



## *Cruiser News!*

### **Time to Schedule your Spring Launch!**

The spring boat launch schedule will begin May 3rd. We will be launching on Monday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday between the hours of 8:00 and 11:30 a.m. Please contact us to schedule your time by calling 651-764-0247 or by email at [joe.melson@ci.red-wing.mn.us](mailto:joe.melson@ci.red-wing.mn.us). Please make sure that your boat is sea worthy prior to launch.

### **Launch notes**

- ✚ Please make sure that all zebra mussels are removed from your boat. Pay special attention to the shaft log, trim tabs, exhaust drains and any crevices under the water line of your vessel. Have any visible transom drains out until we get it to the ramp.
- ✚ We are currently working on the electrical and water services, so please check Facebook for updates as to when we will have each dock fully ready. Tentative Dates:
  - Bay Point water - week of May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Water for boat yard - April 25
  - Colvill water and electricity - week of May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - C,D,G and J dock have electricity

We are also busy working on the docks, so if you have an item, project or idea we need to address, this is a good time to get it on the list. Please e-mail your requests and ideas as soon as possible.

### **Shrink Wrap Disposal**

Just a reminder that when you remove the shrink wrap from your boats in the storage lot, please remove all straps and roll the shrink wrap up in a ball and place it in the trailer for disposal. This will be very helpful!

## Contracts

To all that have not made your slip payment in full, this is your reminder that all remaining payments are due. We will not be sending additional statements. The Slip must be paid in full before you use it.

## Name the newsletter...The search continues!

Be creative and submit your ideas via Facebook or E-mail. We will be making a final selection before the May news letter. It's yours, give it a name!

## Is your boat ready?

### Here are some places to look!

Whether you are a new or seasoned boater, make sure your vessel is ready for a relaxing, trouble free season.

US Coast Guard

[http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/cim\\_16796\\_8.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/16000-16999/cim_16796_8.pdf)

<http://www.cgaux9wr.com/programs/ve/documents/Handout%20%20-%207012.pdf>

MN boater guide

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>

## Hiawatha Valley Sail & Power Squadron

# Public Boating Class Coming to Red Wing

America's Boating Course – This 8 hour course starts at 8:00 A.M on  
April 26, 2014 at River City Power and Sport  
3859 Highway 61 North, Red Wing, MN)

**Note: In Person Registration begins at 8:00 AM**

**Your cost is \$29**

There will be two consecutive classes, four hours each on April 26th and May 3rd. The cost of the class includes continental breakfast and beverages. Age 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Preregistration is highly recommended. The ABC class is Coast Guard approved, prepares for state license for minors.

For additional information or to register call Ben Coons at 612-282-5785 or log on to the internet and click on this site or scan the QR code shown [www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?C-14319](http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?C-14319)

The class we are teaching is the American Boating Course Third Edition. This is a course for the new boater as well as someone that has been boating for years. The course is Coast Guard Approved, prepares for state licensing for minors

## **What is a VSC and Is It Good for You (and Your Boat)?**

“Ahhh, was it good for you?”

“It certainly was! I feel at peace and I saved money on my marine insurance.”

That’s what a VSC does for a boat owner. A VSC is a Vessel Safety Check performed by trained and certified VSC volunteers from United States Power Squadrons (USPS) or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAux).

A VSC determines that -- at that point in time -- the vessel met the requirements of local, state and federal laws to operate on U.S. waters, and that the equipment, systems and “things” a boat owner should have aboard operate safely and legally. The VSC volunteers do not forward problems or paperwork to any legal authority and no citations are issued.

What kind of boat or vessel needs a VSC? Anything that’s licensed, floats on lakes, rivers or the ocean, from a duck boat to a personal water craft to an ocean-going vessel, as long as they are not engaged in commercial ventures.

“Like a house spouse who’s embarrassed about a dirty or cluttered house, a boat owner may hesitate to invite a VSC examiner aboard,” said Prior Lake resident Marie Coons, a 23-year boater and chair of the VSC program for Hiawatha Valley Squadron. The examiner’s goal is to help the owner prepare for the safe operation of the boat, and nothing else. What happens on a boat, stays on the boat,” he quipped, alluding to a popular TV commercial. “And this is not about boat envy,” he continued. “Volunteers are strictly interested in safety, not cost or size of anyone else’s boat.”

### **Want a VSC**

**For appointments to have a VSC call P/D/C Marie Coons  
612-201-3489**

When a VSC volunteer approves a vessel's safety check, the owner receives an annual windshield decal and a copy of the checklist. The owner can submit the checklist to his/her marine insurance company, which may reduce the insurance premium. (The insurer also may reduce premiums for boaters who pass basic safe boating classes given by USPS or USCG Auxiliary) Also, boaters who post VSC decals may be less likely to be boarded by waterway authorities for routine inspections.

Although a VSC provides a boater a sense of preparedness and is supported by boating authorities, it is not a substitute for a marine survey and cannot be used in a court of law.

What's on a VSC checklist? Most requirements are mentioned in each state's boating regulation booklet published by the Department of National Resources. Requirements for boats vary by length and type, and whether they operate on federal or local waters, but here's a basic list:

### **REQUIRED TO HAVE ON BOARD**

- ↳ Display of registration numbers and annual license sticker
- ↳ Registration card or documentation papers
- ↳ PFDs (life jackets) for every person aboard (unwrapped and ready to wear)
- ↳ Visual distress signals
- ↳ Fire extinguishers
- ↳ Ventilation system
- ↳ Backfire flame control on I/O and inboard engines
- ↳ Sound-producing device whistle, horn or bell
- ↳ Navigation lights
- ↳ Pollution placard (re: oily waste)
- ↳ MARPOL trash placard (re: marine pollution -- where trash/waste can be disposed)
- ↳ Marine sanitation device (head)
- ↳ Federal navigation rules (boats 39.4 ft. and larger)
- ↳ State and/or local requirements (DNR boating regulations book. Boat must meet local requirements before VSC can be okayed.)
- ↳ Overall vessel condition as applies (deck free of hazards, clean bilge, safe electrical and fuel systems, and safe galley and heating systems. Also, for example, the horsepower cannot exceed that listed on the capacity plate, and auto parts cannot be used on marine engine.)

### **RECOMMENDED**

- ↳ Marine radio
- ↳ Dewatering device and backup (buckets)
- ↳ Mounted fire extinguishers
- ↳ Anchor and line appropriate for the water in which you boat

- ↳ First Aid Kit
- ↳ PIW (person in water) kit = throwable PFD with attached line
- ↳ Inland visual distress signals
- ↳ Capacity or certificate of compliance

**ITEMS the examiners will discuss with the owner:**

- ↳ Accident reporting and owner responsibility
- ↳ Offshore operations
- ↳ Nautical charts
- ↳ Navigational aids (buoys, etc.)
- ↳ Survival tips
- ↳ Fueling and fuel management
- ↳ Float plan
- ↳ Weather conditions
- ↳ Insurance considerations
- ↳ Boating checklist
- ↳ Safe boating classes

So, invite a VSC volunteer aboard soon, and reap the reward of peace of mind and some money back on the boat insurance premium.

Although a VSC provides a boater a sense of preparedness and is supported by boating authorities, it is not a substitute for a marine survey and cannot be used in a court of law.

## **Local Events**

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ralph Diercks Memorial Fishing Tournament***

**May 24, 2014 – 6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Please see the additional information and entry form included with the Ole Miss Marina Newsletter.

### ***Plein Air Art & Music Festival***

**June 23 – 28**

Artists paint outdoors and create pictures from an outdoor setting. Artists are located throughout the Red Wing area. During the festival, special painting and community events are scheduled, including the Rolling River Music Festival on June 28. For more information, please visit [www.redwingartsassociation.org](http://www.redwingartsassociation.org).

### ***Concerts in the Park***

**Every Wednesday June 18 – August 6**

Concert begins at 7:00 PM. Guests are welcome to bring blankets, chairs and picnic baskets to Central Park to enjoy live music from the bandstand. For more information, please visit [www.redwingartsassociation.org](http://www.redwingartsassociation.org).

### ***Red Wing Collector's Society Convention***

**July 10 – 12**

This 3 day event features: Red Wing stoneware & pottery auction, education sessions, show and sale, displays, kids program, social events, and so much more. Convention is open to the public on Saturday, featuring a display room and Show and Sale with over 150 vendors of stoneware, dinnerware, and art pottery from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. To learn more about this event check out [www.RedWingCollectors.org](http://www.RedWingCollectors.org).

### ***Falconers Vineyard Winery Event***

**April 26—Steve & Stacie Jane will be performing from 1-4PM.**

Falconer Vineyards Winery is located at 3572 Old Tyler Road Call 651-388-8849 for more information.

### ***Treasure Island Pow-Wow***

**July 11 – 13**

This event features dancers and drummers from the US and Canada. There is a wide array of Indian arts, handmade crafts, jewelry, and traditional Native American food. Come to watch, listen and feel Native American culture and history come alive. The celebration is outdoors next to Treasure Island Resort & Casino. Admission is free and open to all ages. For more information, call 800-554-5473.

### ***Harbor Bar's Music Festival***

Classic Rock Fest: June 21

Blues Fest: July 12

Reggae Fest: July 25 – 27

Parrot Party: August 2

Country Fest: August 16

Over the summer, Harbor Bar has wonderful music festivals. Come sit and relax by the banks of the mighty Mississippi River and groove to the sounds of many great entertainers from Noon to Midnight. For more information, please visit [www.harborbar.net](http://www.harborbar.net).

### ***River City Days***

**August 1 – 3**

Red Wing's annual community festival along the riverfront. Join us for the parade, famed Taste of Red Wing, and a regionally known arts and craft show. River City Days also features free music and a beer garden. For more information, please visit [www.rivercitydays.org](http://www.rivercitydays.org).

### ***Paddleboats: American Queen and Queen of the Mississippi***

The beautiful American Queen and Queen of the Mississippi is making its Upper Mississippi excursion and will be docked at Levee Park throughout the summer and fall.