



Volume 54, Issue 9

December 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](http://www.milwakeepowersquadron.org)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **December**

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

**15th (Tue)**—Squadron Members' Holiday Party,  
6 p.m., Golden Mast Inn  
W349 N5293 Lacys Lane  
Okauchee, WI

### **January**

**6th (Wed)**—*Weather* Course begins  
call Instructor Mike Beckmann, SN  
262-679-4372 to reserve a book.

**12th (Tue)**— Executive Committee Meeting  
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club  
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI

**15th – 24th**—West Allis Boat Show  
State Fair Park Expo Center  
8200 W. Greenfield Ave.  
West Allis, WI

**Please come help in the booth.**

**16th (Sat)**—1-Day Safe Boating Class at  
Milwaukee Boat Show Class  
7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
State Fair Park Expo Center  
8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis,  
WI; **use the north entrance to the  
building.**

**19th (Tue)**—Squadron Members' Meeting  
6 p.m., Alioto's, 3071 N. Mayfair  
Road, Wauwatosa, WI.

**TBA**—*Piloting* course begins, 7 p.m.  
Call Instructor P/D/C Ron Kraase,  
SN, (414) 541-0134 to reserve a  
copy of the Student Manuals and for  
location of class.

### **February**

**9th (Tue)**— Executive Committee Meeting  
7 p.m., South Shore Yacht Club  
2300 E. Nock St., Milwaukee, WI.

**16th (Tue)**—Squadron Members' Meeting  
6 p.m., Alioto's, 3071 N. Mayfair Rd  
Wauwatosa, WI.

## **NEW WEATHER CLASS**

We are proud to offer the BRAND NEW USPS Weather Class. This is a completely re-done version of the always-popular topic, and the changes include:

- New work book (the old USA Today book is no longer used)
- New graphics and illustrations (about half of them are new)
- New approaches to present and discuss many of the more-difficult topics, to make them much easier to understand
- Course is now run as one continuous class, rather than two separate sections--this means only one test, not two! And it also cuts a week off the course time--it now runs in 11 weeks instead of twelve. (ten class sessions and one test session)
- More focus on weather and forecasting, especially using the resources on the internet.

If you want to learn how to understand, and more importantly, predict the Weather--almost as accurately as the weatherman!--come to this class.

Even if you've previously taken the Weather course, this course is so different that you'll be guaranteed to learn something new.

Class begins on Wednesday evening, January 6, 2010, and will most likely be held in the New Berlin area. For more details, contact me at 262-363-9877 (work), 262-490-9878 (cell), or e-mail at [Roybeck@execpc.com](mailto:Roybeck@execpc.com).

Hope to see you there!

Mike Beckmann,  
Weather Instructor

## Milwaukee Sail and Power Squadron Bridge Officers

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Redesign and Editorial Production by Heather McKinney under the direction of the Publications Committee. Items for publication are due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please submit items to [deckwatch@milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org](mailto:deckwatch@milwaukeekeepowersquadron.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](mailto:tmsmyczek@netzero.net)

Please send questions, comments, Roster contact information updates/changes, opinions, photos, news, articles, story ideas, etc. to: [Deckwatch@milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org](mailto:Deckwatch@milwaukeekeepowersquadron.org)



**February 2nd to 7th 2010**

**Orlando, FL**

Disney Coronado Springs Resort  
(This is the main meeting Hotel)

1000 West Buena Vista Dr  
Lake Buena Vista FL 32830  
Telephone: 407-939-1020

**Rate: \$146.00**

**More info to come in next month's  
Deck Watch**

## UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFO ONLINE

Any member who has signed on to the USPS website using a PIN code can now update their personal information online.

Use the "How Do I" list at the top of the [USPS home page](#) to locate the "Update My Personal Data Online" facility.



**Ask not only...“What can I do for the Milwaukee Sail & Power Squadron?” Also ask: “What can the Milwaukee Sail & Power Squadron do for me?”**



As with any organization, there are several advantages for being an active leader or committee chair in the Milwaukee Sail & Power Squadron. Among them:

- There is a sense of self-improvement gotten after a project goes well.
- One gets a good feeling for having been helpful to others.
- Leaders and committee chairs may be the beneficiaries of software which is significantly discounted (up to 96%, that's right, 96% of retail price) available thanks to donations of software manufacturers to non-profit organizations.

This last point is especially relevant now because Microsoft has made available upgrades to the Windows 7 computer operating system to qualifying non-profit organizations. Milwaukee Sail & Power Squadron qualifies and is eligible for those donations. If this piques your interest, please call Ted Smyczek, 262-786-2599 for more information.

## **BOATING SAFETY**

### **Importance of Boating Education**

The main objective of the United States Power Squadron is to encourage and promote the safety of boaters and boating enjoyment by teaching the fundamentals of safe boating. As in everyday life, the more you know, the better you can handle emergencies.



The basic boating course has taught us the fundamentals of safe boating. Many of you have taken additional courses. You realized how much more there is to learn.

Safe boating and boating knowledge should not only be the responsibility of the skipper, but also his shipmate and crew. Everyone should know how to handle an emergency, not only of your own boat but also other boaters in distress.

The number one safeguard is knowledge. To help us USPS has developed many good courses. These courses are designed for the experienced boater as well as for the beginner. Acquiring boating knowledge should become a family affair. Our instructors are sensitive to the abilities of every student and are ready to help in understanding the subject matter. To enhance the courses members often will relate their personal experiences.

The Seamanship course provides basic information and is valuable for the beginner and as a refresher course for the experienced boater. The Advanced Grade Courses relate to the basic principles of piloting a boat.

Everyone on board should know the boat's electrical system, how the engine works, and what to do in case of failure of the systems. It is often very important to understand how to predict bad weather. The basic ability to judge oncoming weather has saved many boaters.

Become an expert and take advantage of the courses offered. Don't jeopardize family and friends by ignoring safety standards on the water.

Gisela Murray, SN  
Safety Officer





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**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.

## **MSPS Christmas Party—Tuesday, December 15th**

Golden Mast Inn  
W349 N5293 Lacys Lane, Okauchee, WI

**Cocktails 6:00PM, Dinner 7:00PM**

**Dinner Choices:** **Filet, Prime Rib, or Salmon** and a scrumptious dessert. \$35.00 per person.

Join us all for some Holiday fellowship and a chance to revel in the spirit of the season.

**RSVP by Thursday December 10 to Nappy [nappy@execpc.com](mailto:nappy@execpc.com)**

Our Christmas giving organization this year is the Lake Area Free Clinic. Since the doors opened on July 3, 2001, the **Lake Area Free Clinic** has welcomed individuals and families who lack health insurance and whose income is below 200% of the federal poverty level.



Part of the proceeds from the dinner will be donated to the Lake Country Free Clinic. They also have a Donations Wishlist on their web site. Please bring items on the wish list or your generous contribution made out to Lake Area Free Clinic. Visit [lakeareafreeclinic.org](http://lakeareafreeclinic.org) to view the wishlist. It will be welcomed and will help their mission through the difficult winter months.