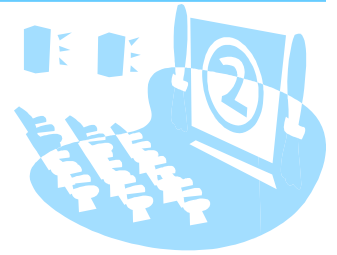
Visitors take a self-guided tour of three of their observatories including the world's largest solar telescope used to study our Sun. They have a great educational visitor's center, plenty of exhibits along with a store that sells items of interest to amateur astronomers. Also available to visitors is a guided night observing program. For a small fee you can use their telescopes, learn how to read star charts and take in a lecture on astronomy basics.



No food or gas facilities are available to visitors, but, they do have picnic areas and restrooms for visitors. If you plan to visit Kitt Peak prepare to do some hiking, the place covers 200 acres. Also bring along a jacket as the mountain top is 20 degrees cooler than the desert floor and the domes are not heated.

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## JULY MEETING



### Dinner and a Movie!

Join your fellow MSPS on **Tuesday, July 15, 2008** for dinner and a movie at the McKinley Marina – **Center section.** Meet at 1800 (6pm).

Please bring a dish to pass. Meat and beverages will be provided.

Cost \$ 7.00

McKinley Marina is located at 1750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee. Phone: 414-273-5224

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## AUGUST MEETING

### TIKI Tuesday

August 19, 2008

Board the "BREW CITY QUEEN II"

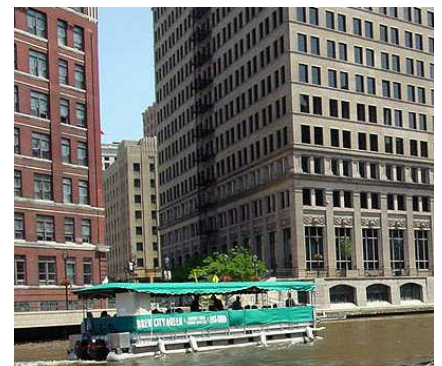
A Riverwalk Boats Sunset Cruise

Depart 7:45pm, return around 9:15pm or later



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.

Please RSVP to Nappy at (414)353-8240



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# USPS Governing Board



## Bridges Boats & Borders

### Detroit 2008

### September 2 - 7

Online registration form at [www.usps.org/php/reservations](http://www.usps.org/php/reservations)

More information at [www.gb2008detroit.com](http://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".

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#### 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](http://www.boatblue.org).

P/D/C Ron Kraase, SN

Legislative officer



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

Membership Director  
Ted Smyczek  
12600 W. Crawford Drive  
New Berlin, WI 53151-5422

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.

**Red, White, and Blue *District 10 Rendezvous***  
**July 11-13, 2008**

**American Marine: Dubuque Yacht Basin**  
**1630 East Sixteenth Street, Dubuque, IA 52001**  
**563-588-9564    [www.madisonsquadron.org](http://www.madisonsquadron.org)**

**Friday:** 3 hr Sunset Dinner Cruise aboard the *American Lady*, Boarding starts at 6:45 p.m. \$45

**Saturday:** Vineyard/Winery Tour and Galena Shopping -- \$35

Lunch included. 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ribs & Chicken Barbeque Dinner at the "Point". 6:30 p.m., Cash Bar and Campfire \$20

**Sunday:** "*Breakfast by Boat*" Departing at 8:00 a.m. N/C

Contact Julie Pahl-Washa, 6929 Donnybill Road, De Forest, WI 53532  
(608) 846-8088 [jpwash@execpc.com](mailto:jpwash@execpc.com)

Conference Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn -- 1801 Greyhound Park Dr.-- (563) 585-5200  
Group Code: MSP/SMERF -- \$109/night Only 40 Rooms Available