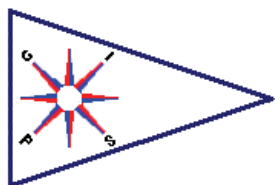


Scuttlebutt



JUNE 2008



Officers

- **Commander - Cdr—Edwin R. Schwenk, SN**
734-379-4235
- **Executive Officer—P/C William P. Morreau, AP**
734-676-7982
- **Administrative Officer**
Lt/C Lee V. Boslooper, P
734-675-6823
- **Education Officer**
Lt/C Michael Mastal, SN
734-379-5610
mastal@comcast.net
- **Secretary**
Lt/C JoAnn Schwenk, AP
734-379-4235
- **Treasurer PC—Andrew Zakar, SM**
734 285-4435

Commander Edwin R. Schwenk, SN

Congratulations to all 33 members that earned a merit mark this past year. The squadron's overall total for all members is 852.

Special Congratulations to GIPS members who earned their first merit mark.

They are:

- Dan Boileau
- Janet Coursey
- Gray Mather
- Marv Petre

Three of our members have 24 merit marks. They need one more this year to become "Life Members".

They are:

- Josephine Altstetter
- Denis Creazzi
- William Morreau

Let's keep up the great support for our squadron!

Please welcome our newest member. Her name is Kristen Rowe. Kris has been very active in pursuing educational courses and attending squadron activities. A most hearty welcome Kris.

We will have a special dinner on 19 June 2008 at the Ground Round Restaurant in Woodhaven. Social hour begins at 6:00 P.M., followed by Dinner at 6:30.

Bill Morreau will be the guest speaker for this event. I will also pay tribute to all who earned merit marks.

It's time to sign-up for Fall Governing Board Meeting duties in September. The G/B will be held at the RenCen in Detroit. Volunteering for duties will be an excellent way to earn a merit mark for 2008. You can pick and choose your participation to suit your available time. It is also a great opportunity to see how USPS is run and to meet new friends who share a common love of boating and safety.

Yours in boating education and safety,

Cdr. Edwin R. Schwenk, SN

Education Department Mick Mastal

The Gibraltar Boat Smart Class is coming to an end this Wednesday with 17 students.

I would like to thank all who helped with classes this spring. Bob Lang, Dennis Tartal, Denis Creazzi, Bob

McFarlane, Dennis McHugh, Ed and Joanne Schwenk, Frank Kootsalis, Sally Rulon, Dan Boileau, Don and Janet Coursey, Larry Lang, Stacy Martin and of course Fran Mastal. If I have forgotten any one please accept my

apologies. And of course I cant forget those who made these classes possible, thanks to all the students who attended our classes.

Mick Mastal SN

SAFE BOATING WEEK

On The Water Again- At Last!

Warmer weather has finally arrived! Preparation work has been completed and the boat launched at last.. NOW it's time to get aboard and enjoy the fun of boating and cruising this summer. We hope you have had your vessel safety check completed and passed with flying colors-receiving you boat decal. Before you leave the dock though, make sure everyone is wearing a life jacket-and you won't have to hunt for them should an emergency arise.

When planning excursions this summer, please remember that it is a different world out there on the water. A boat's motion, vibration, engine noise, the sun, wind, spray, and heat of the day can be very tiring and greatly intensify the effects of alcohol and medicine or drugs on a person, impairing coordination, judgment, vision and reaction time. There is hid-

den danger in "common' prescription medications -like those for the heart and high blood pressure. They can have side effects that can be multiplied by environmental stressors causing " Boating Under the Influence" to become a factor for even those who do not drink or do dangerous drugs.

Make it a rule ---- Never drink alcohol while boating. Boating under the influence has been clearly identified as a contributor to approximately 34 per cent of fatal boating accidents. BUI affects vision, focus and ability to distinguish colors. It affects the inner ear, making it impossible to distinguish up from down if you fall into the water. Your cognitive abilities and judgment deteriorate, balance and coordination are impaired, and reaction time is greatly slowed. A boat operator with a blood alcohol concentration above 0.10 percent is 10 times as likely to die in a boating acci-

dent than a sober operator. Most states, including Michigan have a BAC limit.08 per cent. It is illegal to operate a boat of ANY kind under the influence of alcohol or and drugs. All law enforcement agencies enforce these limits. If you are determined to be operating a vessel while intoxicated, the Coast Guard may board your vessel, arrest you, terminate your voyage until you are no longer intoxicated, or turn you over to state or local authorities for prosecution. Even one or two alcoholic drinks or beers on a hot summer day can put you under the influence - so don't take chances. Take plenty of food and snacks on your outings. Use non-alcoholic beverages - and limit the time and length of you trips to avoid fatigue. Be Safe as you enjoy your boat this summer!

submitted by Josephine Altstetter, SN



Background and Overview

With the Boat Operator's Certification Program, USPS will certify USPS members at various levels of recreational boating proficiency. We expect that these certifications will be recognized across the boating community, both domestically and internationally. In the United States, The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has asked congress to authorize the Transportation Secretary to establish requirements for standards of proficiency for recreational boaters. We intend to have USPS certification accepted as the above proof and be accepted as the national certificate for the USA.

Regarding international recognition, we plan to have *certain* USPS certifications meet or exceed the requirements of UN Resolution 40, *International Certificate for the Operation of Pleasure Craft*. Under this resolution, boaters holding national certificates will be able to obtain international certification, much like licensed drivers can obtain international drivers licenses.

USPS currently plans four levels of Boat Operator Certification:

- Inland Navigator
 - Coastal Navigator
 - Advanced Coastal Navigator
 - Offshore Navigator
-

Advantages for Members

A certificate of operator proficiency will be value to USPS members when:

- Renting, chartering or leasing a boat, especially in another country
 - Obtaining insurance
 - Engaging in competition
 - Speaking in public
 - Testifying as an expert witness
 - Lobbying
 - Serving on an advisory panel
 - Being quoted in the media
 - Being introduced in a public setting
 - Publishing articles or books
-

Requirements

Certification at any level requires successful completion of all prescribed elements including:

- USPS courses - completions are tracked at USPS Headquarters
- USPS and/or non-USPS seminars -signed off by instructor and tracked at Headquarters
- Skill demonstrations on the water or, in some cases, ashore - signed-off by trained certifier and tracked at headquarters (some are US Sailing programs)

To be certified, a member must be at least 16 years of age, be mentally and physically capable of operating a boat, and have sufficient visual and auditory sensory ability to do so. Holding a drivers license will suffice to certify meeting these requirements.

Inland Navigator (IN) Requirements:

- **Courses**
 - NASBLA approved safe boating course
 - Seamanship (or S 101 and S 102)
 - Engine Maintenance (EM)
 - Marine Electronics or Marine Electrical Systems or ME 101
- **Seminars**
 - How to Use a Chart (CHT) (or Piloting, or Chart Smart or Boating)
 - Onboard Weather Forecasting (WF) or Weather course or Weather Modules
 - Using GPS (GPS) or the new P or AP course
 - VHF Radio and VHF/DSC Marine Radio (or ME 102 or Marine Communications Systems)
 - 2 additional seminars or 1 additional course
- **Skills**
 - BPH - Basic Powerboat Handling skill demonstration or US Sailing Safe Powerboat Handling on-the-water program
 - FE - Use of Fire Extinguishers
- **Optional Endorsements**
 - IW - Inland Waterways (Navigating Rivers, Dams and Locks seminar)
 - PAD - Paddle craft (canoes and kayaks) - Paddle Smart seminar
 - SA - Sailboating (or Sail or Sail Modules)

Note: The optional SA endorsement is required to be IN certified to operate a sailboat. The optional PAD endorsement is required to be IN certified to operate a paddle craft.

Coastal Navigator Requirements

- **Prerequisite**
 - IN Certification
- **Courses**
 - Piloting
 - Marine Electronics (or ME 102 or Marine Communication Systems)
 - Cruise Planning
- **Seminars**
 - Using Radar (RAD)

- The Mariner's Compass (COMP)
- 2 additional seminars or one course
- **Skills**
 - NAV - On-Water Navigation
 - PD - Use of Pyrotechnic Distress Signals
- **Optional Endorsements**
 - IN Endorsements plus: CAN - Canadian Regulations MEX - Mexican regulations

Note: CN certification to operate a sailboat requires the SA endorsement. CN certification for paddle craft requires PAD.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

05 JUNE – Executive Meeting – Bus trip to Duffy’s. Call P/C Wally Pociask to reserve your tickets, (734) 676-1763, or Bill Morreau (734) 676-7982

14 JUNE – CPR class. For reservations call P/C Heather McHugh

19 JUNE – Merit Mark Celebration Dinner at The Ground Round on Allen Road near West Road. Social hour 1800, order Dinner at 1830. Our guest speaker will be Bill Morreau.

24-27 JULY – St. Clair Shores Venetian Festival Rendezvous. See Fleet Captain Heather McHugh for information

25-27 JULY – Tri-Squadron Rendezvous at Maumee Bay State Park. See Fleet Captain Heather McHugh for information.

01-03 AUGUST – Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival. See CDR Schwenk for information.

07 AUGUST – (Tentative) Executive Meeting, 1930, at St. Thomas Lutheran Church

AUGUST Rendezvous – Fleet Captain looking for suggestions

02-07 SEPTEMBER – USPS Governing Board Meeting at the Ren/Cen in Detroit

11 SEPTEMBER – Executive Meeting, 1930 at St. Thomas Lutheran Church. (This is a change from the first Thursday of the month in conflict with the Governing Board Meeting.)

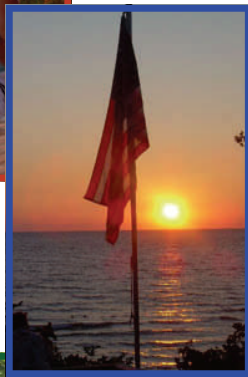
31 OCTOBER thru 02 NOVEMBER – D/9 Fall Conference, McCamly Plaza, Battle Creek

05 DECEMBER – Tri Squadron Christmas Party (Hosted by Dearborn)
Red Faun Restaurant, Allen Park, MI



Grand Haven COAST GUARD FESTIVAL

1-3 August 2008 Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival
Join members of USPS District 9 for a weekend of fellowship and fun—make sure your squadron is represented!!!



Need a hotel for the weekend?

Blocks of rooms are available under the name "District 9 US Power Squadron" at the following locations – **but they will only be held until 30 June** so make your reservations now!

Country Inn Holland - \$98/night (8 rooms, Sat. night only)
call (616) 396-6677

Comfort Inn Holland - \$99/night (10 rooms, Fri and/or Sat night)
call (616) 392-1000

Friday Night Festivities

Join members from throughout District 9 for a picnic at P/D/C Gert and D/Lt Frank Baldwin's lovely house on Lake Michigan. Festivities start at 1800. BYO Beverage. The location is 10333 Lakeshore Dr, West Olive, Michigan 49460.

Saturday is Parade Day!

The Meijer / Festival Grand Parade will be held on Saturday, August 2nd for the enjoyment of the entire family. It's one of the largest land parades in Michigan, and will be televised on the ABC affiliate **WOTV 4**. If you love a parade, you won't want to miss this one! Parade steps off at 11:45 a.m. We line up at Central High School at 10:00 am.

- District bridge and commanders—Uniform D or E
- Members and commanders without uniform D or E: Khaki pants/shorts with team shirt

Immediately following the Grand Parade, invited Coast Guard guests, local invitees, and friends and families of the Coast Guard head to Mulligan's Hollow for an old-fashioned picnic. Foods & beverages, along with a great deal of fun, and of course the "birthday cake" all make for a very special celebration. The event is the town's way of saying "thank you" to the Coast Guard. The Birthday Picnic is sponsored by Meijer.

For more information on the Coast Guard Festival, visit:
<http://www.coastguardfest.org/>

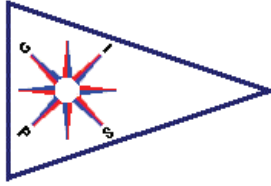
For information call D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett at (248)348-8385 or email: blbartlett54@hotmail.com

During an average day, the U.S. Coast Guard will:

- Conduct 109 Search and Rescue Cases
- Save 10 lives
- Assist 192 people in distress
- Protect \$2,791,841 in property
- Launch 396 small boat missions
- Launch 164 aircraft missions, logging 324 hours
- Board 144 vessels

Seize 169 pounds of marijuana and 306 pounds of cocaine worth \$9,589,000

- Interdict and rescue 14 illegal migrants
- Board 100 large vessels for port safety checks
- Respond to 20 oil or hazardous chemical spills totaling 2,800 gallons
- Service 135 aids to navigation



**1-3 AUGUST 2008 GRAND HAVEN COAST
GUARD FESTIVAL**

For information call D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett at (248)348-8385 or email:
blbartlett54@hotmail.com

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