

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Open Education Meeting

Friday, 27 January 2012

ANEO R/C Robert Palmer, SN began the meeting by welcoming all attendees and introducing V/C John Alter, SN. V/C Alter gave an overview of the procedures for the election to be held on Saturday at the Annual Meeting. There are two positions, National Administrative Officer and National Educational Officer to be voted on separately.

V/C Alter then introduced the candidates for the Office of National Administrative Officer, V/C Robert Sweet, SN and P/R/C Luis Ojeda, SN. Each candidate presented his background and plans for the coming year. The audience then asked questions of both candidates.

Following this V/C Alter introduced the candidates for the office of National Educational Officer, R/C Eugene Molteni, SN and P/R/C Robert Brandenstein, SN. Once again they each gave their background information and plans for the future, and the audience questioned them both.

After these presentations were completed, R/C Palmer invited Carolyn Reid, AP, the National Training Officer from the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons to speak. CPS currently has about 29,000 members and is having the same problems with growing membership numbers as USPS is. CPS has also suspended pre-requisite requirements for their courses and found that more members are interested in taking their classes. They have incorporated an oral component to their courses. Every other week the instructor conducts an open discussion with the class. The students are graded on their participation and this makes up 40% of their exam grade.

R/C Palmer reported that the Consolidated Committee Reports may be found online, but each Rear Commander would highlight any additional information on his committee and answer questions as needed.

R/C Wil Hugli, SN – Educational Outreach – Additional help is needed for the committee and Wil would be happy to speak with anyone interested. Just fill out the resume form and send it in. The committee is presently speaking with Boat US regarding putting USPS material online with them.

R/C Gene Danko, SN – Electro-Mechanical Systems – There will be no updates for the Marine Electronics course. ME 101, 102, and 103 will stay on shelves until the new

Electronic Navigation systems has been completed and available for use. The CD that is shipped with the VHF/DSC seminar is now working properly. Contact Gene if you are still having trouble.

R/C Richard McGaughy, SN – Inland/Coastal Navigation – Piloting Staff Commander is Robert DeNoto, JN and Advanced Piloting Staff Commander is John Cook, SN. The committee is also responsible for the Plotting and Labeling Standards guide, which is being sent with every Piloting student kit. The Tides and Currents Seminar now has additional PowerPoint slides that may be downloaded from the website. These show east coast locations that may supplement the seminar slides.

R/C Ronald Kessel, SN – Marine Environment – The incoming Rear Commander is Charles Wells, SN and the Staff Commander remains Robert Anderson, AP. The Committee is responsible for the Cruise Planning Course, which is undergoing a major re-write. There are two seminars, Basic Weather and Forecasting and Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes. The committee also ran the Marine Weather Forecasting Webinar. The 2012 Weather course is now available from Headquarters.

R/C Don Fiander, SN – Offshore Navigation – The incoming R/C of the committee is Steve Abbott, N and the Stf/Cs are Larry Samuels, SN and Victor Schwartz, SN.

R/C Palmer spoke about a pricing module (MSRP) for all of the courses and seminars. At the DEO meeting, earlier in the day, the items included in this model were explained to the DEOs and they were asked to review and suggest any items that might need to be added. This total will provide the net amount to be charged to the squadron for the various courses and seminars. A different model was made for the Practical On The Water program. None of these figures included shipping and handling charges or any direct squadron charges that would be added to the final cost.

The Education Department has been restructured to better handle our external and internal responsibilities. The Operation side of the department will handle all external exposures – DEOs, SEOs, Basic Public Education, BOC/OTW programs, Education Outreach and Partnership teams, and be under the leadership of ANEO Bob Palmer. The Administration side will handle all internal committees – Marine Environment, Boat Handling, Inland/Coastal Navigation, Electro-Mechanical Systems, Offshore Navigation, Publishing, and Instructor Development and be under the leadership of ANEO Don Fiander.

There will be a Support and Marketing Team, an E-Learning Team and Project Managers that will work with both parts of the organization. One of the projects that is in the works is a boat handling simulator. It would be modeled after the boat that is used in the Practical On the Water Training program and would simulate docking,

undocking, slalom and crossing situation. The approximate cost per unit is \$11,000. This project would be paid for with a grant from the Ed Fund or Coast Guard.

The use of the internet for online courses and meetings was discussed. This is a way to get more people into our classes and have district-wide meetings. Wil Hugli has agreed to assist any squadron or district with securing the software and helping them set up the online class. If interested contact Wil Hugli.

The meeting was adjourned at 1600.