



Volume 54, Issue 3

June 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

June

6th (Sat)—Marine Electronics Course begins; call Instructor Stf/C Mike Wiedel, JN 414-383-8240

6th (Sat)—Vessel Safety Checks at
South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

9th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

13th (Sat)—Marine Electronics Course

13th (Sat)—Safety Saturday

16th (Tue)—Squadron Camaraderie & Cookout and
U.S. Weather Service Storm Spotter Training Demo
6 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

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

July

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

25th (Sat)—Squadron Picnic after the
Thunderbirds Air Show, McKinley Marina
bring your own grilling food and a dish to pass.

August

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

19th (Wed)—Squadron camaraderie, Brew City
Queen Harbor tour and wine tasting, Milw., WI

September

9th – 12th—USPS Governing Board Meeting
Hyatt Regency Crown Center,
Kansas City, MO

8th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club,
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee

15 (Tue)—Squadron Members' Meeting
6 p.m., TBD

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

www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org



June 19 – 21, 2009

District 10, 2009

Summer Rendezvous

The Village of Winneconne is located on the beautiful Wolf River, bounded on the north by Lakes Winneconne and Poygan, and on the south by Lake Butte des Morts. The village is only 10 miles from Oshkosh, 45 miles south of Green Bay, 90 miles north of Milwaukee, and is located in the heart of Wisconsin's vacation land. Due to the success of the previous rendezvous here in 2005, the District Bridge plans on expanding the theme of affordable, fun for all the family, and boating activities.

The Friday night event will be an "Over the Transom" cookout competition, where each squadron will prepare their own favorite fare in the tailgating theme. The food will be judged by an impartial, but hungry, group of judges. You will need to bring your own means of cooking and food for this event, but bring enough to share. Prizes may or may not be awarded.

On Saturday we will have activities for members and guests, young and old, and this will probably involve some of you getting wet (note: car keys should not be in your pocket during any of these events!). Concurrent with the activities there will be BOC training for those wishing to complete their certification. We will be serving lunch, followed by more activities on the water, and in the evening there will be an event we like to call "Theatre in the Park". Hot Dogs, Popcorn, and Soda will be provided.

Bring tailgating equipment, chairs, and food, along with boats, water toys, swimsuits, and fishing equipment, to enjoy this wonderful weekend rendezvous. The park has a picnic area and facilities for boating, swimming, fishing, boat launching, and tie-up area, but no camping.

- All the events will be held at the Lake Winneconne Park
- Friday registration begins at 5pm, with the cook-off at 7:30pm
- Saturday registration and activities begin at 10am

Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

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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

FROM THE GALLEY



2 cups Chopped Strawberries
3/4 cup Chopped Bell Pepper
1/4 cup Chopped Sweet Onion
3 drops Louisiana Hot Sauce (optional)
Tortilla Chips

Strawberry & Pepper Salsa

Dortha Lang, Bellevue WA Squadron

2 tsp Minced Cilantro
1 tbsp Minced Parsley
1/4 cup French Dressing
Dash of Salt
Dash of Pepper (optional)

Combine Strawberries, Bell Pepper, Onion, Cilantro and Parsley in a bowl. Whisk together Dressing, Salt, Pepper and Hot Sauce. Pour dressing over mixture and toss to coat. Refrigerate 1 hour. Serve with Tortilla Chip.

SAFETY SATURDAY

June 13th

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Yacht Club

MUST HAVE SKILL FOR ALL BOATERS - SAFETY FIRST!

Meet at MYC at 1 pm

"FLARE SHOOT" at McKinley Public Pier (near gas dock)
Learn how to use flares and then try for yourself.

"FIRE EXTINGUISHER DEMONSTRATION" at MYC after flare shoot the Milwaukee Fire Department will demonstrate first; then you can try.

THIS IS A HANDS ON LEARNING EVENT
Learn in a controlled environment... prior to an emergency on your boat

BRING expired flares and fire extinguishers.
(Good way to use items which are hard to dispose of.)

Vessel Safety Checks will be available before or after the event.
Email cwinger@wi.rr.com if you would like a VSC, specify a time period

This event is Open to MSPS members, McKinley Marina residents and their guest.

MEET SEA VESTER

Welcome Aboard with Sea Vester!

Hey Kids! Check out www.usps4kids.org.
This site is designed to provide kids information about the wonderful world of safe boating.

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

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 Today!



US Weather Service Storm Spotting Training

Training includes instruction on how to safely observe severe storms, how to identify important features, and how to make accurate and timely reports. In our area, storm spotters are a resource of each local community, and work with local emergency management officials to help protect their community from dangerous storms. The National Weather Service does not recruit storm spotters. If you would like to be a storm spotter in your local community, contact your emergency manager.

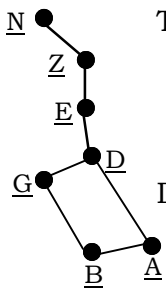
STAR GAZING

John Goetzman, P

This month's Lunar Phases started with the first quarter on May 30th, the Full Moon on the 7th known as the Strawberry Moon because strawberries are ready to be picked and eaten. The last quarter is on the 15th, the New Moon is on the 22nd and the first quarter of July's Lunar Phase is on the 29th of this month.



In our latitude we have a group of six constellations that are always above our horizon and can be seen all year long. Their positions change during the night as they circle around the North Celestial every 24 hours and they are known as "Circumpolar" constellations. The North Celestial Pole is the point in the sky in the Northern Hemisphere where an imaginary line is extended thru the Earth's South and North Poles and extend into space. In our Hemisphere the line leads very close to a naked eye star called Polaris, aka The North Star or The Pole Star. Two more of the distinctive circumpolar constellations seen in our latitude are Cassiopeia, the Lady in the chair and Ursa Major, the Great Bear. In Ursa Major there is an asterism called the Big Dipper. An asterism is a conspicuous pattern of stars that are given a specific name in a constellation. Some examples are the sickle in Leo and the teapot in Sagittarius.



The bowl of the Big Dipper is the Great Bear's back and rear end. The handle is the tail of the bear. It is a rather long tail for a bear's tail, but, according to legend the tail was stretched when this bear was hurled into space. The Big Dipper is a good signpost that makes it easy to locate some of the brighter stars on summer and the constellations they are part of. By using the labeled drawing of the Big Dipper you can locate the following stars: **Polaris, Cassiopeia, Mizar, Alcor, Arcturus, Spica, Regulus, Capella, Vega, Altair and Deneb.**

Extend a line from B thru A (known as the pointers) about five times the distance between these two stars and it will lead you to a fairly lonely white medium bright star, this is **Polaris**. All stars in the Northern Hemisphere appear to rotate around it and it lies within one degree away from true North.

Extending a line from E thru Polaris to the northeast will bring you to five bright stars that form the letter W, these stars are on **Cassiopeia**. In the winter the W becomes the letter M.

Take a look at the star labeled Z in the handle, this is actually two stars, the brightest is called **Mizar** and its dim companion is called **Alcor**. This star was used by the Arabs as a test of good eyesight. Squadron member and amateur astronomer Ray Nernday, JN named his boat *Mizar*.

Extending a line following the arc of the handle to the south will take you to the redish star **Arcturus** in Bootes. Moving along the same arc will lead you onto the bluish star in the sky, **Spica** in Virgo.

Extend a line from D thru G to the west and it will take you fairly close to the blue white star **Regulus** in Leo. It's the bottom star in the handle of the sickle. The bright yellowish object to the east of Regulus is the planet Saturn.

Extending a line from N thru Z to the northern horizon and it will lead you close to the white yellowish star **Capella** in Auriga.

Project a line from G thru D to the east and it will take you past the bright blue white star **Vega** in Lyra and on to the bluish star **Altair** in Aquila. To the north of these two stars on the bluish star **Deneb** in Cygnus. These three prominent stars make up the Summer Triangle.



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Milwaukee Sail and Power
Squadron
A Unit of District 10,
UNITED STATES POWER
SQUADRONS

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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.

BOATING SAFETY

False Distress Calls

When we take our boat out on the Great Lakes, it is reassuring to know that the Coast Guard is there to help in an emergency. We can all agree that having these trained professionals available to answer a mayday call gives us peace of mind each time we set sail.



But during the past few years a highly disturbing trend has emerged - a rise in a number of false distress calls. One third of the calls answered by the US Coast Guard on holiday weekends are often a hoax.

These false alarms are not harmless pranks. When the Coast Guard uses their resources to answer a false distress signal, less equipment and personnel are available to answer genuine emergencies on the lake. A hoax call might just put recreational boaters and Coast Guard personnel in harm's way for no reason.

Hoax calls do not just come over the radio. Firing flares in non-distress situations have the same effect - needlessly calling the Coast Guard out on a wasted trip.

Persons caught committing a hoax may receive a penalty of up to six years in prison and total restitution of expenses caused by the call as well as a \$250,000 fine.

Inform would-be pranksters of the consequences. Parents are responsible for the action of their minor children and should explain to them the dangers caused by thoughtless actions. Help prevent false may day calls and costly non-emergency calls!

Gisela Murray, SN
Safety Officer