

**October 2003**  
**Volume 1, Issue 4**

# The Southwind

A publication of the South Hills Power Squadron, A Division of the United States Power Squadrons®

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## Coming Events

- South Hills Power Squadron Meeting, Wednesday 8 October 2003 Ramada Inn Pittsburgh South
- D/7 Fall Conference 7-9 November I-77 & Rockside, Cleveland
- USPS Annual Meeting Orlando 14-18 January 2004
- Pittsburgh Governing Board Pittsburgh Hilton 19-23 May 2004

## Commander's Remarks

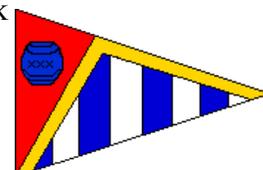


Well, it's been an off again/on again summer with all the rain and weather changes; however, I hope you all had an enjoyable time of it. Now it's time to get serious about the matters at hand.

- We have started a Fall Boating Class on 23 September. We have 5 participants. Jim Stark can use your help. Please call him at 724-225-7605.
- The Fall Conference is coming on 7-9 November. **The hotel reservation deadline for the Power Squadron \$89.00 rate is 7 October.** Otherwise, the rate is \$106.00. Get your reservations in ASAP.
- Cruise Planning is to start on 7 October at Mt. Lebanon High School. Please let Jim or Don Stark know of your intentions.
- It's Merit Mark time! If you have information concerning anyone's Merit Mark, please get it to me in writing ASAP. This information is due to HQ no later than 15 November.
- Don't forget about the regular meetings coming up on 8 October and 12 November at the Ramada Inn. The more members who participate, the better the meetings!
- And, of course, remember the Christmas Party/Meeting in December. More to come on this from Bill & Shelia Macko.

Remember, it's your Squadron, and we must work together to keep it strong and successful!

Cdr. Tom Merritt, JN



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*A publication of the South Hills Power Squadron*

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**We're on the Web at [www.usps.org/localusps/southhills](http://www.usps.org/localusps/southhills)**

*We extend our sympathies to Hank and Mary Lou Marzina on the recent death of Mary Lou's mother, Shelia (McCullouch) Gigliotti.*

## At Last!



It took a little while to arrive, but 1st Lt Selden Campen, P, our assistant SEO, was presented his flag of office from Cdr Tom Merritt, JN, at the September membership meeting.

## Education Department By Lt/C James A Stark, AP

**Cruise Planning** is set to begin on 7 October at 1930 at Mt. Lebanon High School. Course Chairmen are Don and Marjie Stark. Their phone number is 724-228-4177 or email them at stark84@nb.net.

### **CP101 Local Cruise Planning**

Aspects of planning a short cruise, augments Seamanship, Piloting and other USPS courses that cover the operation of the boat and its equipment. Planning a vacation cruise of a weekend or a few weeks close to shore or island hopping. Boat requirements; elements required in a plan, including food, meals, water, fuel, and sleeping accommodations; plan for crew.

### **CP102 Extended Cruise Planning**

Aspects of planning an extended voyage - possibly an ocean passage. Boat requirements; elements required in a plan including provisions, meals, water, fuel, crew, and sleeping accommodations; appropriate charts, equipment, and navigation plan; currency exchange; visas; passports; entering & clearing foreign ports; VHF & ham license requirements.

I guess we should have taken Cruise Planning !!!



## SOUTH HILLS POWER SQUADRON MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**RAMADA INN PITTSBURGH SOUTH**  
FORT COUCH ROAD

**8 OCTOBER 2003 1800 DINNER - 1930 MEETING**

# **USPS Policy for Instructor Certification**

## **The Need:**

USPS is a highly-regarded educational organization in the recreational boating community, dedicated to the self-education of its members and to the providing of safe boating education to the public. As part of the approved strategic plan and the fulfillment of its mission, USPS believes that it should offer the highest quality instruction and materials in all its educational offerings. In cooperation with the States and to meet their educational curriculum for boating education, USPS public basic boating safety courses must be NASBLA-approved. Many state members of NASBLA now require that USPS use certified instructors; the requirements for certification are currently left to USPS. The benefit of certified instructors is two-fold; demonstrate a public awareness of professionalism in the USPS approach to education and curriculum; and, to provide on-the-scene qualified teachers in case of last minute scheduling emergencies.

To this end, minimum requirements for instructor certification are in order and are hereby established. The certification program outlined below is based on the USPS Instructor Development Course and is designed to satisfy the requirements of NASBLA and its members states and territories.

## **Certification:**

No later than 1 January 2006, all instructors of USPS basic boating safety courses offered to the public must be certified. The method for obtaining certification to teach any and all courses is by passing the USPS Instructor Development (ID) Course. Successful completion of ID will result in the issuance of a USPS Instructor's Certificate valid for four years from the date of ID course completion. It is strongly recommended that all USPS instructors take the Instructor Development Course, whether they are teaching a public course or a course for members only.

Although USPS members are encouraged to take the Instructor Development Course, members with certain pre-qualifications may request an initial four-year certification without completing the Instructor Development Course. Current members with such pre-qualifications who may request an initial four-year certification are:

1. Members who hold active, current teaching credentials from an accredited teaching organization;
2. Members who have taught for at least three years with the last five calendar years in an adult education community program or as a college instructor.

3. Members who have completed either the USPS IQ Course or both the USPS IT and IA Courses and who have had a significant USPS classroom or public presentation experience during the last three years.

Other members who have completed either IQ or both IT and IA but have had no significant USPS classroom or public presentation experience during the past three years must complete a four-hour ID recertification seminar described below to qualify for initial four-year certification. As defined above, initial USPS instructor certification is valid for four years. Re-certification of all instructors requires completion of the USPS four-hour ID re-certification seminar.

## **The Re-Certification Seminar:**

The Instructor Development Committee has developed a four-hour re-certification seminar. This seminar reflects the latest teaching and learning techniques and emphasizes the high value USPS places on quality educational material and instruction. It will be updated regularly to model the latest adult-education and teaching theory and practices. Previously certified instructors who successfully complete the re-certification seminar will be re-certified for a new four-year term from the date of completion of the seminar.

The responsibility for offering the re-certification seminar will rest with the District Educational Officer and the District Instructor Development Chair and Committee.

## **Specific Boating Course Recommendation:**

District Educational Officers are responsible for defining and implementing district educational policies that provide for the certification of all instructors of USPS public boating courses within a period of three years from the effective date of this policy.

## **Administration**

Records of USPS instructor certification will be filed and maintained at USPS Headquarters.

- Squadron Educational Officers are responsible for maintaining accurate records of classroom instruction time spent by each instructor for purposes of validating certification applications.
- District Educational Officers and Squadron Educational Officers are to maintain registries of certified instructors within their areas of responsibility.
- Certification remains with the member and applies to all Squadrons in USPS.

The Instructor Development Committee will provide and post on the USPS EdDept web site forms and written procedures needed to implement this policy.

# USPS Boat Insurance Program

## USPS Educational Credits

Would you like to save money? Would you like to get credit for all the hard work you did taking USPS Courses? Education is a smart thing, and now it can save you money, too!

If you have USPS boat insurance through The St Paul, you can earn 2.5 % credit towards a reduction in your USPS Insurance with every course you complete and get an additional 3% for a VSC inspection of your boat. The maximum discount you can receive is 23%. The plan works like this:

<u>Basic Courses</u>	<u>Credit</u>	
Seamanship	2.5 %	
Piloting	2.5 %	2.5 % For Each Course for a Maximum of 7.5 %
Advanced Piloting	2.5 %	

<u>Elective Courses</u>		
Marine Electronics	2.5 %	
Engine Maintenance	2.5 %	
Weather	2.5 %	2.5 % For Each Course for a Maximum of 7.5 %
Sail	2.5 %	

Maximum Credit for All Three Basic Courses and 3 or 4 Electives is 15 %

Navigation/Full Certificate 5 %

Maximum Credit for a Full Certificate is 20 %



### Vessel Safety Check Credit

Annual VSC Certification 3 %

Note: A copy of each year's 204 form must be faxed (205-581-9447) or mailed to the USPS Boat Insurance program to obtain and/or renew 3 % discount.

You can call the USPS Boat Insurance Program Service department at 1-800-763-8777 and tell the representative what courses you have completed.

*USPS Boat Insurance Program*  
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