



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Open Educational Department Meeting

Friday, 11 September 2009
Kansas City, MO

V/C Robert J. Sweet, SN, National Educational Officer, opened the meeting at 1340. There were 78 persons in attendance. A complete list of those in attendance is on file.

V/C Sweet began the meeting with a general discussion on the Public Boating Course. We have an outstanding course. We want to remain the top provider.

R/C Eugene E. Molteni, SN – Basic Public Education – mentioned that the ABC3 exams 1 and 2 are now in Spanish. V/C Sweet mentioned that the numbers for ABC3 are good. We are clearly and distinctly different in quality from our competition.

V/C Sweet indicated that we are attracting people from the public with our seminars. He recounted District 8's success with teaching seminars at West Marine stores. USPS is continuing to create seminars, too.

V/C Sweet also discussed that the numbers of member courses and seminars being offered is down. He mentioned that the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons increases the price of their boating course and includes membership in the price. He also discussed an observation made by P/C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN, who noted that attendance was dropping for their boating courses, so the squadron dropped their price. Attendance continued to drop; however, when the price was raised, attendance increased.

The Boat Operator Certification program was the next topic discussed. We are now an on-the-water organization. We received a Coast Guard grant to build an on-the-water training program for them.

At this point, V/C Sweet opened the meeting for questions, which included:

- What does our insurance cover? V/C Richard M. Peoples, SN, discussed insurance coverage in general. On-the-water educational activities of squadrons are covered. As long as squadron activities are being conducted, you're covered.
- Under the borrowed boat program, is there anything to prohibit reimbursement for gasoline? If you are being paid, then it is classified as professional services. However, expenses can be compensated.
- Is there a problem with squadrons charging for course with an on-the-water portion? We are looking for a clear interpretation. We should clearly separate costs so that what we are charging for has a clearly defined deliverable other than the on-the-water portion. We can charge for books with an optional on-the-water portion.

V/C Sweet asked the audience's feeling on teaching our courses to nonmembers. He then discussed related issues, such as our customer base is shrinking. For efficiency, it is just as easy to teach 15 people as it is 2 people. Our courses can also be a good recruiting tool. Another issue is that our competition does not have that requirement (in that the Coast Guard Auxiliary allows anyone to take piloting and advanced piloting).

V/C Sweet then returned to audience questions, which included:

- Will there be a way to track students' credits if courses get taught to nonmembers? We will work on tracking the courses similar to what we are doing with seminars. However, students will need to join USPS in order to get "credit" for the courses.
- How do arrangements work when colleges and universities teach our courses? Broward College has a 3-credit hour course in their Marine Engineering Management program. We teach them and sell them our manuals. They then teach the students. The University of West Florida has a recreational boater program through their division of continuing education. As such, our Seamanship course is online through the university.
- Can a paper be prepared showing what was done with Broward College and the University of West Florida so that others can see what to do? V/C Sweet thought that was a great idea and has agreed that we will document the process.
- A statement was made about programs being taught at local school districts. GPS and Paddle Smart are being taught. Several hundred course materials were purchased up front and a certified instructor was required to teach. It has been great exposure for USPS.
- For our member courses, there is no requirement for the instructors to be certified. Will the policy change on who can teach what? No, not for now.
- Are there any plans to update the EDM II online? Yes, and plans are to add information for on-the-water. We will try to get an answer on when in the next few weeks. R/C R. Herman Green, JN, Assistant National Educational Officer, asked for help from the DEOs on what they need to have in it.
- With new SEOs, there is so much that is out-of-date. Can we update the EDMs soon? We need to get the updates done, but we also need flexibility. We also need the DEOs to train and guide the SEOs.
- Can the out-of-date information be pulled off the Web? We will look at it to see what we can do.

R/C Green asked how many people attend their fall conferences and attend a seminar or 1-day class. He stressed that we are missing a big opportunity if we do not have Educational Department information at the fall conferences.

With no further items needing discussion, V/C Sweet thanked those in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 1523.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy M. Reeder

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