



Fall 2006

Volume 3—Issue 1

Official Newsletter of District 10  
A unit of  
United States Power Squadrons ®

### The D/C says:

When Patsy & I were just married, we did a couple of month's lookout duty for the US Forest Service in the Absaroka (pronounced "aB-sor-kee") Primitive Area in Montana. If you draw a semi-circle on top of Yellowstone National Park, that's the Absaroka. Just about as neat a place as you might want for a working honeymoon. We were perched on the top of a 10,000 foot peak on the edge of a 1,000 foot cliff, with a view of 30 miles or so.

Part of the job was plotting lighting strikes, taking bearings and counting time to determine distance. At that height, we were in or near most of the cumulonimbus formations as they passed by. The tower was protected on all edges by 3/8" copper cables and solidly grounded, so that it was safe to be there. When a storm approached, if you went outside while the storm was still a mile or so off, the grounding system would be humming in a deep, very distinct tone, as if feeding on the energy and calling for a strike on our location. It's a humbling experience to feel the power of God's creation at work.

In USPS these days, there is the energy of change in the air. With the grim realities of our membership decline forcing some real creative thinking, you can feel the energy of the Idea Storm approaching. There will be change, some will be good, some will make us uncomfortable, and some will no doubt be counter-productive, but there will be change. National is proposing a 3 year waiver of the educational requirement for membership, USPS University, a boater certification program, and a revamping of the entire governance of the organization. In our own district, we have eliminated winter council and its associated training event, and I have initiated a review of needed changes in our operations to cope with the changing National Calendar and our own changes. The squadrons too, are feeling the pressures and attempting to cope with the changes in the culture.

At the rendezvous, we held a short special District Council session to approve the training plan developed by our Ad-Hoc Committee on Training. With that authority, your bridge will be developing a training regi-

men for incoming officers which will begin with this Fall conference.

In addition to training, we will be presenting a recertification session for instructors teaching public classes, DB2000 training, and something of general interest. It will be a jam packed, information filled weekend that you won't want to miss. In addition, the Pirates of Pigs Eye will be on the loose, arrrrrghhhh!

**So strap on your Pirate gear and head for Hudson, WI., end of September for a swashbuckling good time, the electricity of change in the air, and the good companionship that is USPS.**



D/C Bob Stierna, SN



**DXO Maury Rice, AP**

**Continuity and Embracing Change**

This has been quite a summer, different from any one that I can remember since I was a kid. We have had great weather for getting out on the boat (a bit hot at times), but we have used the boat less than any year since our present one was acquired in 1987. Believe it or not we are down sizing, not very far that is true. Jenny has me looking at a 16 foot Boston Whaler. Unfortunately, my interest in captaining the boat seems to be waning, though judging from our experience at the Milwaukee Summer Rendezvous, we loved having someone else take the helm. My kayak seems to be getting the most use this summer. A lot of factors seem to be involved, and that may be symptomatic of USPS as well: age (and what goes with that), other involvements and time constraints, attitude towards boating, and most important family and especially for us grandparent commitments.

The stats on Membership at the National level (and district also) continue to do down and there are a lot of ideas on how to reverse the trend, none of which have really worked yet. If any of you have some good ideas on how to stop the drain, make sure that you express them to the National and District Bridge, and implement them in you squadron. Let's share with each other any of these good ideas. Consider attending both District conferences and the National meetings where these and a lot other matters which are central to USPS will be topics of discussion, along with a good time being had by all who attend. For example how do you feel about the motion which will be brought up at the NY Governing Meeting to eliminate the educational requirement? No matter what happens at NY educational issues for USPS will continue to be hot topics among our members.

My commitment to D/10 and USPS is still strong, but appears to be going in new directions, especially towards teaching education courses, VSC and Cooperative Charting. The moral of my story is that there is something for everyone in USPS; find your niche and expand your horizons with us.

**Legislation**

Wisconsin. New mandatory boating education law which was passed earlier this year will not be enforced until next spring. The law required that regulations be promulgated by the DNR for boat rental situations and until they are approved the entire law is being held hostage. You can check from time to time at the DNR hotline 608-266-2621 or at their update site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement/safety/upcoming.htm> or send them an email requesting the most recent information at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cs/feedback/>. You can review the Wisconsin DNR regulations at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/docs/BoatingRegs.pdf>.

Minnesota. It appears that there is nothing hot pending in Minnesota, as reported by P/C Greg Korstad. Check out <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html> for updates on boating topics and get the Minnesota boating guide at: <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rfp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>. It is a real shame that we have not embraced this program in the way we went for VSC program.

**Cooperative Charting**

There will have to be new criteria for the Cooperative Charting trophy and this will be presented at the Fall Conference. At present the Biddicks (Sturgeon Bay) and the Andersons (Green Bay) are leading the pack and we have a long way to go to catch up with last year's production, but there is a long time to go before the end of the Cooperative Charting Year in March of 2007. P/C Dave Biddick will give another presentation at the Fall Conference on how to report your found marks. That is another reason to attend the Fall Conference at Hudson at the end of September.

**Vessel Safety Checks**

VSC as of August 1, there were 575 completed VSC reports sent to National

by 76 VE. There must be a lot of forms which have not be turned in to Squadron Vessel Safety Chairs or reported to National. Last year our final figures were 86 VEs who completed 856 reports. We need to get going with enrolling more VEs.

**Public Relations**

All Squadrons are participating in the program and now it is time to get your publicity for the fall classes in order and then to file for reimbursement. The next deadline is October 31. For information on what you need to file go to the following National Web site or contact D/Lt Jeff Davis at [captjd75@aol.com](mailto:captjd75@aol.com) or 651-457-0588. This may be you last time to get reimbursement in light of the financial constraints that National is under. So don't miss your chance.

**Squadron Development**

Dick Baker and his team have been working hard to establish a squadron at Dubuque. Thanks to them and the Madison Squadron for their efforts.

**Safety**

Send your Safety reports to D/Lt Jim Munger (2124 Old N. Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804) before or at the Fall Conference. As of August 1 he reports having only one of the 11 sent to him.

**Liaison**

National has finally updated the Government and Partner Relations Committee and its functions. The committee has published a new version Liaison Guide for districts and squadrons at: [http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/liaison\\_guide\\_f.htm](http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/liaison_guide_f.htm). Or contact D/Lt Kathy Schult at [schuldk@gte.net](mailto:schuldk@gte.net).

**RBSVP**

P/D/C Art Mollica reports that this program needs a lot more participation. Each squadron should have at least one person participating in this program, so contact Art ([artmollica@usfamily.net](mailto:artmollica@usfamily.net)) or go on the National web site (<http://www.usps.org/national/vsc/rbsvp.html>) to find out how you and your squadron can get up and running with this effort.

**Radio Technical**

See the great separate article provided by Stf/C Mike Wiedel in this Communicator.

**District Educational Officer Says:**

Plan now to attend the D/10 fall conference at Hudson Wisconsin hosted by the Saint Paul Sail and Power Squadron on 29 September to 1 October 2006. As most of you know, the fall conference emphasizes the educational aspect of USPS. This year will be no different. We plan to hold a two-hour instructor recertification seminar. The presenters will be P/Lt/C Jenny Rice, S and P/D/C Ron Kraase, SN. All USPS certified instructors in attendance will have their certification extended by four years to September 2010. We will have the usual teaching aid competition. (See separate article from ADEO John Winger, SN for more details.) We also will be giving educational awards to instructors and to squadrons including the prestigious Prince Henry and Squadron Educational Achievement (SEA) awards.

For those members who are not as yet certified and wish to teach any of our public boating courses, you must fulfill all of the requirements of the Instructor Development course to obtain USPS certification. Encourage your squadron educational department to hold that course every year. Squadrons can also conduct the two-hour instructor recertification seminar.

The district educational department is asking for your help. I am trying to update our history of the District 10 Chapman Award winners. I can find records back to 1998. Before that time I can either find inconclusive records or no records at all.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Squadron</u>
2005	Don Grover	Central Wisconsin
2004	Dave Biddick	Door County
2003	Ken Schmitt	Madison
2002	Art Mollica	Saint Paul
2001	Tom Rossini*	Hiawatha
2000	William Dohr	Central Wisconsin
1999	Alan Wentworth	Green Bay
1998	Maury Rice	Central Wisconsin
1997 and before	?	

\*Also a National Chapman winner



DEO Bill Dohr, SN

*If anyone knows of the winners of 1997 and before, please let me know.*

The district 10 laptop computer is up and running and is available to any squadron on a first come-first serve basis for use in power point slide presentations for most of our courses and seminars. You will need to provide an LCD projector for your presentations. All of the slides for all of our courses except Navigation, Engine Maintenance and the Squadron Boating Course are loaded on the computer. If your squadron has a need for the use of the district computer, please let me know. For your convenience, I will have it at all district events.

By the time that you read this, the concept of USPS University will most-likely have been approved by the Governing Board in New York. It is a new educational department initiative that will include boater certification at four levels, new public educational seminars and new Quick Guides for members and the public. More information will be forthcoming at the fall conference.

Here are the public boating course student statistics by squadron as compiled by USPS HQ from ED27 reports for the education year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006:

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Course(s)</u>
Central Wisconsin	38	ABC
Door County	27	BS
Duluth	0	-
Green Bay	57	BC
Hiawatha Valley	13	BS & ABC
Madison	231	BS & ABC
Milwaukee	250	BS & ABC
Minnetonka	212	BC, BS & ABC
Oshkosh	90	BC
Sheboygan	13	BC, BS & ABC
St. Paul	0	-

If these numbers do not agree with your records, please make sure that your ED-27's have been submitted. Here is something to think about. There is a key piece of information that is not on the reporting form. How many members did you recruit from these classes? If you are unsuccessful at recruiting from these classes, who will teach these classes in the future as our squadrons grow smaller?

### District Admin Officer Says:

I struggled with this article for about a week, until I figured out what the problem was. I didn't know how to start this "first official" article as your new District Administrative Officer. I thought about something clever like "welcome aboard", trying to give it a nautical theme, but that didn't feel right. Then I went to the other end of the spectrum and thought, be serious - our National membership has declined for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row – substantially! Well, that's not exactly the way you get others upbeat, motivated and involved. I thought about a "my fellow American's", LBJ kind of talk, but opted for something less preachy.

So here it is...

Things I like about the USPS

- You... (friends I've made, relationship that have developed over the years)
- How I feel when I'm doing something worthwhile (Co-op charting, VSC's, recruitment)
- Boating with friends (wind in my hair - what's left of it)
- Flying the Ensign and HVSPS burgee
- Knowing more than the students in a Boat Smart class (I know I know, it's an ego thing)

Things I have a problem with in the USPS

- Politics (not the left / right stuff, I kind of like that bantering), the "I don't agree and I won't support it no matter what" kind of stuff
- Having a problem (membership) and not being able to figure out how to fix it quickly

Other than that, I'm still committed to moving membership in the correct direction – up! New, involved members drive retention. Retention drives a strong base from which to grow. The rest is havin' fun and letting others see you having fun.

Speaking of having fun, as I write this we haven't had our Summer Rendezvous (by the time you read this we are fondly remembering the fun we had). I'm looking forward to seeing many of you (stuff I like - #1 above) and talking "boating stuff". Thanks to Kim for chairing the event, Commander Karen for Hosting the event and the MSPS team that's putting this event together. This Rendezvous should be (and by now is on the books as) one of the best ever. Thanks to all that made the 2006 Summer Rendezvous a successful event!

Speaking of events...don't forget to sign up for the Fall Conference in Hudson, WI September 29, 30 & October 1. If you don't soon, Andrea will make my life miserable. Make sure your registration is postmarked by September 15 to avoid late fees. The Pirates of Pigseye welcome you...aarrrrrh!

Well that's it. I have a matrix in my office that tells me without "Actionable First Steps" you are likely to have False Starts. It appears all I needed were some first steps (likes and problems). In my previous life, an old sage told me early on "nothing happens until somebody sells something". With the USPS...nothing happens for long without membership growth. Make it a personal goal to get at least one new member this year.

Have fun & be safe this summer!



DAO Al Harmon, AP

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## Did you ever wonder?

### “Seeing things through to the bitter end”:

Have you ever heard or used that expression? The “*bitter end*” of a line is the inboard end of any line on a boat. In other words, if you let out all of your anchor line, you have come to the “*bitter end*” of the anchor line. By the way, the “*bitter end*” of your anchor line better be securely attached to the boat before you let go of it. Right?

### “Three Square Meals A Day”:

In the days of wooden ships and iron men, the crew ate their meals on long, narrow tables which had wooden railings around the edges, called “*fiddles*”. These railings formed a rectangular pattern on the table top and kept things from falling off the table. Sailors were served their meals on square wooden plates that just fit into these rectangular, table top spaces which, by design, kept the plates in place, even if the ship was pitching and rolling. Therefore, since the sailors were served their chow on a square plate and ate three times day, they got “*Three square meals a day.*”

# Ahoy mateys,

Come one ---come all

## St. Paul Sail and Power Squadron (aka-Pirates of Pigseye)

sends a warm welcome for **YOU** to attend

### District 10 Fall Conference 2006

Fri., Sat., Sun.-September 29, 30 & October 1

Best Western Hudson House Inn & Conference Center

Come by boat if you wish—see reg. form for details

#### Friday night party

- Dress in your finest Pirate wear, prizes will be awarded for best costumes.
- We will be partying at the St. Croix Marina Party Room.
- Free shuttle from and back to the hotel.

Shuttle will be running all evening for your convenience

**CASH BAR**

**LOTS OF FOOD**

Saturday-Breakfast on your own (At hotel or any nearby restaurant-information will be available at registration table) Please see Draft version of agenda in this newsletter for more information! The Draft is subject to change!

Please see and send in registration form!!

Call Andrea Davis, committee chairperson if you have questions  
at 651-457-0588 or email: [andreatd44@aol.com](mailto:andreatd44@aol.com)

We cannot spell S\_ccess without U





# USPS® -DISTRICT 10 2006 FALL PIRATE CONFERENCE

September 29, 30 and October 1 hosted by the members of  
St Paul Sail and Power Squadron (aka PIRATES OF PIGSEYE)



Best Western Hudson House Inn  
& Conference Center  
1616 Crest View Dr.  
Hudson, WI, 54016

Send to: Lt Jane Bakken  
PO box 240813  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Squadron (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer? \_\_\_\_\_

Friday-Grog Party (*free shuttle from hotel*) .....  
Saturday Breakfast — on your own .....  
Saturday Lunch *chumbucket buffet* (2 entrees).....  
Saturday *Baggy-Wrinkle* Dinners .....  
(Please Specify, swabby)

\$10.00 # pirates \_\_\_\_\_ x amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 # pirates \_\_\_\_\_ x amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Beef—\$25.00 # pirates \_\_\_\_\_ x amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pork—\$25.00 # pirates \_\_\_\_\_ x amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pike—\$25.00 # pirates \_\_\_\_\_ x amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount remitted = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTMARK BY SEPTEMBER 15 - LATE FEES WILL APPLY AFTER SEPTEMBER 15!**

( Please add \$5 late fee to each event & person for registration after September 15)

### DINNER MENU CHOICES:

- 1) Slices of **Beef** topped with Fungi Bordelaise Sauce
- 2) Roast Loin of **Pork** topped with 'la seta' Bordelaise Sauce
- 3) Broiled Filet of **Pike** Almandine served with Dill Tartar Sauce

Friday Council: Team USPS or Blazer (no tie)

Friday Event: PIRATE'S WEAR—**your best bandana, cutlass and eye patch (plus other clothes...)**

Saturday: Uniform F or G or appropriate attire

Saturday Evening: Informal

All dinner meals include Thrown Salad, Vegetables da jar, burned spuds, bunch a rolls, coffee, milk or tea and DESSERT!

If you wish to come by boat, you may wish to stay at St. Croix Marina-YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS!

Go to site : [www.stcroixmarina.com](http://www.stcroixmarina.com) (You can make reservations there) or call 651-436-2963. The Friday Night Party will be held in the marina Party Room.



Hotel rates **UNTIL AUGUST 28TH** are:

Hotel Room with King or Queen Size room at **\$76** per night

Hotel Room for one to four persons with two double beds at **\$73** per night

Motel Room-Queen size bed at **\$68** per night

Call Best Western Hudson House Inn and Conference Center at 651-436-5858 or 715-386-2394 and ask for D-10 USPS Fall Conference rooms.

Best Western Hudson House, 1616 Crest View Dr. Hudson, WI, 54016  
(I-94, exit 2 — south frontage road next to Menards/Fleet Farm)

## Come join the Pirates Of Pigseye! Aarrrrrh!

# District 10 Fall Conference Agenda

29-20 September, 1 October 2006

Best Western Hudson House, Hudson, WI 54016

Tel 651-436-5858

(See registration form and hotel information on another page)

**DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT**

## Friday, 29 September

1500-1900 Registration  
1500-1600 Planning Committee  
1600-1700 Nominating Committee  
1700-1830 District Council Meeting  
1830-start Buses to Hudson (Pirate Party Location) Aarrrrh!  
1830 start Pirate Hors d'oeuvres Aarrrrh!  
1930 start "Pirates of Pigseye" Dinner Aarrrrh!  
2000-???? "Pirates of Pigseye" Party - Pirate-wear appropriate, Cash bar Aarrrrh!

## Saturday, 30 September

0630-0900 Breakfast on your own – at hotel or restaurant near by  
0700-1000 Registration  
0730-0945 Commanders' Workshop  
0730-0945 Executive Dept. Workshop & Future Commanders Workshop  
0730-0945 Educational Dept. Workshop  
0730-0945 Administrative Dept. Workshop & Future Executive Officers Workshop  
0730-0945 Secretary Dept. Workshop  
0730-0945 Treasurer Dept. Workshop  
0800-0945 "Not an Officer" Workshop (P/D/C Jeff Hamilton)  
0945-1000 Break/Stretch  
1000-1500 Alternate Activity – Stillwater Stroll  
1000-1200 Seminar – Instructor Recertification (Dohr / Rice / Kraase)  
1000-1055 Seminar – What's up at West Marine !?!  
1100-1155 Seminar – Come get certified in "First Aid" by the Red Cross  
1100-1155 Seminar – USPS University (Bill Dohr)  
  
1200-1300 Luncheon  
1300-1545 Conference Business Meeting  
1550-1650 Administrative Workshop (for incoming Admin, or if you're just interested)  
1545-1800 *OPEN TIME*  
1800-1830 Social Hour/Cash Bar, Members, Spouses, Alternates  
1830-2200 Dinner / Chief Commander's message

## Sunday, 1 October

0630-0900 Breakfast on your own – at hotel or nearby restaurant  
0730-0830 Bend an ear with **Biddick** – Update on Co-op Charting  
0830-1030 Seminar – DB2000 (P/D/C Jeff Hamilton)  
0830-0930 Seminar – Get certified in "First Aid" (make-up session)  
1030-1200 Bridge Meeting

## Uniform of the Day:

Friday Team USPS wear, D10 Bridge "Possibilities" Polo  
Fri. night party PIRATE WEAR! Prizes will be awarded for best costumes!  
Saturday Uniform F or G, or appropriate business attire; Bridge will wear Uniform F  
Saturday Eve Informal Attire  
Sunday Casual Attire or Team Wear

## District 10 Welcomes the Chief Commander's Rep to Fall Conference 2006

A warm welcome to  
**Stf/C Michael Wiedel , AP (& Kim Rutkowski Wiedel)**  
of Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron

YES! We are so very proud that "two" of our very own have been chosen to represent the Chief Commander!

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Stf/C Mike Wiedel joined the Milwaukee Squadron of the United States Power Squadrons in 1988 after many years of seeing their booth at local boat shows. Mike immediately joined the Milwaukee Boat Show Committee, and the following year took over as Chair of that committee when the previous chair passed away.

Mike served on the Milwaukee Executive Committee as a Member at Large for 2 years before being elected Squadron treasurer in 1992. He progressed through all the Squadron elected offices, serving as Squadron Commander in 1996.

In 1998 Mike was elected District Secretary and then advanced through

the District Administrative and Executive Officer positions serving as District Commander in 2002-2003.

After his district service, Mike joined the National Recreational Boating Safety Committee, where he now services as the Staff Commander. Also, at the national meetings Mike serves as an aide to the Chief Commander. He is also active in the Educational Department, teaching the Marine Electronics Course, The GPS for Mariners Seminar, and USPS Public Boating Courses. Mike's other interests include being a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and is an amateur radio operator.

Mike's wife of 27 years, Kim, is also active in USPS. She serves as the Flag lieutenant to the Squadron Commander, as the special assistant to the Chief Commander and chaired the 1999 and 2006 District Rendezvous. She is also active in many civic and professional organizations outside of USPS.

Mike and Kim live in Milwaukee, WI and enjoy boating on Lake Michigan, keeping their 25 Foot Four Winns at McKinley Marina in Milwaukee. They also routinely travel by boat on the Mississippi, Ohio, and Kentucky Rivers, the Tenn-Tom and Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway's, and the Gulf of Mexico.

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### District Treasurer Says:

A brief update of matters financial. District 10 has "rounded the corner" on the dues renewal cycle, and has realized 82% of the budgeted revenue for the fiscal year to date. This number is significant, in that it reflects the declining membership trend that our district as well as USPS as a whole has experienced. On the positive side, we have been anticipating these events, and are therefore prepared. The District 10 Bridge has worked very hard to reduce expenses and be fiscally responsible so that our financial position is solid and our budgets balanced. It is clear to me that without the support of the membership, our position could have been vastly different. In the meantime, I am working with the bridge and committees to plan next years budget, to be presented at the Fall Conference at the end of September. There will be a detailed report of our financial position for all members in attendance.

Please plan to attend the upcoming Fall Conference September 29, 30 & Oct. 1st in Hudson WI. If you have an interest in getting

involved on the District Bridge or Squadron level and have some financial savvy, attend the breakout session for the Treasurer's Dept., and see if you are interested in doing this job position for the squadron or district. I will be providing details on what the job entails and we're looking for a few good men and women! Also, my breakout session will include information on how your squadron could accept credit cards for payment of new member dues or for meetings and programs. Come to the Treasurer's breakout and get all the details! And even if you don't want to be a treasurer, come and have some fun with the "Pirates of Pigseye"!



Treasurer Greg Holmen, P



## Radio Technical Report

USPS and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) are working together to promote Amateur Radio to the Public and ARRL Members. Imagine being able to talk to fellow boating enthusiasts across the marina, country, or world, catching up on stories of their voyages, or assisting them in times of need. This is only one aspect of the fun you can have as being a radio amateur.

Amateur operators also known as “Hams” also participate in many other civic events. Hams are severe weather spotters for the National Weather Service, provide communication facilities for community events, and work with local, state, and federal disaster agencies in time of crisis. Imagine being able to communicate directly with the astronauts aboard the space station or the space shuttle!! Both of these platforms have amateur radio equipment aboard, and most astronauts are Hams, who enjoy making contact with their fellow earthbound counterparts.

Over the years Hams have been on the forefront of technology, by being the first to communicate long distances without wires, developed the digital technology that commercial satellite providers use to beam TV direct to your home, as well as many other advances in technology to numerous to mention.

If all of this sounds interesting to you, contact an Amateur operator in your community. Some have operating stations, known by fellow hams as “shacks”, that the US military would envy, others are less sophisticated, but all would love to share the amateur story with anyone interested in the hobby. Almost every county in the USA has an Amateur Radio Club, whose members welcome those interested in radio communication. The website at ARRL.org has a listing of clubs affiliated with the ARRL as well as more information on how to obtain an amateur license from the FCC. The Boating Activities page of USPS.org (<http://www.usps.org/national/Ham/>) also has a listing of hams who are USPS members.

Feel free to contact me at my email address below.

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP  
KB9QMH  
[mswiedel@earthlink.net](mailto:mswiedel@earthlink.net)  
414-353-8240

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### USPS DISTRICT 10 TRAINING AIDS AT FALL CONFERENCE

Actually, we should have lots of training aids every time from every squadron because everyone knows how to make them. But we don't. That's probably because people think we're looking for something we aren't. We aren't looking for some way to clarify Einstein's general theory of relativity. Or an economic model for predicting stock prices with uncanny accuracy. Nope. Our subject is safe boating. We want simple, effective ways to teach people the techniques of safe boating. There are lots of skills to be developed by each boater, lots of small things to be learned in order to build a store of knowledge capable of dealing quickly and calmly with the myriad of possibilities that boaters can face out on the water.

Everyone spends a lot of time each day explaining things to other people. Frequently, people line up saltshakers to explain how things were positioned or make quick sketches or use analogies to other events to get their idea across to family or friends or business associates. So that's why I say everyone knows how to make teaching aids. All we need is some inspiration for turning that talent toward teaching safe boating. Maybe you're now thinking back about each boating class you've taken and trying to remember what training aids were used then and what improvements or additions there could have been. Well, that's one good approach, but I'd like to suggest another. The next time you are boating, or just down by the water, you are going to see a lot of people doing a lot of things and you will probably see some unsafe actions or maybe just mistakes or some extra struggling to get some task done. Maybe it might be an experience of your own. Whatever the event that attracts your attention, think of how you might best explain to someone else how that task could be done quickly, easily and safely. Then think of how you might use a diagram or a model to help you with the explanation. Your idea is great training aid material. Now just make it and bring it to the fall conference.

We will be delighted to receive your entry. Each entry will be judged relative to the others in terms of originality, cost (low is best) and teaching clarity. A plaque will be awarded to the winner. More importantly, your entry will help us all to look for training opportunities and creative ways to spread the safe boating message.

Thanks for your support!

D/1Lt John Winger, N  
ADEO

**District Secretary says:**

The most recent issue of *Power and Motoryacht* had an article profiling the world's 100 largest yachts. Number 1 started the list at 456' 10" and we don't get below 200' till number 94. Number 100 was 198'. An advertisement in the same issue states, "Monaco this week, Nassau next". For those people, this is the definition of change.

In USPS, change is defined a little differently, and it is happening at every level. Some changes are driven by budgetary considerations, some are just an attempt to do things better. The proposal to eliminate the educational requirement for membership in USPS is one example of an idea brought forth to help increase membership.

In District 10, the elimination of Winter Council has caused us to make changes in how our conferences are structured, in order to get through increased content in the same time frame as before. All of the District Bridge officers are working on training systems for their squadron counterparts that will make those jobs easier to do. Much of this new material will debut at our Fall Conference at the end of September. Change will also by necessity happen on our web site, as much of the new material will reside there for any squadron officer to use at any time.

A reduced membership translates to a reduced budget, and to help reduce printing costs

for conferences, we are going to follow the lead of National and have the seat packets on our web site. Now, if you are a delegate, squadron commander or other member of the Council, or any other interested Conference attendee, you will be able to go to the District web site one week before the Conference and print out your copy of the seat packets. For the upcoming Fall Conference, a nominal number of packets will be available, but by Spring Conference 2007, you will have to "opt in" to get a printed copy.

Another major change in procedure at the Fall Conference will eliminate the repetitive nature of reports given at both the Council meeting on Friday night and again at the Conference meeting on Saturday. District Commander Stierna will give a "State of the District" presentation to the Conference on Saturday.

In years past, I personally have looked forward to district conferences. In addition to interesting seminars and valuable officer workshops, there was always the opportunity to reestablish friendships made over the time we have been attending these events, and to make new friends. If you ever, in the innermost corner of your mind, thought that you might be interested in a position of leadership in your squadron, then you should attend this conference. Or, attend just to have some fun with a bunch of boaters. See you there.



Secretary Dick Baker, P

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## District Training

**The Ad Hoc Training Committee was created at the 2006 Spring Conference to make recommendation on future officer training. The report of the Committee was given and approved at the Special Council Meeting held at the Milwaukee Rendezvous. The full report can be found on the District web site. It addresses the need to preserve training opportunities for officers historically done at the Winter Council, in light of the elimination that meeting. The report consists of 11 points which are summarized below:**

1. Training can be effective if given at our two district conferences and supplemented by informal training and effective use of the district's web site.

2. At the Fall Conference there would be a "New Officer Training School" which would outline the functions and general expectations of the various department squadron leaders. This would include the minimal amount of information necessary to give these incoming officers the essential duties that need to be accomplished by that department. This session would be held on Sat. morning of the Fall Conference and last no longer than 2 hours.

3. At the Spring Conference training sessions would relate to "Continuing training and Focused Assistance". The purpose would be to train the current officers in what they need to know about their continuing duties and introduce to them any new material and issues. This would include things like national policy, tools, tips, and methods to make their job easier and their squadron run better. This would also include updates on new ways of doing the tasks of the office. These sessions would also not exceed two hours on Sat. morning of the Conference.

4. Delivery of materials and ideas through available technology will be an important supplement to training. The D/10 web site should have as a minimum: the star squadron outline, all officer manuals and training materials, hot links to National Department web pages, instructions for obtaining updates and a list of people who have "done that before" and will give help. District bridge officers should provide squadron officers with outlook files with deadlines and guidance by email monthly, except in the summer. These outlooks should be available for downloading from the D/10 web site and updated on the site regularly. Continuity in training outside of the conferences is very important. District training should have a large degree of similarity in style and function with content dictated by the needs of the office.

5. Particularly at the Fall Conference these training sessions would be open to any interested member. Candidates for an office and those uncertain of their interest in a position would benefit greatly from better understanding of the jobs available in the squadrons and district. It would be helpful if each squadron's nominations committee could complete their work by Fall Conference.

6. The committee will work with the District Bridge towards the monitoring, adjustment and adoption of the training plan through the Spring Conference 2007. To encourage general member attendance, conferences need be more than training events; otherwise general members will be discouraged to attend.

7. Feel free to contact any of the members of the committee for more information.

### Members of the Committee:

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## Hats Off to a First Class Squadron Officer

By: Lt/C Mary Goodnetter, AP and Lt/C Ted Smyczek, SN

In the early morning on Thursday, May 25, 2006, Lt/C David Lee Hegarty, P, left us unexpectedly leaving a void in our hearts and our organization. The jovial Irishman, always a twinkle in his eye, was able to get fellow members to participate in the Mission of USPS and the Milwaukee Sail & Power Squadron. On a vacationer's moment's notice, David could prepare a Co-Op Charting packet, filled with geodetic marks eligible for recovery anywhere in the United States except for P/C Dave Biddick's territory. During his last weekend on this earth, Saturday, May 20, David taught the "GPS for Mariners" Seminar.

On the Wednesday evening before he died, David assisted on the *Boat Smart* re-exam night by helping a reading im-

paired individual get through the exam. As the representative of MS&PS's Bridge, he then passed out critiques and congratulations to several who passed the exam that evening. During the night, he complained of a pain in his back and passed away in the early morning.

David was an individual who devoted his energies for the benefit of others. He joined the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron in October, 2002 and immediately went to work to advance the mission of MS&PS, working tirelessly to lead the co-op charting program and assisting in planning the staffing of Boat Show booths. He continuously worked the Boat Show booths, volunteering countless hours to insure the booth was always manned. For some Boat Shows, he was present for 40% of the time. He also volunteered his time and expertise as a certified Vessel Examiner and Bridge Officer, serving first as Secretary and most recently carrying out the many responsibilities as the Milwaukee Squad-

ron's Educational Officer. This is a very demanding position and David embraced it with passion, intelligence and a contagious spirit.

Not only did David oversee all of the squadron's educational activities and administration, he chose to teach the *Seamanship* Course and co-instruct for the *Boat Smart* classes. Moreover, if this was not enough, he participated in District Conferences and he championed a new venture to grow the Milwaukee Squadron's 'hands-on' educational opportunities by spearheading a boat restoration project that will teach students about the safety requirements that must be considered during reconstruction of a vessel. To keep this important activity alive, Karen and Mike Beckmann will oversee the completion of this project and will name the vessel the *David Lee* in his honor..

David's contributions to the Power Squadron were numerous and will take us some time to rebuild.



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