

District 8 Conference Expo

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What Is An Expo And Why Should I Participate?

Our Expo combines informational and retail booths as well as interesting activities for our conference participants. This Expo will provide educational material, some of the leading marine merchandisers, and other topic specific displays for members and guests. Our exhibitors represent a wealth of knowledge and many are regarded as national experts. Whether a 1st Timer or seasoned veteran, each person will find something new to learn. Participants can expect contests, with prizes, handouts and slide shows.

At the center of the Expo, you will find the Palm Beach Café. You can have complimentary coffee, a snack or enjoy the slide show highlighting previous D/8 events. Please join us for a good time and great learning experience.

What Booths/Activities Will Be There?

This Expo consists of three categories: Outside vendor/participants, USPS subject matter booths, and USPS activities/seminars.

Outside Vendor/Participants:

Bluewater Books and Charts – John Mann writes, “Bluewater Books & Charts is well worth the boating enthusiast's visit for a comprehensive collection of information and books on nautical subjects.”

Broward Sheriff's office (BSO) Deputy Steve Salach writes “BSO MARINE UNIT personnel will be available to answer all types of marine related questions as well as handing out boating safety literature while displaying a slideshow of marine related activities”

International Game Fish Association – Veronica Woods writes “consists of knot-tying instruction, marine fossils and creature identification as well as information about the education programs the IGFA offers. A marine biologist will also be on hand to answer any questions about ethical angling, organizational information and fishing tips”

OceanGrafix – Ronnie Babin writes “OceanGrafix provides ‘print on demand’ NOAA charts under an agreement with the National Ocean Service. All charts have full updates including daily notices to mariners and local notices to mariners, the most up to date charts available”

West Marine - Demi Warner writes - "We will be proud to present the latest in Electronics for navigation from the industry's leading manufacturers. We will have the units displayed and powered up so participants can feel free to actually press the buttons to see how they work and ask questions of our Friendly, Knowledgeable Associates who will be on site"

USPS Subject Matter Booths

Boat Operators Certification – The Boat Operator Certification program is now up and running and the material to start members on their journey to Certification is in stock at USPS Headquarters. We will have members who can show you the material and answer questions

Courses – Education – Books, course material and staff to answer questions regarding all of the new and upgraded elective and advanced grade courses

Flag and Etiquette – The Customs and Courtesies of Yachting. Signed books will be available at a special discount. The booth will have continuously-running PowerPoint presentations of "Traditions," "Leadership" and "Parliamentary Law"

Information Technology – Will be offering the use of a laptop to members on how to "check your own national roster information" (aka the "Information Center"). We will have handouts and will be able to walk members through the process. Before you come, why not check out the site on your own? <http://www.usps.org/national/tools>

Leadership Development/Operations Training – Will feature brochures/literature on LD and OT, as well as a very good reading list. There will be a short quiz to take on Leadership to test your knowledge, and you can win prizes for your answers....!

Membership, Recruiting and Retention – Will have the most recent information and tools available from National. Also see the latest PowerPoint presentation available for recruiting and member retention

Nominating Committee – Experienced Past Commanders answer questions for members contemplating accepting Bridge and Committee Chair positions

Publications – Experienced editor will discuss cost per newsletter, address publication and e-mail challenges. Free handouts include the CD of the National Editor's Handbook

Safety – A display of the minimum standard safety equipment required and approved by the USCG for recreational boaters. Examples are types of PFDs, visual distress signals and fire extinguishers

Seminars – Education – Samples of seminar materials. Knowledgeable resources will be available to discuss seminars including the pilot run at West Marine

Squadron Development – Handouts will include "Squadrons at Risk" and "How to develop a new Squadron". The Squadron at Risk program was developed to assist squadrons experiencing difficulties that can result in dissolution. The program is voluntary and squadrons must request Squadron at Risk status to participate. Two Past Commanders will be on hand to help. Please stop by and chat.

Training Aids – Submissions for seminars, electives and advanced grades will be on display. Entrants will participate in a drawing for a copy of Chapman's Piloting. SEO's will select the winners for exhibition at the National level

Vessel Safety – Vessel Safety Check is a free inspection of recreational boats by trained USPS examiners to assure the vessel meets federal and state safety equipment requirements of the United States Coast Guard. A decal is awarded to affix to the vessel if all requirements are met. Handouts and other information will be provided by experienced VSC examiners

USPS Activities and Seminars

Basic Coastal Navigation – Lt/C Michael Knapp, AP Practical techniques to plan, navigate, and check your progress on the water. You will develop situational awareness skills using your eyes and navigation tools to quickly point to your position on a chart, and be able to use backup techniques when the electronics become suspect. This seminar will help captain and crew navigate safely and comfortably

Fire Extinguisher Training – P/C Mark Rosen, AP A short lecture highlighting the various fire extinguishers classes and their proper usage. A hands-on training exercise held in the parking lot. To receive BOC credit, the hands-on portion requires each participant to bring an extinguisher, allowing them to demonstrate their knowledge and ability. They will also need to bring outdated flares. If other members wish to attend the class, without certification, they are welcome and will learn a lot about fire extinguishers.

Public Relations Officers – R/C William (Bill) Husted, SN A must-attend meeting for all squadron Public Relations and Executive Officers. Subjects include: the "how to's" and benefits of promoting your squadron to the public, PR-related forms, competitions and the Cooperative Advertising program

When And Where Is The Expo?

The Expo is part of the D/8 Fall Conference held on 2-4 October. The location is the Marriott North, 6650 N. Andrews Ave. Ft. Lauderdale. (See registration form for more Conference

details.) On Saturday, 3 October, our exhibitors will begin at 0800 in the large ballroom on the second floor. Booths will close at 1100. We expect this Expo to be one of the highlights of the Fall Conference. Please mark your calendars, be prepared to learn something and have fun, too!