

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Open Educational Meeting

Thursday, 5 January 2006

Orlando, Florida

1. Stf/C Bob Sweet, SN, nominee for Assistant National Educational Officer, opened the meeting at 1405 with 230 attending.
2. Stf/C Sweet announced there was a copy of *Currents* in the attendees' seat packs and that they should be read, copies made of items of interest and passed on to their squadrons.
3. Stf/C Sweet acknowledged P/V/C Robert P. David, SN, 1990-1993 Educational Director and P/V/C James E. Roeber, SN, 2000-2002 NEO and other guests present: Juan Menendez, Boater's World, Jonathon Eaton, McGraw-Hill, International Marine, Doran Donovan, Maptech and Richard Ellis, C-Map.
4. Stf/C Sweet discussed the two resolutions referred to OCom for review and recommendation seeking to open our elective courses to the public. He stated that the Educational Department has taken a position against the resolutions and has proposed to OCom a better solution to be detailed later in the meeting.
5. Stf/C Sweet introduced Juan Menendez, Boater's World who thanked USPS for their educational services. He explained that the 125 Boater's World stores are required to hold two fishing seminars a month. He invited local USPS squadrons to insert a script at the end of their charter cast seminars. These need to be scheduled three-four months ahead. Call him at 443/854-9645 if managers do not cooperate. He mentioned that they have recently begun to discuss using managers as trainers and paying their USPS membership.
6. Stf/C Sweet introduced Doran Donovan, Maptech, who reminded members that NOAA charts are available for free from their web site. That link is now operating from Maptech's web site. They have also been working to establish a companion program to Coop Charting called Harbor Chart. The MOU will be signed at this meeting.
7. Stf/C Sweet introduced Jon Eaton, McGraw Hill, who appreciated their relationship with USPS. They have published three USPS books and two quick guides. More are on the way.
8. Stf/C Sweet introduced Louise White, SN, CPS National Training Officer, who explained that they are working closely with USPS in the areas of electronic charting and instructor development. CPS is also involved in implementing a strategic plan. She said the goals were: 1) to look at their image and increase awareness of CPS 2) to look at how they are organized and increase effectiveness and 3) identify their target market and adjust products to meet the needs. They are in the process of surveying people at the Toronto Boat Show and the boating class students from the last three years.
9. Stf/C Sweet explained that the Educational Department understood the thinking behind the resolutions was to gain membership and revenues. A better answer is to produce material targeted to more experienced boaters to attract them to and into USPS. The plan is to offer focused seminars, of two to four hours in length, on topics of interest that are more thoroughly covered in our courses. They provide useful instruction, but also serve as an introduction. The short format could be delivered in marine stores, marinas and traditional classrooms. We can begin with seminars using the USPS – branded Quick Guides, McGraw Hill's retail guides and other books that provide take away products and seminar notes. The material will be easy to present and the seminars will include instructor's notes and PowerPoint slides and aids. The highly effective GPS Seminar is being used, but topics such as VHF and GMDSS, Knots Bends and Hitches, On Board Weather Forecasting, Rules of the Road, Emergencies on Board, Heavy Weather Sailing and Radar are other good topics. Material can be ready for the membership this year.

10. Stf/C Sweet is concerned about the erosion of boating graduates. There was a 33% decline this academic year. A major initiative is planned for the spring to help reverse this trend.
11. Stf/C Sweet introduced R/C Dave Daniels, SN, Chairman, Basic Public Boating Committee, who announced that NASBLA certification has been extended for another three years for Boat Smart. The Squadron Boating Course has an enhanced CD with 50 new PowerPoint slides and Boating 07 is coming along well. Beta testing will be done after Seamanship for coordination purposes. He mentioned that National Safe Boating Week starts 20 May and the idea proposed six months ago is to have every squadron run a boating course during that week. He concluded with a committee report and introduction of his Stf/C's Bob Sweet, SN and Eugene Molteni, SN and the rest of his committee.
12. Stf/C Sweet called for the remaining committee reports. He noted that all committees have provided written reports that have been consolidated into a single report for the DEOs who will make it available to their squadrons.
 - R/C Pat Governale, SN Chair IDCom who introduced her Stf/Cs Florence Smith, SN and Archie Trawick, SN and the rest of her committee members.
 - R/C Robert Potter, SN Chair CDCCom who introduced his Stf/C Maryls Vickers, SN and the other members of his committee.
 - R/C Wilber Hugli, JN Chair BHCom who introduced his committee members.
 - R/C Richard Pfenniger, SN Chair ICNCom who introduced his Stf/Cs Kenneth Griffing, SN and James Spencer, SN and the other members of his committee.
 - R/C N. Ann Fields, SN Chair ONCom who introduced her Stf/C Merrill Sproul, SN and the rest of her committee members.
 - R/C Walter Fields, SN Chair EMSCom who introduced his Stf/Cs Harl Porter, JN and Edwin Kridler, SN and the other members of his committee.
 - R/C Robert Brandenstein, SN Chair MECOM who introduced his Stf/C Garry Schroeder, SN and the rest of his committee members.
 - Stf/C Peter Nielsen, SN Asst Chair PSCOM who introduced Stf/C Stanley Petty, AP and the rest of the committee members. Incoming R/C Nancy Reeder, SN was introduced.
 - Stf/C Stanley Warner, SN Asst Chair EDOCOM who introduced the committee members.
13. Stf/C Sweet reiterated several topics of importance:
 - The five books and Guides are available at the Ship's store and online.
 - Maptech has provided us with a direct link to their on-line store and a 20% discount. They have provided a website to download the latest edition of NOAA charts for free.
 - McGraw Hill is publishing a number of USPS guides and some of our course books. We now have a direct link to an on-line store they created for us with discounted prices.
 - C-Map has an on-line catalog offering chart plotter-chip combinations at good prices, squadron dealer pricing on chips and discount membership in Club C-Map.
 - The Teaching Aids exhibit at Expo is updated and well worth a tour.
14. Stf/C Sweet expressed his appreciation to the Educational Fund Com for their support of monies to provide the best and latest in educational materials. The Fund has given back over \$112,000 to the squadrons in the last four years. Recently funded were: the transfer of "Seamanship under Adverse Conditions" to DVD, a CD duplicator at HQ and brochures to accompany Boater's World seminars.
15. Stf/C Sweet introduced the EdDept's Budget Officer, R/C Edwin Slack, SN and his Asst Chair Stf/C Thomas Derden, SN assigned by the Treasurer's Dept. He also introduced Jean Maassel, AP Aide to the NEO.
16. Stf/C Sweet introduced P/V/C Robert P. David, SN, P/V/C James E. Roeber, SN, NEO Spencer Anderson, SN and incoming NEO Dick Kyle, SN. Their comments were followed by questions from the membership.
17. Stf/C Sweet thanked all three segments of the Educational Staff – Squadron, District and National.

18. He expressed gratitude to the leadership and in particular to V/C Spencer P. Anderson, SN for pushing us into higher technology in our courses. This track will continue under the leadership of incoming NEO Dick Kyle, SN.
19. Stf/C Sweet adjourned the meeting at 1600.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet A. Stein
Janet A. Stein, AP
EdDept Operations

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