



# 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

April 2012

District 6

## **IT'S LAUNCH PARTY TIME**



Friday, June 1, 2012 5:30 PM

It's that time again to mark your calendars for the annual Launch Party. Again this year it will be at Lock 20 in Marcy beginning at 5:30 PM. Cost is \$5.00 per person and includes all you can eat hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage satties and soda (and soffee if it's a cold night in June!)

Bring a dish to pass and BYOB!

**Anyone bringing a boat to the event gets in FREE!**

This year we will be inviting all previous members, anyone that was enrolled in the ABC Boating Class the Syracuse squadron and the Coast Guard Auxiliary!  
If you know of anyone with interest in the squadron, be sure to bring them along!  
Questions?? Call Colleen Welch at 797-2009 or 725-2857

## **BOATING CLASS**

**THE ABC CLASS WILL BE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY (JUNE 2ND) AT LOCK 20.  
WE WILL HAVE FIRE AND FLARE DEMONSTRATIONS AS WELL AS VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS.  
PLAN TO JOIN US ALONG WITH YOUR BOAT OR PERSONAL WATER CRAFT.  
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST BOATING CLASS OFFERED FOR  
THE YEAR.**

# UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

Commander..... Linda S. LaDuc AP  
839-5522

Executive Officer.....Robert Walker

SEO..... David W. Schultz, AP  
266-0511

Administrative Officer..... Colleen A. Welch, AP  
797-2009

Secretary.....John J. Reittinger, JN  
868-8585

Treasurer..... Gerald R. Fry, JN  
824-0978

Assistant SEO.....Linda S. LaDuc, AP  
839-5522

Membership..... Gerald R. Fry, JN  
824-0978

**BILGEWATER** Editor .....Dean A. Woodard, P  
336-1026  
**woodardd@twcny.rr.com**

Web Master ..... Rick Gassner, SN  
**gassnerr@roadrunner.com**

NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page  
**usps.org/localusps/utica**  
e-mail the Commander at:  
**coolskip26@gmail.com**

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# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

*Commander Linda S. LaDuc, AP*



Hi Everyone,

My apologies for missing the C.O.W. and my 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron meeting, but my thanks to P/D/C and SEO Dave Schulz, AP for reading my remarks, which after hearing a passage being quoted in our new District Commander Gray's acceptance speech, appear to have taken on a life of their own!

At any rate, my first official duty as Commander was to attend the D/6 Spring Conference in Batavia, NY, 23-25 March. We were also represented by our newly re-elected District Secretary (a man of many hats) Dave and his wife Ann Schulz, P/D/C Dagne Strothers, SN and Tom Baker and last, but certainly not least, P/C Josephine Zogby, AP.

National Law Officer R/C Greg Korstad spoke of the need for branding—that is making the public aware of what we do and being identifiable by our name “brand” by using the national logo in our advertising. The Summer Rendezvous in Alexandria Bay 23-26 July, On-the-Water Training and, as always member retention were also primary topics. Also speaking was Dave White of Cornell Sea Grant, who gave a very dynamic and informative overview of his duties and some of the environmental issues we are facing in our local waterways. It was pointed out to me that Dave is available to speak at functions—something to keep in mind for the future.

Our Squadron was presented with four awards that I was very proud to accept. They are: Distinctive Communicator to the Bilgewater and USPS Websites, Growth Award (8%) and the USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit (25<sup>th</sup> Award). Many thanks and a big pat on the back to everyone who made those awards possible.

**See Commander page 4**

# SEO REPORT

*By P/DC David Schulz, AP*



“Tis” April already and what snow we had has long disappeared. The “Canal” is filling in or has been filled. Boats are entering the water and soon wind will fill sails and liquid gold will be fueling engine chambers to begin 2012 boating season. We will be putting to use all we have learned and developing more questions in our thirst for boating knowledge. Navigation will soon test as will Seamanship although the latter will test in early May due to student scheduling conflicts.

Our premier public boating class, ABC3, will be held June 2 at Lock 20 pavilion, 12:00 noon to 04:00 PM then continue at Whitesboro High School June 5 and 7, 6:30 to 8:30 each evening. At lock 20 we will be conducting free Vessel Safety Checks (VSC), VSC demonstrations with our ABC3 students, fire extinguisher demonstration and boating safety equipment demonstrations.

We have noted that “other” agencies have begun to advertise “free” New York State boating safety courses. The course they are offering is nowhere near the quality of course (ABC3) we are offering. It is true that their course is free (paid for with our taxes) but certification is free only to children. Adults must pay a fee. Additionally, certification is accomplished through the mail also at tax payer expense. The teaching staff is mostly paid again with taxpayer dollars. Many are good instructors. Bottom line is that our course is also free, however the book used is not free and must be paid for. Our instructors are well qualified, trained and experienced and volunteer to teach. They are also experienced boaters themselves.

We, Utica Sail and Power Squadron of the United States Power Squadron must begin now to advertise our ABC3 course. It must be emphasized that ABC3 is the course taught throughout the USA by many agencies including USCGA, USCG and USPS. In New York State (and other states as well) there is a state specific section. It is the best boating safety course available. We all need to talk up our course. Marinas, sports stores and boat dealers must be told about ABC3 being held in June as well as our free VSCs and the benefits of both.

Our PRO officer is preparing material for distribution to the newspapers, TV and radio stations but we must all talk it up to all our boating friends. Remember – **Boating is Fun.** Let USPS show you how.

Dave

## Commander from page 2

Seamanship is plodding along with many interruptions. We are looking at a May 8<sup>th</sup> date for the final and a successful outcome for all five students. SEO Dave Schulz reports that there are two members nearing final exam time in Navigation. Good luck to all.

Looking ahead to our upcoming events, we will again have representation at Paddle Fest in Old Forge, 18-19 May, while arrangements will begin for a VSC at Gander Mountain in New Hartford on 23 May during Safe Boating Week. We can then look forward to some fun at the Launch Party 1 June, at Lock 20, followed by another VSC at the Lock on 2 June, prior to the ABC 3 class. Also on the agenda is the Summer Rendezvous in Alexandria Bay, 23-26 July. I was honored to have been asked to Chair the Children's Activities for that event.

Not to be overlooked is the fact that the Fall District Conference will be held at the Beeches in Rome, NY, 9-11 November, with our Squadron hosting this event. While we do have time to work on the plans given us by District, I am sure that, as in the past, we will all pitch in to make that event a grand success.

Lastly, I would like to give my thanks to P/C Bryan Walrath, N for all of his hard work during his tenure as Squadron Commander. No escape Bryan, as we still plan on keeping you busy in your new job as PRO. Also, thanks to Dave Schulz for being patient with the many emails I send him with questions about the duties of Commander.

Hope to see you all at our upcoming events.

Linda

## GETTING YOUR BOAT READY: THE SPRING CHECKLIST

Each spring we try to get you started on a mental to-do list of items that should be reviewed before your boat hits the water. Let's begin this year with items to check below the waterline.

**Sea strainers** are filters that keep debris from entering machinery that is cooled by raw (sea) water. This might include main engines, generators, and/or air conditioning units. Over time the screens in the strainers get clogged and restrict the flow of cooling water to the unit. These screens should be removed at the beginning of the season and once a month thereafter to ensure that they are not clogged. Also, if you know that you have run your boat in shallow water and possibly sucked up sand or sea weed, inspect the screens immediately. Another reason for visually inspecting sea strainers is that, over time the screens may corrode and the holes get bigger, thus not stopping harmful materials from getting to the machinery. Before putting the strainer cap back on, check the gasket and replace it if it looks worn. A healthy gasket will prevent any air from getting into the systems and prevent water from coming into the boat.

**Stuffing boxes** should also be checked and adjusted every spring. On conventional stuffing boxes the key element is the flax, square rope that is impregnated with lubes and waxes. When the flax is compressed it forms a watertight seal. A small number of drips, no more than 3 a minute, is about right when the shaft is not spinning. Any more than that could lead to spray in the engine room when the shaft is spinning, causing corrosion. A severe leak, of course, could sink your boat, magnifying the corrosion and other problems. After a number of adjustments the flax packing gets so compressed that it becomes hard and will put a groove in the shaft while it is spinning.

*See Spring Check List page 5*

*. Spring Check List from Page 4*

If you can't remember when the last time your packing was replaced, this is a good time to get it done. Rudder ports are a similar system to stuffing boxes. They too need to be adjusted and flax changed every couple of years.

**Shaft alignment.** While your boat is out of the water it is a good time to check the cutlass bearing for any unusual wear. If wear is apparent, the bearing should be replaced. After launching, the shaft should be checked with feeler gauges to be sure that it is lined up with the transmission within a certain tolerance. If there is any misalignment that goes unattended for a long period of time you might permanently damage the transmission. Misalignment of the shaft puts stress on the transmission seal, causing transmission fluid to leak out. As the fluid gets low in the housing, the gears will get worn and cause costly repairs

From P/C Rick Gassner, SN.

### PLANNED ACTIVITIES LIST FOR 2012

|             |                   |      |                               |
|-------------|-------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 4 April     | Squadron Meeting  | 1930 | Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| 13-15 April | Spring Conference |      | Batavia, NY                   |
| 2 May       | Squadron Meeting  | 1930 | Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| 6 June      | Squadron Meeting  | 1930 | Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| 1 June      | Launch Party      | 1700 | Lock 20                       |
| 2 June      | Boating Course    | 1200 | Lock 20 Marcy, NY             |
| 5 September | Squadron Meeting  | 1930 | Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| ? September | Fall Council      |      | Geneva Lakefront              |
| 3 October   | Squadron Meeting  | 1930 | Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| 7 November  | Squadron Meeting  | 1930 | Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| ? November  | Fall Conference   |      | TBA                           |
| 5 December  | Squadron Meeting  | 1930 | Cornell Cooperative Extension |



# CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

## FACE BOOK FANS

I just created :

[https://www.facebook.com/  
UticaSailAndPowerSquadron](https://www.facebook.com/UticaSailAndPowerSquadron)  
become a friend!!

Rick



A man is getting into the shower just as his wife is finishing up her shower, when the doorbell rings.

The wife quickly wraps herself in a towel and runs downstairs.

When she opens the door, there stands Bob, the next-door neighbor

Before she says a word, Bob says, 'I'll give you \$800 to drop that towel.'

After thinking for a moment, the woman drops her towel and stands naked in front of Bob After a few seconds, Bob hands her \$800 and leaves..

The woman wraps back up in the towel and goes back upstairs.

When she gets to the bathroom, her husband asks, 'Who was that?'

“It was Bob, the next door neighbor” she replies.

“Great,” the husband says, “did he say anything about the \$800 he owes me”?

### Moral of the story:

*If you share critical information pertaining to credit and risk with your shareholders in time, you may be in a position to prevent avoidable exposure.*



## PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris , you'd be in Seine .



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## **A WORD ABOUT YOUR BILGEWATER**

As you know the BILGEWATER has been available on the Squadron web page for many years. The question is: do you want it sent to you by e-mail or snail mail?

In these days of ever increasing printing and mailing costs, an electronic PDF file of the BILGEWATER sent to your e-mail address may be an acceptable option for you.

For or against, let George know what you want done. Call him at 315 831 2170  
Or e-mail him at [duke\\_peck@msn.com](mailto:duke_peck@msn.com).

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