

Volume 2004, Issue 6

December-January, 2004

Channel Chatter

Official Publication of the Duluth Power Squadron

*A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons Sail & Power Boating®
Duluth, Minnesota—District 10*



Photo by Kim Salo

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Bridge Officers 2004-2005

Cdr. David A. Mattson, AP.....Commander
H-728-5714

Lt/C Grady Strand, S..... Executive Officer
H-724-2293

Lt/C Steve Balliet, AP.....Educational Officer
C-218-391-7991

1/LT Joseph Hesch, S.....Asst. Educational Officer
H-525-2857

Lt/C Terry OsvaldAdministrative Officer
H-879-3177 W-392-8161 x130 C-393-6273

1/LT Laura Welch, S.....Asst. Administrative Officer
H-395-0315

Lt/C James R. Swanson, P.....Secretary
H-320-532-4311

1/Lt Robert Hecht, P.....Asst. Secretary
H-727-6079

Lt/C Kenneth Docteur, P.....Treasurer
H-724-8627

1/Lt Jeffrey Stuermer.....Asst. Treasurer
H-727-3954

P/C Sue Farrell, AP.....Immediate Past Commander

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Members at Large:

1/Lt Dave Van HouseH-525-4955

1/Lt Glen Pratt, SH-398-7035

1/Lt James Robinson, Jr., N.....H-525-3158

1/Lt Ramone Kral, SH-727-5725

1/Lt Valerie Ouellette, AP.....H-727-6079

PUBLICATION STAFF:

1/Lt Jan Nelson, S.....Editor
C-310-1492 Email: Jan@cw-duluth.com

Chris Beste.....Newsletter Proof Reader

D/Lt/C David C. Carlson, NPhotographer

Lt/C Steve Balliet, AP.....Web Master
C-218-391-7991 www.duluthpowersquadron.com

Schedule of Upcoming Events

2004

11 December Xmas Party at Radisson

2005

5-9 January USPS Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

6 January Executive Board Meeting 5:30 Incline Station

20 January General Meeting—The Pickwick

28-29 January District 10 Winter Council

3 February Executive Board Meeting 5:30 Incline Station

17 February Annual Meeting

19 February Change of Watch—Northland Country Club



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Commander's Report

Boats put away, weather turning winterish, time to start thinking about boat shows and spring, at less that's what I do to get through the winter.

I do have a lot of up coming events, Executive board meetings, General meetings, Christmas party and the Winter Council in Wausau.

A group of us just got back from the Fall Conference in Sturgeon Bay which was October 29 to the 31st. We learned about what's going on in District, one item that was discussed is membership drop off. For the last couple of year's National has projected membership increases when actually membership has declined and costs have stayed the same or increased. Due to the decline in income the District is cutting back and dues will be increase for

next year by \$4.85. This will be the first increase in dues since 1991.

On a sad note we have lost a squadron. On April 20, 2004 the Executive Committee of Menominee-Marquette Sail and power Squadron voted to dissolve. Good news is the entire membership join the Green Bay Squadron.

The District 10 web sited has been changed and they now have 100 times more space "www.usps-d10.org".

The Sturgeon Bay Squadron put on a 50's sock hop; Elvis was there, "thank you very much" Sturgeon Bay for the good time.

You may have notice that we have a new channel chatter editor, please welcome and thank Lee Carson for helping us out.

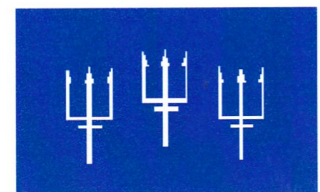
I would like to thank Jan

Nelson for all the hard work that she has done on our beautiful channel chatter by bringing it to the excellent standard that it is. We so appreciate you and wish you well in Florida and whatever you do in the future.



—Commander Dave Mattson

Commander Dave Mattson



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Executive Officer's Report



Executive Officer Grady Strand

FUN, SUN AND BOATS?

JULIE AND I JUST RETURNED FROM A FUN FILLED VACATION IN CANCUN, MEXICO. IT WAS ONE OF THOSE VACATIONSTHAT THROUGHOUT THE TRIP WE KEPT SAYING OVER AND OVER, "WE'RE COMING BACK AGAIN SOON!"

THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT. I KNOW YOU ALWAYS HEAR THAT FROM SUN TANNED FOLKS COMING BACK FROM SOME PLACE HALF A WORLD AWAY. BUT NO, THE WAETHER WAS PERFECT. EACH DAY WAS 91 TO 95 DEGREES BUT WITH A CONSTANT BREEZE OFF THE OCEAN. BECAUSE OF THIS BREEZE YOU NEVER FELT HOT. THE ONLY THING YOU HAD TO REMIND YOURSELF OF WAS TO MAKE SURE TO PLASTER ON THE WALGREEN #15 SUN-SCREEN.

THE FOOD AND DRINK WAS ALWAYS EXCITING AND INTERESTING. ALL IN ONE DAY YOU WOULD START WITH MANGO JUICE IN THE MORNING TO A COLD CERVASA (BEER) IN THE HOT AFTERNOON SUN IN THE AFTERNOON, TO AN ICED TEA OR MARGARITA AT DINNER. AHHH THE CHOICES.

WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT MEXICAN FOOD? HOT RIGHT. NOOOO, IT'S PLENTY SAFE TO EAT WITH JUST A FEW OF THOSE PEPPERS TO MAKE YOU STAY ON YOUR TOES.

HOW DOES ALL THIS FIT INTO THE DULUTH POWER SQUADRON? MY MIND SWITCHED FROM SUN AND FUN TO OUR SQUADRON WITH A RIDE ON A SMALL BOAT TAXI FROM CANCUN TO ISLA MAJERES (AN ISLAND 30 MINUTES BY BOAT EAST OF CANCUN, IT'S A SMALL, FRIENDLY ISLAND 10 MILES BY 25 MILES). THE BOAT RIDE WAS 30 MINUTES OF WAVE POUNDING EXPERIENCE WITH THICK DIESEL FUMES DANCING AT ALL TIMES IN FRONT OF YOUR BURNING NOS-TRILS.

THE CAPTAIN WAS UP TOP AND HIS FIRST MATE HELPED US ON THE BOAT BUT THEN HIS ONE AND ONLY DUTY FROM THEN ON WAS NOT OUR COMFORT BUT WAS TO SEE HOW MANY TOURISTS HE COULD SIGN UP TO RENT SCOOTERS ON THE ISLAND.

THE FIRST MATE GAVE HIS BEST SALES PITCH TO JULIE AND I TO RENT A SCOOTER AFTER A FEW POLITE NO'S HE GAVE UP AND WENT TO THE NEXT SUCKER, I MEAN TOURIST. THIS IS WHERE I SUD-DELY THOUGHT ABOUT THE

DULUTH POWER SQUADRON WHAT IF I WAS A VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINER ON THIS BOAT? HOW WOULD THIS BOAT FAIR? I DECIDED TO QUICKLY SCAN THE BOAT. I COULD NOT FIND A FIRE EXTINGUTUR (NOT SAYING THEY DIDN" HAVE ONE BUT ONE WAS NOT EASILY VISIBLE). HOW ABOUT PFD'S (PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE)? I FOUND THEM BUT CRAMMED UNDER OUR SEATS AND WHAT SEEMED TO BE BAD CONDITION. MANY WERE RIPPED AND RUST HAD FORMED ON THE SNAPS. ANY FLARES, HORNS, FIRST AID KITS? NONE THAT I COULD LOCATE. THIS IS NOT IN ANY WAY TO SLIGHT MEXICO, ITS LAWS OR ITS PEOPLE BUT WHAT IT DID DO WAS AMPHILFY HOW IMPORTANT SAFETY IS NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.

WHEN COMING BACK FROM OUR TRIP TO THE ISLAND I FELT VERY PROUD OF OUR SQUADRON AND OUR RECORD SETTING YEAR OF VESSEL SAFETY EXAMS. SAFETY IS SO MUCH MORE THAN AN "ATTA BOY" AT A BOARD MEETING.ITS MORE THAN A NUMBER. AN EXAM DONE PROPERLY CAN MEAN LIFE OR DEATH ON THE WATER.

COMING BACK ON OUR BOAT TAXI I KNEW THAT WE HAVE A MISSION AND THAT CAUSE IS TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY AND OUR MEMBERS ON BOATING SAFETY AND HOW TO MAKE THE BOATING EXPERIENCE ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, ADIOS

—Lt/C GRADY STRAND

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— DAVE MILLER —

— LEN ROBINSON —

Administrative Officer's Report

Hard A-Ground

Talk about Ducks out of water! Here we are, the first part of November and Marina life is looking very dismal. Instead of waving burgees, and ensigns, we now see, rippling boat covers of every color shuttering in the forces of November winds. Fellow boaters are busy finishing up with last minute chores on their "Hard A-Ground" summer pleasures.

Fall has always been my favorite time of the year, second to a summer on the water. Unfortunately, this last summer wasn't one to brag about with the cool temps and extremely gusty eastern winds. This time of the year, with the cool breezes, fall colors and smells, and many great fall activities with the wonderful mild temps in October, make you forget about some of the lost boating time we encountered this past summer.

Last fall as you remember, the District D-10 Fall Conference was held and hosted by our Squadron, here in Duluth. This years D-10 Fall Conference was in Sturgeon Bay, WI., hosted by the Sturgeon Bay Sail and Power Squadron. The theme was an exciting and fun filled "Back to the 50's". The Friday night mixer was memorable and enjoyed by all. We had a surprise visit by the "King", Elvis himself who mysteriously materialized to entertain the group with many flashback tunes of the time. The King was drawn to one of our own, Rhobley Mattson who received the cherished "neck scarf" from him that I am sure is resting in a place of honor and will be handed down through her family's generations. Duluth Sail and Power Squadron was well represented in Sturgeon Bay, with 10 delegates. We had all of the appointed classifications represented and we all came away with mounds of critical information to pass along to our membership and committees. The Bridge informational meetings were interesting and very well put together and accomplished several goals that National has mandated for the coming years. The seminars were also extremely

interesting and especially the one for "Digital Select Calling" (state of the art VHF radio functions). Ask me about it, the next time we meet. Our Squadron and members received many awards and is highly rated by National for our commitment to Safe Boating and Education. All Squadrons were very much impressed of our Commanders report on our "Spring Boating Fair". Everyone congratulated us on a very effective "Out of the Box" way of getting word out to the public and our joint participation with other boating organizations in our area. I think other Squadrons will use this idea in the same way we did. Congratulations to Tracy Nelson, Jim Munger, Grady Strand and the gang for this very fine idea and event. I am sure this is something we will want to continue with next spring. We did especially well in the Geodetic Marker survey task this last year and are expected next year to be in the top 10% of the nation for our participation in this important task.

Val Ouellette and her committee have been very busy putting the final touches on this year's Christmas Party. Again this year, our Squadron will partially subsidize the cost of the event, to say "Thank You" for everyone's participation and support and hard work throughout the year to make our Squadron something to be very proud of.

On a final note, one topic that is always discussed at the conferences is the enlistment of new members and new member involvement. Unfortunately, Duluth did not fair as well as many of the Squadrons in the District this year. We need to think "Outside of the Box" this coming year to assure our membership continues to grow and that we all make new members feel welcome and a part of our Squadron family. I urge everyone to seek out people who enjoy the water as much as we do and invite him or her to check out our educational opportunities and fun filled functions and become a part of our Squadron family.

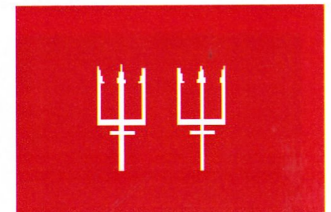
Our Commander, David Mattson did

an outstanding job of keeping us all on track and heading our delegation at the Fall Conference this year, and is also making the rest of his watch year's general meeting very interesting and informative. Those of you, who have not attended a general meeting or a board meeting lately, are missing out. We always have fun and come away with information that helps us in our daily boating needs and receive first hand news of coming events. Come and join us. See you ALL at the Christmas Party. Don't forget this year again we are asking each participant to bring one wrapped gift with a clue of the content for the silent auction. Proceeds will be 100% used to purchase articles for Toys for Tots and Operation Rudolph, to distribute in our Twin Ports. Happy Boating Memories to all of you this Fall.

—Lt/C Terry Osvold



Administrative Officer Terry Osvold



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Squadron Education Officer's Report



Squadron Education Officer
Steve Balliette

Please volunteer to teach or assist or help organize a class. Education is our purpose and the Squadron needs your participation.

Coming Up Public: Boating, Piloting and Advanced Piloting

Your education department has scheduled Public Boating to begin November 9, 2004 and a second class to begin on January 10. Please plan to come to at least one of these classes to assist the new students and to talk boating at the breaks and after class. Dates of the classes are: 11/9/04, 11/16/04, 11/23/04, 11/30/04, 12/7/04, 12/14/04 and the test on 12/21/04. Second class: 01/10/05, 01/17/05, 01/24/05, 01/31/05, 02/07/05, 02/14/05 and the test 2/28/05. Helping out in a class is a fun way to earn a merit mark and to help new students gain new skills. Your involvement may also help convince a boater to join the Duluth Power Squadron and so benefit from further educational and social opportunities.

Seamanship is in progress with a dozen enthusiastic students. Seamanship is structured in two phases, Seamanship 101 and Boathandling 102. If you have missed the start of 101 you can still pick up the second part, 102 starting about January 8 (Weather permitting). 101 is NOT a

prerequisite.

And get in line for Piloting! Starting November 17, this new class features new graphics, new text books (yes, two texts) and the incorporation of GPS and radar. Kay Bakke will be teaching.

Kay and I attended the District 10 Fall Conference in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin where in seminars we learned how the new Piloting and Advanced Piloting are different from the prior courses. An experienced teacher, Kay will be comfortable presenting this material. We were also shown the tools that PowerPoint has to customize a presentation to meet local needs. And we have been given copies of Chart Plotter software by MapTech that can be used with your GPS to perform waypoint and navigation functions.

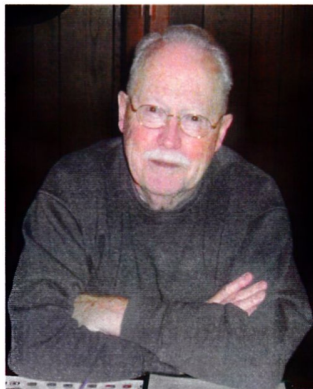
And in closing I will say we are looking for the right person to get involved now with education planning and continue next year as Squadron Education Officer or assistant. This is great job for a creative, self motivated person wanting to make a difference for the Squadron and community. It does not require being able to teach even one class. It does require organizational ability and the ability to reach out, meet people and make things happen. It is a wonderful opportunity for a new member with these skills to find a role and get to know the other members of our Duluth Power Squadron. Call me or Grady Strand to discuss the possibilities.

—Lt/C Steve Balliette,
AP Squadron Education
Officer



Photos From The Fall Conference in Sturgeon Bay





Squadron Safety Officer
Doc Munger

Squadron Safety Officer's Report

Safety Officer's Comments prepare for the unexpected

2004 is another fading memory. The year has been busy. Cold is the operative word but there were plenty of good times. Duluth Squadron surpassed its Vessel Safety Check goals. The official numbers are pending. My tally comes to 298 vessel safety checks. Outstanding!

VSCs are about safe boating. A Vessel Safety Check assures boaters that their vessel meets minimum Coast Guard safety standards. A VSC is about readiness to meet emergencies. It's preventive SAR. (Search and Rescue.) A VSC is about education. Boating accidents have decreased over the years, we think, partly because of USPS and Coast Guard Auxiliary educational, boating safety programs. Preventive SAR at work.

Now look closely. How many times in the past year did you

do something careless around your boat or marina? How many times did you caution yourself to be careful or caution your kids about marina and boat safety? Have you practiced man overboard drills, etc.?

Now, before memories of a cold summer fade completely, is a good time to take an inventory of ourselves, of our USPS. How well do we measure up to a Safety Check, to be ready for emergencies?

Have you registered for one of the Squadron's excellent boating courses? We all can benefit from taking safe boating courses but I'll leave that Department to Steve Balliet, the Squadron Education Officer.

What I'm leading up to is something often overlooked. Our docks and piers. We have Type I, II or III life jackets and there is a Type IV throwable PFD on all of our boats 16' or over. And all are readily available and our kids wear their PFDs when underway or playing around the dock. Of course!

I've seen people go overboard unexpectedly and I can admit I've nearly lost my balance and fallen—fortunately all's well. I've experienced the tragedy of a child brought to shore, lifeless and cold. Many tragedies could be avoided by readiness to act in unexpected emergencies.

I suggest minimum safety preparedness both afloat and ashore includes minimum standards, not only of education but of safety equipment.

Some years ago when I was

new at this Safety business, I suggested there should be some liferings along the Squadron Dock. Answer: "Well, that's a good idea but you know all our boats have throwable life rings or cushions so we don't need any on the dock too." End of discussion. Complacency.

The notion was resurrected this spring when your Executive Committee deliberated about rings and ladders but concluded nothing.

Our boats pass a VSC but our Squadron dock has no readily accessible lifesaving devices, neither liferings or ladders. I'm not satisfied.

As I travel to inlets and marinas everywhere I see ladders on the seawalls and breakwaters and life rings readily available. Even the Duluth entry has several ladders!

I shudder when I see unprotected children happily and unconcernedly playing on marina docks and along the piers. Our Squadron dock is not immune to tragedy. Fortunately there have been none but there have been some very close calls.

Liability, moral and legal should wake us to begin a serious project to make our Dock safer. I suggest a task force—the Coast Guard calls it a "Tiger Team"—to investigate ways and means of providing lifesaving ladders and buoys at our Dock.

BOAT SMART * BOAT SAFE

(YOUR LIFE JACKET)

WEAR IT!

Jim Munger, N

Squadron Safety Officer



Meehan's



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Duluth Sail and Power Squadron Christmas Party



Place: Raddison Hotel - Viking Room

Date: December 11, 2004

Time: Socializing 6:00 p.m.
Holiday Buffet Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment 8:00 p.m.

We are very fortunate to have the dynamic group "Stepping Up" from Denfeld High School again for an encore performance. Everyone that enjoyed their presentation a few years ago will attest that you won't want to miss this entertaining group!!

Silent Auction Open 6:00- 9:45 p.m.

Menu: Oven Roasted Prime Rib of Beef served Au Jus,
Broiled Cod



Chicken Supreme (a boneless breast of chicken with creamy Alfredo sauce)

All entrees will be accompanied by baby red potatoes, glazed carrots, relish tray, tossed salad, Old Fashioned fruit salad, jello molds, assorted rolls, Red Velvet Holiday cake, coffee, tea or milk.

Silent Auction: Proceeds used to purchase gifts for distribution by Toys for Tots and Operation Rudolph

Investment: \$20.00 per person and a
Wrapped gift with clue for silent auction

Meal is subsidized by your local squadron funds as our way of giving back to our membership.

Dress - Appropriate Holiday Party Attire

Please RSVP with payment by December 4th to:

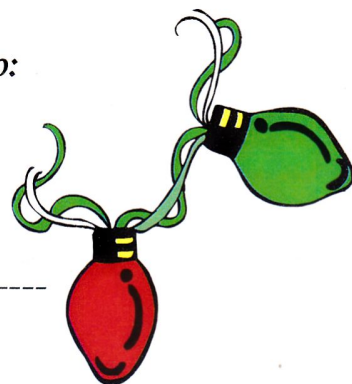
Valerie Ouellette

702 Lake Ave. So.

Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Names _____

Number Attending _____ Amount Enclosed _____



From An Old Salt.

The following short quiz consists of 4 questions and tells whether you are truly a "professional". Scroll down for the answer. The questions are not that difficult.

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

The correct answer is: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door.

This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Wrong Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant and close the refrigerator.

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door.

This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference - all the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct Answer: The Elephant. The Elephant is in the refrigerator. This tests your memory. OK, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your abilities.

4. There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it?

Correct Answer: You swim across. All the Crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

According to Andersen Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong. But many preschoolers got several correct answers. Anderson Consulting says this conclusively disproves the theory that most professionals have the brains of a four year old. Really - this is not a joke.



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FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN By Paul Harvey

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse.

For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand-me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meatloaf sandwiches. I really would.

My cherished grandson, I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your bed and mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

I hope you have a job by then.

It will be good if at least one time you can see a baby calf born and your old dog put to sleep. I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in. I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother.

And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

When you want to see a G-rated movie and your little brother wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely. On rainy days when you have to catch a ride I hope your driver doesn't have to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom.



Are you ready for winter? **DON'T FORGET YOUR BATTERY!**

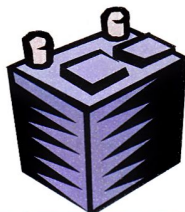
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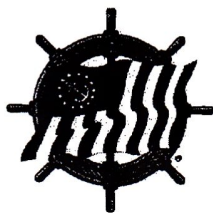
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**USPS District 10
Winter Council Meeting
January 28 – 29, 2005
Westwood Center
Wausau, WI**

Squadron _____

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Rank _____ Name _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

District Position _____

Squadron Position _____

		Number	Total
Friday Evening Buffet	\$16.50	_____	_____
Rosemary chicken breast with parmesan alfredo Sauce, lemon dill cod, Minnesota wild rice soup, Baby butter carrots, oven browned potatoes, tossed Salad, dessert bars			
Saturday Breakfast Buffet	\$10.25	_____	_____
French toast, scrambled eggs, potatoes, meat, Fruit, pastries, juice, coffee, tea, milk			
Saturday Lunch Buffet	\$12.75	_____	_____
Sliced turkey, roast beef, ham on rolls and Croissants, cheese, tossed salad, soup, dessert Bars, soda, coffee, milk			
Total		_____	_____

Hotel registration by January 21, 2005:

Westwood Center
1800 W. Bridge St.
Wausau, WI 54402-8076
Phone: 715-847-9200

USPS D10 Room Rates:
Single (double bed) \$62 + tax
Double (2 double beds) \$62
+ \$10 for additional person + tax

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

Last Sail of the Season

I was shocked to learn this morning, my first day back at the office after an enjoyable weekend in Sturgeon Bay at the USPS District 10 Fall Conference, that a business acquaintance and friend was missing and presumed drowned.

Michael Pease, age 56, was hoping to get in one final cruise of the season last Thursday evening on Lake Mendota aboard his 14 foot day-sailor. Indeed it appears to have been his last, since he never returned to port. The boat was found by local authorities without any sign of Michael Pease. He is still missing

Light rain on a cold, cloudy October day make for dangerous boating conditions. Cruising alone and presumably without a PFD (personal flotation device), quickly turned a dangerous situation into fatal. The current consensus is that Michael fell overboard and that his presumed drowning is attributable to either hypothermia or cold shock. Water temperatures less than 70 degrees are considered dangerously cold. Hypothermia (decreased body temperature) develops more slowly than the immediate effects of cold shock, because survival curves indicate that an adult dressed in average clothing may remain conscious for 1-2 hours at 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Madison lake temperatures last week were 54-55 degrees.

Hypothermia Chart

If the WaterTemp. (F) =s:	Exhaustion Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival is:
32.5	Under 15 min.	under 15 - 45 min.
32.5 - 40	15 - 30 min.	30 - 90 min
40 - 50	30 - 60 min.	1 - 3 hours
50 - 60	1 - 2 hours	1 - 6 hours
60 - 70	2 - 7 hours	2 - 40 hours
70 - 80	3 - 12 hours	3 - indefinite
Over 80 Indefinite	indefinite	

However, any movement in the water quickly accelerates heat loss, so survival time can be reduced to minutes. Hands rapidly become numb and useless without thermal protection, and swimming simply becomes impossible. Although conscious, the victim soon becomes helpless. Drowning is unavoidable without a PFD.

Hypothermia symptoms are gradual compared to Cold shock. Cold water immersion can result in immediate loss of consciousness and drowning. Without a life jacket a victim often inhales water while under water (involuntary gasping reflex) and drowns without coming back to the surface. This can only be prevented by wearing a life jacket at all times, especially in cold weather boating. Exposure of the head and chest to cold water causes a sudden increase in heart rate and blood pressure that may result in cardiac arrest.

We await discovery of Michael's body as we begin the grieving process. The shock of his disappearance and presumed death stings even more, since it seems so out of character for Michael to be anything but safety conscious.

This particular boating mishap just magnifies the extreme danger of late season boating, which demands absolute safety preparedness and compliance.

P/C Jim Pahl-Washa, JN, Boat Smart Course Chairman
Monday, 1 November, 2004

Channel Chatter

Duluth Power Squadron

% Lee Carson

4305 Schultz Rd

Duluth MN. 55803

Phone: 218-721-4649

Email: lcarson@advanstar.com

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