



THE BILGEWATER

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC
Sail and Power Boating - America's Boating Club®
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York
usps.org/localusps/utica

April 2006

District 6

ANNUAL MEETING AND CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER

Fine company, barber shop singing, and great food anchored this 19 March 2006 meeting in much enjoyment. Many parts of this event were both interesting and positive steps for



your squadron.

An important matter of business was the vote on our squadron name. We are now the Utica Sail and Power Squadron. The presence of so many sailing enthusiasts in our midst warrants this inclusion in a formal manner. Congratulations to all of us!

Your new 2006 – 07 Squadron Bridge was elected and installed. District Commander Jerry Zambroski, P did the honors of swearing in Commander Gerry Fry, JN, Executive Officer Lt./C George Peckingham, P, Education Officer

Lt/C Vicky Fry, JN, Administrative Officer Lt/C Linda LaDuc, P, Secretary Lt/C Colleen Welch, P, and Treasurer Lt/C Tom Sears, AP. During the reading of the annual audit report, Tom Sears was commended for the extra work that he performed so well in keeping the books for the D/6 Fall Conference held last November in Utica.

Entertainment by the “Winfield Four” was most delightful. Part of their performance consisted of love songs for the ladies. These gentlemen were a most enjoyable addition to the meeting thanks to Chuck Harter and Lt/C Colleen Welch.

D/C Zambroski brought greetings from the D/6 Bridge. Cdr. Fry outlined his goals for the new year. Cdr. Fry also thanked all of the members who attended and all who helped make this event so successful.

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UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

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DATES TO REMEMBER IN 06

SQUADRON MEETING 3 MAY
LAUNCH PARTY 19 MAY

BOAT SMART & VESSEL SAFETY CHECK
20 MAY

Greetings to our friends of USPS! No, I'm not your friendly mailman. USPS in this case stands for Utica Sail and Power Squadron and United States Power Squadrons.

However, your friendly mailman will be bringing you a greeting from our national headquarters later this month. It is time for HQ to mail our annual dues statements with payment due by 1 June. You will notice an increase in dues of \$1.80 for active members and \$.90 for additional actives. District 6 and local squadron dues have remained the same for many years. Not really a large increase in national dues, but it may cause some members to wonder about the value of their membership.

What does Utica Sail and Power Squadron mean to me? It means many new friends and helpers in my quest for nautical fun and knowledge. It means several opportunities a year to socialize with these friends. It means many opportunities to learn a great deal of detailed knowledge about boating through the member courses. It means that I can enjoy looking at all kinds of boats by helping in the Vessel Safety Check program. It also means that I can practice my GPS skills and get to know several marina operators with the Cooperative Charting Program. And cheaper boat insurance combined with the ability to display competence when chartering can lead to dollar savings. Free Maptech software and free charts are also nice benefits.

But USPS benefits are not just about me. Being an active member provides opportunities for helping others. It gives us many opportunities to "pay back" for the other benefits that we have enjoyed. Teaching public boating courses or assisting in these courses makes our waterways safer and gives us the satisfaction of knowing that we are helping others to be safe on the water. Our efforts and the efforts of national USPS are saving lives. *see page 3*

LAUNCH PARTY

The annual Launch Party is planned for 19 May 2006. This Friday evening event kicks off the boating season and National Safe Boating Week for all boaters.

Friends in the Utica Sail and Power Squadron have gathered in May for many years to celebrate the launching of our boats. We will enjoy a picnic style meal in the pavilion at Lock 20 on the Erie Canal in Marcy. Starting at 1730 or thereabouts the families will gather to share their dish to pass. The Committee will provide meats and drinks in addition to table service and condiments. The cost per family is \$5.00 payable at the door.

P/C Frank Grunewald, AP who is a 50 year member of our squadron has reserved the park for us, and best of all, he is arranging musical entertainment for our enjoyment. Modern technology gives Frank the means to send his greetings and make all of these arrangements from his home in sunny Florida. Enjoy Frank, Enjoy! Thanks to work and money donated by Frank and several others we have this beautiful park on the canal to enjoy. We will enjoy the family atmosphere, fine food, and greeting of new members. Several members will also receive recognition and awards at the party.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS AND BOAT SMART CLASS.

On Saturday, 20 May at Lock 20, Vessel Examiners will be on hand from 1000 to 1200 to do Vessel Safety Checks on trailerable boats. Appointments can be made to inspect boats in the water. Interested members can also be trained at this time to become Vessel Safety Examiners. Can you think of a better way to insure that your boat is safe and legal for your summer enjoyment?

A public boating safety class called "Boat Smart" will be offered starting at noon. The class is great fun with demonstrations of signal flare usage and fighting petroleum fires. This course meets New York State requirements for personal watercraft operation and qualifies the passing student for USPS membership. Please tell your boating friends and family members about this safe boating opportunity.

Boat Smart will run from 1200 to 1600 on Saturday 20 May at Lock 20. It will finish in Whitesboro High School on Tuesday 23 May and Thursday 25 May 1900 to 2100. The final exam and recruiting party will be on Thursday evening. All members and the public are welcome and encouraged to enjoy all of these events.

Commander from page 2

USPS is a great organization at all levels (local, district, and national). It is well worth our support even if we can no longer enjoy the water. If we are ill or no longer have a boat, we can still support a great organization by being a member. Satisfaction in supporting a worthwhile organization is still to our benefit.

My comments are obviously intended to convince you that being a continuing USPS member is beneficial to you and society in many ways. My goal is that 100% of our members stay members as long as they are able. Please give your attention to the USPS dues statement when it arrives, pay it promptly, and continue your support of the efforts of your friends in safe boating.

D/6 SPRING CONFERENCE 2006

Members and officers from eighteen squadrons in central and western New York convened at the Holiday Inn on Grand Island 31 March thru 2 April, 2006. This assemblage of District 6 members of the United States Power Squadrons partied and worked in almost equal proportions. A new 2006 – 2007 D/6 Bridge was elected and many squadrons and individuals received awards.

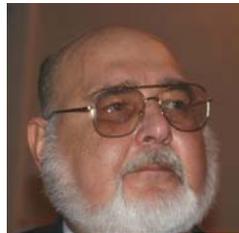
A sad note that requires a moment of reflection was the passing of Watertown Power Squadron Commander Ross Hudson who served in that position for nine years. Only a few people have put in the dedication and effort for the Power Squadron and made as many friends as Ross Hudson.

Five members of the Utica Sail and Power Squadron participated in the election of the D/6 Bridge Officers. Our own P/C Dave Schulz, AP became District Lt. Commander Dave and assumed the duties of District Administrative Officer. Keep up the hard work and dedicated service Dave! Also elected were District Commander William Warren of Southern Tier Squadron, Scott Wallace of Niagara as District XO, Jack Fletcher of Lockport as District Educational Officer, John Young of Susquenango as D/6 Secretary, and James Guest of Buffalo as District Treasurer. Commander Fry has District 6 directories with addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses of all district and squadron bridge officers, and committee chairs to be yours for the asking.

Utica Sail and Power Squadron received the Educational Fund Certificate of Merit Award for 100% membership participation in the Educational Fund contribution program. P/C Harry Winberg SN received his "Life Membership" plaque, and Lt/C Colleen Welch, P received a "Power of One" pin for recruiting Sue and Gary Williams as new members. New District Commander William Warren, P presented his motto for the new year as "Family + Friends = The Future". Bill suggested that we can all recruit new members from our family and friends to keep our sail and power squadrons strong.



OUR DISTRICT AND SQUADRON COMMANDERS WITH SOME OF THE CREW





CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

As we get ready to go to press, or in reality the machine at Sear's Oil, we got word from P/C Frank Gruenewald, AP, that he had arranged live music for the Launch Party on 19 May 2006 at Lock 20 Park. The world renowned group "Easy Listening" with Alexis and Bud will perform right here on our stage from 1700 to about 1830. What a treat!

As a matter of fact it will be a treat. Plan to stay a little longer than normal and enjoy the program. The music is open to the public—that's fine too. Gives a chance to meet a few new people.

☺ ☺ ☺



Orange is a nice color for the 2006 Vessel Safety Check decal. If you want one on your boat this summer, and we hope that

you do, Contact any of our vessel examiners and they would be most happy to fix you up. If you would like to join our ranks or need a safety check, contact P/C Woodard an 336-1026 or any examiner.

☺ ☺ ☺

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

☺ ☺ ☺



We are very pleased to show the USPS Journalism award for 2005. In particular we would thank Cdr Gerry Fry, JN who in fact has done much of the writing, Vivian Selover for putting the mailings together, non member, but good friend, Ben Landset for proofreading and everyone else who has contributed their work or their photo. Many thanks, you got another award.

☺ ☺ ☺

- Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?
Answer: Obsession
- In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase..... "goodnight, sleep tight."
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

☺ ☺ ☺

May 20 is our kickoff for National Safe Boating Week and we could use your help in at least two ways.

1. Can you think of any way to spread the word about our program at Lock 20? How about posting a notice where you work or at church. Let us know if you would like a poster.
2. Join us on the 20th at the park. You can help or just participate. We would love to have you with us.

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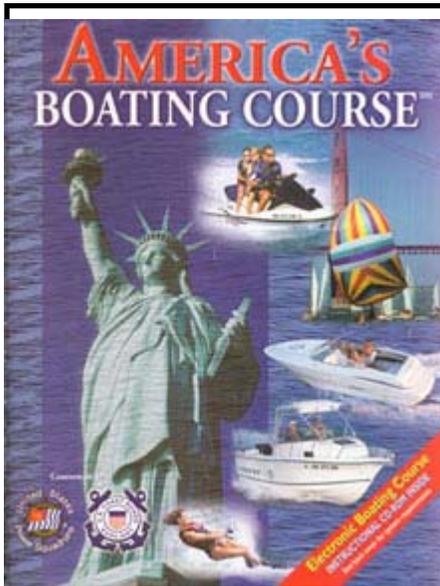
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