



# TALES OF HIAWATHA

Official Publication of Hiawatha Valley Sail & Power Squadron  
A unit of the United States Power Squadrons® - District 10

Volume 8, No.1

September 2008

## Calendar of Events

19-20 September – Anchor Out – The Rollers  
Friday & Saturday Lock & Dam #3  
Campfire on the Beach

3 October First Friday Gathering  
Friday Bierstube, Red Wing

24-26 October D10 Fall Conference  
Sturgeon Bay, WI

1 November Fall Membership Meeting  
Saturday (TBD)

6 December Holiday Party  
Saturday St. Paul Yacht Club

17 January Annual Meeting  
Saturday Wing Ding, Dam!  
Award Ceremony

14 February HVSPS Change of Watch  
Saturday



## Past Commander's Message

Change of Watch has come and gone. The past watch year was filled with many proud moments for our squadron.

We have moved forward in many ways. Hiawatha Valley continues to navigate into the paperless, electronic age. Our new Constant Contact program allows messaging and immediate recapping of any event. This provides a valuable method of evaluation.

We hosted a successful District 10 Rendezvous as well as the recent District 10 Spring Conference. Our members' participation and generosity continues to be strong. I am proud to announce that 36 members qualified for Merit Marks through their dedication and participation.

The traditional sides of the Triangle were honored at the February Change of Watch. The Fraternal Award was earned by Jim and Linnea Wise. They have been "over the top" with the amount of planning and executing our social

events. The Civic Award went to Gordy Gieseke. Gordy has been diligent with his support, canvassing our boating area with announcements. Clare Cox earned the Education Award. She continues to be our most zealous champion of boating education.

Two additional Star Awards were presented. This is the first time in Hiawatha Valley history that Denny Peterson is not serving on the board and/or bridge. He is definitely our Everlasting Star. Special people are serving our squadron on a regular basis as mentor and friend, Kris Harmon was invaluable to my watch year. She is a continuing, Constant Star.

Finally, I am so proud that we are now able to be a permanent presence in our boating community. On 17 May, we dedicated our Safe Boating Signs at the Bay Point Park boat ramp in Red Wing. An identical sign is installed at the Colville Park boat ramp as well. This not only promotes our safe boating message, but provides solid identity of our Squadron along with contact information.

Thank you to all who have been so supportive and willing to share your time and talents.

P/C Kathy Bell, P

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## HVSPS Mission for 2008-2009

As we approach the midpoint of the current watch year, I find it difficult to articulate what I'm feeling about our Hiawatha Valley Sail & Power Squadron; there are so many different – sometimes conflicting – emotions rattling around in my head and in my heart:

- Pride – in what we stand for
- Concern – that we're not doing enough things or the right things
- Worry – that to some, we don't seem to have our act together
- Shame – that I don't spend as much time or energy as I intend to
- Fear – that we'll lose more members and not find new ones

- Panic – because I'm not sure what to do about it all, or how to make it so
- Paranoia – that everything negative is all my fault
- Envy – in other squadrons that seem to have it all together
- Satisfaction – that we've tried to do new things, or old things in new ways
- Anticipation – for events to come
- Enduring Pleasure – from the events that have taken place
- Gratitude – to know and work with great people
- (Enough?!)

Let's go back to the beginning. When I was sworn in as your Commander earlier this year, I selected a theme with its roots in this year's District 10 slogan, **Ready, SET, Grow**. I suggested we focus on **SET: Simplify, Engage Thrive** –

**Simplify** our efforts and activities so more people might

**Engage**, and become actively involved in some aspect(s) of the USPS Triangle, thereby allowing us to

**Thrive** and continue as a healthy unit of the United States Power Squadrons.

So at our first Executive Committee meeting, we tried to focus and identify the **Vital Few**, and we found four things we knew we'd have to do:

1. Find a way to "brand" HVSPS (and USPS) in the communities where we're most active, so that the public would come to know us as the safe boating people.
2. Continue to offer boating education opportunities to the public and to our members.
3. Provide opportunities for our members and their friends to get together to socialize, on the water and off.
4. Attempt to engage our members – get more people involved in any, if not all of the other three Vital Few.

Now we're at the midpoint. How are we doing? I know of only two ways to find out – through your feedback and by the twelve simple measurements laid out in this year's Star Squadron program. As of this writing, we're behind in over half of the twelve Star Squadron categories – but I'll focus on Star Squadron in next month's newsletter.

What I need now is to hear from **YOU!** Write me, call me, e-mail me, corner me. Let me know your thoughts regarding how we can **Simplify** and **Engage** to **Thrive**. What are your ideas for accomplishing the **Vital Few**? What will make a difference to HVSPS? What will make a difference to you personally? All of your comments - complimentary, coaching or critical - are welcome. No polls or surveys, just conversation.  
(And if I don't seem approachable, please get your thoughts to someone else on the Bridge.)

One of the great, enduring lessons from my first tenure as your Commander is that we can't please all our members all the time. So we try to satisfy most of the people most of the time. My worry on "dark" days is whether we're pleasing any of the people any of the time – and what that might mean to the success and continued survival of HVSPS. Let me hear from you soon?  
Thanks.

Safe Voyage in all you do.

Cdr Kris Harmon, AP

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## TIME FOR RENEWAL

For most of us in the Hiawatha Valley Power Squadron, it's not too late to renew your membership again. Power Squadron membership provides opportunities and privileges that far out-weigh the cost. There is of course the fellowship with others of the same mind, boaters who want to become more competent and knowledgeable about being on the

water. The Power Squadron boating courses and the new USPS University make available updated and even more versatile information and abilities. The get-togethers, whether as formal as the Predicted Log and Shrimp Boil, or as informal as sitting around a fire up on shore at the end of a long boating day, make memories that last a lifetime. Add in the right to buy boat insurance thru USPS and to have District and National officials keeping an eye out for political and legal developments that might affect boaters, and the fact that flying the USPS flag on your watercraft adds an aura of respect and recognition of your seriousness about boating, and you have to conclude that membership in the HVSPS is a deal that you just cannot pass up. Besides, we need your dues.

Lt/C Jim Wise, AP

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## Whew! Where Has the Watch Year Gone Already?

It's September -- and where has the Watch Year gone?

The awarding of the "Wing Ding Dam" plaque for the "best" boating gaffe last year highlighted Hiawatha Valley's 10 January annual meeting at the St. Paul Yacht Club. The 2007 recipient, P/C Dennis Peterson, SN, and his first mate, Jean Peterson, P, offered a PowerPoint presentation,



featuring events of the past year. Newer member Gordy Gieseke of Red Wing "earned" this year's honor by virtue of getting his small whaler with two passengers snagged in the "first cut" on the

Mississippi River near Red Wing during the July D-10 summer rendezvous backwater cruise. Lt Ken and Pat Goewey waded into the muck to rescue the stranded boaters.

After having served as 2004-05 Watch Year commander, Kris Harmon, AP, accepted a term as seventh commander, sworn in by D/C-elect Al Harmon, AP, at Hiawatha Valley's 28 February Change of Watch at the St. Paul Yacht Club. Cdr Harmon announced that 37 of Hiawatha Valley's 66 members earned Merit Marks for last Watch Year.

Installed as elected officers and At-Large Executive Committee members were Lt/C Tom Johnson, Executive; Lt/C Clare Cox, P, Education; Lt/C Jim Wise, P, Administration Officer; Lt/C Linnea Stromberg-Wise, P, Secretary; Lt/C Scott McClure, Treasurer; and Lt Oded Galili, P; P/C John Lawrence, SN; and P/C John Sydlowski, JN; with immediate P/C Kathy Bell, P.

A second "Commander Harmon" was sworn into office 5 April. Hiawatha Valley's P/C Al Harmon became District 10 commander during the Spring Conference 4-5 April at the Holiday Inn in Burnsville. P/D/C Ben Coons, AP, administered the oath to D/C-elect Al during a semi-formal dinner, which was serenaded by a guitar-bass duo.

The two-day conference was hosted by Hiawatha Valley, whose P/C Marie Coons, P, chaired the coordination. Friday night's party featured a Hawaiian theme, complete with professional dancers who taught participants to hula. The traditional raffle -- stocked to overflowing by Hiawatha Valley members -- and drawings for a timeshare vacation, artwork and cold cash -- garnered sufficient income to enable Hiawatha Valley to purchase two large steel "safe boating" signs as a civic project.

During the conference, Hiawatha Valley was honored for hosting the D-10 Summer Rendezvous in Red Wing 2007 and the D-10

Spring Conference. The squadron received awards for Excellence in Journalism and its web site.

Back on the squadron front, six students began studying Advanced Piloting with Lt John Speckien, SN; and the squadron offered two public Boat Smart courses<sup>®</sup>, one in March at Gander Mountain in Lakeville and the second in April in conjunction with Red Wing Community Education.

This year's dreary weather continued through May although Hiawatha Valley's observance of the first day of National Safe Boating Week 17 May experienced one of the few "nice" days of spring.

Hiawatha Valley instituted its first "Triangle Day" on 17 May, celebrating USPS' three foci: education, civic service and fraternity.

The sunny day started with a free public USPS University seminar, *Onboard Weather Forecasting*, taught by Lt Ken Goewey, AP, at the Red Wing Library. An afternoon seminar on *Charting* was planned by Lt/C Jim Wise, P, and Lt/C Linnea Stromberg-Wise, P.

At 1650 on 17 May, squadron members, VIPs and the public gathered at the boat ramp at Bay Point Park's Ole Miss Marina to dedicate one of two large steel safe boating signs donated by Hiawatha Valley to the City of Red Wing. Mayor Donna Dummer and Councilman Mike Hall accepted the donation on behalf of the city, and Cdr Kris Harmon and P/C Kathy Bell, P, christened the sign with a bucket of Mississippi River water. A second sign was installed at the city's Colville Park location of Ole Miss Marina.

Members then convened at Gopher Hills Country Club in Miesville for an indoor picnic dinner following the sign dedication. Boaters and their first mates enjoyed brats, hamburgers and other traditional picnic foods and dessert! Members drew pictures of their "dream boat" -- with Linnea Stromberg-Wise's illustration of her

“dreamboat husband” taking the prize over pictures of vessels. Then each table of picnickers spun a “tall boating tale,” with Denny Peterson and Al Harmon snagging first place. Other yarns were offered by P/D/C Ben Coons, AP; and Lt/C Clare Cox; and P/C Jack Bond, SN.

A new squadron member, Bond, told of



his “experience” crossing Lake Michigan. (Bond and his first mate, Joan, summer in Lake City and live in Waterloo, IA, where they were heavily involved in the Waterloo Sail & Power Squadron. He has been a squadron commander and SEO, and district SEO, advanced course instructor; established a web site to assist Navigation students; and continues to exchange ideas with National Education Committee members.

As members dodged May and June’s rainy days, they found a few dry ones to launch boats for the 2008 season with its accompanying nearly-\$5-a-gallon gas price. Before they could log much personal boat time, members worked the docks in Red Wing and at Lake City Marina (14 June), giving free Vessel Safety Checks. Oded Galili chairs the 2008 VSC program.

Meanwhile in June, downstream the Mighty Mississippi broke through levees, flooding lower Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois towns and farmlands, and stranding barge traffic above St. Louis.

Lt/C Clare Cox, P

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## Why get a VSC (Vessel Safety Check)?

Minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact while maximizing the safe use and enjoyment of U.S. waterways by recreational boaters. The Vessel Safety Check process is one of “prevention through education, outreach and volunteer compliance,” helping recreational boaters to gain a respect for the boating environment.

The VSC Program also helps to achieve voluntary compliance with federal and state recreational boating safety laws, particularly with regard to carrying safety equipment, while raising boater awareness about safety and environmental issues through



voluntary contact by a Vessel Examiner (VE). VE discussions with recreational boaters are designed to motivate maintaining and operating their boats in a safe manner, to encourage taking boating safety courses to increase their knowledge and skills in boating, and to promote safe boating.



Our goal is to have all of our members’ boats checked this year. It helps our safety and the safety of those we boat with. At the very least, having the minimum safety equipment is a good practice, but it is also a good message to send when we are on the water.

So here is what I would like you to do. Go on-line or contact me directly (using the e-mail below), and register to have your boat safety-checked. Our boating season isn’t over yet. There’s still time to get you safety check if you haven’t already done so. You may also want to talk to your boating



friends and suggest it to them too. Again, safe boats = safe boating!!

Oded Galili, P  
ogalili@msn.com

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**DISTRICT 10 CONFERENCE IN  
DOOR COUNTY  
24, 25 & 26 OCTOBER**

Want to visit one of the top ten vacation destinations in America without breaking your budget? If so, head for Door County on 24 October and attend the District 10 Fall Conference at beautiful Stone Harbor Resort in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.

Come to the unique Ladder House Bar & Grill (formerly The Fire Station) in Sturgeon Bay on Friday night for the Roaring 20s Party, and on Saturday, visit the Door County Maritime Museum, only a stroll across the Bay Bridge from Stone Harbor.

After dinner on Saturday night, listen to Jim and Andrea Jauquet's story about their trip crossing the Atlantic Ocean in their sailboat (pre-GPS) and cruising the Mediterranean for twelve summers.

Enjoy unlimited shopping, visit one or more of the four wineries, or just relax and unwind.

For more details, and to register, visit [www.usps-D10.org](http://www.usps-D10.org), or [www.usps.org/door](http://www.usps.org/door)

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**HVSPS Annual Holiday Party**

Date – Saturday, 6, December

6:00 PM – Cocktails & Appetizers

7:00 PM - Dinner

Place – St. Paul Pool & Yacht Club  
Near 35E & HWY 13 in Lilydale

Look for more details in the October Constant Contact.

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**Education News**

Congratulations to the following members for earning advanced grades:

- D/C Al Harmon is now JN
- Jim Wise and Steve Sollie have earned AP

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**Help Wanted - Wing Ding Dam Award  
Master of Ceremonies**

Wanted – Master of Ceremonies for the Wing Ding Dam presentation at the Annual Change of Watch. Past “winner”, Gordy Gieseke, will not be available to present this year’s nominees. Please contact Cdr Kris Harmon if you are interested in hosting this prestigious and coveted award ceremony.

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**HVSPS Bridge**

Commander	Kris Harmon, AP
Executive Officer	Tom Johnson
Education Officer	Clare Cox, P
Administration Officer	Jim Wise, AP
Secretary	Linnea Stromberg Wise, P
Treasurer	Scott McClure
Members at Large	Oded Galili, P John Sydoski, JN John Lawrence, SN
Past Commander	Kathy Bell, P

Want to send your Bridge an email? Go to the HVSPS website and click Bridge Contacts - <http://www.hiawathavalleyyps.org/Home.htm>