



Volume 54, Issue 1

April 2009

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

April

14th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting,
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club,
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI;

21st (Tue)—Squadron Members' Meeting,
6:00 p.m., Alioto's, 3071 N. Mayfair Road,
Wauwatosa, WI

22nd (Wed)—Spring Public Boating Course
begins, Menomonee Falls High School,
Room 127
W142 N8101 Merrimac Dr.
(use north parking lot), Menomonee Falls, WI

May

12th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting,
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
3200 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

16th – 22nd—National Safe Boating Week

19th (Tue)—Squadron Members' Meeting &
Safety Demonstrations, 6 p.m.
South Milwaukee Yacht Club
101 Marshall Ave.
South Milwaukee, WI

30th (Sat)—One Day Safe Boating Class,
Franklin Recreational Department
Franklin High School
8222 S. 51st Street, Franklin, WI

June

9th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
3200 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

16th (Tue)—Squadron Camaraderie & Cookout
6 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
3200 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

19th – 21st—District 10 Summer Rendezvous,
Winneconne Park, Winneconne, WI

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

www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org

70th ANNUAL CHANGE OF WATCH

Sunday, March 22, 2009, marked the 70th annual Change of Watch for the MS&PS. At 2400, Cdr, Mel Fabiszak, P welcomed everyone to the Golden Mast Restaurant on Okauchee Lake. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and P/D/C Ronald M. Kraase, SN delivered an inspiring invocation with a special remembrance for those on their final voyage including P/R/C Donald A. Schulz, SN.

Out of town guests included the District 10 Commander Kathy Schult, AP and her husband P/D/C Donald C. Schult Sr., AP who joined us from Wausau, WI. During the meeting, Cdr. Schult commented on the upcoming year and the District 10 goals. District 10 Executive Officer Jim Pahl-Washa, D/Lt/C and his wife Julie Pahl-Washa joined us from DeForest, WI. They shared plans about the 2009 D-10 summer rendezvous in Winneconne. Also joining us from Sheboygan, WI was P/C Jennifer Cihak S and Cdr, Lyle Peschke P. Other guests included family and friends of continuing MSPS Commander Melvin P. Fabiszak, P.

Following a delicious champagne brunch, Cdr. Fabiszak summarized this past watch year's accomplishments. Lt. Ruth Durkin, AP testified that the Auditing Committee report was in order. Lt. Paul Langer, AP stated the treasurer's report was in order and both reports were approved. Cdr. Fabiszak recognized P/C Cindy Winger, AP who affirmed the nominees for the standing committees. They were unanimously approved. (Please see your MSPS Roster for a complete listing of department and committee members.)



Next, D/C Kathy Schult, AP dismissed the outgoing MSPS Bridge and installed the new Bridge with a Congratulations and big Thank-You to all! The 2009 Bridge includes the same officers as 2008: Cdr Melvin P. Fabiszak, P; Lt/C Kim Rutkowski as Executive Officer; Stf/C Mike S. Wiedel, AP as Squadron Educational Officer; Lt/C Umberto 'Nappy' Napolitano, P as Administrative Officer; and Lt/C Paul Langer, AP as Secretary and as Treasurer. Also installed was P/D/C Ronald M. Kraase, SN as Assistant Squadron Educational Officer.

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Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

Commander

Mel Fabiszak, P
(262) 966-2743

Executive Officer

Lt/C Kim Rutkowski
(414) 353-8240

Education Officer

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP
(414) 353-8240

Administrative Officer

Umberto "Nappy" Napolitano, AP
(414) 870-8050

Secretary

Paul Langer, AP
(262) 821-9763

Treasurer

Paul Langer, AP
(262) 821-9763



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@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

70th ANNUAL CHANGE OF WATCH cont.

In addition to the MS&PS Bridge, D/C Schult inducted P/C Jennifer Cihak, S and Cdr, Lyle Peschke, P to the Sheboygan Squadron. Congratulations to all!

As the 70th annual MS&PS Change of Watch drew to a close, Cdr Fabiszak thanked all the officers, committee members, district participants and guests. P/D/C Ronald M. Kraase, SN delivered a warm convocation and the meeting adjourned at 1405.



Respectfully submitted by Mary Goodnetter, AP

BOATING SAFETY

Start of the Boating Season

Spring comes and we prepare our boats for a safe summer season.

Does your boat have all the US Coast Guard required equipment in board?

- Make sure you have enough good PFD's for everyone that will be on board.
- Sound producing devices: make sure all horns, bells and whistles are in working order.
- Fire extinguishers need to be charged, the right type, size and quantity for your boat.
- Navigational lights must be in working order.
- Visual Distress Signals: flares must have current expiration dates and you must have enough for your boat.
- Registration numbers must be displayed properly on your boat.
- The original registration must be kept on the boat, photo copies are not acceptable.



Check your remaining equipment, navigational equipment, batteries, etc. Are they in good working order? Is your first aid kit well equipped and do you know how to use it in an emergency?

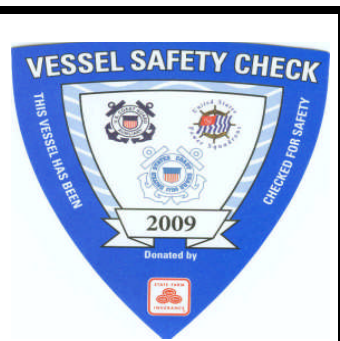
Review equipment and procedures for emergencies! Prepare for an enjoyable and safe summer!

Gisela Murray, SN
Safety Officer

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

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

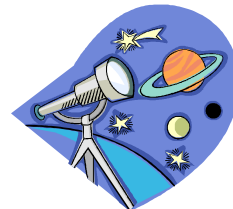
A VSC from a qualified Power Squadron Examiner is quick—it only takes about a half-hour. Moreover, it'll likely make you a safer boater.



STAR GAZING

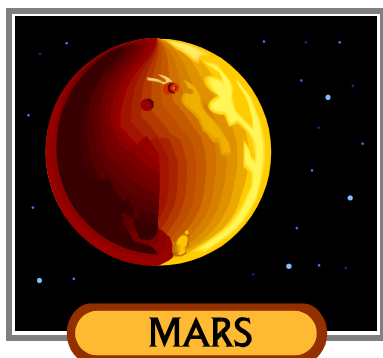
John Goetzman, P

This month the moon's first waxing quarter was in the 2nd. The full moon on the 9th, known as the "Pink Moon" because an early spring flower called "Moss Pink" is starting to bloom. The last waning quarter will be on the 17th and the last waning crescent will be on the 24th, the new moon will be on the 25th.



No periodic comets are expected this month. On the night of the 22nd the annual Lyrid Meteor Shower will peak between midnight and dawn. Look to the Northeast to the right of the Constellation Lyra just above the bright blue-white star Vega. The waning crescent moon will be slight distraction but the Lyrids are usually very bright with long tails, expect 10 to 20 meteors per hour at peak, but for a night or two before and after the 22nd there should be a decent sprinkling of "shooting stars".

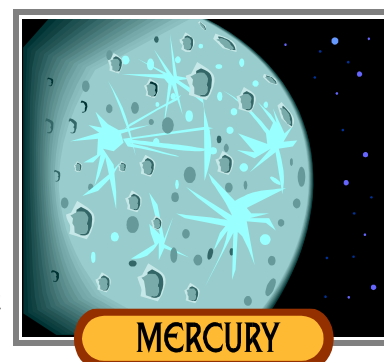
This shower is the result of the Earth's journey around the Sun passing thru a dust trail of a comet known as "Thatcher" that passed our way in 1861. The Lyrids are the oldest meteor shower record, first recorded in 687 B.C..



The planets Jupiter, Mars, and Venus are early morning objects this month. Jupiter and the Red Planet Mars will be above the horizon in the east-southeast. On the 22nd, Mars and the crescent Moon will be very close to each other. After the 10th, Venus will be exceedingly bright, shining at a -4.4 magnitude for about an hour before sunrise in the east.

Saturn and Mercury are evening objects. Saturn is the bright yellowish object moving thru the constellation Leo this month high in the southern sky and will set before midnight by month's end.

On the 26th there will be a neat sight in the sky 30 minutes after sunset. At an altitude of 13° above the horizon in the west-northwest sky the planet Mercury (the closet planet to our Sun) reaches its greatest angle away from the Sun and its peak visibility from Earth. This only happens a few times a year, Mercury is a bit hard to locate. However, this month Mother Nature is going to make finding Mercury easy by placing the crescent Moon about two and a half finger widths held at arms length above the planet.



Look between these two celestial objects and you will see the Pleiades star cluster. This event should be visible with the naked eye, but for the best view use binoculars.





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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.

Squadron Emblem Merchandise

YOUR BOAT'S NAME APPEARS ON COUNTLESS ITEMS

**Upload images of your boat name and we will embroider or
imprint it on most of the items on our site**

The USPS Ship's Store in conjunction with Headquarters Marketing has developed a program for squadrons and districts that allows members to purchase squadron emblem merchandise from a company that will provide a 10% rebate on each item purchased. The rebate will be issued to each squadron on a monthly basis. The company is yourboatsname.com, a division of UMSCO Corp. in Dallas. They are a current supplier to the USPS's Ship's Store.

- No minimum orders
- A one-step, easy-to-use store that offers hundreds of quality products and quick order fulfillment
- A secure encrypted checkout site to protect your credit card details
- Products that allow for personalization of multiple logos (for example, USPS logo, squadron burgee, the name of your boat, and other logos)
- All squadron burgees are on file
- Special order merchandise. If you can't find it, they will

To participate in the program, you can go to the USPS welcome page at www.yourboatsname.com/35.html and **sign up for membership**, identifying yourself as a member of **OUR** USPS Squadron. Once you've registered, you're done with the details. Just shop and our squadron will receive a 10% rebate check at the end of each month.