



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

**Environmental Committee**

**Annual Meeting Report – February 2009 – Anaheim**

***2008 Highlights***

2008 was a year marked by significant changes in the economy along with major elections in both Federal and State administrations. As the downturned economy has slowed the sales of new boats and high fuel prices have impacted the activities of existing boaters, changes in administrations to more “environmentally protective” policies soon will have a negative impact to boaters in general. These impacts will be seen primarily in three areas: 1) environmental impact of recreational boating activities to coastline and aquatic areas/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 2) Reduction in carbon footprint/reduced greenhouse gas emissions as applied to recreational vessels, and 3) support for renewable energy sources.

As a result of these changes, we have focused our activities in the following areas:

1. Continued member awareness of responsible boating practices by Increasing the use of the EnvCom materials already generated to educate our members and enhance our boating stewardship in the environment;
2. Increasing USPS participation in Coastal Clean-up Programs, including both large-scale national organized efforts (Ocean Conservancy) and local stakeholder events; and,
3. Continued development of awareness presentations about environmental issues that potentially could negatively impact our sustainable boating. In addition, EnvCom continues working with the Government and Partner Relations Committee to support USPS position development regarding these issues.

Increasing the Use of Our Existing EnvCom Materials – EnvCom under the leadership of R/C Jean Hamilton developed some excellent programs and materials to educate our members in addressing environmental issues within the realm of recreational boating. We have included the following files on the Conference CD:

- Coastal Cleanup entry form and information document
- All the Protect Our Waters.net logo/PSA, etc. files
- Climate Change PowerPoint
- Getting Started PowerPoint, MSWord & pdf format booklet doc
- A high resolution pdf file of the USPS Env Best Practices brochure
- Unsplash That Trash bookmarks (pdf and word files)
- Recreational Boater Stewardship Presentation – a new addition to our arsenal of awareness and educational tools that parallels the Ocean Conservancy’s GoodMate boating ideas.

We still are short of our goal to have a designated representative from each District serve on the committee and will continue to recruit members for these positions.

Coastal Clean-up Efforts – We continue to partner with the Ocean Conservancy to participate in their annual International Coastal Clean-up each fall. However, we also have seen significant participation in regional stakeholder-sponsored events and have encouraged squadrons to do what works best for them.

## ***Building Member Awareness of Potential Boating Impacts from Enhanced Environmental Regulation***

The sustainability of USPS is linked to the sustainability of the boating industry in general, which must exist in harmony with the environment. Our focus should be toward stewardship of the environment but we need to exercise caution in promoting legislation detrimental to boating in general. There are two challenges: 1) the is the rapidly changing focus by environmental groups, especially in light of the successful adjudication of the Clean Boating Act of 2008 and its potential direct impact to recreational vessels, and 2) the potential impact to boating through the regulation of marinas and boatyards.

- Boating Environmental Impact - In addition to heightening environmental awareness to the general public, these programs will affect the boating population through the increased implementation and enforcement of the NEPA. This legislation requires that environmental impact statements or environmental assessments be performed when the threat of endangerment of the well-being of the aquatic and coastal environment is identified. These threats can be identified by regulatory agencies or the general public through a legal inquiry. While there may be no validated threat, the ensuing study and review process is lengthy and costly and can shut-down waterborne activities until the issues are resolved. Also with the creation of more “Green Jobs” enforcement activities will rise dramatically and we will become a focus in their mission.

NEPA impacts to boaters can be direct and indirect. As a direct example, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) including Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) continue spreading through the Great Lakes and tributaries resulting in major fish kills. One of the primary vectors in spreading VHS is bait fish and the fishermen boaters who transport these hitchhikers from one area to another on the hull of their vessels. In addition, water from live bait wells on boats can also be a vector in the spread of VHS. While bait transport across state lines and disposal in the water has been prohibited, boaters are still potentially vulnerable to future restrictions. As an indirect example, copper and tributyl tin (TBT) are heavy metals that over the years have been formulated in anti-fouling bottom paints. Due to the very low concentrations for these metals in an ecological risk assessment, many marinas and waterways are testing positive for their presence through the natural accumulation process. When a marina owner wishes to dredge slips and channels, these metals can render the sediment unfit for open water disposal and depending on the concentrations, a hazardous waste. As a result, the marina owner may not be able to cost-effectively dredge to keep the marina open and eventually sells the property for other use thereby indirectly impacting the boating community.

- Climate Change/Reduced Greenhouse Gases – The public perception of anthropogenic climate change whether true or not is here to stay. As a result, various programs are being developed to fund the activities for implementing and monitoring our carbon footprint (e.g., the amount of potential carbon dioxide generated by a specific activity). Since boats consume fossil fuel to operate, they will become a prime target for recovering a “tax” based on the vessel and the fuel. Boats are considered “a large target” by advocates as they generally are not fuel efficient. “Taxes” are already being levied against point sources in facilities (cap and trade credits) to fund this program and over-the-road vehicles are rumored to be next, especially considering the relative low cost of fuel and the lost revenues from fuel taxes. Advocates will require a tax to be levied against any carbon source emitter on our boats (e.g. boat engines, generator, galley stove, gas grill, heating system, etc). In addition, marinas and recreational properties will also be regulated and those costs will likely be passed on down to the boater.
- Renewable Energy Sources – As a result of the focus toward renewable energy sources, there will be more emphasis on shore-based and open water wind and wave energy generation. These structures may have a pronounced effect on boating and fishing based on how they are

located and operated. The Coast Guard is currently examining the potential effects of large wind turbines on vessel radar. Also, there are a number of solar and wind generation products already developed to provide energy onboard. While these are helpful devices in lowering the carbon foot-print of the vessel, the concern is that boats are not fuel efficient and that specific requirements may be imposed to offset their carbon footprint. This has already occurred with automobiles through the CAFÉ standards and the promotion of hybrid-technology to help meet those standards. Ultimately, what this would mean to the average boater is a lot more cost added to an already costly recreation.

- State-led Autocracy in Developing and Enforcing Environmental Standards – In what inevitably will be the vector to force these programs into place, President Barack Obama is expected to give California and other states the green light to impose their own, stricter fuel emissions standards. In addition to instructing the Environmental Protection Agency to sign the waiver allowing the states to go forward, activists expected the president to make announcements of improving national fuel economy standards and creating green jobs. While this initially affects fuel standards, it will undoubtedly flow out to the abovementioned areas presently. Activists and officials from at least 14 states seeking waivers from the federal Clean Air Act have been urging Obama since he took office last week to move quickly on such a change. This anticipated step would reverse President Bush's policies and pave the way to force carmakers to sell more fuel efficient vehicles. California's law, enacted in 2002, would require new cars to reduce emissions by roughly 30 percent and translate to a comparable increase in fuel economy. What would happen if these standards are applied to boats?

### ***Things You Should (already) Know!***

- The **USPS Environmental Poster** is available for your use at boat shows, classes, and other events. It can be downloaded (PDF file) from the EnvCom web page and printed in any size. Can't access a color printer? Contact the EnvCom chair via the link on the web page for copies.
- The USPS poster referenced above has been customized (squadron name & burgee) for all squadrons in D/7, D/8, D/11, D/13, D/15, D/16, D/17, D/21, D/25, D/27, D/29, and D/31 + Thurmond Lake SPS, D/26. All squadrons were provided with hard copies, and CD's containing the original Adobe Illustrator file, a PDF file, and a jpeg file. Can't access a color printer? Is your squadron CD lost? Contact the EnvCom chair via the link on the web page for copies.
- Customized posters for the above districts total 158 of 451 squadrons, or 35%, and 36% of the districts. We are working on the remaining 294 (65%) squadrons. What's the best way to get your squadron moved up the list? Invite the EnvCom to give a presentation at your meeting or conference!
- **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!** (partnership with USPS) information available on committee web page. Link provides information, resources, downloads (CD with campaign material also available from EnvCom chair).
- **USPS EnvCom Project Primer** - a guide to help your squadron get started on an environmental project is available for download from EnvCom web page. A 20-slide PowerPoint presentation is also available by request.
- **Unsplash That Trash Bookmark** available for download on EnvCom web page. USPS encourages boaters to collect a bag of maritime litter each time they go out, or at least more often than the once or twice-a-year "trash bashes" held in many coastal communities. Since ± 80 percent of the trash in the marine environment is from land-based sources, the 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".
- The EnvCom web page is frequently updated with federal & state marine & aquatic laws and statutes information/links; grant information & links; environmental information & resources links.

## ***District Reports***

### **District 3 – P/R/C Nina Anastasio, SN**

Nina has developed a standardized presentation for District conferences to better promote EnvCom and USPS stewardship role in environment. The outline is shown below:

#### **AGENDA**

1. INTRODUCTIONS
2. USPS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
  - a. The USPS Environmental Committee became an official committee in the Executive Department at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Orlando.
  - b. The USPS EnvCom chairman is:  
R/C Samuel E. Insalaco, AP  
6191 Carsten Road  
Medina, OH 44256  
(H) 330-722-3553 (C) 216-272-3964  
(B) 330-405-5812  
e-mail: [insalacosa@saic.com](mailto:insalacosa@saic.com) or [greatlaker1@gmail.com](mailto:greatlaker1@gmail.com)
3. USPS EnvCom OBJECTIVES
  - a. Educate membership
  - b. Publicize efforts internally
  - c. Publicize efforts externally
4. USPS EnvCom WEB SITE  
<http://www.usps.org/national/envcom>
5. USPS EnvCom PROJECT PRIMER\*
  - a. This is a “how-to” for getting started on an environmental project.
  - b. If you would like a copy of this color brochure in either a .pdf or Word doc form, please e-mail me a [nag723@verizon.net](mailto:nag723@verizon.net)
6. ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES FOR BOATERS\*
  - a. Can be downloaded from <http://www.usps.org/national/envcom>
7. Time Garbage Takes to Decompose in the Environment\*
8. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES
  - a. GOOD MATE PROGRAM (CD available for each squadron)
    - i. Waterway Conservation for Boaters\*
      1. On this page there is a link to Jones Beach Power Squadron’s Project WAKE UP  
<http://wakeupjbps.net>
      2. To access the GOOD MATE Manual, click on the following [www.bnriverkeeper.org/programs/riverwatch/Good%20Mate%20Manual.pdf](http://www.bnriverkeeper.org/programs/riverwatch/Good%20Mate%20Manual.pdf)
      3. To access the GOOD MATE Education Module, click on [www.srvventuring-bsa.org/program/sryi/pdf/EM-GoodMatePgmR1.pdf](http://www.srvventuring-bsa.org/program/sryi/pdf/EM-GoodMatePgmR1.pdf)
    - b. GOOD MATE Additional Resources & Links
      - i. US Coast Guard Quick links to current national boating laws and regulations:  
<http://www.uscgboating.org/regulations/regulations.htm>

- ii. US Coast Guard Auxiliary - Provides you with marine environmental protection resources: <http://nws.cgaux.org/index.html>
- iii. Boat US Foundation - This is a great resource for educational materials, resources, and grants to support environmentally sensitive boating: <http://www.boatus.com/foundation/>
- iv. National Marina Day - Promote clean boating at your marina on National Marina Day! <http://www.marinaassociation.org/nmd>
- v. GreenBoatStuff.com - Committed to running an environmentally friendly company, they strive to offer only those products that will biodegrade in a reasonable period of time and do no harm to the environment as they break down. Greenboatstuff.com will donate 5% of sales to Ocean Conservancy, when customers chose us as a Friend of the Earth partner during checkout. <http://greenboatstuff.com/>

9. GRANTS: TAKE ADVANTAGE, IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR NEXT YEAR! (deadline: 1 November 2009)

\*\*\*To get the grant information on your computer, go to [www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com) and type in grants in the upper right hand corner.

The Foundation awards local volunteer organizations up to \$4,000 for the promotion of boating safety education. Over the past 20 years the Foundation has awarded over \$800,000 to local community organizations, yacht clubs, flotillas and squadrons. The Foundation is looking for creative and innovative projects that promote safe boating on your local waterway. Topics can range from literature on the effects of boating under the influence to signs at boat ramps telling users about free vessel safety checks.

Are you interested in the Boat U.S. Foundation Boating Safety Grants? If so, make sure you see the list of past grant recipients and our most recent selection. These groups have come up with project ideas that can applied to your local waters. [Click here for more](#)

- Sign up for our [E-Newsletter](#). This will keep you up-to-date about what the Foundation is up to. With this service you will be the first to know when applications become available for all of our programs.
- Explore our grant guidelines. The FAQ's web page is posted to help you during the application process. [Click here for more](#)
- Learn about our Excellence Award. Boating safety grant recipients are eligible for this award and one group will receive additional funding for their project each year. [Click here for more](#)

If you have any questions regarding this program, please [email the Grant Administrator](#), or call (800) 245-2628 ext. 8354.

10. Please apprise the D/3 Chair if and when you apply for a grant, as well as any grants received. See D/3 Chairman information at the top of the agenda.

11. Power Point PRESENTATION

12. Environmental Boating Stewardship

13. Slides of environmental work being done by District 3 squadrons

14. WRAP-UP

**District 31 - D/Lt/C Larry E. Stout, AP**

Grand Lake Sail & Power Squadron

The Grand Lake Sail & Power Squadron has developed a unique partnership with the agency that controls our 1300 mile shoreline lake in Northeastern Oklahoma. One of our environmental committee projects has been a shoreline clean-up each year for the last 4 years.

With grant funding and help from their marketing department, our partnership with the Grand River Dam Authority, has let us advertise in the local media and pay for large roll-off dumpsters to collect debris. Shoreline trash was collected by our squadron and other organizations that joined with us along with the general public. There was no charge to the public for dumping their shoreline trash during our clean up day. Over the four years, we have collected a tremendous amount of dock floatation (Styrofoam) and other trash around the shores of the lake and on the uninhabited islands.

P.S. Grand Lake Sail and Power Squadron is developing a poster presentation for the Anaheim Expo regarding their successful program.