



Volume 53, Issue 1

APRIL 2008

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

April

- 2nd—Spring *Boat Smart*® course begins
- 4th-6th—District 10 Spring Conference
- 14th—Executive Committee Meeting
- 15th—Squadron Members' Meeting
- 23rd—Spring *Boat Smart*® exam

May

- 10th—USPS University Seminars
- 12th—Executive Committee Meeting
- 20th—Squadron Members' Meeting & 101
- 17th – 23rd—National Safe Boating Week

June

- 9th—Executive Committee Meeting

*****See Page 6 for more details*****

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www.milwaukeepowersquadron.org

A Four Star Squadron Changing of the Guard

Highlights from the Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron's 69th Annual Change of Watch

By Lt. Mary Goodnetter, AP

A few days before the Spring Solstice, Sunday, March 16, 2008, marked the MS&PS 69th annual Change of Watch. At 1150, Cdr Beckmann welcomed everyone to the Golden Mast Restaurant on Okauchee Lake. P/D/Lt/C Mike Beckmann, SN led the Pledge of Allegiance. P/D/C Ronald M. Kraase, SN delivered an inspiring convocation.

Out of town guests included the (incoming) District 10 Commander Nominee Alford Harmon. AP and his wife Kris who joined us from Hiawatha Valley, D/10 Administrative Officer Nominee Jim Paul-Washa and Julie Pahl-Washa who will be managing the 2008 D-10 summer rendezvous. Also, P/C Jennifer Cihak S and Cdr Lyle Peschke P, joined us from Sheboygan, WI. Other guests included family and friends of incoming MSPS Commander Melvin P. Fabiszak, P.

A delicious champagne brunch was enjoyed by all and the meeting resumed with a motion made by 1st/Lt Umberto



Lt/C Umberto "Nappy" Napolitano, P

'Nappy' Napolitano, P and seconded by P/D/Lt/C Mike Beckmann, SN to approve the 2007 Change of Watch minutes. It was unanimously approved. Then, incoming Executive Officer Lt/C Kim Rutkowski testified that the Auditing Committee report was in order and it was approved.

Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

Commander

Mel Fabiszak, P
(262) 966-2743

Executive Officer

Lt/C Kim Rutkowski
(414) 353-8240

Education Officer

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP
(414) 353-8240

Administrative Officer

Umberto "Nappy" Napolitano, AP
(414) 353-8240

Secretary

Paul Langer, AP
(262) 821-9763

Treasurer

Paul Langer, AP
(262) 821-9763

Commander's Comments

ATTITUDE is EVERYTHING!

District 10 is adapting a motto with attitude - *BOATING IS FUN, LET US SHOW YOU HOW.*

I think we can adapt this motto to our squadron through the motto:

BOATING IS FUN, COME ZOOM

WITH US - MSPS! What do you think? Do you agree that boating is fun? Will you come Zoom with US?



The Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron has a terrific group of members and when we get together for whatever reason we have a great time! I feel it's the quality of the members that makes this happen.

At the Change of Watch, we had over 40 people join in the celebration. Ten of them were my friends and family. I would like to give them a SPECIAL THANKS for their support! The Golden Mast did a fantastic job and everyone attending made a point to commend them for a delicious brunch. What a great way to kick off the new year!

More great fun is planned for this year – May is Safe Boating Month and we will once again host a hands-on safety demonstration event at South Milwaukee Yacht Club. This summer, we are planning a Lake Express Ferry excursion across Lake Michigan, Several boating bashes by the water at Barnacle Buds and participation in two District rendezvous' including District 10's Red, White and Blue Rendezvous in Dubuque, Iowa July 11-13th and District 20's Cruise and Rendezvous to Lake Point Marina in Racine, WI August 1-3rd. (last year MS&PS's Racine Rendezvous was cancelled do to weather, but we had an impromptu get together at McKinley Marina which was well attended and included a movie, cocktails, food and friends which made for a perfect outing!) These District events have plans for every hour which to me can take some FUN out of a get together, so expect some additional options specific to the Milwaukee group.

I would like to thank you all for making me your new Commander. If there is any thing you would like me to change to make our Squadron better Please let me know.

I'm looking forward to 'Zooming' with YOU!

Thanks,

Mel



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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 tmsmyczek@netzero.net

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

CHANGING OF THE GUARD, continued from page 1

Next, Cdr Beckmann summarized this past watch year's accomplishments which included:

- 4 Boat Smart classes taught with 158 graduates. Graduates of the last class were presented with USPS cooler cups to spread the word about the program.
- 18 members passed advanced and elective courses.
- Supporting the VSC program with 68 exams.
- Supporting the Adopt-a-Chart program by submitting information for Bender Park.
- Continuing to offer a diverse and interesting monthly meeting program, including meetings at Pier Wisconsin and the UWM planetarium, presentations by NOAA meteorologists and a local expert marine mechanic, and a movie night.
- Four summer activities – including the Tiki Tuesday Cruise on the Milwaukee River which was the most popular event.
- Almost 60% membership participation of our squadron-due to our high quality and FUN meetings, activities and classes.
- Making significant changes to some of the nuts-and-bolts of the organization: the *Deck Watch* squadron newsletter and website were overhauled and are now outstanding communication tools.
- The squadron financial records are now managed through Quick Books.
- Making a charitable contribution to a local organization that supports community education.

Cdr Beckmann also recognized several members for their accomplishments in the past year. Individual member achievements included:

- Educational Proficiency Award —Chuck Kersey
 - 50 Year Membership—Jim Goodnetter
 - Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching for D10—Mike Wiedel
- District 10's nomination for the Carl C. Mahnken Award. - Note: although the squadron was recognized for this award, Mike Wiedel should be given the award as he made the contribution.

Cdr Beckmann urged all to make incremental membership a priority and stated that the strength of the organization is in its people. She thanked the executive committee, the committee chairs and the standing committee members. She also thanked (and presented gifts of appreciation to) the outgoing Bridge and the Bridge Consultants P/D/C Ronald M. Kraase, SN, and P/D/Lt/C Thaddeus M. Smyczek, SN, for their guidance. She concluded her thank you's with the warmest of appreciation for P/D/Lt/C Mike Beckmann, SN her husband and 'rock' in guidance and patience.



Continued on page 4

CHANGING OF THE GUARD, continued from page 3

Cdr Beckmann again welcomed D/C Nominee Harmon AP who made a dynamic presentation on the state of the 'Star Squadron Program' showcasing the updates and simplifications to the program. Four categories now make up the star squadron evaluation tool including Education, Base Membership, Member Involvement and Civic service. He stressed the goal of this tool is diagnostic vs. competitive. And, he commented on the upcoming year and the District 10 goals to be Ready, Set and Grow!



Incoming D/C Al Harmon and wife Kris

ID/C Nominee Harmon. AP dismissed the outgoing MSPS Bridge and installed the new Bridge with a Congratulations and big Thank-You to all. The 2008 Bridge includes: :

Cdr Melvin P. Fabiszak, P; Lt/C Kim Rutkowski as Executive Officer; Stf/C Mike S. Wiedel, AP as Squadron Educational Officer; Lt/C Umberto 'Nappy' Napolitano, P as Administrative Officer; and Lt/C Paul Langer, AP as Secretary and as Treasurer. Also re-installed was P/D/Lt/C Mike Beckmann, SN as Assistant Treasurer.

Cdr Melvin P. Fabiszak, P Thanked Al and then thanked Ron Kraase and Ted Smyczek for their guidance and support which led to his involvement as a trainer and bridge officer. Cdr Fabiszak reiterated to the crowd that "This is your squadron - get involved and let's have some Fun!."

Some very involved members include the Executive Committee. It is comprised of super volunteers who are instrumental in guiding the squadron. There are 18 members including the Bridge and past commander. Cdr Fabiszak called for a motion to elect the following 12 members which was seconded and passed unanimously: P/D/Lt/C Mike Beckmann, SN; Gary Bush, S; P/C John Goetzman, P; Lt. Mary Goodnetter, AP, Lt. Ruth Durkin, AP, P/D/C Ronald M. Kraase, SN; P/Lt/C Gisela Murray, SN; P/D/Lt/C Thad. M. Smyczek, SN; Lt. Walter Swenberg Jr., AP; D^t/Lt/C John Winger, SN. P/C Cindy Winger, Scott Ziebol, AP.

Also elected, with unanimous approval, and those continuing to serve on standing committees are:

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT: Assistant Educational Officer, Ronald M. Kraase, SN

AUDITING DEPARTMENT: Ronald A. Eder, P – Chairman - 1 year*, Ruth C. Durkin, AP – 2 years*, Gisela Murray, SN – 3 years

RULES COMMITTEE: Umberto 'Nappy' Napolitano, AP – Chairman – 1 year*, Gary H. Bush, S – 2 years*, Daniel A. Noonan, AP – 3 years

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Cindy S. Winger, AP – Chairman – 1 year*, Thomas J. Raveret, P – 2 years, Karen Beckmann, P – 3 years.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD, continued from page 4



Incoming Commander Melvin P. Fabiszak, P
and Cdr. Karen Beckmann, P

Cdr Fabiszak and P/C Karen Beckmann exchanged commander and past commander flags. Karen passed the gavel to Mel and Mel gave a bridge officer flag to new Administrative Officer Lt/C Umberto 'Nappy' Napolitano, AP

Incoming Cdr Fabiszak opened the floor for announcements, they included:

Julie Pahl-Washa from the Madison Sail and Power Squadron, who asked all to 'mark your calendars' for the Red, White and Blue Summer Rendezvous on July 11-13, 2008 in Dubuque, Iowa. Details are listed in the March/April D-10 *Communicator* publication listed on line.

The District 10 Spring Conference will take place April 4-6 in Burnsville, MN .

The *Deck Watch* is looking for Advertisers – Please contact Mary Goodnetter with prospects.

ADVERTISE WITH US!!!

The *Deck Watch* is the MSPS's premier newsletter written by and for boaters.

It is an easy, inexpensive way to reach your best customers! Articles include reports of interest to boaters.

Our readers frequently discuss boating maintenance, protection, storage, supplies and accessories as well as where to travel and dine. If you would like your 'company story' told,

Advertise with us and we will add a complementary article about your business.



Advertising here affords your business the opportunity to ***reach buying decision-makers. Now is a prime buying time of the year! Contact us today to secure your ad space in the Deck Watch*** For more information, contact Mary at (262) 814-9942 or e-mail ***deckwatch@milwaukeepowersquadron.org***.

APRIL—Schedule of Events

- 2nd—Spring *Boat Smart*® course begins, 7 pm
Menomonee Falls High School, Room 14,
W142 N8101 Merrimac Drive (use north parking
lot), Menomonee Falls, WI
- 4th-6th—District 10 Spring Conference
Holiday Inn Hotels & Resorts
14201 Nicollet Ave. South
Burnsville, MN
- 14th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
Lake Express Ferry Terminal
2330 S. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, WI
- 15th—Squadron Members' Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
Barnacle Bud's, 1955 S. Hilbert, Milwaukee, WI
- 23rd—Spring *Boat Smart*® exam
Menomonee Falls High School, Room 14
W142 N8101 Merrimac Dr. (use north parking
lot), Menomonee Falls, WI

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

MAY—Schedule of Events

- 10th—USPS University Seminars
Tri-City National Bank
6767 W. Greenfield Ave., 2nd Floor
- 12th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
location TBA
- 20th—Squadron Members' Meeting & Safety
Demonstrations, 6 p.m.
South Milwaukee Yacht Club
101 Marshall Ave., South Milwaukee, WI
- 17th – 23rd—National Safe Boating Week

More information:
www.milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org

JUNE—Schedule of Events

- 9th—Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
Location TBD

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

APRIL MEETING

MILWAUKEE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

6:30PM APRIL 15, 2008

BARNACLE BUD'S



**BARNACLE BUD'S
1955 S HILBERT ST
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207**

**SPRING FITTING OUT INFORMATION
AND
NEW PRODUCTS**

PRESENTED BY

Royal Rosario

MANAGER, WEST MARINE, DELAFIELD

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS: \$5.00 FOR BEER AND SODA
ORDER FROM MENU, ALL CHOICES AVAILABLE**

**CALL NAPPY NAPOLITANO AT 262-567-7818
EVENINGS ONLY TO CONFIRM**

DINNER LIST IS IN EFFECT

MAY MEETING

May is Boating Safety Month~~May is Boating Safety Month~~May is Boating Safety Month

MILWAUKEE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON SAFETY MEETING

May 20, 2008 6:30PM
South Milwaukee Yacht Club



**LIVE FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING
AND
FIRING OF VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS***



**WITH THE
SOUTH MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

BONUS PRESENTATION

**ICE SAFETY AND RESCUE—HYPOTHERMIA FACTS & PREVENTION
BY JOHN BRONIKOWSKI, DNR WARDEN, SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN**

**DINNER, CATERED BY NASHOTAH CLUBHOUSE
TURKEY AND PORK BARBEQUE**

\$25.00 MEMBERS AND GUESTS. DINNER LIST IS IN EFFECT

BOATING SAFETY

The snow is melting; soon your boat will be in the water! Is your boat equipped with the proper navigation lights to ensure a safe summer of boating?



If your boat is less than 16 feet long, you may not be required to equip your boat with lights. However, even if you plan never to use your boat at night, you may return some evening late, visibility may be obstructed by dense fog or otherwise be reduced, or you may be delayed by engine trouble. Lights would aid in your safe return.

Boats 16 feet of length or longer are required to have the proper navigation lights for use when under way when visibility is restricted, or from sunset to sunrise and when at anchor. The boat must exhibit a masthead light, sidelights and a steering stern light. Boats less than 40 feet long may show an all around white light visible at 2 miles instead of the masthead light and stern lights. Sailboats under sail only may combine the sidelights and stern light into one fixture to be placed near the top of the mast. Boats at anchor require a white all around light at the forward part of the vessel and a second all around white light near the stern, placed lower than the forward light. Boats less than 24 feet long need not show an anchor light.

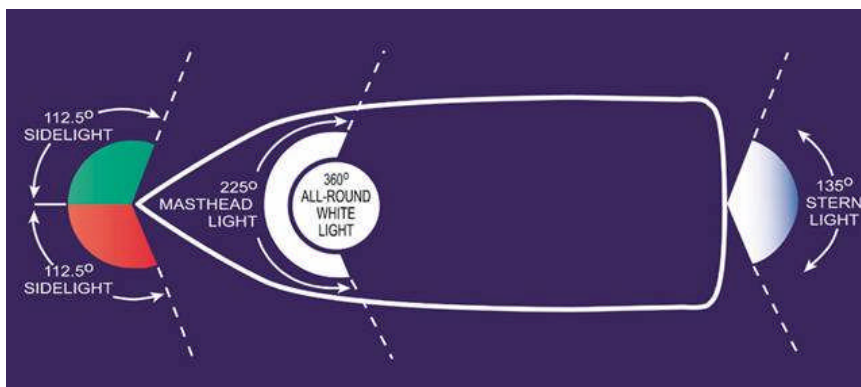
A **Masthead Light** is a white light placed over the fore-and-aft centerline of the vessel showing an unbroken light over an arc of 225 degrees from dead ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on both sides of the vessel. The term “masthead light” is sometimes misleading. Many times the light is not placed on top of a mast. On motorboats, it is often placed on a short fixture on top of the cabin. On sailboats, it is generally part of the way up on the mast. The light must be at least 3 feet higher than the sidelights. Boats larger than 40 feet in length must mount the masthead light 8 feet higher than the sidelights. Lights placed too low may illuminate a large area of the deck which may present a problem with glare.

Sidelights are colored lights – red on port and green on starboard – showing an unbroken light over an arc at the horizon of 112.5 degrees from dead ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on each side. The sidelights may be combined in a single fixture carried on the centerline of the vessel. In boats less than 40 feet long this combination light needs only to be carried as close to the centerline as possible.

A **Stern Light** is a white light showing over an arc of 135 degrees and placed as nearly as possible at the stern. It should be visible for about two miles.

A **Towing Light** is a yellow light having the same arc as a stern light.

An **All-Around Light** is a light showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 360 degrees.



When navigation lights are required, no other lights, which may be mistaken for navigation lights, may be shown. The display of the proper navigation lights add to your safety at night.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer of boating!

Practice Safe Boating!

P/Lt/C Gisela Murray, S

Safety Officer

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Do not forget our 3 seminar offerings on May10th at the Tri-City National Bank Training Room. This state of the art training facility is located at the Tri-City National Bank Building 6767 West Greenfield Ave in West Allis on the 2nd floor.



Bring you friends, family, dock mates, fellow club members; every boater can gain valuable information from one of these seminars. Each seminar is 2 hours long and has materials the student takes home as reference material. The cost per seminar varies from \$24.00 to \$28.00 for USPS members and \$30.00 to \$35.00 for non-members.

On-Board Weather Forecasting

This seminar explains how just using your own senses can help you determine what weather conditions you will encounter at your location. By all means, a forecast is important: it tells you what weather systems are headed your way but it is challenged to tell exactly when and where conditions will change. Add a couple of instruments and you can verify your own observations. This seminar explains weather systems, how to understand clouds and their changes, using changing wind direction, temperature and pressure to hone in on emerging weather fronts. Seminar materials include an excellent book *Fundamentals of Weather* written by the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons and the McGraw-hill *On-Board Weather Forecasting* waterproof Captains Quick Guide to take aboard your boat.

Cost: \$28.00 for USPS members
\$35.00 for non-members

Using a VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio

VHF radio is the mainstay of coastal communication and essential for emergency communications. Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is rapidly becoming a reality as more U.S. Coast Guard *Rescue 21 System* operations go live. This seminar explains basic VHF operation. A CD is included with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer at home. The handy waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain's Quick Guide *Using VHF* is included with essential information that you should have aboard.

Cost: \$24.00 for USPS members
\$30.00 for non-members

Using GPS

This seminar explains the principles of waypoint navigation and shows you how to relate the GPS to your charts. The seminar also shows you how to operate your GPS – what the buttons do. What the screens show and how to access the functions you need. You'll also get some tips for choosing a GPS unit if you currently don't own one. The waterproof McGraw-Hill Captains Quick Guide *Using GPS* is included to take aboard your boat to remind you of the steps or to show another of your crew how to use your GPS.

Cost: \$28.00 for USPS members
\$35.00 for non-members

To register for a seminar, call Ted Smyczek, (262) 786-2599

I'll see you in class,

Stf/C Mike Wiedel, AP
Squadron Education Officer

STAR GAZING

P/C John Goetzman, P



If you don't have a direction-finding device with you and you feel unsure of the direction you are moving, the sun can help you find an approximate true-north bearing.

On any day that there is enough sun to cast a shadow, at any time of the day, all that is required, is an analog watch - set at standard time and a small diameter stick, pencil or twig about six inches long that can be used as a shadow pin.

Hold the watch level, place the shadow pin straight up on the center of the watch face over the post for the watch hands. Then lean the watch face slightly toward the sun and rotate the watch until the hour hand lines up with the shadow of the shadow pin. The true-north direction will be half way between the shadow over the hour hand and 12:00pm (noon)

Example: the shadow pin shadow falls over the hour hand that reads 3:00pm, the direction of true north is at the 1:30pm position.

If your watch is set to daylight savings time, use the half-way point between the hour hand and 1:00pm instead of 12:00pm.

This sun compass works any where in the northern hemisphere; the set up for the southern hemisphere is different. The further north you are from the equator the more accurate this method will be.

This month between April 19th and April 25th, we can see the LYRIOS meteor shower with the maximum amount of lyrio meteors hitting the earth's atmosphere on April 22nd.

This shower is made up from cometary dust from comet Thatcher 18611. Look to the north-east in the vicinity of the constellation LYRA. The radiant point (the area in the sky where the meteors appear to originate) will be just below the bluish +0.03 magnitude star VEGA.

There will be moon light from a waning gibbous moon on the night of the 22nd that will wash out the smaller meteors, but you should be able to see some of the larger meteors flash through the sky.

Between April 19th and May 28th, the ETA AQUARID meteor shower can be seen emanating on the morning of may 5th. The best time to look for this meteor shower is just before dawn low in the east-southeast sky. There will be no moon at that time so viewing conditions will be very good.

It's expected that there will be 15 to 20 'shooting stars' per hour. The ETA AQUARID's are bits of dust left behind from Halley's Comet that passed our way in 1986. The earth passes through this dust stream twice a year, in April - May and in October when we have the ORIONIDS meteor shower.





Deck Watch
Official Publication of the
Milwaukee Sail and Power
Squadron
A Unit of District 10,
UNITED STATES POWER
SQUADRONS

Membership Director
Ted Smyczek
12600 W. Crawford Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-5422

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.

AUGUST MEETING

TIKI Tuesday **August 19, 2008**

Depart 7:45pm, return around 9:15pm or later

**Dance to Polynesian & Caribbean music as we watch the
sun drop deep below the horizon.**

Sip on Tropical drinks or beer and enjoy chips and Pacific inspired snacks.

Last year's price was \$25.00 and it was well worth it!

We can meet for dinner before boarding.

We are chartering the entire boat, will need a total of 45 to attend.

Bring Friends...More info to come next month

