



Volume 54, Issue 6

September 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

September



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

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

15 (Tue)—Squadron Members' Meeting
6 p.m., Alioto's,
Mayfair Rd. and Burleigh....program TBD

October



13th (Tue) - Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

20th (Tue)—Squadron Members' Meeting,
6 p.m.PM, Alioto's, Mayfair Rd and Burleigh
Program TBD

November



6th – 8th—2009 District 10 Fall Conference
Airport – Hilton Mall of America hosted by the
Minnetonka Power Squadron

10th (Tue)—Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI.

17th (Tue)— Squadron Members' Meeting
6:00 p.m., location TBA

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

www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org

BOATING SAFETY

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Do not underestimate the danger of carbon monoxide!

Boating is a healthy pastime. You are out on the open water far away from air pollution on land.

Make sure you did not forget that poisonous gases could be produced by your gasoline engine, the generator, your cooking range, the water heater, or the air conditioning system?

Faulty equipment on board can produce deadly carbon monoxide. Unfortunately the presence of these gases is hard to detect. It is odorless, colorless, and tasteless and in high concentration can be fatal in a manner of minutes. In smaller concentration it causes irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness and dizziness. Lower concentrations do not seem dangerous, but the effects of exposure are cumulative and can be just as lethal. Sometimes these symptoms are mistaken for seasickness.

Before you go out check your exhaust lines. Use a steam hose or other metallic material. These lines need greater flexibility than other lines. Install the piping or tubing with a continuous downward pitch of at least 1/2" per foot. In a sailboat the engine is usually installed close to or below the waterline. The exhaust tubing must have a riser to prevent water from running back into the engine.

A properly maintained exhaust system and having appliances properly vented will significantly reduce the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

The practice of keeping generators running to power air conditioners and electronic equipment while moored or anchored may expose swimmers and those using the outer deck areas in the vicinity of exhaust ports to a potential lethal dose of carbon monoxide. When swimming avoid areas near exhaust vents while engines or generators are running.

Carbon monoxide may not only be produced in your boat, but may enter your cabin while moored or anchored too close to another vessel that obstructs the exhaust port, or due to prevailing wind conditions or back drafts.

Ventilation systems are not designed to remove vapors in large quantities caused by breaks in fuel lines, leaking tanks, or dripping carburetors. Before starting the engine, especially on calm days, open the engine compartment to dissipate any vapors present. While running the boat keep forward facing hatches open to allow air circulation.

Beware of the danger of carbon monoxide and perform regular maintenance of your exhaust system and appliances so that your boating will be fun and trouble free!

Gisela Murray
Safety Officer



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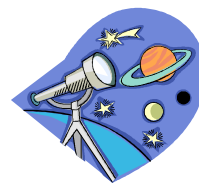
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The United States Power Squadron is America's number one boating organization. If you would like information about membership, please contact: Ted Smyczek at 262-786-2599 or tsmyczek@netzero.net

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

STAR GAZING

John Goetzman, P



This month the lunar phases started with the Full moon on the 4th. This Full Moon is close to the date of the Autumnal Equinox that signals the end of Summer. It occurs at 4:00 pm SDST on the 22nd of this month. The length of day and night are approx. equal on that date.

The Full Moon is called the "Harvest Moon". For several nights it rises shortly after sunset, its light allowing farmers to continue harvesting after the Sun goes down. The last Waning Quarter is on the 12th, the New Moon on the 18th and the first Waxing Quarter on the 26th.

The Moon rises in the east and sets in the west but moves eastward relative to the stars by roughly its own diameter in an hour. It rises 50.5 minutes later each night. It is the sixth largest moon in our solar system with a diameter 2160 statute miles. The Moon's surface area is a little greater than the African continent. Its mean distance from Earth is 238,855 statute miles. It takes 27.3 days to complete one orbit around the Earth and rotates on its axis every 27.3 days. We on Earth always see the same surface of the Moon. When viewed from Earth, the Sun and Moon appear to be the same size, because the Sun is 400 times the Moon's diameter and 400 times as far away. The Moon is approx. 1/4th the Earth's diameter, 1/50th the Earth's volume and 1/80th the Earth's mass.

Our Earth is very dense overall. It's the densest planet in our solar system. Next to Earth the Moon is a lightweight. Earth has a large iron core and other metallic elements. Astronomers don't think the Moon has a core at all and the Moon's surface gravity is only 1/6th of Earth's.

Not only is the Moon one of the most interesting of the celestial targets and probably the most looked at with telescopes and binoculars by amateur astronomers, it is also a good place to play golf. On February 6th 1971, Apollo 14 Astronaut Allen Shepard Jr. hit a golf ball with a number 6 iron and due to the Moon's weak gravity and lack of atmosphere it flew over 200 yards and he did it with one arm while wearing a pressurized space suit.

This month planet watching is a bit lean. Mercury will be visible toward the end of the month as a morning object. Mars will be visible in Gemini as a morning object. Jupiter will be visible all night long in Capricornus. If you look just above the horizon to the south it will be the brightest object in that part of the sky. Except for a sprinkling of some unpredictable sporadic meteors that can appear anywhere in the sky, no meteor showers are expected this month.

MEETINGS, PROGRAMS, AND CLASSES

Is there a speaker, topic, program, or class that you are interested in seeing offered this coming year? Do you know someone who has a great story to tell? Do you have a great story to tell? Do you know of a great place to hold a meeting?

We are always looking for new speakers, topics, programs, or classes to offer to our members. Any ideas or suggestions, please contact "Nappy" or any member of the bridge.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

I hope you all having an enjoyable boating season. One of the highlights of the summer was a successful Marine Electrical Systems Class, taught aboard member Scott Ziebol's boat.



As the season comes to a close we will be starting the MSPS fall class schedule. Navigation will resume on September 9th. Seamanship class will be starting on the 11th of November. Contact Dan Noonan at 414-224-0116 to register.

We are also considering an Advanced Piloting class, if you are interested contact Ted Smyczek at 262-786-2599 for class info and to register.

This fall we will not have a public boating class, the next public ABC course will be at the Milwaukee Boat Show in January.

I have been accredited the Advanced Certifier rating for the Boat Operators Certification Program, contact me if you need sign off's or check rides for this program.

I hope to see you in class.

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP
Educational Officer

ADVANCED PILOTING COURSE

Very helpful!! Neat!! Awesome!!

These are some of the comments I've heard from students who have taken the new *Advanced Piloting* course.

The *Advanced Piloting* course is the second and final part of the inland and coastal navigation series among the USPS courses. For the prudent boater, this course is essential for boating on "big water", i.e. the Great Lakes, Lake Winnebago, Lake of the Woods, etc. The course material continues to build on the base developed in the *Piloting* course and includes the practical use of additional *electronic navigation systems* and other advanced techniques for finding position. The new *AP* course is such a change from the previous *AP* course that it will be worthwhile for those who have already taken *AP* to learn twenty-first century navigational techniques as they add to their "navigational tool box" with this new course.

Among the topics covered are:

- Finding position using bearings and angles;
- Collision avoidance using GPS and radar;
- What to do when electronics fail;
- Tides, currents and wind and their effect on piloting;
- Electronic navigation with GPS, chart plotters, radar, autopilots, etc.

Application of course lectures are enhanced with practical, in class, exercises. You do not need to own a GPS or Loran-C unit to be able to successfully complete *Advanced Piloting*.

The class will meet on Tuesday evenings best suited for the participants. The location is to be finalized. Call instructor Ted Smyczek, (262)786-2599 for more information or to sign up.

SEAMANSHIP COURSE

**Begins November 11th
at Swenberg Services
Call Dan Noonan to register**

Building on the basics taught in the public boating courses, **Seamanship** is the recommended first course for new members, both power boaters and sailors.

Students learn practical marlinspike, navigation rules, hull design and performance, responsibilities of the skipper, boat care, operating a boat under normal and abnormal conditions, what to do in various emergencies and weather conditions, nautical customs and common courtesy on the water.

This course provides the needed introduction to the USPS Educational Program and a strong foundation for members going on to other Advanced Grades courses and/or **Cruise Planning** or **Sail**.

Prerequisites: None



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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.

VSC—VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

One of the important tasks we, as members of USPS, do is vessel safety checks. The Vessel Safety Check process is one of “prevention through education, outreach and volunteer compliance” helping recreational boaters to gain a respect for the boating environment. The VSC program helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws.



The best way for the members of the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron to show support for this program is through 100% participation. If you are a boat owner, make sure to have your vessel checked by one of our qualified examiners. And to help perpetuate safety boating, encourage your boat owning friends to have a VSC.

It is simple to do. Just contact Mel Fabiszak, Walt Swenburg or myself to set up a VSC.

Kim Rutkowski
Executive Officer



Ron Kraase, his son and grandson had an exciting two hour fishing trip in early August.. Ron's grandson is checking the salmon that was caught using his dad's boat southeast of South Shore Marina in 60 feet of water.