

What the USPS / IOBG MOU Means For Squadrons

The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between USPS and the International Order of Blue Gavel (IOBG) is specifically intended to provide additional opportunities for squadrons and districts to participate in mutually beneficial interactions. For local squadrons and districts, this agreement provides a simple vehicle to facilitate establishing contacts with local yacht clubs. It will help open the door for squadrons to offer boating courses, seminars, and vessel safety checks at yacht clubs. It can facilitate gaining access to the yacht clubs as possible venues for squadron courses, meetings, or other activities. These interactions, which will be conducted on a voluntary basis, will expose yacht club members to the benefits of USPS membership, and also expose USPS members to the benefits of membership in the participating yacht clubs. An added benefit to squadrons is the chance to involve inactive squadron members who are also yacht club members by getting them to help teach a course at their own yacht club, or through conducting Vessel Safety checks.

With certification of completion of safe boating education being mandated by many states (with more to come), the program should be well received. While the MOU primarily extends to yacht clubs with an IOBG chapter, this program can even be initiated at non-IOBG yacht clubs.

USPS and the IOBG, in accordance with the MOU, have appointed Liaison Officers to coordinate inter-organization activities and to facilitate matches between interested squadrons (or districts) and yacht clubs. The Liaison Officers are:

For IOBG: Past Commodore BJ Ursin (he is also a member of USPS)
1148 Brighton Crest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98229
Bj7cmg@aol.com

For USPS: P/D/C David J. Meshulam (also a member of IOBG)
66 Derby Court
Madison, NJ 07940
djmgem@aol.com

All squadrons and districts interested in interacting with a local yacht club under this program should contact David Meshulam. All yacht clubs that have interest in participating in this program will be directed to contact BJ Ursin.

To help further promote the program, we ask that the attached questionnaire be distributed by USPS District Commanders to their respective Squadron Commanders (and SEO's) and by IOBG District Delegates to their yacht club chapters. The responses provided in the questionnaires will enable the Liaison officers to identify additional requirements and opportunities.

USPS - YACHT CLUB AFFILIATION SURVEY

Please duplicate this form for information on each yacht club in your area

SQUADRON: _____

DISTRICT: _____

CONTACT PERSON , NAME AND PHONE NUMBERS

1) Name and phone number of USPS member who belongs to the yacht club.

a) Name and location of yacht club.

b) Does squadron currently have interaction with this yacht club? Educational programs?
VSC? Other? Please specify.

c) Does USCGA provide the above services at the yacht club?

d) Does the yacht club require its members to have completed a safe boating course or have
a boating certification or license?

e) Is the USPS member (contact person) a past commodore of the yacht club? Does the
yacht club have a chapter of IOBG?

f) Would squadron member be willing to help teach a course at the yacht club or do vessel
safety checks?

g) Is there any existing arrangement between the yacht club and the squadron for use of the
yacht club premises for squadron meetings or for classes?

2) If the squadron interested in making contact with a local yacht club, please provide the squadron name and the contact person's phone number and e-mail address. Please complete one form for each yacht club affiliation.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL RESPONSES THROUGH SQUADRON OR DISTRICT TO
P/D/C DAVID J. MESHULAM AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR BY EMAIL**