



THE BILGEWATER

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Utica, New York
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April 2007

District 6

67TH. CHANGE OF WATCH DINNER



Grand fellowship and many delicious food dishes were enjoyed by all at the Change of Watch Dinner and annual meeting held on 18 March 2007. Dibbles Inn in Vernon was the site of this very rewarding event. Thirty-two members and guests of the Utica Sail and Power Squadron took part in the festivities.

Special guests were District 6 Commander William Warren, P and Mrs. Isabel Warren (aka: Commander Isabel Warren, P of the Southern Tier Power Squadron). Commander Bill swore in your new Bridge and gave a brief message from D/6. Our gift to him was a fine meal and a marine figure beer mug from the Utica Club store. Isabel enjoyed her gift of a candle centerpiece prepared by past command-

dorable Vicky Fry, JN.

Your new bridge includes Commander George V. Peckingham, AP who expressed his pleasure at becoming commander and thanked several members for their support. He included D/Lt/C David Schulz, AP who prepared the agenda for the meeting and ceremony. He also thanked Past Commander Gerry Fry, JN for making meeting arrangements and Vicky Fry, JN for the centerpieces. We must thank George for preparing the name place cards and securing the gifts and past commander flag for Gerry. George also presented Gerry with a lovely hand made weather station that he fashioned in a beautiful piece of walnut. This is a gift that is and will be highly cherished for the fine craftsmanship and extra effort.

Other bridge members who were sworn in are Executive Officer Linda LaDuc, P, Administrative Officer Colleen Welch, P, Secretary George Silverman, S, Treasurer Thomas Sears, AP, and Education Officer Gerry Fry, JN. Other members of the Executive Committee sworn in were P/C Dave Schulz, AP, P/C Dean Woodard, P, and P/C Rick Gassner, AP.

An enthusiastic atmosphere was evident throughout this elegant event. This was, no doubt, attributable to the gracious surroundings, the fine meal, good friends, and anticipation of future events planned and prepared by your squadron officers. We thank our past bridge and look forward to the future in building fellowship, educating members, and educating the public in safe boating.

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DATES TO REMEMBER IN '06
SQUADRON MEETING 2 MAY
LAUNCH PARTY AND AUCTION 18 MAY
3 JUNE LOCK 20 BOAT SMART
NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK EVENTS

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr George Peckingham, AP



Welcome to the new Bridge and thank you to the old. The Change of Watch at Dibbles Inn in Vernon was a success in that the food and service were very good and the ceremony went off without a hitch thanks to Dave Schulz's agenda. District Cdr. William Warren, P accompanied by his lovely wife Cdr. Isabel Warren, P officiated.

If you look to your left you will see the new Bridge and you should note that most of the names are the same with some title changes. Linda LaDuc moves up to Executive Officer, Colleen Welch up to Administrative Officer and Gerry Fry to SEO and Past Commander. We added one new name, George Silverman, to the list as Secretary and subtracted one, Victoria Fry as SEO. Having gotten rave reviews by the audit committee, Thomas Sears, AP retains his job as Treasurer and remains as our longest serving Officer. Ellen Webster, Assistant SEO, Fred Dyer, Membership, Vivian Selover, Bilgewater Circulation and Rick Gassner, Webmaster, continue to serve quietly and effectively although Ellen sometimes, not so quietly. Dean Woodard remains Editor, Chief Photographer and Publisher of the Bilgewater as well as teaching the courses that bring in new members. Brian Walrath, also new, has volunteered to take on the PRO position. Thanks to the group mentioned above and unmentioned committee chairs for accepting these responsibilities.

The nominating committee is accepting applications for next year's bridge. Due to anticipated high demand for these positions it is suggested that you avoid disappointment and apply now for our first-rate training program.

The USPS has made a couple of changes in direction in an effort to increase

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membership. The first is a three year trial of not requiring passing a boating course and/or test as a condition of acceptance into a squadron. Utica squadron has agreed to accept this change. If you have any friends or acquaintances who felt their experience should have qualified them and/or were reluctant to take the tests, now is the time to get them to join. If you contact any member of the bridge, we will get the necessary forms to you or them.

Second, the National USPS dues structure is being revised to reduce the cost of family membership by having one family membership fee for two or more. After the District Meeting in April we expect to know how the district dues will be applied and we should be able to inform you on the total picture.

The third issue is one of opening the educational opportunities to non-members through a series of two hour seminar sessions on topics such as **Chart Reading, GPS and Weather**. These are meant to both educate the boating public and to act as a “teaser” for membership. Gerry and I gave the GPS seminar to the current piloting class to get a reaction on the effectiveness of the method. The class’s reaction was favorable as to content and, of course, to Gerry’s presentation. We intend to publish a list of the available Seminars in future issues of the BILGEWATER and to solicit interest in taking the seminars from members and non-members.

As you read this I’ll be in Myrtle Beach playing golf, taking my sights for JN and watching the Weather Channel to see how bad the weather is in Oneida County.



LAUNCH PARTY / FOUNDER’S DAY MAY 18TH 2007

by Lt/C Colleen A. Welch, P

Two Parties For the Price of One!!

Come join the fun and camaraderie at Lock 20 in Marcy on May 18th. The annual **Launch Party** will be combined with Founder’s Day and the festivities will begin at 5:30 PM on Friday evening. As you will remember, the Founder’s Day party and auction were cancelled in February due to the nasty weather conditions. So, to make sure we all have the opportunity to bid on all of those great donated items, we will celebrate Founder’s Day and have the Launch Party at Lock 20 at the same time!

The annual **Launch Party** kicks off the boating season and takes place just before National Safe Boating Week. It is a picnic affair with barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers and will be held at the pavilion. Everyone should bring a dish to pass and \$5.00 per family to cover the beverages. The squadron provides the meats, drinks and tableware. And to keep in the spirit of the day, anyone arriving by BOAT will be FREE!! Vessel Safety Checks will be available for those bringing or arriving in boats.

And as an added bonus, the **Founder’s Day auction** will be part of the activities on the same evening. Everyone, dig around the house for those nautical items, tools, books, prints and other “treasures” you care to donate. The more interesting the item, the livelier the auction!

So mark your calendar for May 18th and cross your fingers for great weather!

And one more thing! We need your old, out of date pyrotechnic devices to display at our **boating class** to start on **June 2, 2007** at Lock 20. Anyone bringing old flairs will also have a discounted dinner price.

Hope to see you there...

P/C RUSS CORN FROM UTICA OD 3/11/07

Russ Corn finally penned in the date to meet with his late wife, Jane. Rumor has it they are going to meet at a nice spot and listen to some cool jazz. He'll probably have a few beers and maybe even have a cigar.

O. Russell Corn, 87, of Utica, passed away Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Utica. He was born in Amsterdam, NY on April 21, 1919, the son of Otto and Emmaline (McMahon) Corn. He was raised and educated locally, graduating from Utica Free Academy.

Just before World War II he joined the National Guard, but during the war transferred to the Army Air Corps and saw combat in the Pacific Theater. On August 27, 1942, Russ married Jane Sanderl in a loving union that lasted over 63 years. Mrs. Corn passed away in 2005. After the war, Russ went to work for the New York Telephone Company, ultimately rising to switchboard technician, a position he maintained until his retirement in 1982.

Russ was an iconic character in many ways, a truly unique individual. He was a mass of contradictions. He was very liberal on most issues and could care less for most standard notions of proper dress or social convention, yet was a dedicated father and husband in the most traditional sense.

He dearly loved his wife and kids, yet thought nothing wrong with having pinups in his den. He sometimes seemed the youngest of his wife's seven kids. Armed with his best, cigar, and at the wheel of his convertible with the top always down (even in the winter), at the tiller of his boat or just listening to some jazz in his den. Russ really knew how to have a good time. For him work was only a means to an end, not the end itself, but he also really loved his job, too. He wanted his kids to succeed and be accepted but really only encouraged them to fulfill inner goals. Money and status didn't impress him, yet he was frugal nonetheless. He was a really ardent democrat and had little use for anyone not similarly enlightened. He championed minorities and the little guy and was unabashed in his opinions. Laidback he wasn't, but he wanted you to think he was. He was either loved or hated. You always knew where he stood. Strong-willed, stubborn and smart.

Russ belonged to several organizations including: a lifetime member of the Communication Workers of America, a founder and lifetime member of the Mohawk Valley Sports Car Club, and the Mohawk Valley Jazz Society, a longtime member of the Oneida Lake Sailing Club, and a member of the VFW of New York Mills. As a younger man he enjoyed hunting and fishing, and in later life this gave way to bird watching. Although he combined hobbies when it came to the pigeons and squirrels at his bird feeders. Neighbors often remarked about seeing Russ in his BVD's, armed with his pellet gun, looking for big game in the backyard on any given morning. He also was a great supporter of the local economy, especially the Utica Club Brewery.

Mr. Corn is survived by three daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Ron Wakeel, Boca Raton, Marcia and Tom Ciola, Orlando, Sheila and Tim Savoy, Sauquoit; four sons and two daughters-in-law, Michael and Jan Corn, Barneveld, Tim Corn, Utica, Peter Corn, New Hartford, David and Norah Corn, Sylvan Beach; 15 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. Besides his wife, Russell is predeceased by a sister, Marjorie Freytag. He also leaves behind great friends in Fred and Jo Kilburn and Don and Shirley Reese.

A memorial service for Russell will be held on Monday, March 12, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heintz Funeral Home, 1517 Whitesboro Street, Utica, with the Reverend Felix Colossimo presiding. Interment in Mt. Olivet Cemetery will take place at the convenience of the family. Memorial visitation will be held on Monday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association or a charity of your choice in Russell's memory.

The family wishes to thank the staff of the Sitrin Home and St. Elizabeth Hospital for their care and compassion to Russ.

Russ's ashes will be buried on top of Jane's. He thought that was a great idea!

From The SEO

by P/C Gerald R. Fry, JN



United States Power Squadron seminars are off and running in your squadron. Commander Peckingham and I presented the GPS seminar to George's Piloting class on 27 March. The next presentation of the GPS seminar will be 4 May at 1900 in the Gander Mountain store "Lodge Room" in the Utica store. P/C Rick Gassner, AP has enthusiastically "shoved us off" in scheduling this seminar. He prepared posters for the Gander Mountain bulletin board at the entrance that netted one participant on the first day of posting. The class will be limited to 20 students. Anyone who wishes to attend must contact me at (315) 824-0978 or by e-mail at gerryfry1@verizon.net. We will be charging \$30 for the course materials that are ordered from USPS national office. This seminar is an excellent introduction to the use of a GPS unit. It is oriented toward use in boating and fishing but will be very informative for anyone who wishes to use a GPS in their car or on their motorcycle, snowmobile, all terrain vehicle, or for hiking, hunting and etc.. This seminar and the other three in VHF/DSC Radio, Weather, and Chart Reading will be offered multiple times in the future. Let me know of your interest.

We must thank P/C Ellen Webster, SN who is finishing her Junior Navigation course; P/C Dean Woodard, P and Richard Smith, P who finished Boat Smart with 8 students; and Cdr. George Peckingham, AP who is testing 8 students in Piloting.

Our usual Safe Boating Week public boating safety course will start at Noon on 2 June at Lock 20 this year. This is actually two weeks after Safe Boating Week because we hope to have better weather at the later date. The course will be the Squadron Boating Course rather than Boat Smart that is no longer offered. A student will still need 8 hours of attendance and an approved test to earn the Boating Safety Certificate. The new Squadron Boating Course will provide an option for the student to continue with four more hours of instruction in chart reading and course planning. This course is still required to operate a personal watercraft but is not required by USPS national for membership. Please tell your friends about this new opportunity to join our squadron and participate in all of our excellent educational programs. Older boaters will find the inclusion of GPS training in our courses to be especially helpful. However, perhaps the most important consideration for experienced boaters is that a GPS still needs paper charts as a backup.



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

The IRS decides to audit Ralph, and summons him to the IRS office. The IRS auditor is not surprised when Ralph shows up with his attorney.

The auditor says, "Well, sir, you have an extravagant lifestyle and no full-time employment, which you explain by saying that you win money gambling. I'm not sure the IRS finds that believable."

"I'm a great gambler, and I can prove it," says Ralph. "How about a demonstration?"

The auditor thinks for a moment and said, "Okay. Go ahead."

Ralph says, "I'll bet you a thousand dollars that I can bite my own eye."

The auditor thinks a moment and says, "No way! It's a bet."

Ralph removes his glass eye and bites it.

The auditor's jaw drops. Ralph says, "Now, I'll bet you two thousand dollars that I can bite my other eye."

Now the auditor can tell Ralph isn't blind, so he takes the bet.

Ralph removes his dentures and bites his good eye.

The stunned auditor now realizes he has wagered and lost three grand, with Ralph's attorney as a witness. He starts to get nervous.

"Want to go double or nothing?" Ralph asks "I'll bet you six thousand dollars that I can stand on one side of your desk, and pee into that wastebasket on the other side, and never get a drop anywhere in between."

The auditor, twice burned, is cautious now, but he looks carefully and decides there's no way this guy can manage that stunt, so he agrees again.

Ralph stands beside the desk and unzips his pants, but although he strains mightily, he can't make the stream reach the wastebasket on the other side, so he pretty much urinates all over the auditor's desk.

The auditor leaps with joy, realizing that he has just turned a major loss into a huge win. But Ralph's attorney moans and puts his head in his hands.

"Are you okay?" the auditor asks.

"Not really," says the attorney. "This morning, when Ralph told me he'd been summoned for an audit, he bet me twenty thousand dollars that he could come in here and pee all over your desk and that you'd be happy about it.

□ □ □

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While looking at a house, my brother asked the real estate agent which direction was north because, he explained, he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning.

She asked, "Does the sun rise in the north?"

When my brother explained that the sun rises in the east, and has for sometime, she shook her head and said,

"Oh, I don't keep up with that stuff."

□ □ □

The **public boating class** offered at Lock 20 on June 2, 2007 will mark the return to a more traditional course. There will be eight hours of instruction, four of which will be outside on the 2nd with two classes at Whitesboro High school and an exam the following week. At that point, certificates will be awarded to all who pass. Then we will start the next four hours as an introduction to piloting. This will bring back the traditional 12 hour class for all who want it yet retain the 8 hour basic course we have used for some years. If you would like to help with these classes please let us know.

□ □ □

*Husband and wife are in bed together.
She feels his hand rubbing her shoulder.*

She: "Oh, that feels good."

His hand moves to her breast.

She: "Gee, honey, that feels wonderful."

His hand moves to her leg.

She: "Oh, honey, don't stop." But he stops.

She: "Why did you stop?"

He: "I found the remote."



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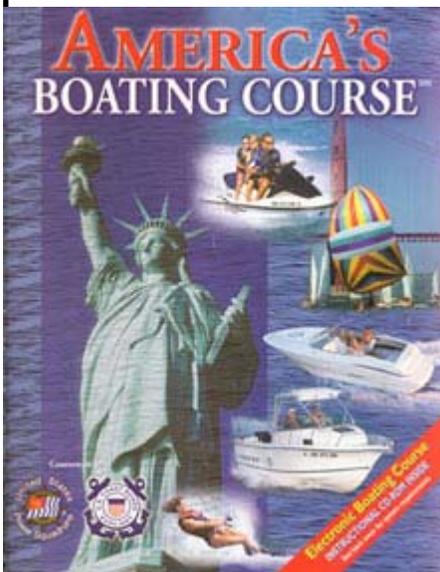
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