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July 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.

www.milwakeepowersquadron.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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*



**Get well
wishes and
thoughts
for a
speedy recovery to
Ted Smyczek!**

VSC'S AND FLARE SHOOT

Saturday June 13th was a busy day for Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron members at McKinley Marina.

Mike Wiedel taught the second half of the Marine Electronics Course on Scott Ziebol's boat on G dock. Also on G dock Gary Bush and Jana Prentnieks hosted the first Saturday morning brunch of the season on their boat. After brunch, VSC examiners: Kim Rutkowski, Chuck Kersey, Fran Pauls, and Mel Fabiszak did VSC's throughout the Marina.



The afternoon began with a flare shoot instructed by Mike Wiedel and sponsored by the Milwaukee Yacht Club. The next stop was at McBoat's cookout in the North Pavilion for boat owners in McKinley Marina. The final VSC of the day on Dan and Kathy Noonan's boat ended with an impromptu gathering of squadron members.

The next Saturday morning brunch, on June 27, will be held on J dock hosted on the Wiedel's boat and Nappy's boat. Jana said she has an endless supply of champagne for the mimosas.

Kim Rutkowski
Executive Officer

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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

BOATING SAFETY

Severe Weather



A perfect sunny morning promises a pleasant day's sail. While on the water you notice that wind and waves are increasing and the weather report indicates that heavy weather is approaching. Typically thunderstorms build during the heat of the day. Do not wait until they reach you, but prepare immediately for your safety.

If at all possible head for shore before the storm hits. Observe the path of the storm. If the leading edge of the storm is near land you may find that sometimes wind and waves are more severe near the shore. Waves in deep water away from the shore are likely less violent. You may encounter big rolling waves instead of more dangerous short choppy waves with breaking tops. In this case you may be better off remaining in deep water until the storm subsides.

Secure your boat by closing all port holes and hatches, storing all loose equipment, rigging jacklines for your safety harness, ensuring everyone wears his lifejacket, and do not move without your safety harness secured to the jacklines. When sailing you may want to shorten your sails or put up storm sails.

To ride out high winds it is most comfortable to run downwind. Make certain your boat is running as straight as possible before the wind and sea. To help keep the stem into the wind and the bow pointed directly downwind, you can attach a long, heavy warp, a drogue, or a storm anchor to the stem.

If wind and waves increase, making it impossible to continue downwind, you will have to put the bow into the wind. This requires a very difficult turn, but the longer you wait, the more difficult it will become. Plan this turn very carefully. Some sailors believe that waves tend to travel in a series of seven, with every seventh wave smaller than the others and the interval longer between this wave and the next. Observe the waves and see, which wave seems to be the smallest followed by the longest period to the next wave.

Start your turn on the back of this wave and try to meet the oncoming wave at an angle of about 15 degrees, with the wind remaining on the weather side of the boat. Do not pass the bow through the wind. Continue to take the oncoming waves at about 15 degrees off the bow.

A sailboat could weather a storm by heaving to. Sheet the jib to the wind and lash the wheel to windward or the tiller to the boat's leeward side. This maneuver should leave the boat riding with it's bow about 45 degrees off the wind. To further reduce leeway, stream a long heavy warp or storm anchor from the bow.

However, since most bow cleats may not withstand the strain of the warp or anchor, secure the bitter end to the base of the mast if the mast is stepped to the boat's keel. If the mast is stepped to the cabin top, pass the bitter end around the entire housing,

Remember to listen to the weather forecast. Whenever thunderstorms are predicted, the simplest plan is to get in early. But if you find yourself in an unexpected storm, stay calm and consider the best way to keep your crew and your boat safe.

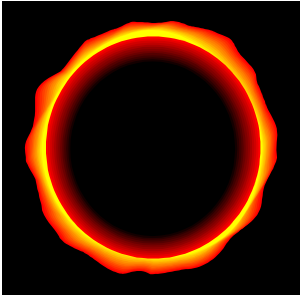
STAR GAZING

John Goetzman, P

This month the lunar phases started with the Full Moon on the 7th. Known as the “Buck Moon” because new antlers of buck deer, coated, with velvety fur, begin to form. The last quarter is on the 15th, the New Moon on the 22nd. The first quarter of August lunar phases will be on the 28th of this month.



On the 4th of this month the amount of radiant energy the Earth received from the Sun was less than on any other day of this year because on that date the Earth on its slightly elliptical orbit around the Sun was at its maximum distance (Aphelion) of 94,555,000 miles from the Sun. The closest Earth was to the Sun (Perihelion) in 2009 was on January 4th at a distance of 91,445,000 miles.



On the 22nd of this month the longest total eclipse that will occur in this century will be visible within a narrow 160 mile wide path that will traverse over one third of the Earth's surface.

The path of the Moon's shadow will begin in western India moving eastward thru Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and China, it will leave the China coast at Shanghai and curve southward into the Pacific Ocean ending in French Polynesia where the lunar shadow leaves Earth and returns to space.

A total solar eclipse can only happen at new Moon, when the moon passes directly between the Earth and Sun fully blocking the Sun, turning day into night along the Moon's shadow path (this is known as totality).

Total solar eclipses totality usually lasts from an instant to three to four minutes, during this eclipses totality will be longer than average with a duration of 6 minutes 39 seconds as the moon's shadow passes over an observers location in the Pacific Ocean.

The total time for this eclipses totality will be 3 hours 25 minutes after it started its trek in Western India to its departure into space from French Polynesia.

The annual Delta Aquarids Meteor shower will be between July 15th. This shower will peak on July 28th and 29th and usually produce 20 plus meteors an hour. The first quarter Moon will set early and we should have good viewing on these nights. Look to the eastern horizon toward the constellation Aquarius. The best viewing will be from 11:00 pm to dawn. The source of the space debris trail that produces this shower as Earth passes thru it is unknown.



The planets Venus, Mars and Jupiter are early morning objects. Mercury is out of sight during this month. Saturn is the yellowish object to the east of the sickle shaped group of stars in the constellation Leo in the western sky. By the end of this month it will set before midnight.

SCARY CLOUDS REVEALED

June's membership meeting, in the tent at South Shore Yacht Club, came with rain and Marc Kavinsky, from Sullivan National Weather Service. Members participated in a training seminar to be certified as Marine eSpotters and report by text or email the weather anomalies out on the Lake.

Marc illustrated the differences between funnel clouds and scary clouds and explained that a true tornado had a rotating funnel cloud that stirred up debris on the ground. Members learned what information to include in their reports.

As certified eSpotters, we can help the National Weather Service by reporting weather conditions we encounter on the lake. Beware do not let *scary clouds* fool you!



Kim Rutkowski
Executive Officer



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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.

JULY CAMARADERIE July 25th



BBQ Picnic and Air Show

Join us at McKinley Marina
(Center Section)

Picnic get together, and the
Air Force Thunderbirds



Saturday July 25th 3:30 - 9:00pm or ???

Check air show schedule here: <http://www.milwaukeeairshow.com/>

Bring your own meat, dish to pass, drinks and chairs.

We will provide tables, grills, and awning.

Just SHOW UP and enjoy the show!!

AUGUST CAMARADERIE August 19th

Wine Wednesday



1 1/2-hour Sunset Cruise
and Wine Tasting

Cruise Wednesday August 19th 7:30 - 9:00pm
or later...depending on the fun!

50 person maximum
(The Squadron is chartering the entire boat, so bring your friends)

Enjoy soothing music as we watch the sun drop deep below the horizon. Taste different wines and snack on the tasty appetizers provided by the crew. This is one cruise you won't want to miss!!

Riverwalk Boats welcomes the opportunity to provide a memorable experience aboard the "BREW CITY QUEEN II."
45 ft. Commercial Pontoon Boat

Please bring your ID. Enjoy a great evening all for the low cost of \$25.00 per person

Call for reservations no later than August 15th

RSVP: nappy@execpc.com (preferred) or call 262-567-7818

Boats are located at Pere Marquette Park on Old World Third Street, Between State and Kilbourn in downtown Milwaukee.