



**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING**

**USPS Environmental Committee Report
Annual Meeting 2006**

The USPS Environmental Committee has completed its second year as an ad hoc committee, transitioning to permanent status as an official committee in the Executive Department at this annual meeting.

1) Two organization-wide campaigns have been organized this year for squadrons looking for a project at the national level:

• **Unsplash That Trash Campaign**

Quotes for USPS imprinted trash bags have been received and a grant request proposal was submitted to order and distribute trash bags to squadrons for this campaign. The intent is for boaters to collect a bag of “maritime litter” each time we go out, or at least more often than once-a-year “trash bashes” held in many boating communities. According to the EPA, 80% of marine debris in our boating waters doesn’t come from boaters and shipping. Our campaign message is: it doesn’t matter how the trash got there, let’s all make an effort to get it *out* of our boating environment. These bags are intended for hand out at boat shows, boating classes, VSC’s, or wherever squadrons come in contact with the boating community. The bags will be accompanied by an informational card. The EnvCom is pursuing grant funding for this project, as well as for funding of...

• **USPS Boating Environmental Best Practices Brochure**

The USPS Boating Environmental Best Practices tri-fold brochure has been completed, with all graphics and design work donated pro bono. A lower resolution pdf file is now available on the web page for download. A high resolution printer ready professional pdf file, or In-Design file, with instructions on CD, is available for the asking by email request to the EnvCom chair. Local squadrons can pursue grant requests from BoatU.S. and other local government or environmental organizations to print these brochures. The back is blank and local squadron information can be stamped or printed in the space. Like the trash bags, these brochures are intended for hand out at boat shows, boating classes, VSC’s, or wherever squadrons come in contact with the boating community.

• **NOAA NOMESS Project Grant Request**

At the beginning of December, the EnvCom, working with the Grants and External Funding team, submitted a \$70,443 budgeted project to NOAA for a \$36,774 grant request through the NOAA Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants competition. This program has an estimated \$2,000,000 total funding with awards estimated to range from \$15,000 to \$250,000. The USPS NOMESS project includes both the Unsplash That Trash Campaign and printing and distribution of the Boating Environmental Best Practices Brochure. One project name for the

Jan '06 JLH

combined projects is required for the NOAA application, thus the acronym NOMESS (Network of Marine Environmental StewardShip) - one of sixteen submitted by both EnvCom & Grant Team members, and the selection receiving the most votes.

2) BoatU.S. has announced their 2006 BoatU.S. Foundation Clean Water Grants Program. This program funds creative and innovative projects that teach boaters cleaner habits on the water. Up to \$4000 per group is available to small, local non-profits conducting educational campaigns. Past projects have included pumpout education, pollution prevention, monofilament fishing line recycling, and preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Several squadrons have received cash grants in past years. This information has been posted on the EnvCom web page with the grant information link, and distributed through the D/C-DXO and Admin mailing lists, and through various EnvCom member mail lists. Deadline to apply for funds is February 1. The BoatU.S. web page has the application form and all information needed, including a grant writing guide. Featured on this year's web page is the Southport SPS who received a grant last year for their Earth Day poster contest and the distribution of two winning posters around various marine facilities in the area.

3) The environmental subject matter in the Seamanship material and public Boating Course class was discussed in the EdDept Leadership meeting at the Fall 2005 Portland Governing Board. The EdDept promised to submit both new texts for EnvCom review. The Seamanship material adequately addressed most issues with the exception of information on aquatic nuisance species. This information was added. We are currently evaluating the public course material.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

4) USPS was established as partner in the ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species) Task Force public awareness campaign "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers," sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard.

This campaign is targeted at recreational users of our nation's aquatic resources. Fishermen, boaters, divers, hunters, and anyone else spending time in the aquatic environment need to be informed about aquatic nuisance species and learn to follow simple preventive procedures every time they leave any body of water.

More details, procedures, and educational information can be found on the campaign website at www.protectyourwaters.net , and a link to this website is on the EnvCom web page.

High resolution graphics files of the campaign materials are available by contacting the EnvCom chair (link on EnvCom web page). These brochures, stickers, and banners can be customized for individual squadron use, allowing squadrons to take credit for the message.

5) Mariner's Environment Learning Guide (joint project with EdDept MEnvCom)
Writing assignments have been made for five of the six sections, with first drafts received for 1-1/2 sections.

6) EnvCom Conference Activities

A formal PowerPoint presentation and/or EnvCom Expo was given at eleven Spring and two Fall District Conferences by committee members in an effort to publicize the committee projects and objectives (D/4, D/7, D/8, D/10, D/11, D/13, D/16, D/17, D/21, D/25, D/27, and D/31). The EnvCom poster has been customized for individual squadrons in ten districts – both hard copies and CD's with the digital files were provided to the squadrons in D/7, D/11, D/13, D/16, D/17, D/21, D/25, D/27, and D/31 (a total of 151 individual squadron posters and two versions of a district poster for each).

Brochures, posters, fact sheets, etc., for the above referenced conferences and for the 2006 Annual Meeting EXPO have been acquired by download or direct contact from over 70 federal, state, and local government organizations, environmental organizations, and educational institutions.

7) Squadron Projects

EnvCom continues to informally collect information from individual squadrons on environmental projects in which they are or have participated in. The committee will continue to build an inventory of these projects for the purpose of external PR efforts and grant solicitation.

8) *The Ensign*

The April issue of *The Ensign* featured an article introducing the EnvCom and an article on recycling submitted by the committee. Additional issues featured articles on water quality, how long trash lasts, cell phone recycling, and caustic cleaner substitutes. In progress are articles introducing the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" campaign and "environmentally correct" seafood.

9) Personnel

The "Environmental Committee" was added to the request list on the SIRS form. The committee will become official at the January '06 annual meeting with fifteen members.

P/R/C Jean L. Hamilton, SN
USPS Environmental Committee
JLHamilton@MarathonOil.com
713-785-6817 (home, barking dog on machine)
713-296-4004 (work – best bet for immediate contact)
713-248-3454 (cell)

661 Bering Drive, #201
Houston, TX 77057