

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS® EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the District Educational Officers' Meeting with the NEO and ANEOS

Thursday, 15 September 2011
Greensboro, North Carolina

R/C Eugene Molteni, Assistant National Education Officer opened the meeting at 0730 and thanked everyone for attending. There were 53 people in attendance.

R/C Molteni and ANEO Bob Palmer discussed the Cyber Squadrons and the 6 month free membership program. At the time of renewal, the results of the original 2203 (959 cyber + 1244 ABC members) were as follows: 820 non-renewals, 942 cyber squadron, and 441 moved into regular squadrons. This shows the need for squadrons to actively contact the cyber squadron members and recruit them into our squadrons.

The Structure of the Educational Department was then discussed and a chart was displayed showing the breakdown of the department. The chart is included in the latest issue of *Currents*.

At this point the meeting was turned over to Cida Diehl and Ed Knapp, the team leaders for the closed meeting.

It appears that most squadrons are offering the 6 month membership with the ABC course, but don't seem to be picking up the students at the end of the 6 month free membership period.

One squadron charged a full year dues and included an additional 6 months for free – 18 months membership for the price of 12.

Seminars have been popular. In one case the weather seminar was given free of cost and it led in to the students taking the full Weather course. This is one way to encourage membership. If the student joins the squadron then the cost of materials is the member cost, and if not the cost is as much

as double the member cost. This is a benefit for the Squadron; the student joins the squadron to pay the lower cost.

Seminars have been given at marinas, yacht clubs and boating equipment stores.

Online courses and e-books were discussed. Most squadrons did not feel that online courses were a threat to the local squadrons. The basic concern was how the exam would be handled.

What controls would the squadrons have over the course content of the books? Would the cost of the printed book increase because of the change-over to e-books? E-books are inexpensive in comparison.

Experience can't be gained from either the written books or the e-books alone. Communication needs to be a two-way street.

Marketing help for the new courses and seminars needs to filter down to the local squadrons.

The meeting was then opened up to include NEO Bob Sweet, ANEO Bob Palmer and ANEO Gene Molteni as well as invited guests. V/C Sweet introduced Richard Allsopp of US Sailing and Tom Mallison of USCG Aux.

V/C Sweet then spoke about strengthening partnerships. We should share the teaching of seminars with the Auxiliary. We are to treat the Auxiliary members as if they were USPS members. Both organizations can benefit and students can join either organization.

E-Learning and e-books were then discussed. In the next year, three states will be implementing e-texts into the classroom. It is felt that this is the wave of the future and that USPS should start to prepare for its' implementation into our courses.

Boat Handling Committee chairman R/C James Runge, SN reported that the Seamanship course was being rewritten and that Sail course was also scheduled to be rewritten. Several seminars are being worked on and lesson plans for the On the Water component of both Seamanship and Sail can be found on the Ed Dept website.

Electro-Mechanical Systems chairman R/C Gene Danko, SN reported that the quality of SC101 VHF Radio is poor and no longer capable for Search & Rescue, it is on the way out. It can't be sold or installed after 25 March 2011, and as of 2012 the same will apply to all handhelds.

90% of recreational mariners have not registered their units. The MMSI numbers are available from USPS at no charge. The mariners must get the number, put that number into their radio, and hook up the GPS so that time and position coordinates are sent out with the distress message.

Rescue 21 is now complete and operational for the entire coastline of the US. The remaining portions will be completed in the near future.

Publishing Committee Chairman R/C Pat Greer, SN reported that Instructors notes will no longer be a separate piece in the Seminar kits, everything will be complete in the guide book. The Committee is looking for editors and graphic design personnel.

Basic Public Education Committee Chairman R/C Richard Carson, JN reported that the ABC3 manual is being rewritten to reflect NASBLA standards. It has been sent to NASBLA for approval. Paddlesmart is being updated now and Chart Smart will be started later.

R/C Richard McGaughy, SN of the Inland and Coastal Navigation committee stated that the updated Plotting & Labeling Guide would be out soon and a new seminar Tides & Currents is now available. AP is being updated (no major changes). There are 2 exams for the course; questions are different for each exam. The Piloting Course needs updating.

R/C Wil Hugli, SN of the Educational Outreach committee reported that the online Seamanship course through the University of West Florida was doing well. Those taking the online seminars are doing so because the local squadrons are not offering the desired seminar.

R/C Donald Fiander, SN of the Offshore Navigation committee stated that JN07 is being rewritten and should be completed by the end of the year. An MOU with the Company producing the *CAPN* software has been signed.

R/C Chris Windeler, SN of the Boat Operator Certification & On-the-Water-Training committee stated that the Inland Navigator and Coastal Navigator certification levels were complete and that the Advanced Coastal Navigator was in draft form and would be completed soon.

The boat and trailer purchased for the program would be in Florida and Texas over the winter and would travel to the northeast starting on April 1st. The committee is looking for drivers to move the boat from location to location. Contact Chris with name of squadron contact person. The on the water adjuncts to the Seamanship and Sail courses are now available on the USPS website.

R/C Art Mollica, SN of the Instructor Development committee announced that as of 31 August 2011 there were 5,730 certified instructors and another 2,147 that needed to be re-certified. A listing of each District's Certified Instructors can be found in the DEO file cabinet on the *Sail-Angle* website.

The new Instructor Development course is nearly completed and 2 new chapters have been added – Electronics and Distance Learning and Practical on the water training.

There will be a Teaching Aids competition at the Annual Meeting. Districts should hold a District competition at their Fall Conferences. Information and entry forms are on ID website.

R/C Ron Kessel, SN of the Marine Environment committee reported that Cruise Planning was being rewritten and should be completed by late 2013.

Weather 2009 is being reprinted. Basic Weather and Forecasting Seminar has been completed. The Webinar that was given in July was a great success and all participants will receive credit for it. It will be repeated.

P/R/C Bob Brandenstein, SN and P/R/C Dick Pfenniger, SN of the Brunswick Program gave an overview of the new program and the agreement that was made between Brunswick dealers and USPS. Point people will be designated for each dealer. We will teach seminars and possibly teach other classes in their dealerships. A list of attendees for the

seminars will be submitted to USPS Headquarters. A kiosk of USPS educational materials will be maintained at the dealership.

Tom Kemp, Manager of Headquarters Marketing and Development, spoke about the use of Facebook, YouTube and Twitter by Generation X. There are videos on YouTube from USPS on the BOC on the water training sessions. This is one way to get the attention of the public and to recognize USPS as a leader in the boating education field.

We need to strengthen the local squadron so that they can help themselves to market USPS courses and seminars.

How do we deal with e-learning and emerging boaters? This could possibly be done through interactive ports – webinars. For courses there could be some remuneration for squadrons who assist the student.

There will be a USPS Webinar – Emergency Locator Beacons on 15 November 2011. Visit SailAngle.com/webinar for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 1230.

Respectfully submitted

M. Ellen Barbour, SN