



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING

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31 December 2012

Dear Mr. Wayne Stacey:

Enclosed in this package are documents and items to close out Grant 1102.25, *Practical On-the-Water Training Rollout – 2012*. United States Power Squadrons is pleased to have conducted and concluded this grant project successfully.

The documents contained in this close-out package are listed below:

- Abstract
- Executive Summary
- SF 425

If any, all products and materials produced by this grant comply with the USCG Grant Product Guidelines and include the appropriate statement/logos indicating that the project was done under a U.S. Coast Guard Grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Catherine Berube".

Mary Catherine Berube,
Executive Director



United States Power Squadrons Grant Report

United States Coast Guard
Non-Profit Boating Safety Program
Agreement No. 1102.25
12/31/2012

Practical On-the-Water Training Rollout – 2012

Abstract

The United States Power Squadrons (USPS) has completed its first year rollout of the newly developed Practical On-the-Water Training program. This program was produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. This unique, hands-on training program features a public seminar which teaches the basics of boat handling and provides boaters with a safe, enriched learning experience blending the best of classroom and on-the-water instruction.

The Practical On-the-Water Training program opened in late summer 2011 with a new fully equipped mobile classroom consisting of a new Boston Whaler 200 Dauntless, Ford F-150 and accompanying trailer. A mobile classroom tour launched with on-the-water training seminars scheduled in areas along the East Coast, Florida and Gulf in this first phase of the rollout. A regional rollout allowed for the program to operate on a smaller scale for a smooth rollout nationwide. The mobile classroom became an important resource for USPS volunteers to teach the new Practical On-the-Water Training seminar and advanced on-water training courses and also represented USPS' renewed commitment to providing high-quality on-the-water training and safety for boaters.

USPS volunteers qualified under the organization's existing advanced levels of on-the-water training provided exceptional expert instruction for the Practical On-the-Water Training program. Volunteer instructors not only trained students in basic boat handling, but also trained students in advanced levels to become instructors themselves. This system proved effective in training many more boaters as well as advancing the base of qualified volunteer instructors to teach under the program across the nation. As a result, USPS completed more than 370 individual on-water trainings for basic and advanced on-water instruction and more than 50 individual on-water instructor trainings under this grant.

USPS provides high-quality, safe on-the-water boat handling education to many boaters through the Practical On-the-Water Training program. Practical On-the-Water Training provides students with a basic understanding of safe boat handling and hands-on experience that is an important tool in the effort to prevent accidents and save lives.



United States Power Squadrons Grant Report

United States Coast Guard
Non-Profit Boating Safety Program
Agreement No. 1102.25
12/31/2012

Practical On-the-Water Training Rollout – 2012

Executive Summary

This update report includes a summary of progress for the Practical On-the-Water Training Rollout – 2012 grant project as of September 30, 2012, produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The major accomplishments achieved included the planning, launch and delivery of the newly developed Practical On-the-Water Training course. As a result, the grant team successfully completed these major accomplishments during the grant performance period having trained numerous students in basic and advanced on-the-water courses and seminars.

Planning

USPS meticulously planned for a successful start of the Practical On-the-Water Training (POTWT) program with the procurement of equipment and materials, creation of an online student registration system, and the recruitment of qualified volunteers.

Through partnership with Brunswick Corporation, the world's largest marine manufacturer, USPS entered into a lease agreement for a Boston Whaler 200 Dauntless and accompanying boat trailer. USPS added both the vehicle and vessel to the organization's insurance policy and ensured coverage for POTWT participants under its existing liability policy. The fully equipped mobile classroom included various electronic navigational aids and VHF radio to demonstrate the latest boating safety tools available to boaters.

The grant team chose equipment and materials for the POTWT program that met USPS' specifications for excellent training and safety as well as compliance with all local, state and U.S. Coast Guard requirements. USPS procured all safety and training materials for the POTWT program which included outfitting the mobile classroom and other training teams with items such as personal flotation devices, safety and maintenance accessories and slalom buoy kits for on-water maneuvering exercises.

The grant team put together a POTWT student and instructor training kit stocked at USPS headquarters in preparation of the program launch. The student kit contained the *Powerboat Handling Illustrated* book, a DVD entitled *Practical On-the-Water Training* demonstrating maneuvers students would perform and a POTWT student manual containing all notes from the class presentation. The instructor package contained instructor CD with the class presentation PowerPoint slides.

A new student online registration system was created to satisfy two objectives: 1) allow students to register for scheduled POTWT seminars in advance and 2) support the data collection process for U.S. Coast Guard grant program measurement and reporting capability of the on-water boat handling instruction. Students who registered had their course materials shipped in advance of the training date and opened a line of communication between student and instructor to address questions or concerns ahead of time. Data collected from student registrations contained basic

demographic information and student training completions as well as a means to contact program participants for follow-up surveys.

The grant team utilized its existing base of qualified volunteer instructors under its Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program, which oversees the organization's existing four levels of on-the-water courses as well as the new POTWT program. A core group of volunteer instructors committed to a schedule to teach on-the-water seminars, and therefore created a mobile classroom tour using the boat, trailer and truck rig. The POTWT mobile classroom tour initially concentrated on-water training on areas along the East Coast, Florida and Gulf to: 1) train in areas of high recreational boater populations, 2) test and modify the deployment of the mobile training teams and equipment as needed, 3) test and modify marketing and promotional efforts and 4) allow more time to set up the national infrastructure of volunteer instructors. The initial plans concentrated on a regional rollout to allow the grant team to identify and address areas of improvement on a smaller scale before transitioning to the national rollout of the program in subsequent phases.

Launch

The Practical On-the-Water Training (POTWT) program was introduced in late Summer 2011 as a method to deliver a new blend of classroom and live on-the-water training that provided an enriched, dynamic learning experience. To promote and advertise the new POTWT program, USPS created a feature article with a cover photo for the Fall 2011 issue of *The Ensign*¹ as well as a variety of marketing materials featuring on-the-water training for recreational boaters.

The Ensign magazine's article featured the POTWT program created under this U.S. Coast Guard grant and emphasized information on the new mobile classroom, the course description and benefits of on-the-water training. The article also included photos of on-water training in session with a USPS instructor and students using the mobile classroom.

USPS also marketed POTWT via a variety of mixed media to include graphic posters and corresponding flyers, letters and e-mail flyers to promote registration. Information about the program included boating safety benefits and what students learned in the POTWT seminars. Each set of materials were customizable for information on local area trainings. Additionally, USPS squadrons reported using local publications and news media coverage to encourage on-the-water training for recreational boaters and bring awareness to boating safety.

Delivery

The delivery of the Practical On-the-Water Training program came in two parts: 1) instructor development and 2) student training. By the grant's completion date of 30 September 2012, USPS completed nearly 50 on-the-water training events in which a total of more than 420 individual on-water student training sessions took place. Of the 420 individual training sessions, 357 students received on-the-water instruction to increase their boat handling skills, 51 students received on-the-water instruction to become eligible to teach other boaters in the POTWT program and 13 students received the most advanced level of on-water training within USPS' on-water programs (not shown in the table below). A table of training events and levels is summarized as follows:

¹ Brown, Chris. "Taking it to the Water." *The Ensign*. Fall 2011: 20-21.

POTWT/BOC On-the-Water Training Students
Period between 1/1/2012 – 9/30/12

Date	Location	#POTW	#IN	#CN	#IN Certifier	#CN Certifier	#IN Certifier Trainer	#CN Certifier Trainer
1/24 – 1/29	Jacksonville, FL	14	4	10	-	-	-	-
2/2 – 2/4	Vero Beach, FL	-	7	-	3	-	5	-
2/7 – 2/9	Juno Beach, FL	-	1	-	-	-	8	-
2/13 – 2/15	Homestead, FL	-	-	-	1	-	7	-
2/25 – 2/26	Honolulu, HI	-	3	2	1	1	1	1
2/25	San Diego, CA	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
2/27	Clearwater, FL	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
3/2 – 3/3	Punta Gorda, FL	-	10	-	10	-	-	-
3/16 – 3/18	Lake Charles, LA	-	9	-	1	-	-	-
3/24 – 3/25	Seabrook, TX	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
4/1	Ft. Worth, TX	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
4/14 – 4/15	Dallas, TX	-	8	-	1	-	-	-
4/28	Stamford, CT	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
4/27 – 4/29	Chattanooga, TN	-	12	11	-	-	-	-
4/29	Seabrook, TX	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
5/6	Minnetonka, MN	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
5/11 – 5/12	Peoria Heights, IL	2	8	-	-	-	-	-
5/13 – 5/14	Hammond, IN	1	18	-	-	-	-	-
5/16 – 5/17	Fox Lake, IL	-	-	-	4	-	4	-
5/17 – 5/19	Wake Forest, NC	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
5/18 – 5/22	Detroit, MI	-	11	6	-	-	-	-
5/23 – 5/30	Sandusky Bay, OH	-	3	-	9	-	-	-
5/26	North Beach, MD	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
5/28	Stamford, CT	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
6/2	Old Greenwich, CT	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
6/8 – 6/9	Alpaus, NY	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
6/9	Cataumet, MA	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
6/13 – 6/15	Poulsbo, WA	-	13	5	8	5	5	4
6/19 – 6/20	City Island, NY	4	5	-	3	-	-	-
6/27 – 6/30	Patchogue, NY	5	2	-	3	-	-	-
7/14 – 7/15	*Bluffton, SC	-	1	1	1	3	-	-
7/27 – 7/29	Bowdoinham, ME	-	14	-	1	-	1	-
7/23 – 7/25	Buffalo, NY	-	3	3	4	4	-	-
8/4	Bridgeport, CT	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
8/8	Lodi, CA	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
9/6 – 9/9	Lake Forest, IL	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
9/14	Fox Lake, IL	-	2	1	2	-	-	-
9/16	Hammond, IN	1	7	-	-	-	-	-
9/22 – 9/24	*multiple sites, MN	5	6	3	-	-	-	-
9/27 – 9/29	Door County, WI	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
Totals:		83	179	46	42	15	31	5

Conclusion

In summary, USPS implemented this grant rollout phase to introduce the newly developed POTWT course to the general public. This involved planning for the program's launch utilizing a mobile classroom consisting of a leased boat, truck and trailer rig, tapping into the organization's cadre of volunteer instructors, and completing more than 420 individual student on-the-water trainings starting on the East Coast and nearby geographic areas.

USPS is continuing its on-water training efforts through its second year phase of this grant project, Practical On-the-Water Training Rollout Phase II, in which the program is now being rolled out to the Western region of the United States. At the same time, USPS continues to bolster its volunteer instructor base and leverage USPS' many partnerships to provide the most value to boaters and save more lives.

The Practical On-the-Water Training – 2012 grant program directly supported the U.S. Coast Guard's Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program to which USPS is a signatory partner. Specifically, the POTWT program targeted Objective 3: Advanced and/or On-Water, Skills-Based Boating Education by increasing the number of boaters who have completed advanced and/or on-water, skills-based boating education. In addition, the grant program directly supported the U.S. Coast Guard's 2011 Grant Application Package's Appendix A, Grant Areas of Interest for Fiscal Year 2011 item #8: Conduct On-Water Boat Handling Instruction for Recreational Boat Operators. By administering this program, USPS provided high-quality, safe on-the-water boat handling education to many boaters in the effort to support the strategic plan's performance goal of reducing recreational boating injuries and fatalities.