

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

SAIL AND POWER BOATING

DISTRICT 10

2008 Spring Conference Report

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1. **Create an innovational friendly environment by encouraging local experimentation, providing opportunities for sharing of results, and honoring all contributions.** The completion of this goal is in the eye of the beholder, but in my humble opinion it has been met. In determining this, we need to consider the great times we have had at our district meetings, changes of watch and at the national meetings. The reports of the squadrons, which you will hear at the 2008 Spring Conference, will demonstrate this. Our squadrons have been developing and promoting new initiatives. There has been plenty of opportunities to share what works and what does not. We have tried to thank and honor the contributions that have been made by individuals to their squadrons and this district. Through our large district attendance at national meetings, we have offered much to move National into the new world we are now encountering.

2. **Incorporate local squadron advice and Goals into the Star Squadron Program.** The Star Squadron Program which was used this last year, with great success I believe, was developed with input from the squadrons' commanders. It is true that many believe it has become too complex and many consider that it too competitive, so maybe it is time for a radical change in the program. In the end, it is up to each commander to determine if the program helped them organize their watch year and helped the squadron meet the needs of its members and served the public.

3. **Seven squadrons with member numbers as of 1 January 2008 which are at least 102% of what that squadron had as of 1 January 2007.** When this goal was set, we knew that it was not likely that it could be achieved, but setting it gave us a benchmark to strive for. As you can see below, 4 squadrons had more members on 1 January 2007 than they had one year before. Door County, Hiawatha Valley and Oshkosh exceeded the 102%, and Door County did it with grandeur at 138%. Madison's numbers also exceeded the year before figures and Sheboygan remained the same.

12/31/06

SQUADRON

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	REGULAR ACTIVES	ADD'L ACTIVES	FAMILY ADULTS	FAMILY JUNIORS	APPRENT/ SEA SCTS	TOTALS
Central Wisconsin Sail&	44	16	2	2	0	64
Door County	37	13	2	0	0	52
Duluth	196	23	34	3	0	256
Green Bay Sail &	92	27	9	2	0	130
Hiawatha Valley Sail &	41	21	1	0	0	63
Madison	91	25	2	1	0	119
Milwaukee Sail &	114	11	9	0	0	134
Minnetonka	363	38	55	9	0	465
Oshkosh	30	3	0	0	0	33
Sheboygan	9	2	1	0	0	12
St. Paul Sail &	120	21	22	3	1	167
*** DISTRICT TOTAL ***	1137	200	137	20	1	1495

12/31/07

SQUADRON

DISTRICT 10 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	REGULAR ACTIVES	ADD'L ACTIVES	FAMILY ADULTS	FAMILY JUNIORS	APPRENT/ SEA SCTS	TOTALS
Central Wisconsin Sail&	44	12	2	5	0	63
Door County	44	19	3	6	0	72++
Duluth Sail &	180	20	30	3	0	233
Green Bay Sail &	87	28	8	3	0	126
Hiawatha Valley Sail &	38	22	4	2	0	66+
Madison Sail &	93	24	2	1	0	120+
Milwaukee Sail &	102	9	7	0	0	118
Minnetonka	359	40	53	8	0	460
Oshkosh	31	3	0	0	0	34+

Sheboygan	9	2	1	0	0	12
St. Paul Sail &	98	19	14	2	0	133
*** DISTRICT TOTAL ***	1085	198	124	30	0	1437

It is clear that these membership stats are not the ones we had hoped for and the figures for February 2007 and 2008 are no better, but hopefully some of the new initiatives in this direction, offered by our squadrons and National, will make this next year better. Also, let us not forget all the great initiatives and goals that our squadrons have achieved, as demonstrated by the achievements listed in the Star Squadron Spread sheets and discussed in the squadrons newsletters. These will be highlighted in the State of the District presentation at our Conference.

4 Improve our standing in the Bowsprit Award. The Bowsprit Award is an off shoot of our own Star Squadron Program, but it is much narrower in its measurement. We will not know the success of this goal until the mid-summer, since the program runs from 30 June to 30 June. The program grants awards to Districts based on six criteria as follows:

- Total Active Membership
- Total Boating and BoatSmart® Registrations
- Educational Program Graduates Exceeding Prior Year
- Total Active membership Retention
- Total Vessel Safety Checks (VSC)
- Total Cooperative Charting credits.

Last year only four districts obtained the award, which leads me to believe that the Bowsprit Award needs some serious re-thinking. Our District had 24 points in the 2005-6 time period (which almost got us an award) and 16 in the 2006-7 time period; so far this year we have 8. So we will have to wait for the outcome of this goal.

5 Ask all district officers to attend a minimum of three squadron meetings or events outside of their home squadron. I believe that this one has been made; see the reports of the other Bridge members. Personally, I have attended meetings at all the squadrons in the District during this watch year, except Sheboygan and St. Paul, but did attend meetings of those two during the other years when I was on the bridge.

6. Continue developmental work on a new squadron in the Dubuque area, or if that is impractical initiate a program leading towards the development of a squadron in a different geographic area. Thanks to the efforts on the Madison Squadron this goal has been met, and we now have a new Dubuque Provisional Squadron. Let's all attend the Summer Rendezvous and see this squadron in action.

7. Continue work of predecessors. I am very much aware of my debt to my predecessors in this position, and thank them for their past service and for all the help many of them gave me during this term.

8. Undertake a complete review of the District web site and its usefulness to our members. This goal has been accomplished. All you need to do to confirm the fact is look at the various squadron web sites and consider the fact that D/10, Central Wisconsin, Hiawatha Valley, Door County, Green Bay, and Duluth all achieved national recognition for their efforts. Thanks to D/Lt/C Dick Baker for leading this effort. Also, let us not forget that Central Wisconsin's Between the Lines, Door County's Scuttlebutt, Duluth's Channel Chatter, Green Bay's The Ship's Log, Hiawatha Valley's Tails of Hiawatha, Milwaukee's Deck Watch, and Minnetonka's Tonkanauts all obtained national awards. Thanks to all those webmasters and editors.

Finally, I want thank all the members of my staff, my aids and our Bridge for the help they gave me this year. I will have more to say about this at the Conference. I also want to thank all the Commanders, outgoing, incoming and continuing, for without their help and advice this job would be very difficult. Lastly, thanks to my Chaplin, without her life would be a lot less enjoyable. This will be the first time in about 15 years that I have not had a district or national position, and I am looking forward to working more closely with my squadron, being its educational officer.

