

NORFOLK HOSTS THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

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Beginning with the United States Power Squadrons® Expo and Skill Building Seminars” at the Marriott Waterside Hotel and ending with the Virginia In-Water Boat Expo, Norfolk becomes the focus of the recreational boating world for ten exciting days, 6 to 16 September. Starting Thursday, September 6, USPS, America's largest boating education organization, will be providing University and VIP Seminars, covering a huge variety of boating subjects.

Have you ever dreamed of sailing around the world on your own? United States Power Squadron's Lt John Gage recently completed a three and one half year circumnavigation of the globe on his 42-foot sailboat “Dream catcher.” He will tell you how he planned for the trip and relate some of his adventures.

In other programs you can meet with Clint Moore, President of Volvo Penta of the Americas or Thom Dammrich, President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. Attend presentations by Raphael Kozolchyk, Federal Affairs Manager of the Personal Watercraft Industry Association and Peter Trogden, President of Weems & Plath, the maker of nautical tools and instruments.

Learn about new Coast Guard initiatives from Jeff Hoedt, Chief of Boating Safety. He will present the big picture vision of the national plan for recreational boating safety. He will also discuss the recreational boater's role in homeland security.

“This is the very first time we've invited the boating public to our Expo and seminars,” stated Arlene Anderson, Commander of USPS District 5. “We feel certain that it will be a huge success.” A resident of Smithfield, Virginia, Commander Anderson advises everyone to obtain details by going on line to www.usps.org/newpublic2/expo/ or by calling toll free 1-866-576-8777 for an all-informative three-minute recorded message.

Norfolk's Neighborhood Network TV 48 will present a 15-minute segment on the USPS Expo and seminars. Hosted by Bob Batcher, Norfolk's PR Director, the seminars and Expo will be discussed in detail by District Commander Anderson and Donnie and Rana Weaver, two other USPS members from Suffolk, VA. They will display and discuss the subjects of the USPS University seminars; Using GPS, Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio, and How to use a Chart. The electronic equipment for the program is being provided by the Boaters' World store in Norfolk. Commander Anderson and the Weaver's will also discuss the Expo which will have dozens of exhibitors.

The three USPS University seminars will be presented Thursday through Saturday, September 6, 7 and 8, each day at different times for the public's convenience. Each is presented by expert instructors with many years of boating and technical experience. The cost is only \$35 per person. There will be guest appearances by the authors and publishers of the materials as well as great give-aways and chances to win prizes from our sponsors. Companies like Maptech, Garmin Industries, and Icom, the leaders in Marine communication and navigation equipment, will be participants.

In the Using GPS seminar you can learn about waypoint navigation and how to select and use the most important functions on your GPS. In the seminar Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio you will learn clearly how to use the new VHF radio features. VHF is your primary coastal communications device. The new US Coast Guard Rescue 21 System makes it even better by adding Digital Selective Calling (DSC). The little red button is your key in an emergency -- learn how to use it.

You probably didn't know all the other neat calling features with DSC. Come see and learn. The third seminar explains How to use a chart. There are no roadmaps for the water, and there are no roads per se. You must be prepared to interpret the waterscape to select your paths through the water to avoid obstacles to reach your destination. This seminar will help you make friends with your chart and understand all that it can tell you. You also learn about selecting paths, avoiding rocks and more.

The USPS District 5 Events trailer, which takes in our area, will be on display at the EXPO in Norfolk. This is a 16 X 8 foot enclosed trailer that has been designed as a Walk Thru display of all those items required by the USCG and then some, to be safe on the water. Additionally, it showcases the new USPS University courses as well as all courses taught by USPS. Graphics on the outside proudly display the logo of Sea Vester and America's Boating Club. BassPro graciously donated the contents of this trailer and Boaters World has offered their assistance for the second trailer being completed at this time. To find out more about the local squadrons and classes call D/C Anderson at 757-357-6319 or go online to hrsp@cox.net to reach a local squadron commander.

Commander Doug Landau of the Virginia Beach Sail and Power Squadron is assisting with the preparations and will be on hand with District Commander Anderson to welcome Power Squadron members from all over the United States and Canada. "Norfolk is one of the premier vacation destinations in the nation," explained Cdr. Landau. "With great beaches, restaurants, night life, the battleship Wisconsin, a zoo and so many other wonderful attractions, it's no surprise that USPS selected this city for its Expo and skill-building seminars for the recreational boater."

During the following weekend, September 14-16, Norfolk will host the Virginia In-Water Boat Expo and Sail Fest at the Downtown Waterfront. This event will be conducted by the National Marine Manufacturer's Association and features numerous booths of marine recreational interest. Here again you can experience the USPS University Seminar Series with an excerpt from the VHF Seminar showing how to use the new Digital Selective Calling feature (DSC) on your radio. Check the Boat Show web site (<http://www.virginiaboatexpo.com/>) for details and times.

Since 1914, the United States Power Squadrons has become America's largest boating educational organization, with more than 45,000 members in over 450 squadrons. Its volunteer members, men and women, give freely of their time and energies by teaching boating courses and seminars, providing vessel safety checks, assisting the National Ocean Service in updating our nation's nautical charts, and in numerous other ways that make boating safer on our waterways. For further information on the national organization go to www.usps.org or call 1 888 FOR USPS. That is 1-888-367-8777.

[A resident of Punta Gorda, FL, Dr. Scotten and his wife Ann, who is a staff commander for the USPS Instructor Development Committee, are both members of the Peace River Power Squadron, where Greg served as commander and Ann is currently the Education Officer.](#)