



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING

USPS Environmental Committee Report
Spring Governing Board June 2005

Activity since USPS Annual Meeting, January 2005:

- **New Partnership!**

USPS has been 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.



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

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.

- **USPS Boating Environmental Best Practices**

The USPS Boating Environmental Best Practices brochure has been completed. The EnvCom will choose from four final designs at this meeting. Pending final approval, this brochure will be available on the EnvCom web page for download. The brochure will have space for individual squadron contact information and is intended for hand out at boat shows, boating classes, VSC’s, or wherever squadrons come in contact with the boating community. A proposal has been submitted to the Grant Team to finance printing and distribution of the brochure to squadrons.

- **Unsplash That Trash Campaign**

Quotes for USPS imprinted trash bags have been solicited and a grant request proposal was submitted to the Grant Team 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. The campaign message: it doesn’t matter how the trash got there, let’s all make an effort to get it out of our boating environment.

Again, these bags are intended for hand out at boat shows, boating classes, VSC's, or wherever squadrons come in contact with the boating community.

- **Mariner's Environment Learning Guide**

Slow progress continues on the LG outline and discussion continues on content. A final detail outline is expected at the conclusion of this meeting, but a complete story board is not yet finished.

- **EnvCom Conference Activities**

A formal PowerPoint presentation and/or EnvCom Expo was given at eleven Spring 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/17, D/21, D/25, D/27, and D/31). The EnvCom poster has been customized for individual squadrons in eight districts – both hard copies and CD's with the digital files were provided to the squadrons in D/7, D/11, D/13, D/17, D/21, D/27, and D/31 (a total of 122 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.

- **Squadron Projects**

EnvCom has only received information from ten squadrons on environmental projects in which they are or have participated in. The committee will be starting a pro-active solicitation of all squadrons to help build an inventory of these projects for the purpose of external PR efforts and grant solicitation.

- ***The Ensign***

The April issue of *The Ensign* featured an article introducing the EnvCom and an article on recycling submitted by the committee. The May issue featured an article on water quality, also submitted by the committee. In progress are articles introducing the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" campaign and "environmentally correct" seafood.

- **Personnel**

The "Environmental Committee" has been added to the request list on the SIRS form. Currently there are 15 members and more willing hard-workers are welcome.

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