

# *THE NORTHEASTER*



*DISTRICT 19 NEWSLETTER  
MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT  
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS, INC.®*

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*JANUARY 2007*

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## **USPS Annual Meeting Jacksonville, Florida**



Our annual meeting will be 20-25 February in the lovely city of Jacksonville at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. The deadline for room

reservations is Friday 19 January. For a complete schedule of meeting times and activities, log on to the website at [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) and click on the Annual Meeting icon.

In addition to the formal meetings, there are many social activities planned. One bus tour will take you to experience Jacksonville's past at Friendship Park, the Riverwalk, Fort Caroline, City Hall, the Seminole Club and the Florida Theater. Another will give you the opportunity to travel to St. Augustine to tour Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest permanent seacoast fortification in the continental U.S. You will also have a chance to stroll St. George Street, a shopping mecca of over 240 gift shops.

The Annual Meeting is capped off on Saturday evening with a dinner dance. The deadline for activities registration is 1 February.

## **D/19 Spring Conference 23-25 March 2007**

**Holiday Inn, Concord, New Hampshire**

As winter is finally setting in, some fight off cabin fever by working on spring projects. One of the problems that squadrons have is name recognition. Many are fighting that battle by taking booths at boat shows. Others are teaching public boating classes, and placing newspaper and radio ads. The conduits are there.

During the March 23-25 conference weekend in Concord (at the Holiday Inn) the Amoskeag and Lakes Region squadrons are combining forces to present a FREE GPS seminar to two groups of boaters who have been overlooked for a long time. According to USCG the canoers and kayakers are the two groups that comprise the largest number of boating fatalities.

Plans are underway to offer an event packed weekend interlaced with the necessary meetings. On Saturday morning, after the welcome, members and hopefully your squadron instructors will join the public to take part in the GPS seminar. This may be followed by a safety demonstration in the indoor pool. This will be an excellent opportunity for members to listen to and interact with the public. This weekend every member will be an ambassador of USPS. (continued on pg. 3)

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Hello Mates,

As time goes by I find it harder to write the commander's message. Before the computer, articles that came from National or local happenings were saved and written up later in *The Northeaster*. Now, I send articles that I receive from National, other sources and late breaking news, online to members concerned as I receive them.

Some articles not reported:

The MOU with the State of Maine. Effective 1 January 2007 MAINE Legislation LD307 requires that persons between the ages of 16 and 18 have proof of boating safety education to operate a PWC, and requires Maine's two BLA departments (Inland Fisheries and Wildlife plus Marine resources) to "work together and with other interested parties to study the feasibility of developing, implementing and funding a statewide boating safety education program." They are to report back to the sponsoring legislative committee by 1 February 2007.

The steering committee including U.S. Coast Guard: Al Johnson; Coast Guard Auxiliary: Rear Commander Al Eggesston; USPS: D/C Bill Maloy, P/D/C Art Pickard and D/Lt/C Ed Knapp; Maine's two BLA's: Colonel Tom Santaguida and Major Fetterman; NTSB: Bill Gossard; and two Maine State Representatives: Thomas R. Watson(D-Bath) and Leila J. Percy (D-Phippsburg) has been formed to develop a draft of the required boating education regulations. A copy of the proposed legislation from some other states was given to all members as guidelines for Maine legislation. The steering committee agreed with the covering of regulations (recreational boating but not commercial boating) and to provide a phasing in of the ages of enforcement over time. Three meetings have been held. To date the meetings have

been concentrating on reviewing other states agreements, getting everyone's opinion, and finding a happy medium.

**BOWSPRIT Report**

Our most recent BOWSPRIT report indicates the following:

1. A 12% decrease in membership. This number would have been higher without a Penobscot Bay Squadron increase in membership.
2. We received 2 points for advanced courses and 1 point for elective courses in the educational program.
3. A 24% reduction in Vessel Safety Checks.
4. We had a 125% increase in the Coop Charting Program receiving (6) points. Thanks go out to D/Ch Ed Knapp and a very active crew with the Wawenock Squadron.

The total points for 5 months are 9. By increasing this number to 12, we could receive an award next June. To do this we must :

1. To increase membership, offer more Boating Courses, have booths at more boat shows. The new USPS University course program should be a tool to promote our USPS image and sell the benefits offered by USPS.
2. In the Educational Program for members, offer more advanced and elective courses.
3. Qualify more VSC examiners and increase the number of safety checks. In addition the VSC examiner can be a good public relations person by explaining the benefits offered by membership in USPS.
4. Have more squadrons join Wawenock Squadron in the Coop Charting Program. The program is not just for the ocean areas, but inland as well.

There are many benchmarks, and other objects shown on charts that might not be

there now such as church spires, lookout towers, beacons etc. Contact D/Ch/Coop Charting D/Lt/C Ed Knapp for details.

The National Members Benefits Committee Chairman R/C Luis A. Ojeda and I (a member of this committee) have been working with Maine-based marine supplier Hamilton Marine to extend the 10% discount program with some company paid shipping charges on marine supplies to all USPS members. The agreement has been finalized. Check the member benefits section of the USPS website for details.

Splice-the-main-brace...only after you have made fast to the dock.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
D/C Bill Maloy



Visit the District 19 Web Site for up-to-date information about your district:

[www.usps.org/localusps/d19](http://www.usps.org/localusps/d19)

**D/19 SPRING CONFERENCE  
PLANS UNDERWAY**  
(continued from page 1)

Activities for the afternoon include a fire safety demonstration at the Concord fire tower, a class on radar by a representative from Navtronics, and another class (yet to

be determined). A mini-expo offered by local suppliers and dealers will run concurrently.

From 1500-1630 the membership will attend the Council Meeting, followed by happy hour and a buffet dinner. Following dinner we will hold a raffle and auction conducted by the famous auctioneer from Presque Isle that we enjoyed so much at our conference there. This will be the fund raiser and receipts for winnings will be issued for tax purposes. So bring your checkbooks.

On Sunday the traditional Commanders Breakfast will start at 0700 with ALL attendees welcome. Only the commanders will have the floor. At 0800 the Conference will begin and include the Change of Watch for both squadron and district officers. The objective is to dismiss by 1000.

The classes are subject to change. Room rates have not been adjusted so as to encourage more attendees. The hotel is two blocks off exit 14 (on I93) in downtown Concord. Within a 3.4 mile radius there is LL Bean, Burlington Coat Factory, Borders, Staples, the New Hampshire Capital, and several restaurants.

D/Lt/C Tom Roscoe  
Executive Officer

**What's in the Marine Environment  
Committees future?**

The National MEnvCom has been hard at work for the past several years. We are always trying to improve existing course material and implement new and exciting courses, seminars, elective courses and guides. We have been working with the Corps of Engineers to produce a guide to locking on the rivers. This will be helpful to

those members traveling the Mississippi and Ohio rivers as well as others. It is planned to offer this information in a DVD format.

Our current weather course, now in a modular format, will be issued as a single course. The rewrite of the weather course is now completed and is in the editing mode, hoping to be published in late 2006. Since there is an ample supply of the current course material on hand, the new course will not be available until 2007+/-.

Other guides are in the process of being written. They include a *Trailer Guide*, *Regional Weather Guides*, *Locking Guide* and an *E-Cruising Website*.

As you read in The Ensign, with the USPS University concept we are changing the way you will learn about boating. Instead of a linear program where one structured course is followed by another, we will be offering you choices. All boaters do not have the same interests in which type of boat and where they like to boat. Some are limited to boating inshore on lakes and rivers, for some coastal or offshore boating holds their interest.

The USPS *Seminar Series* encourages a program of continuing education that keeps you up-to-date on new developments in the ever changing boating environment without having to retake the entire course. Boat Operator Certification will provide recognized credentials throughout the boating industry.

*Boat Operator Certification* is our solid entry into structured on-the-water training as well as a number of equivalency demonstrations. There will be four types of certification: *Inshore*, *Coastal*, *Advanced Coastal* and *Offshore*. Each certification requires you to complete certain courses and seminars and demonstrate those skills including on the water demonstrations.

The Educational Department will be adding more elective courses to provide you with choices on your way to a full certificate. We're about to expand the current Marine Electronics course into three separate and independent courses *Marine Electrical Systems*, *Marine Communications*, and *Marine Electronics*. We are also looking at two additional elective courses; *Offshore Weather* and *Advanced Seamanship*.

To further promote our new programs, we are looking to taking our seminars on the road with sponsored multi-city tours and senior instructors. These tours will also be used to train squadron instructors. At the same time with VHF/DSC seminars, we are planning to become a one-stop shop for VHF marine radio support. For example, we are working with the FCC and Coast Guard to have USPS become a registration agency for the Marine Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) codes that link your personal information to your DSC FHF radio.

The boating community is constantly changing (like the weather) and USPS University is designed to take the lead anticipating those changes – thus ensuring a healthy and growing USPS while kindling the enthusiasm of our members.

NOTE: If you wish to provide any information or knowledge that you have concerning *Regional Boating*, please let me know and I'll forward your information to the National Education Committee.

Squadron commanders are encouraged to disseminate this information to their squadron membership.

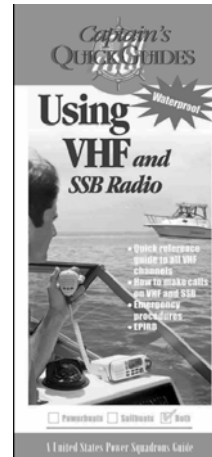
P/D/C John H. Little, JN

## USPS University Seminar Series Ready for Prime Time

At the District 19 Fall Conference held in Vermont, R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN, the Assistant National Education Officer, made a presentation outlining the new USPS University concept. The program is very exciting and includes several new publications which he circulated to the members attending. The following information is taken from the National Educational Department newsletter, Currents and highlights the new seminar series and the publications Bob discussed.

“USPS University is here with new programs targeted to a range of boaters and types of boating. The hallmark of this concept is the *Seminar Series*. These short seminars are targeted to specific topics and needs with a two-hour format, and valuable take-away guides. Each seminar provides credits toward the soon to be released *Boat Operator Certification* program, and credit toward elective courses. The first four of these seminars are now available. Squadrons can purchase the seminar kits from headquarters. Each student kit includes a high quality guide covering the seminar topic, student notes including copies of the presentation, and a certificate. The instructor’s kit includes the seminar series CD with Power-Point® presentation material, instructor’s notes, and a guide for presenting a seminar.

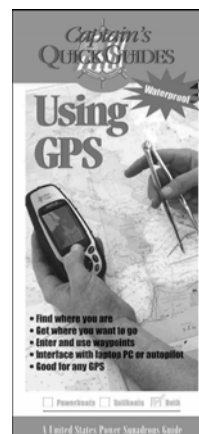
Here is a quick overview of the seminars currently available: *VHF & VHF/DSC Radio*, *GPS*, *How to Read a Chart*, and *On Board Weather Forecasting*. Several more seminars are nearing completion and will be available this fall: *Knots for Mariners*, *Boat Handling under Power*, *Sail Trim*, *On Board Emergencies*, *Using Digital Charts*, and *Heavy Weather Sailing*.



**VHF & VHF/DSC 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 Coast Guard *Rescue 21 System* operations go live. Currently, the mid Atlantic coast is operational with

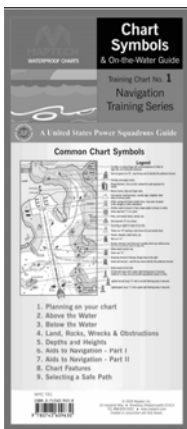
DSC. The Gulf region will be operational early next year and all Cutters will be DSC equipped by next year. DSC vastly simplifies and improves rescue and routine call signaling – making it easier to make a call while the system frees up Channel 16 for essential communications. However, you need to know how to use it. This seminar answers those needs and explains basic VHF operation. A CD is included with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer at home. A handy waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain’s *Using VHF* Quick Guide is included with essential information that you should have aboard which will explain to anyone on your crew how to use the radio.

## GPS



GPS has become a common tool for navigation. However, using GPS on the water is distinctly different from a moving map display in your car. This seminar explains the principles of waypoint navigation which you will use. It then shows you how to relate the GPS to your charts which provide essential information about what is around you. 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. A handheld GPS is used as the demonstration model, but all GPS receivers function similarly. By the time you have completed the seminar, you will be able to store waypoints into your GPS, activate them for navigation, and use GPS to keep you on a safe, pre-qualified course of your choosing. You'll also get some tips for choosing a GPS if you don't currently own one. You will get a waterproof McGraw-Hill Captain's *Using GPS* Quick Guide to take aboard to remind you of the steps, or to show another of your crew how to use your GPS.

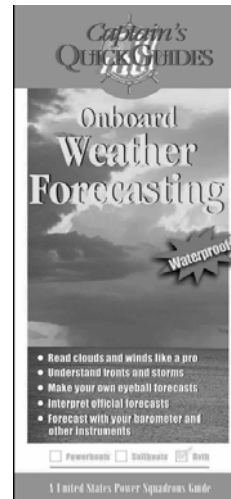


**How to Read a Chart**

Charts provide information essential to your safety afloat. Even with GPS and electronic navigation, the chart is needed to tell you what is around you and between you and your intended destination. A system of symbols is used by cartographers to tell you what lies below the surface of the

water and the depths of water. There is key information about visible landmarks and navigation aids to help you navigate your course. The chart also is your link with the GPS via its grid scale, compass rose, and distance scales. A brief introduction to latitude and longitude provides insight to the operation of GPS receivers. The NOAA Chart No. 1 is the quintessential reference to the chart details, but can be very difficult to understand. This seminar walks you through what you really need to know in an entertaining and interesting fashion, and provides you with a Maptech® waterproof, flip-fold *Chart Symbols and On-the-Water Guide* to take along on the boat with you. In addition to showing you all about your chart, this seminar walks you through the essentials of laying out a safe course, steps to measure a course with the USPS plotter,

and even a quick guide to the rules of the road.



**On Board Weather Forecasting**

Changing weather conditions can convert what was a delightful day on the water into a real challenge. Forecasting what weather you will encounter is one of the top priorities for safe boating. Should we go out? When should we come in? These are important questions, but

some fundamental understanding of the weather can help you make these decisions. That's what this seminar is all about. While not a course in weather, this seminar explains how just using your own senses can help you determine what conditions you will encounter where you are. By all means, a forecast is important. It will tell you what weather systems are headed your way, but they are challenged to tell exactly where and when conditions will change. Add your own observations and you have an extra edge. Add a couple of instruments and you can verify your observations. The 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. The seminar includes an excellent book *Fundamentals of Weather* written by the Canadian Power Squadrons, and the McGraw-Hill *On Board Weather Forecasting* waterproof Captain's Quick Guide to take aboard your boat."

For more information about USPS University, check the USPS website at:

[www.upsp.org](http://www.upsp.org)

The website has been updated and seems more inviting and much easier to navigate.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM D/19 FALL CONFERENCE – VERMONT**

The turnout for the Fall Conference held in November in Vermont was excellent. The weather was cooperative making the drive to central Vermont pleasant. R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN, Assistant National Education Officer and his wife, Judy, were our national representatives. On Saturday afternoon the programming included presentations on trailers and boating, USPS University, online reporting for boating classes and competitions, Canoeing in the North, the Clean Water Act and vessel safety checks. An open panel discussion was presented by Cdr. Al Johnson, Recreational Boating Safety, USCG First Coast Guard District Boston; Lt. Dan Begiebing of the Vermont State Police and State Boating Law Administrator; and Rod Halstead, USCG Auxiliary Vermont State Liaison Officer.

Our banquet speaker was Winooski Valley's Secretary, Lt. Dave Schaefer who wrote the book, Sailing to Hemingway's Cuba. Dave presented a slide show of his experience in sailing to Cuba to conduct research for his book and to follow in Hemingway's footsteps.

Our thanks go to the members of the Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron for their efforts in hosting such a successful and enjoyable conference. Pictures from the Vermont conference taken by Winooski Valley's Commander, Robert E. Baker will be posted on the District website at: [www.usps.org.localusps/d19](http://www.usps.org.localusps/d19).

**DISTRICT 19 BRIDGE OFFICERS:**

<b>Commander:</b> D/C William E. Maloy, AP	<a href="mailto:wilybi2@maine.rr.com">wilybi2@maine.rr.com</a>	207-878-5653
<b>Executive Officer:</b> D/Lt/C Thomas T. Roscoe, AP	<a href="mailto:troscoe@worldpath.net">troscoe@worldpath.net</a>	603-364-7449
<b>Administrative Officer:</b> D/Lt/C William F. Bergen	<a href="mailto:wbergen@maine.rr.com">wbergen@maine.rr.com</a>	207-764-3723
<b>Educational Officer:</b> D/Lt/C John E Knapp, AP	<a href="mailto:jeknapp@tidewater.net">jeknapp@tidewater.net</a>	207- 563-5327
<b>Secretary:</b> D/Lt/C Lynne J. Hallisey	<a href="mailto:wilyb2@maine.rr.com">wilyb2@maine.rr.com</a>	207-878-0971
<b>Treasurer:</b> D/Lt/C Ethel T. Price, AP	<a href="mailto:Eprice2410@aol.com">Eprice2410@aol.com</a>	207-797-6824

