

THE NORTHEASTER



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

JULY 2007



A Mariner's Weekend

Four District Conference
November 9-11, 2007

At the Marine Biological Laboratory
Woods Hole, MA

Save the date! Come to the quaint seaside village of Woods Hole, with all its maritime attractions, for this fall's four district conference. What better way to learn and help influence the future directions of the USPS? Your help and participation can make this conference one to remember!

Over the weekend there will be four information tracks that will major on the Marine Environment, Navigation and Seamanship, USPS Education, and Commander/Admin Excellence.

In addition, there will be a town meeting with the USPS National Bridge, sponsor presentations and products, tours for the spouses of wonderful Cape Cod, a silent auction, hospitality suites, great food and camaraderie with friends across 30 of the northeast squadrons. There will be sessions and activities of interest for everyone!

Visit the web site to learn more as details unfold and to register early!

www.bbsps.net/Fall2007.html



COMMANDERS MESSAGE:

At the national meeting in Jacksonville, it was announced that committees were reviewing the national bylaws in order to reorganize the USPS procedures to bring them more in line with the operation of a company. Immediately following our District Conference in Concord, NH, your new bridge found volunteers who wished to do the same to D/19 policies and procedures. D/19 finances were addressed in which a fiscal master plan was established such that the district will have a reserve fund, a fund to assist host squadrons with loans to secure hotels for district meetings and a budget driven general fund to cover annual operating expenses.

Another group (ad hoc) of volunteers has taken national's lead and reviewed the district bylaws. Concerns that have been expressed by past squadron officers have been taken into consideration as well as the desire for elimination of road blocking bureaucracy. In the 2000's a large percentage of the squadron and district officers have full time jobs and families thus allowing less time to devote to USPS. If we are to attract new, younger participants we need to make USPS more "usable" while retaining the traditions. The reworked bylaws will soon be submitted to the D/Rules Committee for review and processing eventually coming to the membership for final approval.

It is the commitment of your new district bridge to become more accessible. We will, therefore, make ourselves available to you through electronic means as well as visits. It is next to impossible for us to meet each member of D/19, or is it? We will try to make your squadron activities this year. We can only meet you if you show up there. We want to hear your ideas. This is your organization. We're listening.

Each of us is an ambassador for USPS. When you sponsor a new member prepare yourself to mentor them for their first year. Be proud of them. Introduce them. Listen to them. They will tell you what they expect from your squadron,

if you listen. I have done this 10 times and IT WORKS. Then get them involved in classes, the VSC program or both and you will have a long term member.

We recommend that your squadron look at what is being done at the national and district levels in finance, policies and procedures and consider doing the same for your squadron and the people who will follow.

(I would hope that squadron editors would find this informative enough to include in the individual newsletters)

D/C Tom Roscoe

Doings and Plans in the Executive Department

The election is over and all appointed positions have been filled. Your 2007-08 Executive Department is:

Executive Officer:

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Ch/New Squadron Dev:
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This is an experienced group with all but three appointees serving in the same positions they held last year. The three who are new to these District assignments are: Bill Fiedler, Jean Johnson and Trish LeRoyer, although Bill and Trish have held the same positions at Squadron level. We also have a reasonably broad district representation with the 10 different folks from all three states and 7 different squadrons: Amoskeag, Kennebec River, Lakes Region, Portland Head, Portsmouth, Wawenock and Winooski Valley.

All of the above are in place to help keep our squadron's members abreast of National's plans, ideas and suggestions and any legal changes. All are available to you for help in formulating your own ideas and plans.

We haven't had much activity yet this year to tell you about except in the legislative area. A steering committee including Bill Maloy, Ed Knapp and yours truly from D/19, together with the U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Transportation Safety Board and two Maine legislators has presented to the Maine legislature a draft of a bill to create mandatory boating safety education for non-commercial boaters in Maine waters. We should expect results including a phase-in by age in another year or two.

We expect to start up our efforts in vessel safety checks during Safe Boating Week in at least 3 squadrons and get started on CoOp charting not long thereafter. Suggestions and questions are always welcome.

D/Lt/C Art Pickard, SN
Executive Officer



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

www.usps.org/localusps/d19

News from the Administrative Department

There will be no special District 19 breakouts at the Woods Hole Fall Conference except the Conference Meeting itself. However, at the Spring 2008 Conference, look for separate breakouts for new Commanders, Executive Officers, Administrative Officers, Treasurers, and Secretaries to assist them in their new responsibilities.

We have been trying to put together a District 19 cruise on the windjammer Victory Chimes but have been unsuccessful due to high costs of deposits to reserve the entire boat for the 22-25 Sept 2007 cruise. So let's all make our own reservations for that date by contacting them at www.victorychimes.com. This will be their next to last cruise of the year and the foliage should be great.

D/Lt/C Doug Scott, AP
Administrative Officer

It's
Windjammer
Time!



Boating Guide to America

I would like to suggest that you try out the new membership benefit as a USPS member. The Boating Guide to America is a joint venture between USPS and Maptech. It is an online guide for boaters of all boating locations, fresh and salt water. It covers location, background of area, launching ramps, services, restaurants, whatever is needed by the boater.

It is free! You can add your thoughts and suggestions on "where to" and it can be fun updating the stuff that Maptech had in their *Embassy Guides* that you think needed to change. To get there, go to website www.boatingguidetoamerica.com, sign in with your email address and a password of your choice. You will get a page listing of states, providences, etc. Pick one and click. This will list the locations/ports in that state. Just follow your nose to your favorite spot. To make a change or edit, sign on and you get a page that you can revise. Remember to save what you have changed at the bottom of the page.

Please look it over, add information if you think it is needed, and use it. [National Coop Charting.]

D/Lt Ed Knapp
Chairman, Cooperative Charting

LETTER FROM BOATUS TO MEMBERS – Will you need a permit to discharge grey water from your boat?

For 34 years the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has exempted discharges from recreational boats from the Clean Water Act permit system. Regrettably, a recent court ruling cancelled this permit exemption. EPA is required by the court decision to develop and implement by September 30, 2008 a national permit system for ALL vessels in the United States for a variety of normal operational discharges.

We have been working behind the scenes with other boating organizations to get the exemption reinstated for recreational boats. Fortunately, the Recreational Boating Act of 2007 (H.R. 2550) has been introduced by Representatives Gene Taylor (D-Miss) and Candice Miller (R-Mich) which would protect recreational boats from being swept into this unnecessary and expensive permitting system.

It is critically important that H.R. 2550 be passed and your support is essential. Please contact your Congressman and Senators TODAY and ask that they co-sponsor or support H.R. 2550.

If the permit system becomes a reality, you will be required to pay for a state permit for each of your boats. EPA will be monitoring your deck runoff, grey water, bilge water, engine cooling water, and the use of copper bottom paints.

The original lawsuit that led to this court decision sought to address ballast water discharges from large ocean-going ships, which can introduce damaging aquatic invasive species into U.S. waters. Keeping our waterways clean and preventing the spread of invasive species is of utmost importance to the future of boating. But taking a complex permitting system designed for industrial dischargers and applying it to recreational boats will not yield significant environmental benefits and it will come at a very high cost. Requiring recreational boaters to purchase a permit would not prevent the spread of invasive species.

BoatUS has been a leader in educating boaters about Clean Boating practices for more than a decade. Our nonprofit Foundation has funded local education projects on invasive species prevention, helped develop voluntary Clean Marina programs, and authored much of the country's Clean Boating outreach. These positive education efforts are making a difference.

Please ask your elected federal representatives to support H.R. 2550. It is common-sense legislation. As you send your

emails to your Members of Congress, please copy BoatUS at GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com. We'd also like to ask you to send a copy of your correspondence to the EPA, so they can see how this will affect citizens. However, please know that if you choose to send it to EPA, it will become a part of the public record. EPA's email is ow-docket@epa.gov, and your email needs to have a subject line with Docket ID No. OW-2007-0483.

Thank you for your help.
Margaret Podlich
BoatUS Government Affairs
GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Increased insurance limits on all USPS Boat Insurance Policies

USPS Boat Insurance is pleased to announce increased coverage limits for all existing and future policyholders. Effective immediately all USPS Boat Insurance policyholders receive increased limits for Personal Effects, Towing Coverage and Medical Payments at *no additional charge*. In many cases, this represents more than a 200% increase over previous limits.

All policyholders with boats valued \$250,000 or less now have a minimum of:

- \$1,000 in Towing coverage
- \$5,000 in Personal Effects coverage
- \$10,000 in Medical Payments coverage (unchanged from previous limit)

All policyholders with boats valued more than \$250,000 now have a minimum of:

- \$2,500 in Towing coverage
- \$10,000 in Personal Effects coverage
- \$25,000 in Medical Payments coverage

Any existing policy with higher limits than the above will remain unchanged. USPS Boat Insurance and Travelers Insurance are excited about rewarding USPS Members for their dedication to boating and boat safety. Please contact 1.800.763.USPS (8777) for a quote with the above-mentioned coverage.

Jake Hill, Director of Sales and Marketing
USPS Boat Insurance

USPS Position Statement regarding Water Ballast Issue

Federal courts have directed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) decision to implement across-the-board Clean Water Act (CWA) provisions and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting for all vessels from outboards to cargo ships. United States Power Squadrons (USPS) opposes a blanket characterization of all vessels and urges the federal government to exercise restraint and reason by exempting small recreational watercraft from NPDES permits not currently required of vessels regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard. Our organization recommends implementing a national, environmentally responsible program of manufacture and operation standards for recreational vessels without the need for individual permitting. USPS further recommends that such a program include development of best management practices for key environmental concerns from recreational watercraft: grey, black and bilge water, as well as engine cooling water and exhaust. Adopted practices would include such considerations as fuel tank venting and recovery systems, black water holding tanks, and non-discharge of grey water in confined anchorages. In addition, bilges should have oil and water separators ranging from absorbent pads to mechanical devices. The fragility of our environment is a major concern to all of us, on land and sea. USPS urges a sensible approach in determining environmental regulations that protect our environs but are reasonably imposed based on a vessel's size and use so as to preserve the public's right to enjoy more than 18 million boats for recreational purposes.

Approved by the
USPS Operating Committee
13 April 2007

THE SHIP

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