



Cornfield Sailor



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Mark your Calendar.....

- 2 Jan Member Meeting
- 4-8 Jan USPS Ann. Meeting
- 4 Feb Founders' Day
- 27 Feb Member Meeting
- 4 Mar Change of Watch
- 17-19 Mar D24 Spr Conf.+COW



2005-2006 Bridge.....

- Cdr Louis F. Chenette, SN
Commander
- Lt/C Russell G. Wahlers, P
Executive Officer
- Lt/C Robert A. Lampi, AP
Education Officer
- Lt/C George D. Herrington, N
Administrative Officer
- Lt/C Philip J. Slates, S
Secretary
- Lt/C. R. Thomas Foreman, AP
Treasurer

HOOSIER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

Commander's Notes

Hoosier SAIL and POWER Squadron? You bet! We have a new name.



The resolution to add the words "Sail and" passed without a dissenting vote at the December 5, 2005 meeting of the Members' and Executive Committee. This vote came after months of discussion, thoughtful debate, and due notification. Article I, Section 1.1 of our Bylaws now reads:

"The name of this organization shall be Hoosier Sail and Power Squadron, Inc., constituting a squadron and unit of United States Power Squadrons, a nonprofit organization."

USPS national operating procedures provide for this possible change. And in making it, Hoosier members and the Executive Committee are joining numerous squadrons across the country who have judged it important to include in our name the information that we serve BOTH sail and power boaters. Some also feel that the mention of "sail" in the name helps make it clear that we are an organization of people devoted to boating. In our District, D-24, we are the fourth of ten squadrons to make such a change.

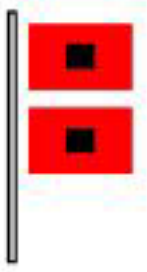
Changing our name is not so simple as just amending the bylaws. We must also have approval of the USPS National Rules Committee and the amendment must be registered with the Indiana Secretary of State. Both of those steps have been taken. We have been notified by the Chair of the USPS Rules Committee that approval is routine, so we should now begin using our new name. We are HSPS, HOOSIER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON!

Louis F. Chenette, SN
Commander

Visit us on the web at . . .

www.usps.org/localusps/hoosier

Weather Advisory in Washington D.C!!!



There is an issue that all boaters, if not all citizens should be concerned about. Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania (where AccuWeather, the country's largest commercial forecast provider, is located) has introduced a bill designated as Senate Bill 786. If passed, S.786 would prohibit the National Weather

Service from continuing to provide free weather forecasts directly to the public. Currently the NWS weather forecasts are used by both the news media and individuals who rely on this information for planning outdoor work and recreational activities. We tax payers have already paid for this information through our government's support of the NWS with public tax revenues. However, Senator Santorum's bill would create a competition-free market in which commercial forecasting services such as AccuWeather would repackage weather information obtained at no cost to these services and sell it to us at a profit. NOAA weather radio would be eliminated.

AccuWeather and similar firms would not "sell" weather forecast information directly to the public. Rather, forecast information would continue to be purchased by the media from commercial forecasting services and supplied to the public via local and network news. While this weather news information may appear "free", the media's cost of the commercial forecast service is offset by media advertising revenues which ultimately find their way to us through higher prices at the checkout register. While this is no different than the process that exists today, S.786 would eliminate both the direct distribution of free weather information from NWS to the public (NOAA weather radio for instance) and potentially restrict live emergency weather-related interviews with NWS personnel by the public news media. Basically S.786 would reduce competition by removing the direct link between the NWS and the public. In the long run, in theory this may very well lead to higher prices for commercial forecast service information - which would ultimately trickle down to us consumers in the form of higher prices on products needed to cover increasing advertising rates charged by the media.

We mariners rely heavily on this weather information from the National Weather Service in planning our boating activities. And in fact, sometimes our lives and those of our passengers literally depend on NWS information - particularly in severe weather situations. As a matter of fairness, we really don't want to have to pay for weather forecast information twice, and we require weather information when it is needed - without commercial advertisements.

All mariners who are concerned about the problems created by S.786 and wish to voice this concern should send their senators a letter or email expressing opposition to this bill. The addresses and email contact information for Senators Bayh and Lugar are provided below. There is also a sample S.786 opposition letter posted on the Announcements page of the HSPS website (www.usps.org/localusps/hoosier) for those interested in writing.

Lt. Perry Olds, N

The Honorable **Evan Bayh**

United States Senate
463 Russell Building
Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-5623

Website: bayh.senate.gov/index2.html
Email: bayh.senate.gov/WebMail1.htm

The Honorable **Richard Lugar**

United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-4814

Website: lugar.senate.gov/
Email: senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov



Winter/Spring Boating Classes.....

HSPS will start off the New Year with a variety of boating classes offered both to the general boating public and to USPS members. **Boat Smart®**, the three-session USPS safe boating course, will be offered at two locations. This course will be offered on Indy's west side at the Wayne Township Library (198 S. Girls School Rd.) meeting March 21st and 28th and April 4th. The course is also offered on the northeast side of town at the Lawrence Library (7898 Hague Rd.) on March 23rd and 30th and April 6th. Classes meet at 7:00 PM.

The USPS **Squadron Boating Course®** also begins in March and will meet at the Indiana School for the Blind (7725 N. College Ave.) at 7:00 PM. This class will meet March 15, 22, 29 and April 5, 12, 19, and 26. The Squadron Boating Course is open to the public and has

been very popular with all boaters, from the fisherman in the small outboard to the skipper of a large cruiser or sailboat.

Pre-registration for classes is requested by contacting the Hoosier 'Hot Line' at 259-6119. Participants are asked to leave his/her name and phone number. Family groups are encouraged. Full course details are found on

the squadron website (www.usps.org/localusps/hoosier). Both Boat Smart® and Squadron Boating Course® satisfy all operating regulations in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan and generally qualifies those completing the course for a substantial boat insurance discount.

Plans are currently being finalized for several additional advanced grade and elective courses (including Advanced Piloting) for USPS members having completed the basic course. Further class information will be posted on the squadron website as soon as it is available. Any course-related question can be directed to the 'Hot Line' at 259-6119.

April '06 Cornfield Sailor. - The next issue of *Cornfield Sailor* is scheduled for April. Please send any material for this issue to the editor, Lt/C Russ Wahlers, P either via email rgwahlers@comcast.net, US Mail 2501 W. Sacramento Dr., Muncie, IN 47303, or phone (765) 747-5946.

Christmas Gala at Governor's Residence

Undaunted by some unexpectedly challenging weather, a large contingent of Hoosier Sail & Power Squadron members and guests trudged through the snow to meet at the Governor's residence for our annual Christmas Gala on 9 December. Guests were greeted at the entrance by two staff members from the First Lady's Office. We enjoyed cocktails and dinner superbly prepared by MBP Distinctive Catering with an accompaniment of seasonal music by violinists Brandon Page and Allyson Dubenski. Governor Mitch Daniels was either not in attendance – or was able to maintain an unnoticeably low profile. However, the Governor's residence was festively decorated for the season, and the fellowship was great as usual. Kudos to P/D/C Guy E. Waddy, JN for planning and emceeing this special evening. Having this HSPS social event at the Governor's residence has set the bar quite high, and we're expecting Guy to start lining up the White House for next year's Gala.



Founders' Day Meeting....

Hoosier Sail & Power Squadron's Founders' Day dinner meeting will be held on 4 February 2006 from 1800-2100 at the Country Club of Indianapolis. Strolling violinist Nick Kostas will entertain and play your musical requests. Following dinner comes a "double-barreled" program. Suzanne Kissel, a Sea Scout from Evansville, has been a pioneer and leader in an exciting new coalition between Sea Scouts and USPS. She completely charmed the old worn out mariners that saw her show at the D24 Fall Conference, and she has agreed to share that show with us. Then District 24 Commander Jack Banister will inspire as he shares his vision of what it takes to have a great Squadron.

Founders' Day is one of the very special events of the Watch Year. As well as being a social event, it is the February MEMBERS/EXCOM meeting; this is a time we meet on a Saturday rather than a Monday evening. Protocol is Uniform A with bow tie or other appropriate dress. Be sure to mark your calendar for this very special evening. Specific reservation details coming soon!

District 24 Change of Watch....

District 24 Change of Watch (COW) is just around the corner. Please join your district friends at the D24 Spring Council and Conference 17 and 18 March 2006. The event will be held at the Clifty Inn in the Clifty Falls State Park just outside Madison, Indiana. This District meeting is always an enjoyable weekend. In addition to the standard meeting, we conduct the District COW where the new D24 Commander is installed along with his new Bridge. This year is particularly special for HSPS since the incoming Commander is our own D/Lt/C William J. McDonald, AP currently D24 Executive Officer.



The event is being held at the recently expanded and remodeled Clifty Inn. This beautiful wooded setting features an indoor swimming pool along with many other family amenities. On Friday evening you are invited to participate in an old-fashioned checkers tournament complete with prizes and awards. Saturday, the house activity will include a tour of the Greek revival Lanier Mansion, a State historical site built in 1844, followed by lunch at a quaint restaurant in the charming Ohio River town of Madison. Our Saturday evening banquet will feature entertainment by a local musical trio complete with dulcimer.

Please join us for a "Weekend in the Country" to salute Bill as the new District 24 Commander. Reservations may be made by calling Clifty Falls Inn (812 265-4135). Standard room rate is \$99 plus tax, and be sure to mention our Reservation Code 0317DC. See you there!



Upcoming Boat Shows....

For those of us in the Midwest who may be experiencing off-season boating anxiety, there are several noteworthy boat shows worth considering. The **Cleveland Mid-America Sail & Power Boat Show** runs from January 13-22. This is the largest indoor boat show in the U.S. held at the I-X Center adjacent to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Details can be found at www.clevelandboatshow.com. Another excellent show is **Strictly Sail Chicago** held at Navy Pier running from February 2-5. This event features sailboats exclusively as its name implies, and details are found at www.strictlysail.com.

Locally, the upcoming **Indianapolis Boat, Sport, and Travel Show** is set for the weekends of 17-19 and 24-26 February 2006. We will again have an information booth at this year's show, and volunteer HSPS members are needed! P/C Joseph Niese, Jr., JN and P/Lt/C Norman Ottinger, SN will be coordinating the booth schedule.



Please call Joe (255-1989) or Norm (547-0867) to sign up for a time to help staff our booth. This is a great USPS member recruiting event and one of our squadron's most effective ways to introduce HSPS to the boating public.

Change of Watch 2006.....

Plan to attend Hoosier's Change of Watch to be held Saturday 4 March 2006 at The Hawthorne. Specific details will be mailed and posted on the website soon. Note that the normal March Membership & ExCom Meeting has been moved up to Monday 27 February at the MCL when the election of new officers will be held.

Regarding Watch Year 2006, the squadron seeks your time and talents in filling a variety of committee assignments. If you are already serving on a committee, your continuing help is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much! If you currently aren't on a committee, please consider becoming involved in this way. We will have a list of HSPS committee needs available at the upcoming meetings. Please consider pitching in. HSPS needs your help!