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Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Dear Sirs,

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron will offer a two-evening course *GPS for Boaters* on April 5th and April 19, 2006. **The deadline for registration is March 22nd**

Following are draft

Calendar Notices.

Press Release – News article.

Facts about the Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron.

Information about the United States Power Squadrons.

If there are any questions about this material, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dick Aiken
Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron

BRIEF CALENDAR NOTICE

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron will offer the two-evening course *GPS for Boaters* on April 5th and April 19, 2006 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at a corporate headquarters (Honeywell Corp.) in Morris Township. The course covers GPS concepts, how to use a GPS receiver to perform basic navigation, and practical navigation tips. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes the textbook. While a handheld GPS unit is not necessary for the class, students are encouraged to bring their own if they have one. **The deadline for registration is March 22nd.** Registration may be done on-line at www.lackawanna.org or by mail. For further information, call (973) 402-2672 or e-mail webmaster@lackawanna.org.

If there are any questions about this calendar notice, please call me at 973-540-8949.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Aiken
Past Commander
Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron
19 Concord Lane
Convent Station, NJ 07960

PRESS RELEASE

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron will offer the two-evening course *GPS for Boaters* on April 5th and April 19, 2006 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at a corporate headquarters in Morris Township. **The deadline for registration is March 22nd.** The course covers GPS concepts, how to use a GPS receiver (buttons, screens, menus), how to perform basic navigation (entering and using waypoints, entering and following routes), and practical navigation tips (staying on course, using a track, making the map screen useful).

The course is designed for any boater who wants to make the best use of a GPS receiver. A GPS receiver is not required for the course; however bringing one will be helpful in doing the practical exercises. The course is designed for all boaters, power and sail. As boating is often a family activity, all members in a family are encouraged to attend as a group.

The enthusiastic and experienced instructors are members of the Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron (www.lackawanna.org), a unit of the United States Power Squadrons (www.usps.org) in which boating education is a traditional civic service. Since 1914 local squadrons such as Lackawanna have presented courses to anyone who wished to attend – to date more than 3 million people nationwide.

The cost is \$25 per person, which includes the textbook that will serve as a reference for GPS long after the course work is completed. While a handheld GPS unit is not necessary for the class, students are encouraged to bring their own if they have one. Registration may be done online at www.lackawanna.org or by mail. For further information, call (973) 402-2672 or e-mail webmaster@lackawanna.org

If there are any questions about this press release, please call me at 973-540-8949.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Aiken
Past Commander
Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron
19 Concord Lane
Convent Station, NJ 07960

Facts about the Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron

www.lackawanna.org

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron (LSPS) is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons (USPS). The mission of USPS and LSPS is to promote safe boating.

LSPS teaches courses on boating safety to the public at a corporate headquarters in Morris Township. Students receive the certificates required to operate power vessels or personal watercraft in New Jersey.

Examples of the courses are:

Boat*Smart* - May 22 – May 25, 2006, in Morris Township. This class satisfies all the requirements for the new NJ boating law.

LSPS teaches advanced boating courses to its members who obtain boat insurance at discounted rates, with discounts that increase as additional courses are completed.

There are over 200 members of LSPS. The members of LSPS reside in Morris, Union and Essex Counties. This year the officers are William Robinson (Mountain Lakes), Anthony Pisano (Boonton), Chris Windeler (Chester Township), Shari Tomasiello (Randolph), Kelley Fahey (New Providence) and John Horsford (Mendham).

About half of LSPS members own boats. The boats are located in New Jersey (from Toms River up to Liberty Landing), New York and Connecticut. Approximately half of LSPS members are sailors, and half are power boaters.

LSPS has four membership meetings per year, often at the New Vernon Fire House, and has one festive officers' installation per year, often at the Headquarters Plaza Hotel. LSPS has its monthly Executive Committee meetings at the Madison Community House.

LSPS members have raft-ups of boats in Raritan Bay and in Barnegat Bay. LSPS members cruise together, often going through the East River to Long Island Sound and then beyond.

LSPS conducts Vessel Safety Checks and awards decals recognized by the Coast Guard and law enforcement agencies to boats passing the examination. LSPS surveys the conditions of aids to navigation for the National Ocean Service and of geodetic markers for the National Geodetic Survey.

Visit www.lackawanna.org for more information about LSPS and www.usps.org for information about USPS.

Information about the United States Power Squadrons

Q. What is United States Power Squadrons (USPS)?

A. Organized in 1914, USPS (<http://www.usps.org>) is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable by teaching classes in seamanship, navigation and related subjects. Our members are boating families who contribute to their communities by promoting safe boating through education. We enjoy participating with our fellow members on the water and in the classroom. USPS has over 40,000 members organized into 450 squadrons across the country and in some US territories. USPS is the world's largest non-profit boating organization and has been honored by three US presidents for its civic contributions.

Q. What are the activities of USPS?

A. Each squadron's activities involve the three primary objectives of USPS: community service, continuing education, and enjoying the friendship and camaraderie of fellow members.

Q. What community and civic services does USPS perform?

A. Local squadrons offer boating safety courses on a regular basis to boaters in our communities. These courses are open to the public and there is no age limit for participants. USPS squadrons have offered these courses for over half a century and have educated more than 3 million boaters to date. Successful completing a USPS boating safety course meets the educational requirements for boat operation in all states and is a requirement for squadron membership. Our members also help the National Ocean Service keep our nautical charts accurate by reporting chart corrections, and our local squadrons participate in many other community improvement projects.

Q. How do you enroll in a USPS boating course?

A. Every USPS squadron teaches at least one or two such courses every year. Some squadrons teach many more. The courses usually begin in September or October, then again in January or February. Some squadrons offer courses during the summer. The courses are publicized in local newspapers, on posters, at marinas, and at various other locations. The easiest way to determine when the next course will be offered in your area is check our [online schedule](#) or call toll-free 1-888-FOR-USPS (1-888-367-8777).

Q. What about the person who cannot take an evening Boating Course?

A. USPS has a 80-minute video Boating Course which can be taken at your own leisure. For information see our [online information](#) or call 1-888-FOR USPS (1-888-367-8777). Call today. Safe Boating is more fun.

Q. What educational [courses](#) are available to USPS members?

A. Every squadron offers many carefully planned courses in subjects like Seamanship, Piloting, Plotting and Position Finding, Celestial Navigation, Cruise Planning, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Sailing, and much more. Experienced member instructors teach these courses, and members who complete them are recognized.

Q. What social activities do members enjoy?

A. Participating both on-the-water and off with fellow members who are skilled in boating is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. On-the-water activities include cruises, rendezvous, sail races, navigation contests and even fishing derbies. Activities ashore include meetings with marine programs, parties, dinner-dances, picnics and field trips.

Q. Can sailors become members?

A. Of course. More than 40% of our members are sailors. The term "Power Squadrons" in our name dates to our founding in 1914 by the powerboat division of the Boston Yacht Club. Following the First World War, our ranks broadened to include all types of boats, and sailors have been a major part of USPS ever since.

Q. Is USPS a part of or supported by the U.S. Government?

A. No. While we have many joint programs with the United States Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the National Ocean Services division of NOAA, USPS is a private, totally self-supporting organization.

Q. How does one become a member of USPS?

A. Active membership in USPS is open to those 16 years and over who have passed the USPS *Boating Course* or *Boat Smart* examination (or [equivalent](#)), and who are able and willing to contribute time, energy, and skills to the objectives of USPS. Check our online [membership information](#) or call toll free 1-888-FOR-USPS (1-888-367-8777).

Q. What if you're already a member of the Canadian Power Squadron or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary?

A. If you already belong to either of these organizations you do not have to pass a USPS course to become a member because you have already completed a qualifying course.

Q. What's in it for you?

1. **A great variety of [courses](#) to choose from:** As a USPS member, you and your family can enroll in a great variety of advanced grades and elective courses that are only available to USPS members. These courses include Seamanship, Piloting, Celestial Navigation, Weather, Sail, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics and Cruise Planning. In addition, USPS offers more than two dozen self study courses on such subjects as the Water Sports, Boat Insurance, Oceanography, Introduction to Sailing, Preparation for Coast Guard Licensing, and much more.
2. **Meeting with other boaters in your area:** As a member of a local squadron (and there are approximately 450 squadrons throughout the USA, including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands) you will join with other knowledgeable boaters in your area who are familiar with the local waters, the best anchorages, and marinas and boat repair shops.
3. **Participation in a variety of on water activities:** As a USPS member you're automatically invited to join in the squadron and district cruises, rendezvous, predicted log contests, raft-ups and other on-water activities.
4. **Savings on [Boat Insurance](#):** There are many marine insurance companies that provide discounts to those who complete advanced boating courses. This savings can be significant.
5. **USPS Networking with other members throughout the USA, Canada and even more distant areas:** Thinking of boating in a river, lake or ocean far from your home? USPS has a Port Captain program that will provide names and telephone numbers of local USPS members who know the territory.
6. **Receive the official USPS magazine [THE ENSIGN](#).**