

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Open Educational Department Meeting

Friday, 22 February 2008
Dallas, TX

R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN, Assistant National Educational Officer, opened the meeting at 1405 with 105 persons in attendance. A complete list of those attending is on file. He indicated that he would be presiding over the meeting while V/C Richard E. Kyle, SN, National Educational Officer, was meeting with the Educational Fund Trustees.

R/C Sweet gave some introductory comments. He acknowledged that the Educational Department has done a lot and has a lot in the works. He also discussed the success that we have had with seminars.

The committee chairs were introduced and gave short reports. Highlights appear below:

- R/C David A. Daniels, SN – Basic Public Education – We will continue to run through the Spring with the Squadron Boating Course – Check the Web site and e-mail for updates – An agreement has been signed with NASBLA whereby if a student fails the public boating course exam, that student cannot retake the same exam – A new exam is being made ready – The Paddle Smart seminar will be available for ordering by 15 March – National Safe Boating Week is 17-23 May.
- R/C Robert E. Brandenstein, SN – Marine Environment – Weather 2008 - working on graphics – there will be one color book for Weather – Trailering seminar being held at the Annual Meeting.
- R/C J. Christopher Brown, SN – Instructor Development – Chapman awards this year will include not only sextants, but also projectors – the new Chapman packets will be coming out soon – ID is being rewritten, but the current course is still valid – Recertification is being significantly redone, with more of a graduate school format – All teaching aids are eligible to be entered at national.
- R/C Richard C. Pfenniger, SN – Publication Support – Solicited help - needs people with computer skills and editors.

R/C Sweet introduced several individuals – P/V/C Spencer P. Anderson, SN, Past National Educational Officer, USPS; P/V/C Robert P. David, SN, Past Director of Education and Past National Educational Officer, USPS; P/C/C Tony Gardiner, SN, CPS; V/C Joe Gatfield, AP, CPS; P/C/C Doreen Hinksman, AP, CPS.

Another committee chair gave his report, with highlights following:

- R/C Wilbur G. Hugli, JN – Boat Handling – Seamanship has been out for about a year; look to the Web site for any changes; keep copies of the exams – Sail will probably be reprinted in black and white until it is rewritten – Wing's book has a typo in the introduction which is being changed.

Stf/C Gene A. Danko, SN, introduced two US Coast Guard speakers – CDR Erin MacDonald and LCDR Kathy Niles. They presented an update on EPIRB/Rescue 21.

R/C Sweet gave an update on the online Seamanship course, which is available through the University of West Florida's Web site.

R/C Sweet called upon Stf/C John W. Fletcher, SN, (incoming R/C for the Curriculum Development and Coordination Committee) for an update on the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program. Stf/C

Fletcher gave a brief introduction and then turned the presentation over to D/Lt/C R. Herman Green, AP, (incoming Stf/C for the Curriculum Development and Coordination Committee) for clarification and updates on BOC – A copy of the presentation will be added to the USPS Web site.

Other committee chairs gave reports, with highlights following:

- R/C Kenneth L. Griffing, SN – Inland/Coastal Navigation – He was unavailable due to commitments at another meeting.
- R/C N. Ann Fields, SN – Offshore Navigation – JN '07 – very few changes - some errata and PowerPoint slides can be downloaded from the Web site – JN '99 expiration has been extended to 31 December 2008 – There are around 60 squadrons and 250 students expressing an interest in the N '08 beta – N '08 has two parts; celestial and electronics – There is a requirement to have access to a Windows-based computer to use two pieces of software being delivered with the course.
- R/C Walter C. Fields, SN – Electro-Mechanical Systems – thanked everyone and introduced Stf/C Danko (incoming R/C for Electro-Mechanical Systems) to make the committee presentation – EM '07 is up and running (sold out three times) – Writing three new ME courses: Marine Electrical Systems (launching shortly for beta testing); Marine Communications Systems; and Marine Electronic Navigation Systems – The MMSI Web site (www.usps4mmsi.com) was also discussed.
- R/C Nancy M. Reeder, SN – Educational Department Operations – Solicited help – needs individuals to function as recorders for certain national meetings.
- R/C Robert L. Potter, SN – Curriculum Development and Coordination – encouraged people to look at the new courses and to visit the USPS Web site.

R/C Sweet thanked those who were moving on. He added that this is an open organization and we are always looking for new people to help. He then discussed the Educational Department's results for 2007 and a look ahead to 2008.

In a question and answer session, interest was expressed in having Train the Trainer sessions. R/C Sweet agreed to have sessions at Governing Boards and District meetings if time could be made on the schedules. A question was raised as to why there was no listing of the current version numbers associated with CDs. R/C Sweet indicated that the Educational Department will start posting the current CD version numbers to the Web site.

R/C Sweet thanked those in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 1640.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Reeder

R/C Nancy M. Reeder, SN
Educational Department Operations Committee