

Hiawatha Valley Sail & Power Squadron

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons®

Educational Notes



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Our newsletter Tales of Hiawatha was published and mailed about a week ago. In that newsletter was my article entitled "Does membership in an organization come with any obligations?" Unfortunately there is a mistake in the article regarding the class that is to begin October 1st. The area in error relates to the class being "a day-long class". It is not one day. As noted further along in the article the class is a "full blown" Squadron Boating Class. The class is six weeks beginning on October 1st and ending on November 5th. The class will be held at Advanced Wireless from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm six consecutive Thursday nights.

Noted below is the article in its original from:

Does membership in an organization come with any obligations?

This is a question that I've been trying to answer myself for some time. Most organizations have somewhere in their bylaws a clause that says something like "members in good standing" (this includes USPS). The definition of a member in good standing is basically that you have paid your dues. There appears not to be any other criteria to be a member in good standing.

My personal opinion is that a member should do more than just pay dues, i.e., attend meetings, socials, and help in the governance of the organization and maybe even consider becoming an officer or board member.

Hiawatha Valley Power Squadron is not unlike many volunteer groups that 10% of the members do 90% of the work. That may be a little critical; however, it is more or less fact. That is not to say we don't need all of our members even if they rarely or ever come to meetings or socials. They support us with their dues and we need them. In short we need all of our members, hard workers, once in a while members, and those that just pay dues.

On January 20th 1961 a new President took office. His name was John F. Kennedy. During his inaugural address to the nation one of his closing lines was the famous "Ask not what your Country can do for you - ask what you can do for your Country." It will be a cliché to use this line reformed to: Ask not what your Squadron can do for you - ask what you can do for your Squadron. I know this is corny, however, I think it fits what I will ask our membership to do.

Here's the deal. On October 1st a public boating class will be held at Advanced Wireless. This will be the "full blown"



Squadron Boating Course including some navigation. The class will be limited to 15 students to be able to give

them complete attention and hopefully an experience that will help them in the joy of boating. Here's the catch. I'm asking that all 15 students be sponsored by a Hiawatha Valley member. The cost of the course is

\$99.00 and includes one year membership in HVSPS. The cost also includes the text.

What do I mean by sponsor? I'm asking that not only do you find the student but also become their personal "mentor" and whenever possible attend the classes and audit the course. The new member becomes the responsibility of the mentor and would be expected to accompany the new member to meetings and social events.

What is a mentor? The best explanation I've seen describes the mentor as a trusted counselor, teacher and friend. The mentor is also the conduit to establish the member in the Squadron.

I'm particularly asking our Past Commanders as well as past bridge members to help with this program.

Find a friend interested in boating. Tell a dock mate about the course. Tell anyone you can and get them in the class. As the Nike slogan goes, "Just do it."

With your help we can gain some members and get involved in becoming a mentor!

I apologize for the mix-up and I appreciate you reading this for maybe the second time. I'm relying heavily on our membership to assist with this class.

Concurrently with the class noted beginning October 1st there is another Public Boating Class beginning September 29th through the Burnsville School District adult community education program. This class is also the Squadron Boating Course, again six weeks long. Registration is through the School District. The link to the class can be reached through our Squadron web site or at: https://ssl.dwebsite.com/secure2/ce_isd191/php/public.php?action=classDetail&is_ongoing_event=0&classId=8262&programId=4&categoryId=86&sliding.

If you have boating friends in the Burnsville area please direct them to this class.

The Burnsville School District (includes parts of Savage and Rosemont) sent out 43,000 catalogs for their fall classes August 22nd. Noted below is the Boating Course as shown in the catalog.



Boating Safety

THE SQUADRON BOATING COURSE

BEN COONS

In the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," boating safety is a necessity. In this course, you will learn:

- Boat handling under normal conditions.
- Adverse conditions and emergencies.
- Types of boats and boating terminology.
- Required and recommended equipment.
- Boating regulations and navigation rules.
- Lines and knots.
- Charts and aids to navigation.
- Piloting techniques.
- Marine radiotelephone usage.
- Trailer boating.

You will receive a certificate upon successful completion of this course. Six sessions / \$49.

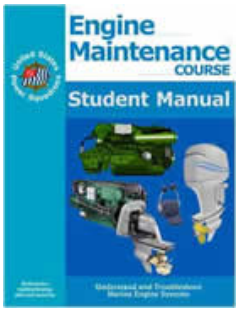
**#26502 Tue Sep 29-Nov 3 7-9 pm
BHS C120**

Ben Coons is a seasoned boater with 20 years on the water experience. He has been a member of the U.S. Power Squadron for 17 years. He is a certified instructor for the public boating course that is approved by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators.

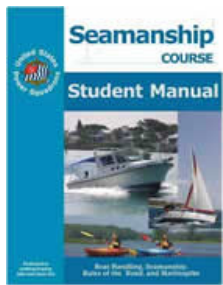
Both the Burnsville class and the one at Advanced Wireless are the same and include a little on navigation.

As we look at the end of our boating season a new season begins. **EDUCATION**

There are two additional classes scheduled this fall besides the two Public Boating classes noted above.



The first one is Engine Maintenance beginning October 7th. I plan on taking that course and I hope several of our members take advantage of a good course and excellent instructors. This course is six consecutive Wednesday nights at Advanced Wireless in Lakeville. The cost is \$40.



The last course this fall is Seamanship beginning November 17th after the two Public Boating classes end. We hope to get students from those two classes into Seamanship. There are about 15 of our existing membership that

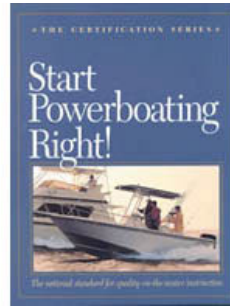
haven't taken Seamanship and I will be sending personal invitations out to those folks asking them to join the Seamanship class. The cost is \$40.

As noted in my July "Notes" to accomplish the goals for our educational season we will really depend on our membership in two critical areas. The first in regards to the Public Boating classes is getting "fannies" in the seats. I hope the mailing that the School District has done works and we get our students from the catalog sent out. The class that begins on October 1st requires that our members find and help facilitate getting folks to this class. This is simply the "word of mouth" method that means all of us need to talk this up. The class is limited to 15 students to give them the best possible attention. Remember this class includes one year of membership in HVSPS. The cost is \$99.

The second critical need is members to teach, proctor, correct tests and simply support the effort. All of our members are invited to attend a night or so at the Public courses and just "hang out". Help offer your boating experiences and get to know the folks. I guarantee I will call on you to tell us something you have seen or done on the water.

On September 2nd we had our "on the water" class where we did the BOC check rides for three of our members. We met at Lord Fletcher's on Lake Minnetonka and Greg Korstad (Staff Commander of

our National Law Committee and Past Commander of Minnetonka Power Squadron) provided his boat for the demonstrations of the on water skill requirements for BOC. The text used for this subject is the U.S. Sailing: "Start Powerboating Right". With their check rides out of the way we should have two



additional Inland Navigators, John Sydloski JN and John Lawrence SN. I don't think there are any other squadrons in District 10 that can top this. With Denny Peterson and Al Harmon Hiawatha Valley will have four IN by year's end. Oded Galili also got his check ride done and as soon as he gets a couple more prerequisites done he will also be an IN.

This was some tough duty on Wednesday being on Lake Minnetonka, skipping afternoon work and doing our briefing and de-briefing at Lord Fletcher's. I don't know who originated the phrase: "Nothing better than messing about in boats". Who ever came up with it definitely got it right! What a



beautiful day! Thanks to Greg and the guys that did their check rides. I enjoyed every bit of it.

In closing out this addition of "Notes" I want to thank in advance our membership

for supporting our educational effort and for those that have "stepped up" to instruct and help with classes.

As noted earlier, our boating season is passing and our educational season is beginning. Embrace it and participate!

Lt/C Ben Coons, AP
Squadron Educational Officer

As a member of HVSPS,
I am counting on
YOU

to help us educate our
fellow boating fiends!



Dear Fellow Members of
Hiawatha Valley Sail & Power Squadron:

I'm counting on you
to help promote our upcoming
PUBLIC BOATING COURSE.
Please SPONSOR and MENTOR
a fellow friend and boater.

This is a 6 week course
and includes some navigation.

First class meeting is
Thursday evening 1 October 2009!

Thanks for helping me fill this class!

Lt/C Ben Coons, AP

Lt/C Ben Coons, AP
19185 Edgewood Lane
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FIRST CLASS

