

Government and Partner Relations Committee

1305 Thursday, September 27, 2015

Call to order by R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN

Members present:

P/D/C John C. Bennett, SN	St/C Robert E. Canfield, JN	P/D/C Kenneth A. Danley, P
C/C Joseph Gatfield, JN CPS- ECP	P/R/C William E. Husted, SN	R/C Mary Ann Jensen, SN
D/Lt/C Janet M. Klumpp, AP	Stf/C Gregory E. Korstad, AP	Mary T. Larson, AP
P/C/C Ernest G. Marshburn, SN	D/Lt Frank Radomsky, AP	P/D/C Peter TenBrink, SN
D/Lt/C Ralph J. Ziegler, JN		

Members and guests did self-introduction.

Approval of San Antonio Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 22, 2015 Annual meeting were approved as presented

Guests:

Lt/C A. W. "Bill" Beers, AP Catawba Sail & Power Squadron
Tammy Brown, Marketing & Development United States Power Squadrons
P/Lt/C Dan Ferguson, P Everett Sail & Power Squadron
Jeff Hoedt, United States Coast Guard
Marion Irving deCruz, founder of S.P.I.N. (Stop Propeller Injuries Now)
Cdr. C. M. Kohlenberg, S Nanticoke River Sail & Power Squadron
R/C Thomas D. Myers, JN USPS Environmental Committee, Fort Mason Sail & Power
Cdr. Elizabeth Torres, JN Birmingham Power Squadron
P/Como Ev Tucker, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Guest Speaker

R/C Mary Ann Jensen introduced guest speaker;

Marion Irving deCruz, S.P.I.N.

Stop Propeller Injuries Now (S.P.I.N.) was founded in 1995 by Marion Irving deCruz, the mother of Emilio Cruz, who lost her only son - a top engineering student - to the blades of a propeller.

SPIN works to

- Stop propeller strikes,
- Provide support for survivors of propeller injuries,
- Inform and educate policy makers, legislators and regulatory agencies, and
- Network with victims and their families to enhance boating safety.

SPIN actively promotes boating safety issues, specifically the need to protect the public from accidents, fatalities and injuries resulting from exposed propellers. Marion presented a couple of examples of propeller strike each resulting in a least one death and crippling injury.

They are currently asking boating organizations to support legislation that would require "dead man switch" on newly manufactured boats. Although the number of incidents is small, the results are extremely devastating, resulting in death or permanent crippling. Marion made a direct plea to our committee to support this issue. **R/C Jensen** stated that we would have to provide a review statement to the United States Power Squadron Board of Directors so they may decide whether support the issue and make a position statement. **Stf/C Korstad** agreed to compile information and write a review statement. **Jeff Hoedt, United States Coast Guard** volunteered information in support of statement.

P/C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN presented information on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) in Strategic Business plan being written for 2016-2021. Some items in the current plan will be removed because they have been completed, others will remain but some new issues will be added. Because of inclusion of these new issues, it gives us, USPS, the opportunity to engage and add our voice to these items. It is the time to address how to

attack boat operator education, working with USCG and Auxiliary, the need for more data tracking boating accidents or even near misses.

Relative to this discussion, P/C/C Marshburn discuss his doctorate thesis project which was the study of boating accident causation in two different areas of the country. He asked the committee what was the most likely cause of boating accidents and their response was operator error and alcohol consumption. He stated wrong in both cases. After going through the data analysis with the committee, extensively, he noted that the human factor was only one of many, the other factors being: technological (GPS, radio, mechanical, etc.), environmental (weather, location, density of boaters, etc.) and temporal (time of day, weekend or during week, time of year). This all boils down to situational awareness on the part of the operator and his crew or passengers. This is something that we should be reconsidering when we teach classes.

The other question is should we continue to stress boating fatalities as we have reached a plateau over the last two years

Jeff Hoedt, United States Coast Guard noted that we have lost a million registered boats over past few years which may account for some reduction, however we are gaining a large number of paddle sport boats that are not registered, as many as 6-7 million based on manufacture's sales, which is not an accurate number.

Jeff also noted that the media only reports human interest stories, such as the 2 14 year olds who disappeared on their boat. In that same vein, the media did not report the 35 people killed in boating accidents over a holiday weekend. So it is important to stress boating safety with potential of new boats being bought and the increase of other boating population factions.

Administration

- GPRCom Website (P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN) – Not present **R/C Mary Ann Jensen** noted that USPS MOU partners could not view MOUs because the website is blocked to non-members. R/C Mary Ann Jensen and Stf /C Robert E. Canfield have forwarded this issue to the organization.
- Roster and webpage – D/Lt/C Ralph J. Ziegler, JN asked P/D/C John Bennett, SN to cover this issue. P/D/C Bennett circulated roster and requested all to review and mark up changes. D/Lt/C Ralph J. Ziegler noted any electronic or lengthy reports will be available on the web site with excerpts included in the minutes and please supply hard copy of hand written notes used for your presentations so they can included.
- **Stf/C Robert Canfield, JN** noted that per NSBLA, states must review and sign off on the ABC course before it can be taught in the state. Noted that most state MOUs are out of date.
- **Stf/C Peter TenBrink, SN** updated us on USPS – USCG auxiliary MOU implementation and Operation Observer Onboard (OOO) status.

There is a planning committee with the following participants;

- R/C Mary Ann Jensen
- USCG Auxiliary Branch Chief Nan Ellen Fuller
- P/R/C Ken Link
- P/D/C (D/3) Dan Flinn
- D/C (D15) Bill Arcediano
- P/D/C Jerry Hall (PlanCom) – Facilitator
- Stf/C Peter TenBrink

Short-Term Goals (6 months to 1 year) have been established;

- Joint VSE Events
- Environment
- America's Waterways Watch (HS)
- Joint teaching of ABC3/About Boating Safety
- Jointly manned Boat Shows
- Shared Contact List

Long-Term (Strategic) Objectives established;

- Establish (approved) Uniform Instructor Certification Process

- Expand Operation Onboard Observer (OOO)
- Build jointly managed (public) websites
- Planning an ongoing process

Operation Onboard Observer has been expanded into 2 new districts;

- Continued for D/3 and USCG Aux D1 SR
- Established single Point of Contact for each organization to facilitate
- Held meetings with new D/3 and D1 SR Leadership to establish continuity
- Expanded to USCG Auxiliary D7 and (parts of) USPS D17 and D26

Other:

- Joint VSE Events held with; D/3 and USCG Auxiliary D1 SR, D/8 Pompano Beach SPS and Flotilla 3-4

Housekeeping issues completed; updated matrix to reflect new personnel and positions (website), updated Points of Contact List to reflect new personnel (website), created a GPRCom Facebook page (Bob Scully and Bill Husted – D/8) and created “flyer” to reflect spirit of the MOU Implementation

Homeland Security

P/R/C Bill Husted, SN reported that the United States Coast Guard has developed a boating safety app that can be used on an android or ISO platform. Search for it under “USCG app”, it is free. It includes America’s Waterway Watch (AWW) reporting capability, float plan, weather buoy, and a number of other boating information. The HS team continues to provide information to continue to D/HS/O, D/L/O, D/C D/X/O and HS members.

P/R/C Husted suggested you have the following numbers in your cell phone;

AWW 1-877-247-2824

Spills 1-800-424-8802

Liaison Reports

D/Lt/C Ralph J. Ziegler, JN read P/R/C Gene Van Rhee’s report. After requesting reports, reported that he received only one report, from District 2’s Anne Mahoney reports from 9 of the 15 squadrons. Items such as boat shows, parades, boat camp for underprivileged children, Youth Mariners Program for underserved youth, shared boat show booth w/ USCGA, participation in tugboat race, working with local Girl & Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts, fund raiser for breast cancer, providing \$250 scholarships to college bound students, and providing 4 free boats for sunset sails one night a week.

D/Lt/C Ralph J. Ziegler, JN read P/R/C Joyce Shaw’s National Safe Boating Council report

Grants and Projects

- North American Safe Boating Campaign "Wear It!" Grant
- Saved By the Beacon Grant – importance of emergency beacons
- IBWS Summit : co-sponsored by NSBC and NASBLA and NWSC, 6-9 March 2016 in San Diego
- 2016 Grants received totaling \$890,000: Wear It campaign, IBWSS, Boating Safety Media Toolbox, Targeted Boater Knowledge and Skills Awareness training

(See **Reports** section on Government & Partners Relations web site URL for Joyce’s full report:

http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/reports/NSBC_Report_Aug_2015.pdf

D/Lt/C Ralph J. Ziegler, JN read a portion P/V/C Robert David’s report to European Boating Association (EBA) of US Coast Guard (USCG), National Boating Federation (NFB) and United States Power Squadrons (USPS) activity.

USCG will preserve the Loran infrastructure for one year, will dispose of when Department of Homeland Security (DHS) certifies it is not needed as backup to GPS. There may be need to have a redundant system, e-Loran, to be determined by DHS. Rescue 21 VHF-DSC is fully operational except for Alaska, (2017). USCG seeking legislative federal authorization to establish mandatory boater education, still without success. Cybersecurity, invasive species and anchoring issues in Florida continue to be problems.

NSFC still has boating safety information brochures available through their website and continue to oppose both E10 and E15 being added to marine fuels.

Liaison Reports (continued)

USPS continues to expand the On-water Training Program via a USCG grant, has a number of Boating Skills Virtual Training units with a variety of boating scenarios. Canadian Power Squadrons have purchased with a French language option.

The full report will be posted in the Reports section on the web.

(See EBA report at http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/reports/EBA_Report_April_2015.pdf)

Break 1510-1525

C/C Joseph Gatfield, JN CPS- ECP reported on CPS-ECP. He updated the committee on the success of the new organization, and there are few revisions required. The voting process and board of directors setup is working well and will be tested again at the Annual meeting this coming fall. Joe commented on the success of virtual trainer units from USPS, being used at the large boat shows. Joe said they had another successful year of CPS-ECP with the flare retrieval and disposal program in cooperation with C-I-L Orion (Flare manufacturer) and Transport Canada. They retrieved over 21,000 units and now have a 3 year contract with C-I-L Orion to continue the program. He also reported that they are now using webinars and Go To meeting extensively because of the vast distances.

Lobbying, Stf/C Greg Korstad, AP talked about the successful development of a Board of Directors position statement on E15 stating no increase without sufficient study evidence that no damage will be incurred. The statement now allows any authorized USPS member to lobby on a solid foundation.

Greg noted that the S.P.I.N. presentation now requires a position statement to be presented to the Board of Directors so they may review, comment and provide direction.

State Legislation, Stf/C Greg Korstad, AP has concern over the lack of team leaders and state representatives. Greg read some information from **P/D/C James Spencer Jr., SN** and **P/D/C Dennis McNamara, JN**. **The full reports are filed under Must Know Legislative News** on GPRCom web site

(see Spencer Report at

http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/leg_news/Spencer_2015_Fall_GPR_Region_C_Report.pdf)

(see McNamara Report at

http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/leg_news/McNamara_Report_07-18-15.pdf)

Mary Ann Jensen asked if there was any other business.

P/D/C Kenneth A. Danley, P remarked that he had attended a National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) meeting and was asked to be an instructor for them. This occurred after he informed them that he was a certified instructor for the United States Power Squadrons. **R/C Jensen** noted that the request for instructors should come through the USPS Educational Department.

P/D/ Danley suggest that the committee support S.P.I.N.'s request for safety lanyard legislation. **Stf/C Korstad** noted that he would be working on a position statement relative to that issue to be delivered to the Board of Directors.

Adjournment 1655