



THE BILGEWATER



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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York
usps.org/localusps/utica

March, 2004

District 6

Change of Watch 2004



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DATES TO REMEMBER

SQUADRON MEETING - 5 MAY 04
BILGEWATER DEADLINE - 11 MAY 04
LAUNCH PARTY 21 MAY
KICKOFF 22 MAY



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr David W. Schulz, AP

Thank you all for another great Change of Watch. Also a heart felt thanks to all our elected Bridge officers and appointed committee heads. This Squadron could never run without you and your countless hours of dedicated service.

There are so many that keep our course true and chart our LOP's, keep track of our deviations and variations and move our Squadron through favorable and unfavorable waters to all its destinations. Our thanks to you go far beyond the scope of the Merit Marks. Thank you all so very much.

We have completed two large "Boat Smart" courses. Very successful - everyone passed with high scores. We are currently winding up the Seamanship Course. All five students are eager to start Piloting in the Fall. Anyone else want to join this "newly revised and updated" course?

As you will see - we have changed the venue for our Launch Party. Lock 20 offers a different location and is conveniently located on the Canal at Marcy, NY. The facilities there have been promoted and upgraded thanks to our own P/C Frank Gruenewald, AP. We hope you will be pleased and have fun.

D/6 Spring Conference at Canandaigua Lake was enlightening. We participated along with P/C Jo Zogby, AP and P/D/C Dagne Strothers, SN. We will be sharing all the information we received.

Mary Joyce D'Aurizio, P who we all know, was installed as our new D/6 Commander. We also said goodbye to Mike Kelly who has now become P/D/C. We have fondness for both of them because of their involvement with our Squadron. Congratulations to Lt. Fred Dyer, JN, who has achieved Life Membership status after receiving 25 Merit Marks.

See you at our next meeting 5 May.

PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR AWARD



The District 6, Prince Henry the Navigator Education Award is presented to the D/6

Squadron that has the best-weighted results for members completing Junior Navigation and Navigation.

The statue was presented to District 6 of the United States Power Squadrons in 1966 by the Portuguese Government. The award was first won (in 1966) by the Hamburg Power Squadron who had the original base constructed. The present base was rebuilt in 2004 by District 6 in order to make room for more Squadron names. Prince Henry was involved in a flood in the 1960s, perhaps caused by Hurricane Hugo. Prince Henry survived but his base was water damaged. His custom fitted orange PFD was added to insure his safe passage in future rough storms and seas.

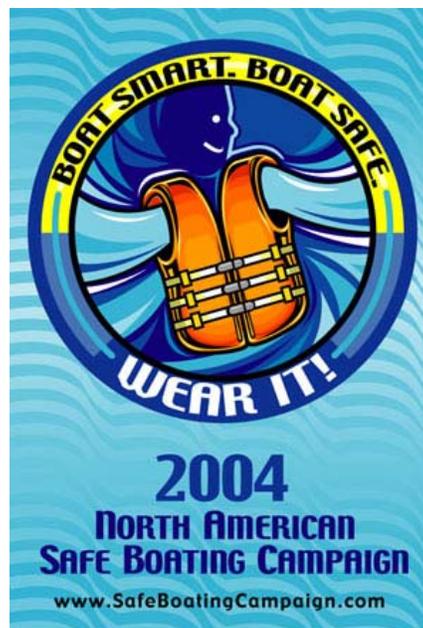
The only ones that contributed to the actual scores were Lt/C Gerald Fry, JN, 1 Lt Victoria Fry, JN and P/C Richard Gassner, AP. The scores considered are the closed book portion of the JN and N exams and does not consider Site Folders and Take Home sections.
Dave

LAUNCH PARTY

This is the second announcement for the Utica Power Squadron's "Launch" party on May 21st at 1730. Remember, the location has been changed this year to lock 21 in Marcy instead of Holmes Marina.

Marcy has the advantage of being closer to Utica/Rome, a larger pavilion, and a lot more parking for all the people that will want to attend.

As usual the hamburgers, hot-dogs, and refreshments will be provided at a cost of \$3.00/person or \$5.00/ couple. Don't forget to **bring a dish to pass**.



**THE COAST GUARD HAS ISSUED THE
FOLLOWING WARNING MESSAGE
TO ALL BOATERS**

WARNING

Do not approach within 100 yards of any U.S. naval vessel. If you need to pass within 100 yards of a U.S. naval vessel in order to ensure a safe passage in accordance with the Navigation Rules, you must contact the U.S. naval vessel or the Coast Guard escort vessel on VHF-FM channel 16.



You must operate at minimum speed within 500 yards of any U.S. naval vessel and proceed as directed by the Commanding Officer or the official patrol.



CAUGHT ON THE NET

Something special for the kids has been started on the national web site of the United States Power Squadrons. It is USPS 4 Kids.

Check out the link below and see what you think of it. There seems to be many activities for kids that are both fun and entertaining.

<http://www.usps4kids.org/index.tml>

For the adults you might also want to go to

<http://www.nasbla.org/>

which is the National Association Of Boating Law Administrators web site. This will allow you to find all of the state specific laws

MORE USEFUL MILITARY WARNINGS

"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo." -Infantry Journal

"Tracers work both ways." -U.S. Army Ordnance

Five-second fuses only last three seconds." -Infantry Journal

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid." -Col. David Hackworth

"If your attack is going too well, you're probably walking into an ambush." -Infantry Journal

"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection." -Joe Gay

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do." -Unknown Army Recruit

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you." -Your Buddies

"If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him."

--U.S.A. Ammo Troop

The Vessel Safety Check (VSC)

Your help is needed.

The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program represents a unique alliance between the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons®. By providing free Vessel Safety Checks for recreational boats, Auxiliary and Power Squadron members identify potential safety problems... prevent boating accidents... allow the Coast Guard and state marine law enforcement personnel more opportunity for the protection of our nation's waterways... and save lives.

There are approximately 13 million registered recreational boats in the United States, and less than 1% are checked each year. Most boaters are eager to have their vessels checked, but there are far too few Vessel Examiners to meet the potential demand. That's where you come in.

You have the knowledge and experience. Once you're trained and complete your initial requirements, all you need to do is perform a minimum of five Vessel Safety Checks per year to maintain your currency and make a real difference in boating safety.

The Top Ten Reasons Why You Should Become A Vessel Examiner: How To Become a Qualified Vessel Examiner

1. Pass the Boating Skills and Seamanship Course or equivalent.
2. Become familiar with the contents of the Vessel Safety Check Manual.
3. Take and pass the current Vessel Examiner qualification examination covering the material in the Vessel Examiner Qualification Course and the Vessel Examiner Manual.
4. Satisfactorily conduct five Vessel Safety Checks under the observation of a qualified Vessel Examiner. To maintain this qualification, Vessel Examiners must do a minimum of five Vessel Safety Checks each year and attend a Vessel Examiner workshop
5. Maintaining your currency as a Vessel Examiner requires you to complete a minimum of only five (5) Vessel Safety Checks per year — probably less than three (3) hours of volunteer service. Power Squadron or Auxiliary members wishing to become a Vessel Examiner must:
6. The Vessel Safety Check program is one of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's and United States Power Squadrons' best ways to educate boaters and involve new members.
7. You have spent a lot of time becoming very knowledgeable about boating and boating safety — you might as well put that expertise to good use.
8. VSCs help keep potentially unsafe boats off the water, and allow the Coast Guard and states to devote more resources to the protection of our nation's waterways.
9. More Vessel Examiners equals more Vessel Safety Checks equals safer boating.
10. Less than 1% of the 13 million registered recreational boats receives a VSC each year.

Contact P/C Dean Woodard to help



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A, Woodard, P

Welcome! We are pleased to announce the following new members to the Utica Squadron. Dennis M. Mahoney, Sue Wanamkes, Howard Wyatt, Jean Wyatt and Marc Alan Feiner.

When you see these folks at any of our activities or classes, extend your personal welcome.



Reprinted by request

Federal Rule Change

RULE 33(a) is amended to read as follows:

(a) A vessel of 12 meters or more in length shall be provided with a whistle, a vessel of 20 meters or more in length shall be provided with a bell in addition to a whistle, and a vessel of 100 meters or more in length shall, in addition, be provided with a gong, the tone and sound of which cannot be confused with that of the bell. The whistle, bell, and gong shall comply with the specifications in Annex III to these Regulations. The bell or gong or both may be replaced by other equipment having the same respective sound characteristics, provided that manual sounding of the required signals shall always be possible.

Please note that the bell is no longer required on a vessel 12 meters or more but less than 20 meters in length.

RULE 35(i) is added as follows, and the old Rule 35(i) and (j) are renumbered as 35(j) and (k), respectively: (i) A vessel of 12 meters or more but less than 20 meters in length shall not be obliged to give the bell signals prescribed in paragraphs (g) and (h) of this Rule. However, if she does not, she shall make some other efficient sound signal at intervals of not more than 2 minutes. See <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/mwv/navrules/navrules2003.htm>

for all of the changes.



A NEW PLACE

After many years at Holme's Marina, the Launch Party has moved to Lock 20 Park in Marcy. Why did we move? Two reasons. First the following Saturday is the Kickoff event for National Safe Boating Week that will be held at the Lock 20 Park. This event has grown each of the past few years with more participants each year. We look forward to nice weather and large crowds this year of both Squadron members and the general public. The Launch Party at Lock 20 Park on Friday evening will help getting ready for the Saturday kickoff. Only one place to set up for both events.

The second reason to move to Lock 20 is the facility itself. If you have not been to the Lock 20 Park it is time you took a look. P/C Frank Gruenewald, AP has spent years in the development of this park and the events that take place there all summer. Frank and his crew have done a splendid job in the development of the pavilion and other amenities at the park. We look forward to having our events in Marcy this year. Please make plans today to attend both events and bring everyone to the Boat Smart class and demonstrations on Saturday.



A man comes home from work and is greeted by his wife dressed in a teddy. "Tie me up," she purrs, "and you can do anything you want." So he ties her up and goes out for a round of golf.

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BoatU.S.

Because of the special arrangement made with BoatU.S. our members are able to pay only one-half of the regular dues of \$19.00 - only \$9.50 per year for our members.

GA81671P

is our membership number.

Contact Cdr Schulz with any questions.

**KICKOFF NATIONAL SAFE
BOATING WEEK**

22 MAY 2004

1200

LOCK 20 PARK MARCY

LAUNCH PARTY

21 MAY 2004

LOCK 20 PARK MARCY