The Operating Committee of United States Power Squadrons met on 8 Dec. 2007 at the national headquarters in Raleigh, N.C.

Members present:

- C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN
- V/C Creighton C. Maynard Jr., SN
- V/C Dick Kyle, SN
- V/C Frank A. Dvorak, SN
- V/C Robert A. Baldridge, SN
- V/C Joseph R. Mesenburg, SN
- R/C Allan W. Lakin, SN
- R/C Anthony J. Aquilato, SN
- R/C Noel K. McKeown, SN
- R/C Michael J. Horowitz, JN
- R/C William M. Bellinger, SN
- P/C/C G. Leslie Johnson, SN

Guests present:

- R/C Dave Hinders, SN
- Stf/C L.D. Brown, SN
- P/V/C John T. Alter, SN
- Mary Catherine Berube
- Lena Padro

**Report of the Chief Commander**

C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN, called the meeting to order at 0920, and P/C/C G. Leslie Johnson, SN, gave the invocation.

C/C Marshburn entertained a motion to approve a 2008 honorary membership for Mark
Rosenker, chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, and Rear Adm. Brian Salerno, United States Coast Guard. The OCom ADOPTED the motion. (2007-OC-66)

C/C Marshburn lead a discussion involving the status of memorandums of understanding with Weems and Plath, MariTech, and NASBLA. LawCom followed by OCom approved these MOUs and the decision was made to proceed with signing ceremonies at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

C/C Marshburn reported that he appointed V/C Dick Kyle, SN, to chair an ad hoc Committee on Publishing Educational Materials at Headquarters and V/C Creighton C. Maynard Jr., SN, to chair an ad hoc Committee on Establishing Vendor Relationships and Memorandums of Understanding.

Report of the National Executive Officer

V/C Creighton C. Maynard Jr., SN, reported that as of 26 Nov. 2007 approximately one-half of the districts had submitted 2007 District Safety Reports. The Recreational Boating Safety Committee noted that squadrons in drought-stricken areas reported that many marinas and boat ramps were closed due to low water levels.

The Cooperative Charting Committee reported receiving fewer, but better quality, Cooperative Charting reports. The committee is developing a brochure on the Boating Guide to America. The committee continues to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish an online program to update Electronic Navigation Charts.

The Vessel Safety Check Committee reported that as of 27 Nov. 2007 vessel safety checks were ahead by 3,000 compared to one year ago. Headquarters will ship 2008 VSC decals to districts and squadrons in December 2007.
Report of the National Educational Officer

V/C Richard E. Kyle, SN, reported that the New Hampshire Memorandum of Understanding is being reinstated.

V/C Kyle reported that a high school in Onslow County, N.C. is developing a Marine Technology Academy and has been teaching the USPS Boating Course as the core curriculum for the last year. He reported that the Educational Department plans to provide additional educational materials to Onslow County and to assist in creating an educational syllabus.

The national educational officer reported that MassBay Community College in Wellesley Hills, Mass., will begin teaching the USPS Boating Course in January 2008.

V/C Kyle reported on the need to develop a real-time ordering system at headquarters where squadrons would order online, check availability of the materials, and track the status of their order.

V/C Kyle reported that the Educational Department recognizes the need to pursue distance learning courses. He said that distance learning would provide additional revenue and an opportunity to educate more boaters.

The national educational officer reported that as of 31 Oct. 2007 net educational sales were approximately $58,000 higher than were budgeted in 2007.

V/C Kyle reported that the Paddle Smart seminar is available at headquarters.

Report of the National Administrative Officer

V/C Frank A. Dvorak, SN, reported that the Membership Committee acquired a master
copy and permission to reproduce the Adventures in Boating with Bill Nye the Science Guy DVD. The DVD will be included with the Boating Safety for Kids manual.

V/C Dvorak reported that during the 2008 Annual Meeting he would discuss two new concepts with district commanders. The first concept is including one year’s membership with the cost of a boating course. The second concept is the capability for new members to join USPS online.

The national administrative officer reported that the Educational Department is editing the Watersmart from the Start manual.

The Squadron Activities Committee has created an online list for amateur radio operators available at www.usps.org/national/Ham/hamform.html. The USPS Amateur Radio Clubs will operate two special event stations in 2008. One will be held in affiliation with the American Radio Relay League at its memorial station in Newington, Conn., and a second event will be held on the RMS Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Operating Committee to direct the Marketing and Public Relations Committee to develop a marketing plan for squadrons.

V/C Dvorak reported a balance of more than $1,138,000 in the Century Fund. He noted that an article promoting the fund was published in the December 2007 issue of the Compass. He reported that a letter from the chief soliciting donations to the Century Fund would be sent to all members with valid e-mail addresses prior to the end of the year. He reported that a matching-funds campaign is under way and that $26,000 had been committed to date.

Report of the National Secretary

V/C Robert A. Baldridge, SN, reported that the headquarters server will be replaced at a
cost of approximately $17,000, which will include hardware, software, installation and maintenance support. The cost will be funded from the IT equipment replacement account.

V/C Baldridge reported that $3,378 was distributed to districts and squadrons in 2007 as part of the Ship’s Store Rebate Program.

The Ensign staff reported that the December 2007 issue of the Compass, which was sponsored by OceanGrafix, was sent to 28,354 members and friends of USPS. To subscribe and review current and back issues of the Compass go to www.usps.org/newpublic2/compass.html. The national secretary reported that The Ensign classified ads can be placed online at www.theensign.org/classified.

The Information Technology Committee reported receiving 420 electronic merit mark submissions as of 30 Nov. 2007. ITCom is designing a label for the national meetings CDs.

The Flag and Etiquette Committee continues to work on 50-year burgees and a request from one squadron to change its burgee.

Report of the National Treasurer

V/C Joe Mesenburg, SN, reported that although he had not received the 30 Nov. 2007 financials, he did not anticipate any major changes and that 2007 revenues would exceed expenses.

V/C Mesenburg reported that USPS received $40,225 in rebates from the Chase credit card rebate program in 2007. National will receive approximately $18,000, and the balance will be distributed to districts and squadrons.

V/C Mesenburg presented a draft copy of the National Meetings Committee Financial
Management Procedures. He reported that Stf/C Bob Flint, SN, was appointed the National Meetings Committee treasurer.

V/C Mesenburg entertained a motion to contribute 5 percent of eligible compensation to the USPS Tax Sheltered Annuity (403 (b)) for the calendar year ended 31 Dec. 2007 on behalf of USPS employees. The OCom ADOPTED the motion. (2007-OC-67)

**Report of the Finance Committee**

R/C Michael J. Horowitz, JN, reported that funds under the management of the Finance Committee totaled $3,207,333.61 as of 31 Oct. 2007. These dollars are broken up into three major portfolios including investments valued at $1,054,435.92, the Endowment Fund valued at $1,138,802.72, and the district and squadron funds valued at $1,014,094.97.

R/C Horowitz reported that in keeping with current corporate accounting practices, the Finance Committee would provide quarterly reports on managed funds.

**Report of the Committee on Nominations**

R/C Anthony J. Aquilato, JN, reported that the 2008 slate of nominees was complete.

**Report of the Committee on Rules**

R/C Allan W. Lakin, SN, reported that drafts of the District Model Bylaws and the Squadron Model Bylaws will be completed by the 2008 Annual Meeting.

R/C Lakin reported that the USPS Bylaws, which were approved by the Governing Board at the 2007 Governing Board Meeting in Norfolk, Va., inadvertently excluded the Committee on Nominations from the list of Operating Committee members. He reported that the Committee on
Rules will request the Governing Board to amend USPS Bylaws, Section, 5.4, by adding the Committee on Nominations to the list of Operating Committee members.

Report of the Law Officer

R/C Noel K. McKeown, SN, reported that he and V/C Kyle met with representatives from Chubb Insurance to review and compare a proposal from Chubb with existing USPS insurance policies. He reported that St. Paul Travelers provided a short-term renewal policy, effective 1 Dec. 2007, to give USPS more time to evaluate other insurance carriers.

R/C McKeown reported that LawCom separated a proposed MOU with Maritech into two documents. The first document is an MOU that would govern the basic working relations between USPS and Maritech and the second document is a contract to define the business relationship. He reported that drafts were subsequently submitted to Maritech for approval.

The national law officer reported that LawCom is developing an Investment Management Agreement to be signed by districts and squadrons that invest funds to be managed by the Finance Committee.

LawCom is reviewing a contract with Mustang Survival to sell a manually inflatable personal flotation device with the USPS logo.

Report of the Planning Committee

R/C William M. Bellinger, SN, reported receiving more than 800 responses to the online member satisfaction survey.

R/C Bellinger reported that the Planning Committee would work with the Squadron Development Committee to draft strategies and develop action plans. The committee will also
work with the Membership Committee to determine why all squadrons do not teach the USPS Boating Course.


Report of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee

R/C Robert A. Green, N, reported that Malcolm Blann, national executive officer, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, reported that CPS is very interested in Power Savvy, the online magazine, and is researching the implications of a Canadian nonprofit organization participating in a for-profit venture. Since there are two different provincial laws in Canada they are also checking these laws, as they would pertain to the magazine.

R/C Green reported that USPS and the United States Coast Guard would present the 2008 USCG/USPS Eagle award to Ed Carter, Tennessee State Boating Law Administrator.

R/C Green reported that working with Bill Prince, owner/editor of Classicyachtmag.com, the Marketing and Public Relations Committee is working on the new online PRO-Log, which will incorporate the software program Zagapi, which allows the viewer to flip pages, enlarge any section, and go to any chapter with one click of the mouse. The new online book will provide a comprehensive and invaluable tool for all seeking information on marketing/pr and the booklet will also contain pictures that can come to life with streaming video. The $3,000 cost for this new 110-page online book, will be paid for out of the mar/pr budget.

R/C Green reported receiving verbal approval from the USCG Office of Boating Safety to use remaining grant funds totaling $6,959.06 from the 2nd National Safe Boating Test budget, for our promotional efforts for National Safe Boating Week - 2008. A final report on the USPS 2nd National Safe Boating Test has been requested and will be sent to Joe Carro of the USCG Office of Boating Safety.
R/C Green reported that several outside speakers will attend the 2008 Marketing/PR Open Meeting including Joy McPeters, CEO, of marinalife.com, a new online magazine for marinas, and Jeff Crilley, a Dallas TV reporter who will speak on the subject of “How To Get Positive Media Coverage.”

R/C Green reported that working with the Educational Department and Membership, the Mar/PR Committee is updating the What’s In It For You? brochure and developing the USPS: Who We Are brochure, which will be available late in 2008.

Report of the Past Chief Commander

P/C/C G. Leslie Johnson, SN, recommended that the National Government and Partners Committee become more involved in lobbying efforts.

C/C Marshburn adjourned the meeting at 1500.

V/C Robert A. Baldridge, SN
National Secretary
1. A motion to approve a 2008 honorary membership for Mark Rosenker, chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, and Rear Adm. Brian Salerno, United States Coast Guard. (2007-OC-66)

2. A motion to contribute 5 percent of eligible compensation to the USPS Tax Sheltered Annuity (403 (b)) for the calendar year ended 31 December 2007 on behalf of the USPS employees. (2007-OC-67)