



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 2013

District 6

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2012-13
PRESENTED TO
CDR LINDA S. LaDUC, AP, UTICA
BY
D/C CHARLES L. GRAY, AP

FOR THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE OF LEADERSHIP AND MERITORIOUS COMPLETION OF DUTIES AS COMMANDER



UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

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

Executive Officer.....Robert Walker, JN

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

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Commander Linda S. LaDuc, AP



What an eventful Spring Conference! P/D/C Dagne Strothers, SN, P/D/C Dave Schulz, AP and I were in attendance to witness the swearing in of our new District Commander Judy Swanson, JN and her new Bridge. We were also very proud to receive two National Communications Committee Distinctive Communicator Awards for our Websites and Bilgewater Publication. In addition our Squadron received the USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit, our 26th such Award.

The biggest shocker of the evening however (at least for me!) was receiving the District 6 Commander's Achievement Award. To quote our District Directory, "The award is made each year to the Squadron Commander who, in the judgment of the District Commander, has shown exemplary leadership in the performance of his or her duties." All I know is that I would never have been able to win an award such as this if it were not for all of the hard work and dedication put in by our Squadron members. In my mind, it is a group achievement and I thank you all very much for making it possible. I also want to thank our now P/D/C Charles Gray, AP for considering me for this award (I think he really liked the food at The Beeches and The Delta Lake Inn best!)

Let's look forward to spring, nice weather and being able to get outside and start working on our boats. We have Safe Boating Week, the Launch Party and ABC3 Class to look forward to in May and June, with the Rendezvous coming up in July. We also have offers to stay in touch with other Squadrons and to expand on the possibilities of working together to reach more prospective members. Let's take advantage of all of these opportunities! On another note, I want to send out get well wishes to P/C Gerry Fry, JN; we hope you are feeling better soon.

Also, we were deeply saddened by the loss of District 6 P/D/C William Warren, P, last week and send our best wishes to P/D/C Isabelle Warren, P.

SEO REPORT

By P/D/C David Schulz, AP



Piloting is well underway. We will soon see some happy Pilots with PC George and Lt/C Rob teaching. PC Harry Winberg, PC Cpt. Rick Gassner, PC Dean Woodard and PC Bryan Walrath continue with their efforts at teaching the already knowledgeable Senior Citizens our ABC³, and several of our very good Seminar series of mini courses. Who knows – we might even gain a member or two.

Speaking of ABC³ – our next class has been registered with National and will begin Saturday, 1 June 2013, at Lock 20 pavilion, 1200 – 1600, then continue at Whitesboro High School, 4 & 6 June 1800 – 2000. We encourage you to help us advertise this class. As you know this is our premier class with many added features such as a live fire extinguisher demonstration with participation, mock Vessel Safety Check and safety flare demonstration with participation. We will also be conducting real Vessel Safety Checks prior to the class for anyone trailering their boat or powering their craft to Lock 20 and the Park off of old Rt 49 beginning at 0900 on 1 June 2013. Help us make this a really big event as it really is. We need you to help advertise.

As you know our beloved PC Frank Gruenwald sailed into his last harbor a few months ago. His wife joined him shortly after. Frank always arranged to secure Lock 20 for us. Since his passing, the care of Lock 20 Pavilion has been apparently been taken over by Lock 20 and The State Canal Corporation. The Canal CEO spoke at our recent District 6 Spring Conference. After his PowerPoint presentation our Commander spoke with him and reassured her that Utica Sail and Power Squadron will be able to continue to reserve and use the pavilion at Lock 20. Commander Linda has all the scoop.

Speaking of our Commander, we are pleased to announce that **Commander Linda LaDuc, AP has won the very prestigious District 6 Commander's Achievement Award** for the Year 2012. This award is presented each year by the outgoing District Commander. Commander LaDuc is the first Commander from Utica Sail and Power Squadron to win the award. Congratulations and a really big **Hooray** to Linda. The award was presented at District 6 Spring Conference Change of Watch, 6 April 2013.

Lastly YOU can really help advertise Utica Sail and Power Squadron's influence on safe boating. Let everyone you know that you belong to The United States Power Squadrons and that our goal is to encourage, promoted and teach safe boating. We will soon be 100 years old. Even the US Coast Guard and US Coast Guard Auxiliary turn to USPS for top quality boater education materials.

Old Flares

As you look over your boats, check for any flares that may be out of date.. If you have any PLEASE bring them to the Launch Party. They serve a very important part of our Lock 20 class so we can show students what they look like. The ones that get shot into the air are in real short supply. So check out the dates and bring us your old ones.

Many thanks.

ABC 3 COURSE TO BE OFFERED

BEGINNING SATURDAY, 1 JUNE

1200 TO 1600 HOURS (12:00-4:00P.M.) AT LOCK 20, MARCY, NY

AND 4 & 6 JUNE, 1830-2030 (6:30-8:30P.M.) AT
WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL, MARCY, NY

IF YOU HAVE FAMILY OR FRIENDS THAT NEED OR WANT TO TAKE A BOATING COURSE SEND THEM TO LOCK 20 FOR SOME GREAT INSTRUCTION LEAD BY P/C DEAN WOODARD, P, AND P/C ELLEN WEBSTER, SN (AND SOME GUEST INSTRUCTORS!) YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXTINGUISH A FIRE (COURTESY OF THE MAYNARD FIRE DEPARTMENT), TEST FLARES AND COMPLETE A VESSEL SAFETY CHECK. IT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME HANDS-ON LEARNING FOR THE COST OF A TEXTBOOK.

WHY IS THE STARBOARD LIGHT GREEN?

Hopefully, every boater knows that the port side running light is red and that the starboard side light is green. The standard of having the red light on the left and the green on the right comes in handy after dark when boaters can determine the movements of other vessels based on the visibility of these lights.

In addition, the green light also indicates which boat has the right of way over the other. Anyone that has ever participated in a sailboat regatta is familiar with the resounding calls of “Starboard” as the skip-pers declare that they have the “right of way” due to being on a starboard tack.

To understand how these terms evolved, one must delve deeply into the boating days of yore. Viking vessels were steered by a paddle or board inserted in the water called a “styra.” Most folks being right-handed, the steering board was always located on the right side of the ship and the term “styra” became associated with the right side. Norsemen later used the same term for a board steering larger vessels. The word styra evolved into today’s English term “starboard.”

Because the steering was located on the right side of the vessel, captains tied the left side to a dock to avoid damaging steering mechanisms. Thus, the left side became known, in English, as the port side, because beyond the dock was a port town.

Now, about those lights ... The practice of assigning vessel priority in crossing situations grew from the fact that vessels often had items in the ship’s center that blocked the helmsman’s view. Because the boat’s steering was controlled from the right side, he could see vessels on the right; therefore vessels on that side were given a green light - both figuratively and actually. Those vessels could safely pass in front of the steering person’s vessel.

Conversely, the left side was assigned a red light – again, both figuratively and actually. This evolved from an understanding that helmsman’s view of

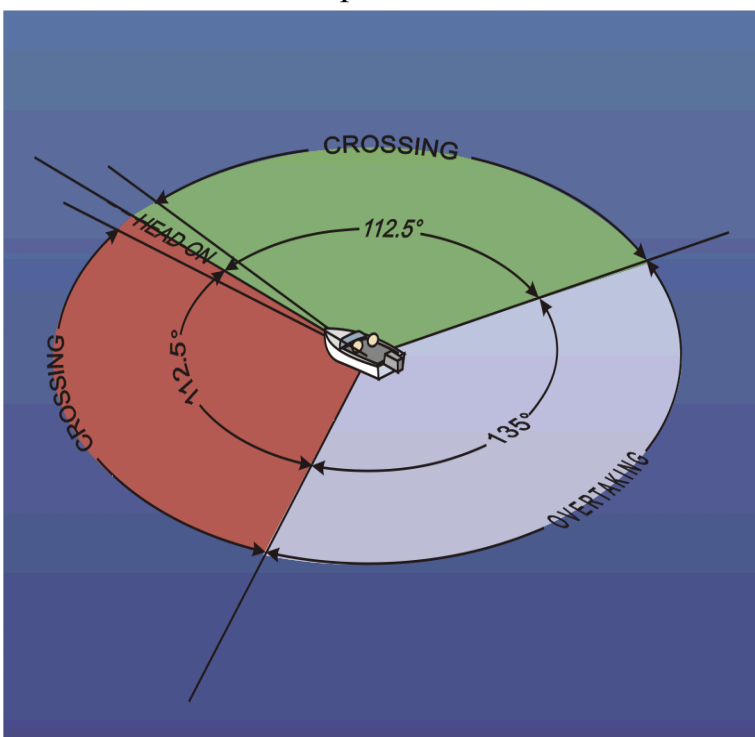
the left side from his right side station, were often blocked from his view by deck hands, cargo, and sails. So, these “out of sight vessels” gave way to the helmsman’s vessel. Much of maritime traditions about the right of way are the same today, with the addition of colored lighting to assist in identification.

It’s always interesting to delve into maritime history to discover the traditional reasons behind our modern practices. These little tidbits of information can help us remember the red and green lighting conventions and which vessel is “stand on” and which is “give way” between approaching boats.

To learn more about those important “Rules of the Road”, seek information from the members of the United States Power Squadrons® who tell us: “Boating is fun... We’ll show you how”. Go to their website at www.USPS.org for courses and seminars in your area.

XXXXXX

Lt. Bill Hempel
Senior Feature Writer
Marketing/Public relations Committee
United States Power Squadrons®





CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

Paddy had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition.

It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday.

On that special day, they'd each walked across the lake to the pub on the far side for their first legal drink.

So when Paddy's 18th birthday came around, he and his pal Mick, took a boat out to the middle of the lake, Paddy, stepped out of the boat ...and nearly drowned!

Mick just barely managed to pull him to safety.

Furious and confused, Paddy went to see his grandmother .

"Grandma," he asked, "Tis me 18th birthday, so why can't I walk across the lake like me father, his father and his father before him?"

Granny looked deeply into Paddy's, troubled blue eyes and said,

"Because ye father, ye grandfather and ye great-grandfather were all born in December, when the lake is frozen, and ye were born in August, ya fookin idiot!"

Law of Mechanical Repair -

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers

Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

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LAUNCH PARTY

START PLANNING NOW FOR OUR LAUNCH PARTY TO BE HELD ON 31 MAY 2013, AT LOCK 20. AS USUAL, IT WILL BE \$5.00 PER PERSON AND PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS. BEER AND SODA WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LIBATION, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING IT ALONG AS WELL.

SINCE WE WERE NOT ABLE TO HOLD OUR FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION DUE TO BAD WEATHER, **WE WILL BE CONDUCTING OUR AUCTION AT THE LAUNCH PARTY** CELEBRATION. SO, TAKE A LOOK IN YOUR STASH OF NAUTICAL SUPPLIES AND SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO PART WITH AND BRING IT ALONG FOR AUCTION. ALSO, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A LITTLE EXTRA CHANGE IN YOUR POCKET IN CASE SOMEONE ELSE BRINGS SOMETHING THAT YOU JUST CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT! REMEMBER, THE SALE BENEFITS YOUR SQUADRON. HOPEFULLY, DEAN AND ELLEN WILL BE ON HAND TO DO THEIR USUAL OUTSTANDING JOB AS AUCTIONEERS.

REMINDERS WILL FOLLOW IN THE NEXT BILGEWATER.

The BILGEWATER
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