

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON HISTORY

EARLY IN 1912, A GROUP OF MOTOR BOAT OWNERS (MEMBERS OF THE BOSTON YACHT CLUB WHOSE MEMBERS WERE PREDOMINANTLY SAIL BOAT SKIPPERS) REALIZED THE PRESSING NEED FOR SOME SORT OF EDUCATION FOR PLEASURE BOAT OWNERS. THEY FORMED A GROUP WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS THE POWER SQUADRON OF THE BOSTON YACHT CLUB. THE OBJECT WAS TO HOLD A SERIES OF CLASSES AT WHICH EACH MEMBER WOULD MAKE A PRESENTATION ON THE ESSENTIALS OF NAVIGATION, AS APPLIED TO SMALL CRAFT OWNERS. WORD OF THIS GROUP SPREAD TO OTHER EASTERN PORTS AND MORE BOAT AND YACHT CLUBS ADOPTED THE IDEA. FINALLY, ON FEBRUARY 2, 1914 AT A MEETING HELD AT THE NEW YORK YACHT CLUB, THE NATIONWIDE ORGANIZATION NOW KNOWN AS THE UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON WAS FOUNDED.

TODAY, USPS CONSISTS OF SQUADRON UNITS SPREAD ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES AND IT'S POSSESSIONS, INCLUDING THE CANAL ZONE. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 3 MILLION MEN AND WOMEN HAVE TAKEN THE COURSES IN NAVIGATION GIVEN FREE BY THE SQUADRONS. THE USPS HAS PERFECTED IT'S EDUCATIONAL COURSES IN NAVIGATION, SMALL BOAT HANDLING AND MARINE MAINTENANCE. A SISTER ORGANIZATION, THE CANADIAN POWER SQUADRON, CAME INTO BEING IN 1938 AND HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WITH THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE USPS.

USPS IS ESSENTIALLY AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE BODY – A NON-PROFIT, NON- POLITICAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION, WHOSE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF BOATING EDUCATION. THE COURSES GIVEN BY THE USPS ARE RECOGNIZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS BEING THE BEST OF THEIR KIND AVAILABLE AND ARE ACCEPTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC, BOATING MAGAZINES, AND EXPERTS IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. DURING BOTH WORLD WARS, INSTRUCTORS OF USPS WERE CALLED UPON BY THE MARITIME BRANCHES OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO SERVE IN MANY CAPACITIES.

AS A RESULT OF THE WORTHWHILE PROGRAMS OF THE USPS, A SPECIAL ENSIGN WAS DESIGNED, WHICH MEMBERS ARE PRIVILEGED TO FLY WHEN THEY ARE ABOARD THEIR VESSELS.