



## LACKAWANNA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS  
WWW.LACKAWANNA.ORG

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Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Dear Editor,

The Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron will offer the following one-evening safe boating seminars.

*How to Use a Chart*—Wednesday night, April 16, at the Chester Library (register by April 7)

*Using GPS*—Wednesday night, April 23, at the Chester Library (register by April 14)

*Onboard Weather Forecasting*—Wednesday night, April 30, at the Mennen Sports Arena (register by April 21)

*Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio*— Wednesday night, May 7, at the Mennen Sports Arena (register by April 28)

Please publish on appropriate dates the following Calendar Notice and/or Press Release.

For your information also enclosed are

Facts about the Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron, and  
Information about the United States Power Squadrons

If there are any questions about this material, please contact me at 973 540-8949 or  
[education@lackawanna.org](mailto:education@lackawanna.org)

Sincerely,

*Richard Aiken*

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

## **CALENDAR NOTICE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MORRIS COUNTY, NJ – Safe Boating Seminars**

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron will offer safe boating seminars on Wednesdays (7:00–9:00 pm) at the Chester Library, 250 West Main Street in Chester, and at the Mennen Sports Arena, 161 E. Hanover Avenue in Morris Township.

The seminars are **“How to Use a Chart”** on April 16 and **“Using GPS”** on April 23 at the Chester Library, and **“Onboard Weather Forecasting”** on April 30 and **“Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio”** on May 7 at the Mennen Sports Arena.

Cost is \$25 per seminar, including materials.

For more information, call 973-540-8949 or e-mail [education@lackawanna.org](mailto:education@lackawanna.org). To register, visit [www.lackawanna.org](http://www.lackawanna.org). Registration for each seminar closes on the Monday of the prior week; no applications will be accepted past that date.

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MORRIS COUNTY, NJ – Safe Boating Seminars**

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron will offer safe boating seminars to the public on Wednesdays (7:00–9:00 pm) at the Chester Library, 250 West Main Street in Chester on April 16 and April 23, and at the Mennen Sports Arena, 161 E. Hanover Avenue in Morris Township on April 30 and May 7.

**How to Use a Chart–Wednesday, April 16, at the Chester Library (register by April 7)**

How are your chart skills? Do you know what is around you and what is between you and your intended destination?

This seminar walks you through the essentials of laying out a safe route to be input to your GPS. (It is recommended to take this seminar before taking “Using GPS.”)

The Maptech waterproof flip-fold *Chart Symbols and On-the-Water Guide* is included.

**Using GPS–Wednesday, April 23, at the Chester Library (register by April 14)**

Do you know how to use a marine GPS? Using GPS on the water is different from using an automotive unit in your car.

This seminar shows you how to operate your marine GPS – buttons, screens, and functions. (It is recommended to first take the seminar “How to Use a Chart.”)

The *USPS GPS Guide* and the Captain’s Quick Guide *Using GPS* are included.

**Onboard Weather Forecasting–Wednesday, April 30, at the Mennen Sports Arena (register by April 21)**

How do you update a weather forecast while on the water?

This seminar focuses on using current onboard observations to forecast conditions.

The waterproof Captain’s Quick Guide *Onboard Weather Forecasting* is included.

**Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio–Wednesday, May 7, at the Mennen Sports Arena (register by April 28)**

Do you know how to use Digital Selective Calling (DSC) on VHF radio?

DSC vastly simplifies and improves routine and rescue call signaling.

Included are a CD with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer and the McGraw-Hill waterproof Captain’s Quick Guide *Using VHF*.

Cost is \$25 per seminar, including materials.

For more information, call 973-540-8949 or e-mail [education@lackawanna.org](mailto:education@lackawanna.org). To register, visit [www.lackawanna.org](http://www.lackawanna.org). Registration for each seminar closes on the Monday of the prior week; no applications will be accepted past that date.

## FACTS ABOUT THE LACKAWANNA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

[www.lackawanna.org](http://www.lackawanna.org)

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron (LSPS) is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons (USPS).

The mission of LSPS is to promote safe boating.

LSPS teaches safe-boating courses to the public. In the *Boat Smart* course, students receive the certificate required to operate a power vessel or personal watercraft in New Jersey.

The next public courses are:

*How to Use a Chart*—One Wednesday night in Chester, NJ.

*Using GPS*—One Wednesday night in Chester, NJ.

*Onboard Weather Forecasting* —One Wednesday night in Morris Township, NJ.

*Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio*—One Wednesday night in Morris Township, NJ.

*Boat Smart*—Four consecutive nights in Montville, NJ.

LSPS teaches advanced boating courses to its members. The courses include *Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting*, and *celestial Navigation*, as well as *Marine Electronics, Engine Maintenance, Weather, Sail and Cruise Planning*.

LSPS surveys the conditions of aids to navigation for the National Ocean Service.

There are over 150 members of LSPS. The members reside chiefly in Morris, Union and Essex Counties. This year the officers are Art Epstein (Jersey City), Ray Nylander (North Caldwell), Rich Pfaff (Montville), Dick Aiken (Convent Station), Maureen Medure (Morristown) and Mike DiStefano (Oak Ridge).

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.

Every year LSPS has two membership meetings, a festive officers' installation, and a holiday party. 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 members obtain boat insurance at discounted rates, with discounts that increase as additional courses are completed.

Visit [www.lackawanna.org](http://www.lackawanna.org) for more information about LSPS and [www.usps.org](http://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 some 45,000 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 desirable 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 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](#).**