



Volume 53, Issue 2

MAY 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 fun for our members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

10th—USPS University Seminars
12th—Executive Committee Meeting
20th—Squadron Members' Meeting & 101
17th – 23rd—National Safe Boating Week

June

9th—Executive Committee Meeting

July

11th – 13th— District 10 Rendezvous
14th—Executive Committee Meeting

*****See Page 5 for more details*****

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www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

MAY IS SAFE BOATING MONTH

It's time to get your boat checked out!

On May 17th, Safety Saturday, MS&PS will conduct Free Vessel Safety Checks at the Racine Marina. More dates to come or to schedule one at your location, call your knowledgeable Vessel Safety Chairman, Walt Swenberg at 262-567-4426.

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. Items checked include: Registration/Documentation, Displayed Numbers, Personal Flotation Devices, Visual Distress Signals, Ventilation, Backfire Flame Control, Sound Producing Devices/Bell, Navigation Lights, Pollution Placard, MARPOL Trash Placard, Marine Sanitation Devices, Navigation Rules, Marine radio, Dewatering device and backup, Fire Extinguishers, Anchor and Line, First Aid, Inland Visual Distress Signals, Overall Vessel Condition such as Clean Bilge, Electrical and Fuel Systems, Galley and Heating Systems, etc.

Attention for those doing the checking, there will be a **certified inspector refresher and new inspector training** available. Contact Walt Swenberg for more information.



Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

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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@milwaukeepowersquadron.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@milwaukeepowersquadron.org

Commander's Comments

Happy Spring! The D-10 Spring Conference is behind us and past rumors that the MSPS was a little standoffish are now just a fond memory thanks to our Administrative Officer – 'Nappy' who arranged an inviting hospitality suite. We invited members from other squadrons to join us after the conference Friday night welcome Luau and by the end of the evening most of the District 10 squadrons were represented! On Saturday, MSPS was the talk of the conference. Needless to say Saturday's hospitality suite was overflowing with people I have never seen before. Yes, we had a great time, but we also talked squadron Membership, Retention, VSC's, Safety, Solving World problems, and of course BOATING!



As tradition would have it, a more reserved Commander would not tell you any of these kinds of things. I simply wanted to share that we like to have Fun as much as we like to educate the public about safe boating. We like to think we balance all the meetings, classes, change of watch activities with Fun. After all, if we weren't enjoying ourselves, we wouldn't be as effective. So, come *Zoom* with us.

Safety week is May 17th to the 23.rd *Safety Saturday* on May 17th will take place in the *Target* store parking lot in New Berlin - Moorland road and I 43. Ron Kraase and Gisela Murray could use some extra helping hands. Give Gisela a call. 414-425-2122. On that same day in Racine at the Marina we will be conducting Vessel Safety Check's. Calling all examiners - Walt Swenberg needs all the help he can get, please let him know when you can make it. Contact him at walt@swenbergservices.com or 262-821-6252. On Tuesday May 20th, join in our annual Safety Meeting at South Milwaukee Yacht Club. Take part in hands-on demonstrations and dine on a delicious catered dinner from the Nshotah Club House.

More summer fun includes a *Lake Express Ferry* excursion in June - cost of fuel is a factor so expect an increase in the price. And, mark your calendar for the second annual TIKI Tuesday river cruise on August 19, 2008. A time for fun with family and friends – come one, come all! - we have the whole boat reserved. Celebrate American spirit in July at the District 10 Red, White and Blue Rendezvous in Dubuque, Iowa July 11-13th. And in August, plans are in the works for a rendezvous somewhere on Lake Michigan. John and Cindy Winger will bring us news of this marine adventure soon.

I look forward to 'Zooming' with you!

Mel

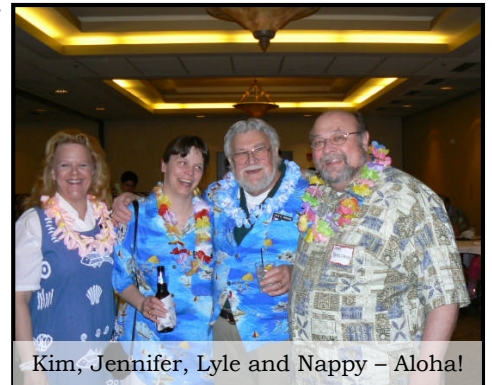


READY, SET, GROW!

USPS District 10 Spring Conference Highlights

Ready, Set, Grow set the tone as the theme of the 2008 District 10 Spring Conference on April 4-6 in Burnsville, Minnesota. Of 125 participants, 11 represented our Milwaukee Squadron in style. A warm Luau welcomed the members on Friday complete with a Hula dancing contest!

On Saturday, officer workshops and networking with fellow officers captivated our bridge with tools, tips and a 3 year look ahead to get our squadron 'ready' to grow. The business meeting on Saturday night included getting the squadrons 'set' with approvals of new rules and by-laws and completing the annual Change-of-Watch initiating new District bridge officers including our own D/Lt/C John Winger, SN, District Educational Officer.



Kim, Jennifer, Lyle and Nappy – Aloha!

Incoming District Commander Al Harmon, AP delivered a positive State of the District with plans to get ready, get set and GROW! . Go to <http://www.usps-d10.org/> for more information on District 10.



Incoming District 10 Officers

Several Awards were presented to the Milwaukee Squadron including:

- The *Excellence in Journalism Award* for the MS&PS *Deck Watch* (from the National Publications Committee)
- The coveted **4-Star Squadron** Award for 2007 under Cdr. Karen Beckmann, P.

This award acknowledges the level of hard work and dedication of the squadron members to meet and exceed their goals including the administration, planning and implementation of activities, classes, meetings, etc.

Cdr Karen Beckmann said "The dedication of this group's efforts supporting our Milwaukee squadron, makes me proud."

Sunday's highlights included more 'Grow' strategies including the next stage of the *National Boat Operator Certification* preparation. See Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP for more information.

More exciting District and National Events are planned for 2008!
Mark your calendars with the following key dates:

July 11-13—District 10 Summer Rendezvous
Dubuque, Iowa (All American City Fun)

September 3-8—National Governing Board
Detroit, MI

October 24-26—District 10 Fall Conference
Sturgeon Bay, WI

For more information and links go to:
<http://milwaukeepowersquadron.org>
<http://www.shopusps.org>



Tom Raveret and Sue Van Abel

BOATING SAFETY

Wear Your Life Preserver!

Every May, at the start of the boating season, the boater is reminded to wear his/her life preserver – so said for a very good reason: It just might save his/her life!

Most boaters are good swimmers and do not want to be told when to wear a life preserver. But even an excellent swimmer can succumb to a combination of cold water and swift currents. Hitting an obstruction or encountering sudden severe weather can quickly send you overboard. You may not have a chance when knocked unconscious before falling into the water. There will be no time or opportunity to don your life preserver and you will have nothing to keep you afloat.

If you find yourself in the water, do not be too quick to remove your clothing. Soaked clothing will not weigh you down and may actually keep you warmer. However, it does restrict movement, and offers no buoyancy.

Before going on your boat this summer, try on your life preserver. It should fit properly with all zippers, straps, ties and snaps correctly secured. Check your safety harness and practice attaching it to your life preserver. It should be easily available in case the weather is deteriorating. Have your children try-on their life preservers. Do they still fit? Are they safe and do they not show any deterioration?

Make a habit of periodically testing your life preserver. Practice swimming with it on, learning its characteristics. Practice putting on your life preserver while you are in the water. Consider attaching a whistle to it; this can come in handy when you are in the water and need to alert someone.

Always put on your life preserver *before* you get on the boat. If you are wading offshore, a life preserver will keep you afloat should you flip or find a sudden drop off.

The next time you see a professional water demonstration – whether civilian or military – notice that all participants wear a life preserver. If they need one, then so do you!

If you are still not convinced, then ask yourself one simple question – “What is my life worth?”

I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer!

Gisela Murray, SN
Safety Officer

Just for Kids on the WEB!!

Kids check out www.usps4kids.org and MEET SEA VESTER!

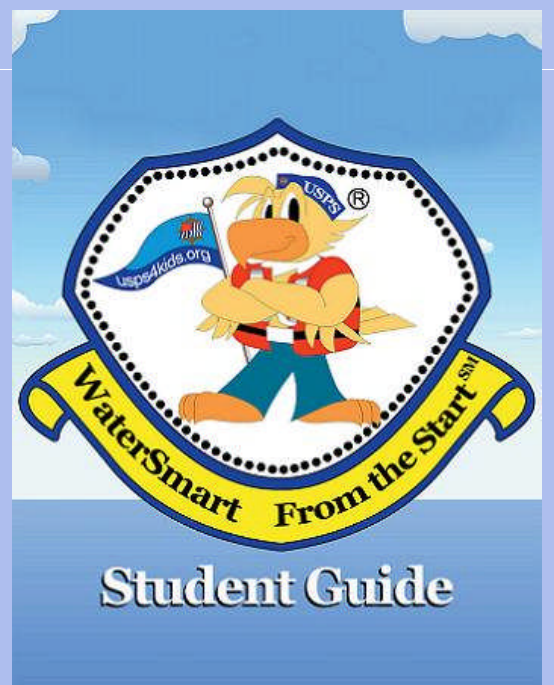
This site is designed to provide kids information about the wonderful world of safe boating.

There are links to fun and games that re-enforce rules, terminology, techniques and most of all keep you engaged in areas that teach safe boating habits.

CHECK OUT...WATERSMART...FROM THE START

The entire CD is a collection of learning activities that when viewed on a computer, help children of all ages familiarize themselves with boating rules and boating safety.

Ready? Start Exploring!



MAY—Schedule of Events

- 10th—USPS University Seminars
Tri-City National Bank –Market Square
6767 W. Greenfield Ave., 2nd Floor, West Allis
(see page 9 for more information)
- 12th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
South Shore Yacht Club,
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee. WI
- 20th—Squadron Members' Meeting & Safety
Demonstrations, 6 p.m.
South Milwaukee Yacht Club
101 Marshall Ave., South Milwaukee, WI
- 17th—Vessel Safety Checks –Racine Marina
- 17th—Safety Saturday—Target Parking Lot
Moorland Rd, New Berlin
- 17th – 23rd—National Safe Boating Week

JUNE—Schedule of Events

- 9th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee. WI
- TBD—Lake Express Ferry Rendezvous
- TBD—Vessel Safety Checks
- TBD—Squadron Camaraderie

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

JULY—Schedule of Events

- 11th – 13th— District 10 Rendezvous
Red, White and Blue
Dubuque, Iowa
- 14th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee. WI
- TBD—Squadron Camaraderie

More information:
www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org

May 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

June 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					

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		

MAY MEETING

MILWAUKEE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON SAFETY MEETING

May 20, 2008 6:30PM

South Milwaukee Yacht Club

100 Marshall Street, 414-762-8919



LIVE FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING AND FIRING OF VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS*



WITH THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

BONUS PRESENTATION

ICE SAFETY AND RESCUE—HYPOTHERMIA FACTS & PREVENTION
BY JOHN BRONIKOWSKI, DNR WARDEN, SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

DINNER, CATERED BY NASHOTAH CLUBHOUSE

TURKEY AND PORK BARBEQUE

\$25.00 MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

DINNER LIST IS IN EFFECT

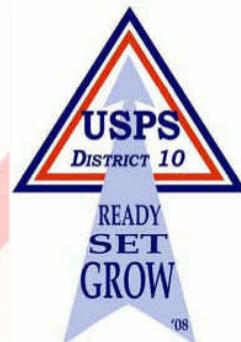
RSVP TO NAPPY, 262-567-7818



Directions: From I-94 (southbound to Chicago), exit Rawson Avenue; go east on Rawson Avenue for approx. 4.0 miles; turn right (south) on 10th Avenue (Hwy. 32) for approx. 0.6 miles (10th Ave. turns into Marshall Avenue eastbound); go east approx. 0.9 miles on Marshall Avenue and arrive at SMYC (101 Marshall Avenue).

DISTRICT 10 RENDEZVOUS

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE RENDEZVOUS JULY 11-13, 2008



American Marine: Dubuque Yacht Basin
1630 East Sixteenth Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-588-9564

Hosted by the Madison Sail and Power Squadron
www.madisonsquadron.org

Squadron _____
Name: _____ Rank _____ Grade _____
Name: _____ Rank _____ Grade _____
Phone _____ email _____
District position _____
Squadron position _____
Spouse/guests (non-members) attending _____

Transient Boat Slips must be reserved by contacting Port Captain at Catfish Charlie's: (563) 582-8600

Check out the new restaurant and docks at www.catfishcharliesdubuque.com

RV/Camper Site (no tents)
Camper/RV Make _____ Length _____
Register early to guarantee site, pets are welcome

Fri: 3 hr Sunset Dinner Cruise aboard the
American Lady, Boarding starts at 6:45 p.m.
Italian Buffet and Cash Bar

Sat: Vineyard/Winery Tour and Galena Shopping
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

Sun: "Breakfast by Boat" Departing at 8:00 a.m.
Rides to restaurant provided by MSPS
Breakfast on your own

Make Checks Payable to: "MSPS"
Send Check & Completed Registration Form
by June 26th to:

Madison Sail & Power Squadron
c/o Julie Pahl-Washa
6929 Donnybill Rd
De Forest, WI 53532
(608) 846-8088
jpwash@execpc.com

of Nights = \$ _____

of Persons = \$ _____

\$35 X _____ = \$ _____

\$20 X _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount = \$ _____

N/C No. Interested _____
No. Needing Ride _____

Conference Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn
1801 Greyhound Park Dr.
(563) 585-5200
Group Code: MSP/SMERF
\$109/night Only 40 Rooms Available
Hotel Reservation Deadline: June 18th



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB ON AMERICA'S RIVER



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.

More info to come.

FUN & FITTING-OUT MEETING

Tucked away next to Skipper Bud's boat launch on the coast of the Milwaukee River is Barnacle Bud's Tavern where the April MS&PS meeting took place. 24 people, including 5 guests and spouses enjoyed a delightful evening of camaraderie, food, refreshments and education. Royal Rosario, Manager of the Delafield **West Marine** store gave a compelling presentation on fitting out for spring.

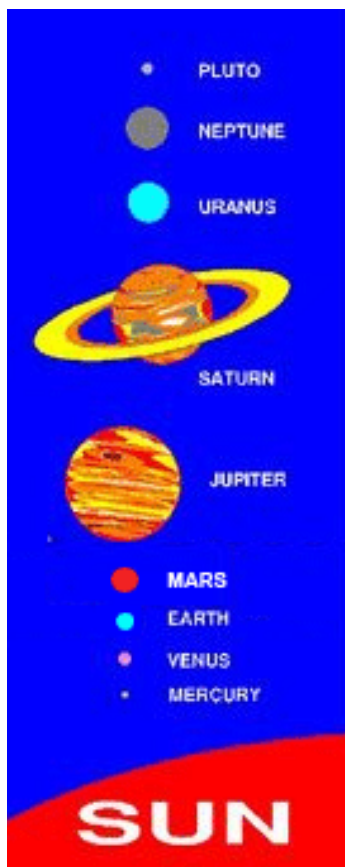
He brought along a few very cool new items, including two new GPS units by Garmin and an oil change kit that is highly rated by *Practical Sailor* which



makes that messy maintenance chore a thing of the past. Royal also gave all in attendance 20% off coupons to use at the store. In support of the MS&PS, he is negotiating with his corporate office to have a Power Squadron day this summer, and give us all 10% off any item in the store!

Our new Commander, Mel Fabiszak conducted a speedy but complete business meeting, reminding everyone of the upcoming events and activities beginning with the Safety meeting on the 20th of May at South Milwaukee Yacht Club. See his Commander's Comments for more.

An advertisement for Nautiking Professional Marine Products. The background is a large image of a sailboat on the water. Overlaid on this is a circular logo with a sail and the text "NAUTIKING" and "PROFESSIONAL MARINE PRODUCTS". To the right of the logo are three smaller images: a boat in a marina, a tube of product, and a boat being repaired. At the bottom, the text reads "A New Approach to Boat Repair" and "www.nautiking.com".



Most of us learned back in our school days that we had nine planets in our solar system. But over the last few years the International Astronomical Union [IAU] has been re-thinking the definition of just what makes up a planet. As a result, we now have eleven.

The IAU has reinstated the planet CERES. Located between Mars and Jupiter, it is an asteroid that was classified as a planet in the 1800's but was later demoted. In addition to CERES being named a planet the IAU has given planet status to a new planet discovered in 2003. It is called ERIS. Orbiting far beyond Pluto, ERIS comes complete with a moon called 'Dysnomia'. With the new definition of planets, there is some thought that a moon of Pluto called 'Charon' could be named a planet. The IAU considers CERES, PLUTO and ERIS Dwarf Planets. The IAU is looking at more objects both in and outside our solar system to determine if they fit the new definition of planethood - which is that an object be massive enough that gravity has formed it into a sphere and that it circles a star and not some other planet.

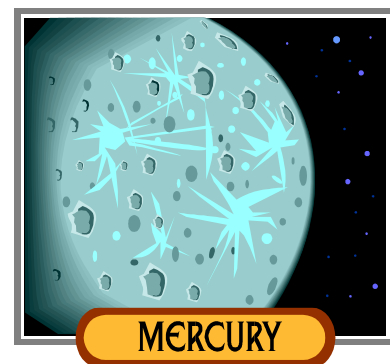
This month we have a chance to view one of the original nine planets - the one closet to the Sun. It's a small planet called Mercury. Mercury's diameter at its equator is 3030 miles and has a rocky body similar to Earth. It takes 88 days to orbit the Sun and turns on its axis once every 58.7 days. It's not a very hospitable place. The surface temperature varies from minus 291.7 degrees Fahrenheit to plus 800 degrees Fahrenheit and has no significant atmosphere. It also appears to be the only other inner planet besides Earth to have a north and south magnetic pole. It's 4.6 billion years old and has no moons.

Using optical telescopes, early astronomers found that like our moon and the planet Venus, it exhibits phases. As seen from Earth these phases give it visual ranges from - 2.0 [brighter than Sirius] to a dim 5.5 magnitude.

Due to its close proximity to the Sun, it gets lost in the Sun's glare most of the time. However, depending on the time of the year, it can be seen during either morning or evening twilight with the naked eye. You can locate Mercury by looking to the west-northwest about an hour after sunset. You will see the planet as a bright non-blinking star low on the horizon. On May 6th a crescent moon will be about one finger width [held at arms length] to Mercury's upper right. On May 13th and 14th Mercury will be at its highest point in the sky and will shine at about the same brightness as the star Procyon in the constellation Canis Minor. After May 14th, the planets brightness and altitude will decrease nightly until it drops below the horizon at the end of this month.

Very little was known about Mercury until NASA sent two spaceships to explore Mercury. The first was *Mariner 10* that flew over the planet on March 16th, 1975 and partially photographed its surface. The second was the spacecraft *Messenger* that flew over the planet on January 14th this year. Its on-board instruments sent back to earth 1,200 images of Mercury's surface, which is mostly a drab brown and has many craters and smooth plains similar to our moon.

Messenger will do two more flyovers, one on October 6th this year and another on September 29th 2009. In March of 2011, it will go into orbit around the planet and will completely survey and map the planets surface. The European space agency is planning a joint mission with Japan to send two space ships to orbit Mercury in the near future, it may get a little crowded up there.





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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.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Register Now for USPS University Seminars-Saturday, May 10th, 2008

USPS University Seminars target a range of boaters and types of boating. These sessions showcase specific topics in a two-hour format with valuable take-away guides. And, each seminar provides credit toward elective courses:



Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio **9:00am – 11:00am**

This seminar explains basic VHF operation. A CD is included with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer at home.

Cost: \$24.00 for USPS members -- \$30.00 for non-members

Using GPS **11:15am – 1:15pm**

This seminar explains the principles of waypoint navigation and shows you how to relate the GPS to your charts. The seminar also shows you how to operate your GPS – what the buttons do.

Cost: \$28.00 for USPS members -- \$30.00 for non-members

Onboard Weather Forecasting **1:30pm – 3:30pm**

This seminar explains weather systems, how to understand clouds and their changes, using changing wind direction, temperature and pressure to hone in on emerging weather fronts.

Cost: \$28.00 for USPS members -- \$30.00 for non-members

All Seminars will take place on **Saturday May 10, 2008 in the Tri-City National Bank Building,**
2nd Floor Conference Room
6767 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214

For more information go to www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org.

To pre-register, please **contact Ted Smyczek at 262-786-2599 or tmsmyczek@netzero.net.**