



The Gulf Breeze

Volume 48, Issue 1

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons® District 21

March 2010

Upcoming Events

March 2010

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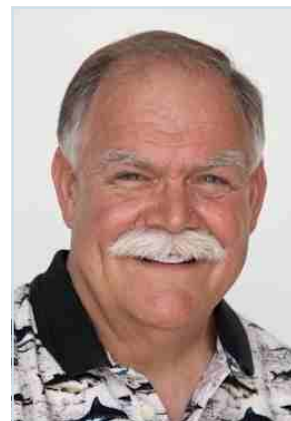
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From the Bridge



I had just about lost the sandal tan lines on my feet, so DeeDee and I spent some time in Zihuatanejo, Mexico®, north of Acapulco with friends. We arrived Saturday, the last day of the local Carnival celebration before Lent. The streets were full of floats, all sizes and shapes, from bicycles to flat bed trucks and everything in between. The harbor was filled with sailboats on moorings, mostly flagged from Canada and Mexico with a few US. We stayed at about 17° 34.5'N, 101° 27.0'W as near as I can tell from a web satellite map.



Cdr. Bob Weber

So at that latitude it was HOT, a welcome change from the Texas winter. I got my tan line back. With the lack of ambient light, Sirius and Rigel (they had a Star finder) were very bright in the sky. It would be a good spot for sightings except the ocean is on the wrong side.

As the bridge year closes, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank my Bridge for all their efforts that keep the squadron going.

XO Pam Larson, AP – created and supports our web site and now has it linked with the USPS National web site. *SEO Frank Vogelsang, SN* – is responsible for our squadrons' many education awards, which will be presented at the Change of Watch. *AO Lee Price, P* – does the outstanding job of producing the *Gulf Breeze* every month and always hounds me for some sort of remarks just before the deadline. She also handles all our social events, which is no small task. Also thanks go to: *P/C John Gaskins, P* – organizes our presence at Scout Day and chronicles, on film, all of our events. *Jackie Gaskins, S* – and the rest of the Telephone Committee's efforts make our events successful. *P/C Blake O'Lavin, SN* - keeps me on the straight and narrow on Merit Marks. *P/C Steve Roach, JN*, my predecessor, for his help and *Joyce Roach, JN* – for class instruction help.

Additionally, thanks to all the members that help with teaching classes, planning and holding events, and standing watches for boat shows, Scout days, etc. Nothing is possible without your help and efforts. Many people play an important role in the squadron operations, even if you don't have a job title. You all have my grateful thanks. And in the coming year, for those of you who read this and have some spare time, please volunteer to help, get involved and help make this year a success.

The Change of Watch is scheduled for Friday, March 5, 2010. I hope to see everyone there.

"There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes".
-Old Norwegian Adage



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WEBSITE:
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Your Are Cordially Invited to attend the 2010
Coastal Bend Sail & Power Squadron's

Change of Watch

March 5, 2010

Baja Coast Bar & Grill
"Marlin Room"
5253 S. Staples
Corpus Christi, Texas
\$24.00 per person
1800 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1900 Dinner
~ ~ ~

Menu

House Salad
Snapper, Chicken Breast,
Filet Mignon
Served with Rice & Seasonal
Vegetables
Key Lime Pie

RSVP by March 1, 2010
Jackie Gaskins
361-992-1756
Dress: Uniform/Business/After 5

2009/2010 Bridge Officers

Commander • Bob Weber, N

Executive Officer • John Gaskins, P

Educational Officer • Frank Vogelsang, SN

Administrative Officer • Lee Price, P

Secretary • Vickie Nunez, P

Treasurer • Yvette Vogelsang

~ ~ ~

Installing Officer

District Commander • Shirley Heald, AP

~ ~ ~

Make your check to CBSPS
Mail to:

Cdr. Bob Weber
123 Sea Mist Drive
Aransas Pass, Texas 78336
361-758-8964

Welcome New Members

Michael Marty and Teri Harris

4617 Greensboro Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78413
361-701-0234 (cell)
mmarty@ipsadvantge.com

CBSBS WEBSITE:

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/coastalbend>

IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MARCH 5, 2010 - CHANGE OF WATCH
MARCH 22, 2010 - JN CLASS



SEO Frank Vogelsang

Education Update---March, 2010

USPS National By-Laws were amended at the February 2010 Annual Meeting to remove the restriction against instructing member courses to the public. Now, Squadrons have the option of offering the entire USPS educational program (Advanced Grade courses, Electives, Seminars and Boat Operation Certification) to the public. This is a major innovative marketing direction change by our organization to reach out to a greater percentage of the boating public and grow our membership.



CBS&PS will definitely take advantage of this opportunity by making our courses available to the public. USPS is suggesting course fees of about 3-4 times member prices for the public. Such a course fee structure will provide added incentive for students to join USPS.

Bob Sweet, National Educational Officer issued a 12/10/2010 memo (see pages 4 and 5) entitled, "Guidelines: Squadrons/Districts Offering Educational Programs" that provides perspective on additional marketing initiatives by the USPS Educational Department.

We completed a very successful ABC-3 public boating class (multiple sessions) on 2/18/10. Chart plotting and use of digital chart software were also covered. My thanks to Joyce Roach for organizing and coordinating the class schedule along with teaching multiple sessions. She is also planning a 2nd ABC class schedule for May in conjunction with National Safe Boating week. My thanks also to Bill Rosenkranz, David Price, John Gaskins, Buddy McDowell and Bob Weber for their teaching efforts.

Offshore navigation (JN) course materials have been received. A class schedule is being developed around Monday evening classes (1800-2100), starting 3/22/10 at the Corpus Christi marina.

We are also looking at the possibility of offering a combined Seamanship/Piloting course class schedule.

March Recipe Marinated Ranch Broiled Chicken



- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 (1 ounce) package dry Ranch-style dressing mix
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

Combine the dressing mix, oil and vinegar in a large, resealable plastic bag and mix together. Add chicken to bag, seal and shake to coat; work mixture into the meat.

Refrigerate to marinate for at least 1 hour, or overnight if possible.

Preheat oven to Broil/Grill.

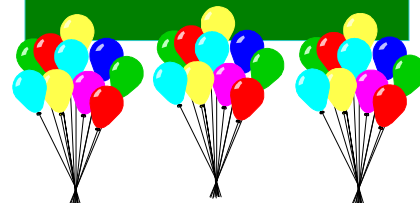
Remove chicken from bag, discarding any remaining marinade, and broil for 10 to 15 minutes or until cooked through and no longer pink inside.

March Birthdays

19 Jackie Gaskins
25 Marshall Kline

If you are not listed please contact
Lee Price, Lee5375@cablone.net
or 361-775-0191.

Data is taken from National database.



From *allrecipes.com*, Suzynagy



United States Power Squadrons Educational Department

Date: 12 February 2010

Subject: Guidelines: Squadrons/Districts Offering Educational Programs

Effective with the Annual Meeting on 6 February 2010, the restriction against squadrons instructing courses to the public has been removed from the National By-Laws. I believe it is a good time to summarize where we are and where we are going to assist squadrons and districts in planning and offering educational programs.

Any squadron, or district, can offer any USPS educational program to the public as well as members. That is not a requirement, it is an opportunity and choice left to the individual squadron. As I am sure you can all appreciate, many changes have taken place in the boating world over the past few years and newer and younger boaters are looking for different ways to learn. We must and will adapt.

However, you are asked to charge near market price for our courses to the public attendees with a deep discount to members, and discounts to USPS partner organizations. That is the public's inducement to join. We all recognize that commercial programs are available in many of our subjects at \$200 to \$500, and well attended – we believe ours are better. The additional proceeds from public attendees belong to the squadron or district that offered the course. We ask that you consider applying them to marketing efforts to attract more attendees to your courses and seminars. We will accommodate non-members taking exams and will make provisions for recording their results as soon as practical.

You can offer any course, seminar, or Boat Operator Certification to anyone. There is no specific order or prerequisites for taking courses. However to earn BOC certification, a boater must complete the prescribed curriculum and demonstrate the defined skills. For a member to achieve the grade of Advanced Piloting or higher, he or she must have first completed Seamanship and Piloting but they can be completed after other courses. To achieve the grade of Senior Navigator (SN) (formerly known as a "full certificate") a member must successfully complete all five Advanced Grade courses and any six Elective Courses. Shortly, we will have eight electives and we are in the process of adding an extra equivalent elective that can be achieved by completing any 6 or more seminars. We expect squadrons to support USPS and purchase the program materials from USPS rather than using third party materials or offering other programs.

There is a clear trend with newer and younger boaters to want programs offered for home study or over the internet. We are moving in that direction. Seamanship is already offered as an internet course as is America's Boating Course. The on-line price of ABC has recently been raised to \$49.95 and it includes 6-months membership in the Cyber Squadron.



V/C Robert J. Sweet, SN • National Educational Officer
54 Cash's Trail, Waquoit, MA 02536 • 508-495-4300 • aep@mindspring.com

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V/C Robert J. Sweet, SN
National Education Officer

Guidelines

12 February 2010

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Our objective with on-line and internet programs is to drive boaters to squadrons. Each individual taking one of these programs is provided with contacts in local squadrons and the local squadrons are given the individual's contact information. This is the same as for those joining the Cyber Squadron directly from the usps.org web site.

We will be packaging more of our materials to be offered directly to the public through our web site, partners and selected outlets. Our retail pricing strategy is intended to be high enough to minimize competing with our squadrons. Most boaters also recognize a premium value for classroom instruction. Our mission is to engage a broader cross section of boaters with our programs and find ways to induce them to connect with a local squadron.

To counter trends away from the classroom, we are emphasizing hands-on, skills-based training and on the water training – you can't do that on the internet. We all must adapt. USPS' greatest strengths are our quality programs and our extensive base of experienced, instructor-members located wherever people boat. That is how we function and it is how we get and retain members – direct interaction.

On the marketing front, we are working closely with the marine trades and marine manufacturers to foster close bonds that support our programs. Marine dealers are looking for ways to attract and train boaters and most welcome USPS to come and offer seminars, courses, and materials for their customers and prospects. To be effective, we must be there when needed and ready to offer the programs they want. On-line and internet offerings are gap-fillers that you can offer as alternatives between sessions of your classroom programs.

We are emphasizing on the water training and are in the process of training hundreds of certifiers across the country. We are well into "Practical On The Water Training" program sponsored by a grant from the Coast Guard. We will purchase tools to support hands-on training and are in the process of renewing the teaching aids program which is vital to hands-on training. Let's return to what we do best – train boaters. We've removed the shackles making it easier to offer programs and recruit members. We will continue to make connections with the boating industry that can help you, and continue to provide the best materials and tools to train with.

We are also asking districts to step up to the plate and coordinate activities across squadrons so we can present a comprehensive and coherent slate of programs in each part of the country. We want boaters to know we are there, where we are, and what they can get from us.

Share your successes and ideas. You are all members of the USPS Educational Department.





Save the Date!

The D/21 Spring Conference is coming soon!

Make your hotel reservations now!

When: March 25, 26, and 27

Where: Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake

3000 NASA Parkway

Houston, TX 70059




Phone: (281) 333-9300 Fax: (281) 333-9748

www.Hilton.com/HoustonNASA

Single/Double Room Rate \$85.00 per night plus tax. Pets allowed, \$75.00 Non-refundable Deposit

Make your room reservations with the hotel now! Ask for the "District 21 Spring Conference" rate.

Registration forms will be coming soon. We're still finalizing event details in order to maximize the fun and keep the costs down. Here's the preliminary agenda for the weekend:

Thursday	Conference Registration begins at 3 PM
Thursday Night	<p>Barbecue Cook-off!</p> <p>Join us for a Texas-style celebration with food, drink, and music. Help us settle the bragging rights for best barbecue in D/21!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Pavilion in Clear Lake Park right next to the hotel • The gates will open at 7 AM for early cooking • The party is on from 6-9:30 PM <p>Bring a team to compete! We'll provide the beverages, sides and desert. You provide the beef, pork, or chicken! You can also bring a sample of your local favorite barbecue for the "Home Town Favorite" competition. Contact Scott McDonald at 713-303-8049 for further details.</p> 
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars, Workshops, Ships Store • Commanders' Working Lunch, PDC Lunch • District Council
Friday Night	<p>Hospitality Suites are back!</p> <p>Enjoy the food, refreshments, and hospitality of your fellow D/21 Squadrons! Bring the best flavors of your home squadron and strut your stuff! Suites are limited; we encourage smaller groups to team up with others. Please contact Charles Ashford at 281-474-7260 for suite reservations.</p> 
Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, Coop Charting • District Conference • Member and Non-member lunches
Saturday Night	<p>Change of Watch, Dinner and Dance</p> <p>Join us in celebrating D/21 as we honor the work of D/C Shirley Heald and all others who supported District in the past year. Help us welcome the new bridge and get the year off to a tremendous start! We'll have a great dinner followed by music and dancing. <i>Something Wonderful is going to happen!</i></p> <div> <p>USPS District 21</p> <p>2010</p> <p><i>A Nautical Odyssey</i></p>  </div>

For further information, please contact Scott McDonald at 713-303-8049 or ScottDMcDonald@comcast.net.

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