



THE

BILGEWATER



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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York
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April 2005

District 6

CHANGE OF WATCH 2005



Congratulations and welcome to our new Bridge. From the left to right above DC Mary Joyce D'Aurizio, P, Cdr Gerald Fry, JN, SEO Victoria Fry, JN, Treasurer Thomas Sears, AP, Secretary Linda La-Duc, S, and Executive Officer. George Peckingham. P. Inserted is our Administrative Officer, Howard Wyatt.

We look forward to this new watch. Stay tuned, there will be much more.

NAUTICAL SUNDAY IN OSWEGO PLANNED

Sunday, 1 May 2005 is the date planned for a Utica Power Squadron trip to Oswego Harbor. At the harbor we will visit the Oswego Coast Guard Station and see the two rescue boats available to assist boaters in that part of Lake Ontario. One boat is the 47-foot long self-righting model that is deployed in most big water areas in the United States. Also on the agenda is the H. Lee White Maritime Museum close by the Coast Guard Station. Besides over 400 years of maritime history we will see the World War II tugboat "Nash" that took part in the Normandy invasion. What a great opportunity to bring that grandchild or your kids to enjoy the boats and gain some appreciation of our maritime heritage.

Transportation to Oswego will be by Birnie Coach bus.

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BUS TRIP TO OSWEGO COAST GUARD 1 MAY 2005 CALL THE COMMANDER ASAP

UTICA POWER SQUADRON OFFICERS



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

Commander.....Gerald R. Fry, JN
824-0978
Executive Officer.....George Peckingham. P
831-2170
SEO..... Victoria A. Fry, JN
824-0978
Administrative Officer..... Howard Wyatt
429-3900
Secretary..... Linda LaDuc, S
839-5522
Treasurer..... Thomas A. Sears, AP
337-6953
Assistant SEO..... Ellen Webster, SN
336-3444
Membership..... Fred S. Dyer, JN
336-5396
BILGEWATER EditorDean A. Woodard, P
336-1026
woodardd@twcny.rr.com
Circulation.....Vivian Selover
Public Relations OfficerJacqueline Smith
339-3691
Web Master Rick Gassner, AP
723-2582

NOTE: Utica Power Squadron Web Page
usps.org/localusps/utica
e-mail the Commander at:
david.schulz@verizon.net

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SEAMANSHIP CLASS STARTS 28 APRIL 2005
Bus to Oswego Coast Guard 1 May 05
Squadron Meeting 4 May 2005
Launch Party 20 May 2005
National Safe Boating Week Kick Off,
Boat Smart Class and Vessel Safety Checks
All on 21 May 2005

“Member benefits from the Power Squadron are directly proportional to member participation in the Squadron”.
This is my motto for this Watch.

My goals are:

Goal 1. To Increase Member Involvement --

Member involvement, especially with new members is the key to squadron health and vitality. A new member is like a new girlfriend. A suitor needs to pay attention to the details of wooing or lose her attention. We can not afford to lose members because we don't pay attention to details.

Goal 2. To Optimize and Support Member Communication

I urge each of our Bridge Officers to consider their possible contributions to our publications in the future. Everyone needs to know what is happening in the areas of squadron activity assigned to each Bridge Officer.

We are all talented people who should be helping to suggest ideas in article or “Letter to the Editor” form for meeting our Power Squadron mission.

Goal 3. To Structure Member Education

We need to develop a schedule of our Advanced Grade and elective courses stretching over several years. We must then communicate the opportunities to our members and deliver as promised.

I am also sure that some of our members just need the right opportunity and motivation to get started. Others need the right opportunity to continue, especially at the level of Advanced Piloting and above. Our new schedule of member courses will be posted on our Web page.

(continued on page 3)

Commander from page 2

We also know that the quality of education depends on both student motivation and instructors' skills. We are so fortunate to have our current group of dedicated and talented instructors. However we must develop new instructors just as we must develop new Bridge Officers.

Goal 4. Provide interesting and fun Squadron Activities

We don't intend to compete with Cirque du Soleil, a modern success story. They put on a great show and people flock to the doors. But their success can be our inspiration.

We are currently planning a visit on 1 May to the Oswego Coast Guard Station. We will tour the station and the 47' rescue boat. This will also give us a chance to tour the fort on the Oswego River and have a fun lunch together.

Our traditional Launch Party will be at Lock 20 on 20 May. P/C Dean Woodard, P, is continuing his Boating Safety Week program at Lock 20 on 21 May to do Vessel Safety Checks and teach a Boat Smart course. Some members may want to trailer their boats to Lock 20 for a free Vessel Safety Check.

SEO Lt/C Vicky Fry, JN, and I are inviting all of you to our cottage on the St. Lawrence River for a squadron Bar-B-Q at 1200 on Tuesday 26 July. We can then go to capture the fun at the D/6 Pirates Party at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay that same evening.

We look forward to the November D/6 Conference to be held at the Hotel Utica. Again P/C Dave Schulz, AP, has volunteered to chair the squadron committee to prepare the way for the Fall Conference. Notice I said committee. Dave will need and deserves a lot of help in this endeavor.

We need ideas and support from all members for the benefit of all. Please remember my motto for this watch. **“Member benefits are directly proportional to member involvement”**.

Thanks to all of you for your support of our past Bridge. We hope and trust that you will continue to encourage and support our new Bridge.

For the full text of Cdr Fry's message go to our web page at:

www.usps.org/localusps/utica.

Oswego from page 1



Shown above is the Coast Guard Vessel we will see as it appeared in the September 2000 issue of the Bilgewater. This photo was made at Skinner's Harbour by Bill Mueller as the boat was being transported to Oswego

Costs are \$10.00 per person for the bus rides; \$3.50 per person for the museum; and whatever you spend on lunch. The bus will leave the Sear's Oil Company parking lot on Black River Boulevard in Rome at 0900. People in the Camden area can board at the Camden High School loop at 0930. We will arrive in Oswego about 1030 where we will have about two and a half-hours to visit the Coast Guard Station and Museum. The bus will take us to that well known fish fry restaurant west of Oswego for lunch at 1300 and we will leave for Rome at 1430. This should get us back in Rome by 1600.

Thirty people have made reservations with Cdr. Gerry Fry for this trip. The bus will fill up fast so phone Cdr. Fry at 315 824-0978 very soon. Since Cdr. Fry must provide the Coast Guard with a list of visitors' names, please be prepared to provide the names of your party **before 14 April**.

From The SEO

Lt/C Victoria Fry, JN



SUCCESSFUL BOAT SMART CLASS FINISHES 7 APRIL 2005

Forty seven students enjoyed the excellent teaching and camaraderie of P/C Ellen Webster, SN and P/C Dean Woodard, P in this Spring's first of two Boat Smart classes. AO Howard Wyatt assisted Ellen and Dean in several classes.

Most students during the 7 April final exam earned high scores. In addition to knowing that 47 safe boaters will join us on the water, seven class members are joining the Utica Power Squadron. This is the largest class of new members in several years. Thanks for the great job completed by Ellen, Dean and Howard.

Dean and Ellen also shared member-recruiting duties while Randy Webster, AP, SEO Vicky Fry, JN and Secretary Linda La-Duc, P graded tests. Prior to this step in the process P/C Dave Schulz, AP, prepared the boating safety certificates for the graduates. Cdr. Gerry Fry, JN gave a power point recruiting presentation assisted by P/C Rick Gassner, AP, who also procured refreshments and built a display of member course materials. And to wrap up a great team effort Chairman LLB Richard Smith, P will gather all the paperwork and report course results to USPS national office.

One member was heard to comment that the whole graduation process was very smooth with a great atmosphere of fun and group spirit. Wonderful job team!

SEAMANSHIP COURSE TO START 28 APRIL 2005

Several Utica Power Squadron members will participate in the Seamanship course starting 28 April. This course will be held at the Whitesboro High School from 1830 to 2030 on eight Thursday nights. Cdr. Gerry Fry, JN will lead the learning process and will be assisted by member guests with special expertise. Please phone Cdr. Fry at 315 824-0978 to register and secure your book order.

Seamanship is the first course in the advanced grade group of member only courses. It is divided into two parts with an examination at the end of each part. Seamanship 101 includes many of the same topics covered in the boating safety course but in much more depth. For example, the marlin-spike chapter includes basic knots, bends and hitches but also discusses type of line to use for various applications, care of line, using block and tackle, and line splicing. Skipper's responsibilities and rules of the road are stressed. Trip planning and preparation are followed by weather considerations.

Seamanship 102 examines hull design, loading considerations, boat maintenance and storage. Docking, undocking, towing and trailering are included in a big chapter. Anchoring techniques, rafting, mooring and dinghies are followed by cruising consideration to avoid boating emergencies. And finally, should Murphy's Law happen to you, the course will lead you into a discussion of handling boating emergencies. This is an excellent course that was recently revised and updated.

If you would like a class or have any questions, please give me a call.

Vicky

LAUNCH PARTY AND VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS PLANNED

Utica Power Squadron's annual launch party is planned for 1730 on 20 May at Lock 20, Marcy, NY. The cost is \$5.00 per family and a dish to pass. The Squadron will provide the meat and liquid refreshments. Bring your own table service.

Members are encouraged to bring their trailerable boats to the party for a free Vessel Safety Check. P/C Dean Woodard, P will explain the advantages to you of having a Vessel Safety Check done before launching your boat this year. This short program will follow the enjoyable meal and then some Vessel Safety checks will be done. Members who are interested in their own boating preparation and willing to assist others in this safety endeavor may consider becoming a Vessel Safety Examiner. Dean is a dedicated boating safety advocate who is interested in talking to all Utica Power Squadron members.

BOAT SMART COURSE AND VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS AVAILABLE

On Saturday 21 May, we will have our kickoff to National Safe Boating Week. Vessel Safety Examiners will be available at 1000 at Lock 20 to examine any boats that people bring in. At Noon we will start our Boat Smart Course outdoors for all who want to take part. This is the event where we have real fire to put out, flares to shoot, boats to look at and radios to talk on. Everyone is invited to take part in this annual event. You need not take the class in order to participate. This course and demonstrations will continue until 1600. Completion of the course will occur on the following Tuesday and Thursday evenings 1830 to 2030 at Whitesboro High School. If you know anyone interested in these important safety opportunities, please encourage them to phone Cdr. Gerry Fry at 315 824-0978. Or just show up at lock 20 at noon.



**21 MAY 2005 LOCK 20 AT NOON
NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**



CHECKING THE BILGE

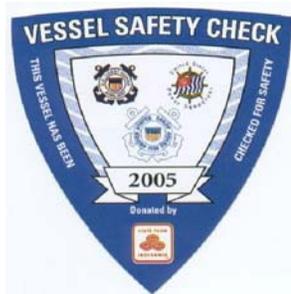
by P/C Dean A. Woodard P

The Vessel Safety Check program is organized and operated by The United States Coast Guard as a major effort to promote boating safety. Your Power Squadron has joined with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and boating law agencies to provide these checks of recreational vessels.

Each year we offer our members the opportunity to qualify to conduct these checks. The process requires the passing of an open book examination and conducting 5 safety checks under the supervision of a qualified examiner.

The Commander has asked that the study manuals be made available to any members who may want to become qualified. We will be available with all required materials and explanations at the Launch Party on 20 May Lock 20. The next day we will even have some boats to check at the National Safe Boating Week kick off. We could really use your help in this valuable and interesting program.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.



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.

The Old Farmer's Advice!

- ~*~Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
- ~*~Life ain't about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.
- ~*~Keep skunks and bankers and lawyers at a distance.
- ~*~Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- ~*~A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
- ~*~Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.
- ~*~Meanness don't just happen overnight.
- ~*~Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- ~*~Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
- ~*~It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- ~*~You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- ~*~Every path has a few puddles.
- ~*~When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- ~*~The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- ~*~Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- ~*~Don't judge folks by their relatives.
- ~*~Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- ~*~Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- ~*~Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.
- ~*~Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- ~*~The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm, 'cause the colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.

Thanks P/C Dave Schulz, AP. Now that you have reached the highest position in the Squadron, Past Commander, you have time for "stuff" like this.

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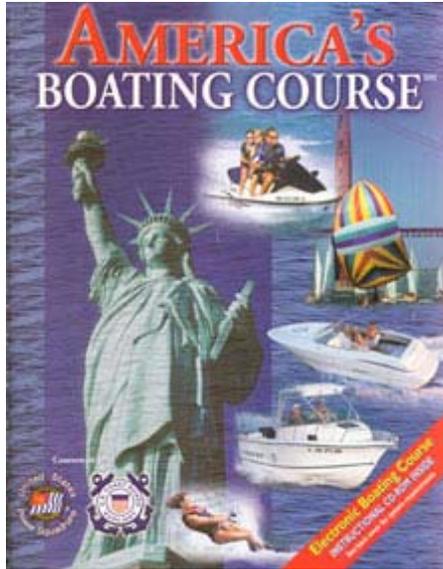
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NEED A BOATING COURSE?

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE THAT WANTS A BOATING CLASS THAT MEETS ALL NY STATE REQUIREMENTS - AND THEY WANT IT NOW?

IF SO, YOU MAY WANT TO SUGGEST THAT THEY CALL ELLEN WEBSTER AT 336-3444 AND BUY A COPY OF AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE.

America's Boating Course is a self study course that has a textbook and a CD for your computer. We will also supply NY State specific information and study questions. When you have finished the course, we will provide a proctored exam and a certificate that states that you meet all NY State requirements for boating and PWC.

The cost is \$35 which covers one exam. Additional exams will be \$5.00 each. Questions? Give Ellen a call.

The BILGEWATER
Dean A. Woodard
8268 Winchester Dr.
Rome, NY 13440