

**United States Power Squadrons®**  
Sail and Power Boating  
**District 9 2007 Fall Conference Meeting Minutes**  
Doubletree Hotel, Bay City, Michigan – Saturday, 27 October 2007

**Call to Order**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

D/C Stephan called the 2007 Fall Conference to order at 1334.

**Invocation**

**D/Lt Doug Rocho, P**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**D/FI/Lt Patricia Johnston, SN**

**US & Canadian National Anthems**

**Conference Attendees**

**Welcome and Comments**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

D/C Stephan thanked the members of the Dearborn Power Squadron for hosting the conference. He requested that all cell phones and pagers be silenced to not interrupt the meeting.

**Order of Business**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

The chair stated that unless there were objections, he would change the order of business as necessary in order to expedite the meeting. Seeing and hearing none, it was so ordered.

**Recognition of Departed Members**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP  
D/Lt/C Denise Brooks, AP**

The following departed members were recognized and the District Bell was tolled for each:

- |                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| • P/C Theodore Pierce, SN    | Grand Rapids       |
| • Doris W. Cross, S          | Grand Traverse Bay |
| • Elwin (Bud) Farrell, P     | Grosse Ile         |
| • Harlan Goebel, AP          | Grosse Ile         |
| • John McEnhill, N           | Grosse Ile         |
| • Douglas C. Hornus, P       | Lansing            |
| • Marvin Ciemniak, AP        | Mt Clemens         |
| • Lt/C Edward Iverson, AP    | Mt Clemens         |
| • Lt/C Cynthia Ann Boyle, AP | St Clair Shores    |
| • P/C Paul E. Lawrence, AP   | South Bend         |
| • Robert L. Pfeil, P         | South Bend         |

**Prayer on behalf of Departed Members**

**D/Lt Douglas Rocho, P**

**Introduction of P/D/C's & National Officers**

**D/Lt/C Denise Brooks, AP**

D/Lt/C Brooks made the following introductions of Past District Commanders:

- P/D/C Richard W. Miner, SN
- P/D/C Gene Van Rhee, SN
- P/D/C James Leonard, SN
- P/D/C Edwin Schwenk, SN
- P/D/C Gert Baldwin, JN
- P/D/C John Bennett, SN
- P/D/C Michael J Rachuk, SN

- **P/D/C James G. Knaggs, SN**
- **P/D/C Denise C. Samu, AP**

D/Lt/C Brooks made the following introductions of current and past National Officers:

- **P/C/C Richard W. Miner, SN**
- **P/R/C Gene Van Rhee, SN**
- **P/Stf/C Edwin Schwenk, SN**
- **Stf/C John Bennett, SN**
- **R/C Ronald C. LaPlante, SN**
- **Stf/C Robert Landeros, SN**
- **P/R/C John D. Alstetter, SN**
- **P/R/C Patricia Johnston, SN**
- **P/R/C Shirley Van Rhee, JN**
- **P/R/C Gene Van Rhee, SN**

**Introduction of USPS Guests**

**P/D/C James R. Leonard, SN**

P/D/C Leonard made the following introduction of District guests:

- **D/Lt Nick Baratta, JN**                      **London Squadron**      **Canadian Power Squadron**
- **D/Lt Alice Barattta, JN**                      **London Squadron**      **Canadian Power Squadron**
- **Rear Commodore Gerry Ganski**      **9<sup>th</sup> Western Region**      **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**
- **District Commodore Mark Simoni**      **9<sup>th</sup> Central Region**      **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**

**Review of Voting and Floor Privileges**

**D/Lt Laddie Hudson, SN**

D/Lt Hudson reviewed and explained voting privileges and procedures for the meeting, citing sections 3.1, 2.9, 2.9.1, 2.9.2, 2.9.3 and 5.11.

**Determination of a Quorum**

**D/Lt/C James Draper, JN**

D/Lt/C Draper reported that a quorum was present for the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes – 2007- Spring Conference**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

The Spring Conference Report that included the minutes of the Spring Conference held on Saturday, 31 March 2007 at the Holiday Inn--South in Lansing, Michigan was distributed for review and was posted on the D/9 website prior to the start of the meeting. P/D/C Bennett noted that Detroit was listed in error on the report cover as the host squadron rather than Lansing.

**Motion:** It was moved by P/D/C Samu to approve the minutes of the 2007 Spring Conference with the aforementioned corrections; 2nd by P/D/C Bennett; Motion passed.

[Secretary's note: corrections were made to the cover and 3 section insert pages of the master copy. A revised PDF file available for download was posted on the D/9 website.]

**Chief Commander's Message**

**P/R/C Shirley Van Rhee, JN**

1. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2007 national efforts have focused on several key objectives including:
  - Governance issues
  - Financial integrity
  - Membership recruitment and retention
  - USPS University
  - Enhancing communication, simplifying bureaucracy

2. **Governance:** a new day has dawned for USPS governance. The newly established Board of Directors was passed at the 2007 Governing Board in Norfolk, Va can now make interim decisions between governing board meetings. O-Com is implementing plans to ensure mission success. The governing board will continue to set organizational direction and policy through bylaw changes and approval of dues increases without assuming responsibility for every Board of Directors action.
3. **Financial Integrity:** USPS finances have improved. USPS has been operating in the black for the past two years. The September 2006 net balance was \$21,338 and in 2007 it was \$156,561. Thanks to everyone for their cost cutting endeavors. The USPS Seabag Web Initiative (think nautical e-Bay) is right at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and heading for home.
4. **Membership Retention:** continues to be a major focus. Generation X and Y individuals are different from previous generations. USPS is developing new strategies for recruiting and retaining members. Remember that recruitment and retention starts at the squadron level.
5. **USPS University:** USPS enters the modern education age with USPS University-the objective is to offer full-featured and diversified RBS curriculum. Teaching aids today are both traditional and electronic. National Safe Boating week campaign will be May 17-23, 2008.
6. **Enhancing Communication, Simplifying Bureaucracy:** the electronic Merit Mark (EMM) submission program has expanded to all districts this year. A marketing/development services manager has been hired for HQ staff. National Ships's Store website has a 5% rebate program to districts and squadrons to promote web based sales. USPS Storm Central features a website where members can exchange information during an emergency. Be sure to attend the USPS Annual Meeting on 19-24 February 2008 in Dallas, TX.

### Awards Ceremony

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP  
P/R/C Shirley Van Rhee, JN  
D/Lt/C Denise Brooks, AP  
D/Lt Frank Muylaert, P**

D/Lt/C Brooks announced the categories, awards, and the recipients. The awards were presented to the recipients by D/C Stephan and the Chief Commander's representative, P/R/C Shirley Van Rhee with assistance by D/Lt Frank Muylaert, D/9 Trophies & Award Chairman. The awards and recipient' names were also displayed on screen as a PowerPoint presentation.

### Fifty Year Membership in USPS (plaque and pin)

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • <b>John H. Polbitzke</b> | <b>Anchor Bay</b>         |
| • <b>Henry R. Dykstra</b>  | <b>Detroit</b>            |
| • <b>Bruce W. Trudgen</b>  | <b>Grand Traverse Bay</b> |
| • <b>Thomas J. Burke</b>   | <b>Grosse Pointe</b>      |
| • <b>Joseph C. Horak</b>   | <b>South Bend</b>         |
| • <b>Robert L. Pfeil</b>   | <b>South Bend</b>         |

### Two squadrons were recognized for reaching their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as follows:

**Flint Power Squadron  
Lansing Sail and Power Squadron**

### **Membership Growth Award**

Squadron in District 9 that has done the best in acquiring new members into USPS.

- |                         |                 |        |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| • 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Port Huron      | 6.56%  |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | South Bend      | 11.24% |
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | Tip of the Mitt | 14.63% |

### **Membership Involvement Award**

Awarded to the squadrons that has the highest number of members retained.

- |                         |                 |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Tip of the Mitt | 91.5% retention |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | Port Huron      | 94.0% retention |
| • 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | St Clair Shores | 98.3% retention |

### **District Safety Award**

Awarded to the squadron with the most outstanding or unique safety program during the calendar year. The 2007 winner is as follows:

#### **Lansing Sail and Power Squadron**

### **Sailor of the Year Award (traveling perpetual trophy)**

Selected by the Sailing Activities committee to a squadron member for outstanding efforts furthering interests in sail boating activities or sailboat education. The 2007 winner is as follows:

**Lt/C Robert Corzine, JN**

**Birmingham Power Squadron**

### **District Predicted Log Award**

Presented by the Predicted Log Committee to the squadron member with the lowest percentage of error in an approved, sanctioned Predicted Log contest during the past calendar year.

<b>Dave Charvat</b>	<b>Grosse Pointe</b>	<b>.52% error</b>
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### **District 9 Novice Predicted Log Award**

<b>Bill Keister</b>	<b>Grosse Pointe</b>	<b>7.89% error</b>
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### **East Side Predicted Log (open to non USPS organizations)**

Trophies were awarded the day of the competition. Winners were presented with a certificate of achievement as a permanent memento of their accomplishment.

<b>Dave Charvat</b>	<b>Grosse Pointe</b>	<b>.52% error</b>
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### **West Side Predicted Log Winner (open to non USPS organizations)**

<b>Scott Levene</b>	<b>Kalamazoo</b>	<b>2.45% error</b>
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**Teaching Aid Award (Certificate)**

This award is presented to the squadron that is judged to have exhibited the best teaching aid at the D/9 Fall Conference.

**P/C Richard J. Granke, SN      Dearborn**

**R/C James E. Ryan, SN Advanced Grades Trophy**

This award is presented to the squadron with the highest percent of advanced grades earned in the past educational year compared to the number of squadron members eligible to take an advanced grade course in the squadron.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**                                      **Grosse Ile**                                      **12.20%**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**                                      **Rogers City**                                      **13.33%**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place**                                      **Port Huron**                                      **23.81%**

**R/C Glenn H. Howell, SN Elective Course Trophy**

This award is presented to the squadron with the highest percent of elective courses earned in the past educational year compared to the number of squadron members eligible to take elective courses in the squadron.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**                                      **Kalamazoo**                                      **20.79%**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**                                      **Muskegon**                                      **21.88%**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place**                                      **Rogers City**                                      **35.48%**

**P/R/C George (Bud) A. Richardson, SN Total Squadron Educational Performance Award**

This award is presented to the squadron with the highest percent of total number of advanced grades earned and elective courses completed to the number of members eligible to take the courses in the educational year.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**                                      **Kalamazoo**                                      **20.79%**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**                                      **Port Huron**                                      **30.71%**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place**                                      **Rogers City**                                      **48.39%**

**Certificates of Educational Achievement (full certificate mounted on wooden plaque)**

Presented to those squadron members who have successfully completed all Power Squadron Educational Courses.

**Stephen E. Lloyd                                      Grosse Pointe**  
**Michael J. Weber                                      Anchor Bay**

**Donald C. Beran, SN Squadron Educational Achievement Award**

Presented to the squadron with the highest percentage of members who have earned a full certificate during the educational year.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**                                      **Saginaw Bay**                                      **0.73%**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**                                      **Dearborn**                                      **0.88%**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place**                                      **Anchor Bay**                                      **1.37%**

### **Boating Course Awards**

Presented to the squadrons that have reported one boating class graduate for each active squadron member.

- **3rd Place**                      **Rogers City**                      **1.19**
- **2nd Place**                      **Alpena**                      **1.23%**
- **1st Place**                      **St Clair Shores**                      **1.92%**

### **District Teacher of the Year Award (Certificate)**

Presented to a squadron member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching skills.

**Edward Evatz, Jr.**                      **Grosse Pointe**  
(this was posthumously awarded)

### **Prince Henry the Navigator Award (Trophy)**

Presented to the squadron with the best percentage improvement in the number of students achieving the grade of Navigator in the preceding educational year.

- **2nd Place**                      **Grosse Pointe**                      **0.55%**
- **1st Place**                      **Anchor Bay**                      **1.37%**

### **Excellence in Recreational Boating Education Award**

- **2nd Place**                      **Alpena**
- **1st Place**                      **Grand Rapids**

### **District Cooperative Charting Award (Squadron)**

Recognizes the squadron that has made the greatest contributions to the District in the field of cooperative charting for the year.

- **3rd Place**                      **South Bend**
- **2nd Place**                      **Sable Point**
- **1st Place**                      **Saginaw Bay**

### **District Cooperative Charting Award (Individual)**

Presented to the member with the highest percentage of credits received for reports sent to NOAA above the honor roll requirements.

- **3rd Place**                      **Thomas Czerniak**
- **2nd Place**                      **Jim Bartlett, Jr.**
- **1st Place**                      **Shirley Y. Van Rhee**

### **Co-op Charting Honor Roll**

The following members received national recognition in the top 75 on the Co-op Charting Honor Roll. They are as follows:

<b>Shirley Y. Van Rhee</b>	<b>Ranking: 33</b>	<b>Howard Deal</b>	<b>Ranking: 41</b>
<b>Jim Bartlett, Jr.</b>	<b>Ranking: 37</b>	<b>Gene Van Rhee</b>	<b>Ranking: 62</b>
<b>Thomas Czerniak</b>	<b>Ranking: 38</b>		

## Co-op Charting Honor Roll

The following squadrons received recognition through the Co-op Charting Honor Roll as follows:

- **Lansing**
- **Grosse Ile**
- **Port Huron**
- **Sable Point**
- **South Bend**
- **Tip of the Mitt**

## Report of the Planning Committee

**D/Lt David Brooks, AP**

D/Lt Brooks reported that the Planning Committee currently had 5 items under review. These are PlanCom Item 13 through 17.

- PlanCom Item 13: new SOP 43 Responsibilities of Squadron Ambassador. This SOP was developed with the assistance and feedback from P/D/C Rachuk, who is D/9's current Squadron Ambassador. Draft included in the District Officer Reports packet.  
**Motion:** It was moved by D/Lt Brooks to approve SOP 43 as published; 2<sup>nd</sup> by P/D/C Bennett; motion passed.
- PlanCom Item 14: review of SOP 7 Secretary's Department to reflect current operating procedures is ongoing.
- PlanCom Item 15: review of SOP 35 District Publication to reflect current operating procedures should be complete by Spring Council.
- PlanCom Item 16: review Standing Rules #40 & 66 to reflect change in National dues structure. Original rules along with proposed changes were included in the District Officer Reports packet.  
**Motion:** It was moved by D/Lt Brooks that these changes to SR 40 and 66 be approved as published; 2<sup>nd</sup> by P/D/C Bennett; motion passed.
- PlanCom Item 17: review SOP 09 Responsibilities of the Treasurer to reflect change in National dues structure. Original assessment structure along with proposed changes were included in the District Officer Reports packet.  
**Motion:** It was moved by D/Lt Brooks that these changes to SOP 09 be approved as published; 2<sup>nd</sup> by D/Lt Dunbar; motion passed.

D/C Stephan requested that D/Lt Brooks add new PlanCom Item 18 for the development of an SOP for DB2000 Usage & Updating Procedures to make it more user friendly. PlanCom's full report is included in the District Officer Reports section.

## Report of the Rules Committee

**Stf/C Robert Landeros, SN**

Stf/C Landeros advised that with the acceptance and approval by National of our recent bylaws changes he had nothing further to report.

## Report of the Nominating Committee

**P/D/C Denise Samu, AP**

P/D/C Samu reported that the nominating committee conducted interviews in Port Huron in conjunction with the Fall Council Meeting on 29 September 2007. A recommended slate of nominees for 2008-9 will be determined and published in the spring issue of the *Interlaker*.

## Report of the Conference Coordinator

**P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN**

P/D/C Rachuk advised that we have a signed contract for the Spring 2009 Conference in South Bend, Indiana, and he has prospects for the Fall 2009 Conference. His written report is included in the District Officer Reports section. Squadrons interested in hosting a conference may contact P/D/C Rachuk or the district commander.

### **Report of the Governing Board Coordinator**

**P/D/C Mike Rachuk, SN**

P/D/C Rachuk reported that the committee has made significant progress since his last report on the preparations for D/9 to host the 2008 USPS fall governing board in Detroit. They have a contract with the Detroit Princess cruise boat and have finalized a Motown tour. They are finalizing details on a tour of the Ford Rouge Plant. A tall ship, Highlander Sea, will be docked in front of the Renaissance Hotel during the event. A budget has been developed and a bank account setup. Full report is in the District Officer Reports section.

## **D/9 BRIDGE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Treasurer's Department**

**D/Lt/C Mary Ann Jensen, AP**

D/Lt/C Jensen noted that all receipts have been deposited and bills paid. The written Treasurer's Report is included in the District Officer Reports section.

### **Secretary's Department**

**D/Lt/C James Draper, JN**

D/Lt/C Draper stated that his written report was on the table for review at the Conference's convenience.

- He asked that all officers with reports turn them in to him for inclusion in the full conference report.
- Reported a change in the way the council/conference reporting is published. They are separate meetings with different agendas and goals. Council minutes required approval at the next council meeting and conference minutes at the next conference, but they were being published as a combined council and conference report, which was unwieldy. They are now separate smaller stand alone documents so that council information stays with council and conference with conference. They will also be posted on the D/9 website as separate documents available for download by any USPS member.
- D/Lt Peggy Schwaller, Ensign Correspondent, reviews squadron newsletters for articles for possible publication in the Ensign. She is requesting that editors put their contact information in the newsletter.

The written Secretary's Report is included in the District Officer Reports section.

### **Administrative Department**

**D/Lt/C Bryan Bartlett, AP**

D/Lt/C Bartlett stated that his report was on the table for review at the Conference's convenience.

- District membership was 2502 as of 8/31/07, a decline of 5.6% from the same time a year ago.
- Our goal in 2008 is 2600 active & additional active members by 5/31/08.
- USPS has announced a youth poster contest. Posters submitted by D/9 squadrons will be judged at the Spring 2008 Conference and winners will be judged at the Fall 2008 Governing Board, which D/9 is hosting in Detroit.
- The Administrative Officers Seminar will emphasize training, concentrating on the knowledge needed to succeed as AO as well as a future squadron commander.

The written Administrative Officer's Report is included in the District Officer Reports section.

### **Education Department**

**D/Lt/C William Stewart, SN**

Thanked the Mt Clemens Power Squadron for their hospitality when he and mate, Judy, represented the district at Cdr Corlew's ball.

- New Seamanship, Engine Maintenance, and JN are being well received.
- New Navigation beta will not be available until early 2008.



- Most squadrons should now be teaching either the 8 hr or 12 hr course from the 04 Boating Manual.
- All class information and exams are to be submitted electronically.
- Safe Boating Week was not as successful last year as in preceding years. It was agreed at the 2007 Fall Governing Board that USPS should return to holding the event during SBW and national advertising will focus on this approach.
- USPS will label a course line as magnetic rather than true.
- Sociologists now talk about 6 phases in life, childhood, adolescence, odyssey, adulthood, active retirement, old age. The odyssey phase, or decade of wandering, is where we used to recruit the majority of members and is currently the most difficult group to engage.

The written Education Officer's Report is included in the District Officer Reports section.

### **Executive Department**

**D/Lt/C Denise Brooks, AP**

D/Lt/C Brooks stated that her report was on the table for review at the Conference's convenience. She stated that USPS is under tremendous pressure to change because of how our society is changing. The work that we are doing today in USPS will not only affect people today but also help set the stage for our future. Michigan continues to be one of the top states in the country, 2<sup>nd</sup> only to California and Florida, with the number of registered boaters so there is opportunity for programs that USPS provides. USPS has many tools to engage boaters. We need to be creative in how to use them. The role of the Executive Department is to link you with national and ideas from around the country. The written Executive Officer's Report is included in the District Officer Reports section.

### **District Commander's Report**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

- D/C Stephan commented that the electronic version of the District Directory had not been acceptable this year and he took responsibility for it.
- Failure by the squadrons to update DB2000 appeared to be the major issue with the directory problems. At D/C Stephan's request D/Lt Dunbar, D/9's Computer and Website Chairman elaborated further:
  - Website will be the primary D/9 communication method
  - Each squadron has the input responsibility to keep member's status updated
  - Due to password issues District can not update data when errors are discovered
  - Updating currently must be done at the squadron level
  - D/Lt Dunbar offered to give a DB2000 class to any squadron requesting it
- Irish Hills Squadron has notified him and the NXO that they wish to dissolve the squadron. There is a 9-step procedure to do this. Council and conference approval are step 3 of the process. Pending that approval, we will take further steps at the annual meeting in Dallas in February 2008.
- Stf/C Landeros led a 2-day Leadership Development workshop in Chicago. He will be our area trainer for the southern part of Michigan and South Bend. Lt/C Jerry Williams (Grand Traverse Bay Sail & Power Squadron) and D/1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Don Fiander (Birmingham) will be our Westside and Eastside trainers, respectively once they complete training.
- District 9 was well represented at the Governing Board meeting in Norfolk with approximately 50 members in attendance. The new governance proposals passed will streamline processes at the National USPS level.
- Merit marks need to be completed and returned to D/Lt Chet Falle. He has to send them to the area monitor by 15 November.

D/C Stephan's complete report is included in the District Officer Reports section.

**Unfinished Business**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

Regarding dissolution of the Irish Hills Power Squadron;

- **Motion** by P/D/C Samu to dissolve the Irish Hills Power Squadron; 2<sup>nd</sup> by P/D/C's Bennett and Van Rhee; motion passed.

**New Business and Resolutions**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

- D/C Stephan swore Chelsea Bartlett, who had just completed the boating course at the Saginaw Bay Power Squadron, into membership.

**Educational Fund Report**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

D/C Stephan reported that (3) squadrons have not yet turned in their funds.

**For the Good of the District**

**2008 Spring Conference**

**Cdr Phillip Trupiano, AP**

Flyers and registration forms were on the table. All were urged all to attend the 2008 Spring Conference hosted by the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron. It will be at the Marriott Hotel in Troy 4-6Apr.

**2008 Fall Conference**

**Stf/C Robert Landeros, SN  
D/Lt Karen Strand, AP**

D/Lt Strand stated that this conference would coincide with Kalamazoo's Diamond Jubilee 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and urged all to help them celebrate it properly. The conference is scheduled for 29 October to 02 November 2008.

**Other Business**

D/Lt Vera Blake, editor of the D/9 newsletter, *Interlaker*, advised that it is now posted on the website. The fall issue is the last one mailed enmasse. The spring issue will be posted on the website, available for all to download. Those who do not have download capability may ask their squadron commander for a paper copy or contact the District Secretary.

**Benediction**

**D/Lt Doug Rocho, P**

**Adjournment**

**D/C Jerry Stephan, AP**

D/C Stephan adjourned the meeting at 1515. (1 hr 41 minutes)

Respectfully submitted,



D/Lt/C James D. Draper, JN  
District 9 Secretary