

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT
Minutes of the Open Educational Meeting
Friday, 23 February 2007
Jacksonville, Florida

1. R/C Bob Sweet, SN, opened the meeting at 1400 with 193 attending. He stated to please read *Currents* and pass it along to your members. He outlined the topics for the day with USPS University being the primary one.
2. During the meeting as guests became available, Bob introduced them. They included, V/C Dick Kyle, SN, NEO; P/V/C Robert P. David, SN; P/V/C Jim Roeber, SN; P/V/C Spencer Anderson, SN; John Eaton, senior editor from McGraw Hill that sponsors the projectors for the Chapman Awards; and Rich Jepsen, representing US Sailing. Shortly we will have a Memorandum of Understanding with US Sailing with the ability to use their on the water courses. He also introduced P/C/C Tony Gardiner, CPS; P/C Ellen Barbour, SN, aide to the NEO; and P/R/C Pat Governale, SN, special assistant to the NEO.
3. R/C Sweet gave highlights of the Educational Fund Raffle. Moneys will go the Educational Fund which provides grants to further boating education from the interested generated by the fund.
4. R/C Sweet introduced Stf/C Gene Danko, SN, who gave a presentation on licenses for radios. It has been arranged for USPS to be an issuing agency for radio licenses. (www.usps4mmsi.com) Question: Re EPIRB – that system pre-dates this new system. Question: If you have ship station licenses or go out of the country do you need to go to the FCC directly? Yes.
5. The committee chairs were introduced; those who had short reports gave them.
 - R/C Dave Daniels, SN – Basic Public Education
 - R/C Wil Hugli, JN – Boat Handling
 - R/C Dick Pfenniger, SN – Intercoastal Navigation
 - R/C Ann Fields, SN – Offshore Navigation – The final release of JN will be out toward the end of March.
 - R/C Walt Fields, SN – Electro-Mechanical Systems – Marine Electronics will be rewritten into three separate courses; any two of which will satisfy the requirement for ME.
 - R/C Bob Brandenstein, SN – Marine Environment – The committee needs help for local weather knowledge and information especially for Florida. If you are interested, email him at his address on the back cover of the *Ensign*.
 - R/C Chris Brown, SN – Instructor Development – They are beginning to rewrite the text and Recertification Seminar.
 - R/C Nancy Reeder, SN – Publication Support
 - R/C Bill Witty, SN – Educational Department Operations – Stf/C Stan Warner, SN, will become a special aide to the NEO to rewrite educational forms.
6. R/C Daniels gave a presentation on the transition of Boat Smart/Chart Smart to the Squadron Boating Course. The price will be dropped to \$20 with 1 free IM kit for every 15 Student Manuals ordered. This is a new IM with a CD with refreshed PowerPoint and a Maptech CD. The course will have six additional chapters so that squadrons can suggest that those students who wish to continue on after the exam may do so. Student supplements will come for the old Boating Course. Should your squadron already have the course underway, continue and order the old exam – don't switch mid-stream.

7. R/C Daniels also gave a report on National Safe Boating Week. This is the second year of coordinating a nationwide advertising program with 75% of squadrons involved and 2200 additional Student Manuals sold. Feedback: Memorial Day is not the best time for a boating course. So: Promote your boating courses and sign people up during Safe Boating Week and run your classes in June. We need to hold the courses when the students want them. Get to know the people at the radio stations so that you can promote your classes locally better.
8. Lt/C Paul Flagg made a presentation on USPS University. All seminars are two-hour presentations. With the limited time must come limited student question and discussion periods. Students have take-aways and a waterproof Captain's quick guide. The seminars are USPS membership opportunities and opportunities to encourage additional courses. Promotion is the key – use newspapers/magazines, yacht clubs, squadron newsletters, marina/store bulletin boards. Follow up by phone or email and get feedback to see if your goals have been achieved.
9. After a 10-minute break, R/C Sweet introduced R/C Bob Potter, SN, Curriculum Development & Coordination Committee to discuss the Boat Operator Certification. The information will be on the USPS Website. The required courses and seminars are in place. Endorsements will be for Canadian, European, Inland Waterways, Mexican, Paddling, Sailing and more to come. They are currently looking into the liability aspects for the certifiers, which must be worked out before the program can begin. An equivalency table will be available for prerequisites. Inland Navigation and Coastal Navigation will be ready in 2007 with Advanced Coastal Navigation in 2008 or 2009. Question: Will this branch out to non-members or the public in general? Answer: We are looking into how to offer it outside USPS, but it is not designed as a public course. Question: Have you coordinated members for staffing from other areas? Answer: HQ800 is expanding to include seminars and everything so sister squadrons can help each other.
10. R/C Sweet briefly discussed the exam waiver to be voted on at the meeting tomorrow.
11. R/C Sweet adjourned the meeting at 1700 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine J. Parkinson, JN
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EdDept Operations

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