

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
And
AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION

1. BACKGROUND

Organized in 1914, United States Power Squadrons (USPS) is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation and related subjects. Members are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating through education. USPS has some 55,000 members organized into 450 squadrons across the country and in some US territories. USPS is America's largest non-profit boating organization and has been honored by three US presidents for its civic contributions.

Local squadrons offer boating safety courses on a regular basis. These courses are open to the public and there is no age limit for participants. In a cooperative program with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, squadron members conduct courtesy Vessel Safety Checks of boats at the request of their owners.

Founded in 1880, the American Canoe Association (ACA) is the nation's oldest and largest paddlesports organization, directly representing over 50,000 paddlers across the country. ACA serves as a representative for the millions of Americans who enjoy canoeing, kayaking and rafting. As such, ACA is constantly working to make the world a better and safer place to paddle. ACA is engaged in a variety of efforts to safeguard the nation's recreational waters and protect paddler access. ACA is the nation's recognized leader in paddling instruction and safety education. Currently, more than 4500 ACA-certified canoe and kayak instructors in the U.S. teach an estimated 100,000+ students each year.

The following terms of Memorandum of Understanding apply to United States Power Squadrons and the American Canoe Association in promotional support of recreational boating safety programs.

2. AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION / UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS UNDERSTANDING

ACA and the USPS will cooperate in the development of paddlesports specific boating safety programs and the training and promotion thereof. ACA and USPS will utilize their internal resources to provide marketing and promotion of the paddling and boating safety programs to the greater boating community. ACA will work with designees of USPS to develop and implement USPS trademarked "Paddle Smart" program in support of the national needs for recreational boating safety programs for paddlesports. Shared web site links to program information will also be developed and maintained by the prospective organizations as part of this mutual effort.

USPS and ACA will conduct publicity campaigns with national scope to emphasize the value of their recreational boating programs. USPS and ACA will publicize this partnership effort in its various magazines, brochures, newsletters, and at events and other opportunities to heighten the awareness of the boating public to boater safety education and training.

USPS Instructors will be encouraged to provide information to the paddler on how to obtain hands-on paddlesport training including information on ACA safety and instruction program. ACA shall provide information to paddlers on the value of completing a USPS public boating course. The benefit of the program will be to address safety issues that specifically impact the paddling community and ultimately to support development of a better educated and safety conscious boater population.

3. POINTS OF CONTACT:

For the ACA:

Pamela Dillon, Executive Director 7432 Alban
Station Blvd., Suite B-232 Springfield, VA
22150

Email: pdillon@acanet.org

Phone: 703-451-0141

Website: www.acanet.org

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Springfield, VA 22150

Email: acagordon@aol.com

Phone: 205-914-5001 (cell)

For the USPS:

Headquarters Director

1504 Blue Ridge Road

Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: 888-367-8777 (888-FOR-USPS)

Fax: 888-304-0813

4. MODIFICATIONS:

Modifications to this Memorandum of Understanding may be made with the consent of all the parties. All modifications to this Memorandum of Understanding will be made in writing.

5. OTHER PROVISIONS:

Nothing within this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to conflict with current law or regulations or the bylaws of the United States Power Squadrons or the American Canoe Association. If a term of this Memorandum of Understanding is inconsistent with such authority, then the term shall be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in full force and effect.

6. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION:

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed on a biennial basis.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION:

This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective upon the date of its execution by both parties and may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

Original signed as follows (original on file at USPS HQ, Raleigh, NC):

FOR THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION

Signed by Pamela S. Dillon for Charlie Wilson, ACA President Date: 1-17-04

Pamela Dillon, Executive Director

FOR THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

Theodore Smith, Chief Commander Date: 17 January 04