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News Release

U.S. Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary to boost boating safety efforts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. The U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will increase their coordinated safety efforts among America's recreational boating community under a new agreement that broadens cooperative efforts in vessel examinations, public affairs and education. The agreement was signed today at the Auxiliary's national conference NACON 2011 in Charlotte.

Recreational boating is one of the most popular outdoors activities in the United States. In 2010 there were nearly 12.5 million registered boats, with many millions more that are not required to be registered by states or the U.S. Coast Guard. That same year, the Coast Guard recorded more than 4,600 accidents involving 672 deaths, 3,153 injuries and approximately \$35.5 million in property damage. The majority of these accidents happened on boats operated by individuals who had received no boating education.

The U.S. Power Squadrons and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are committed to changing this reality through increased boater education, vessel examinations and public boater safety awareness events.

“With this cooperative effort we will reach out to the growing population of recreational boaters providing needed training and vessel exams to keep them safe on the water,” said Jim Vass, Auxiliary National Commodore.

"The USPS is proud to continue our partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as we continually strive to improve the boating experience for recreational boaters," noted Frank Dvorak, USPS Chief Commander.

The United States Power Squadrons is the nation's largest nonprofit recreational boating organization with a presence in all 50 states plus the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as well as Japan. There are more than 40,000 members in 400 squadrons and 33 districts worldwide. For more information about the U.S. Power Squadrons visit <http://www.usps.org>

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary, America's Volunteer Guardians, supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions. For more information about the Coast Guard Auxiliary visit <http://www.cgaux.org>