



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 2015

District 6

**Spring is here and it's time for a
*Party!***

Ahoy mates!

I would like to entice you to partake in the Utica Sail and Power Squadron's 2015 Launch Party.

We will be holding this event on the banks of the mighty Erie Canal (a.k.a. Barge Canal) in Marcy, NY at the Lock 20 pavilion on Friday 5 June 2015. We should start burning burgers and dogs at about 1700 HRS. (05:00 PM for you land lubbers).

Please bring a dish to pass and an item to donate to the auction. The cost will \$ 5.00 per couple, \$ 3.00 for single (you can save money by bringing a friend).

As many of you know, this event is not to be missed. This is our annual auction fundraiser. We do put the FUN in fundraising. So as you are doing your spring cleaning, keep an eye out for an auction treasure. Items need not be nautical, but it would be nice if they were useful. No reserved bids accepted.

Hope to see you there!

Lt/C Ellen Webster, SN, PC, AO

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

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

Executive Officer vacant

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

Administrative Officer..... Bryan Walrath N
337-6051

Secretary..... Bryan Walrath N
337-6051

Treasurer..... David W. Schulz
266-0511

Assistant SEO..... Linda S. LaDuc, AP
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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Commander Linda S. LaDuc, AP



Hello to all....

Our 74th Squadron Change of Watch*** was held on 8 March at The Beeches. There were 10 people in attendance, including our guest, D/Lt/C Al Carmon, JN, our D6 Secretary who did the honors of swearing in the "new" Bridge. The food was great and the discussion very lively, but I have to say that while I am aware that some folks are still down south, I was hoping for a slightly better turnout. I would, however, like to thank P/C Ellen Webster, SN, for arranging this gathering and for P/D/C Dave Schulz, AP, for preparing the COW Agenda.

In keeping with the promise of your bridge to work as hard as we can to keep our Squadron afloat, we completed a successful ABC3 class that ran under a new format for us; a 6-hour Saturday, March 14 session with the final 2 hours completed on Monday, March 16. Seventeen students were in attendance and all made it through the course with flying colors. Ellen, P/C Bryan Walrath, N and I taught the course. Although Saturday was a bit long, and the Power Point Program a bit redundant, overall, we were pleased with the outcome.

Next up is another ABC3 course to be offered at the Cornell Cooperative Extension on April 18 and 20; our Launch Party is 5 June, and another session of ABC3 will be offered 6 June at Lock 20 and continuing on 9 & 11 June at Cornell Cooperative Extension. We are still hoping to squeeze in the Trailing Seminar. Also upcoming is the D/6 Spring Conference to be held 17-19 April in Binghamton.

See page 5

SEO REPORT

By P/DC David Schulz, AP



The Education Department does not have much to report this month except to report that a very successful ABC class was held graduating 18 new safe boaters. At least we hope they practice what was taught. There are 2 more ABC classes planned and a Trailering Seminar. There is advertising forth coming on all those events.

We noticed that the local Sheriff's Department NY State Boating Safety class advertisement in the Observer Dispatch included a "plug" for USPS boating classes being offered. We think that thanks go to PC Bryan Walrath, N for making them aware of our efforts. He deserves a real "attaboy". Thanks Bryan.

Now - - - A note from your treasurer.

When PC Gerry Fry, N suddenly passed away scanty records and a checkbook was all that became available concerning Utica Sail and Power Squadron funds. After considerable effort, Commander LaDuc and PDC Schulz got all records straightened out concerning our accounts with AmeriCU. What was called into question was whether or not our Squadron's IRS 990N reporting was up to date. Our Squadron is incorporated as an educational, tax exempt 503 (c) (3) organization. Because or assets are minimal we need and are required to file an IRS electronic postcard 990N for each year covering the period 1 April – 28 February. Attempts at entering the IRS website with our EIN number were unsuccessful because our number was not recognized. Additionally, calls to the IRS resulted in unacceptable wait times (30 – 90 minutes). We then consulted with our District Treasurer and spoke with past District Treasurers. While their answers and suggestions were helpful they too seemed to be puzzled at how to get answers to our question – did we or did we not file.

In early March we received a letter from the IRS stating that we were delinquent in filing our 990 form for the period ending 28 FEB 2014. The assumption was then that one had been filed for the previous years and also of course, none filed for the period ending 28 FEB 2015.

Using the information within the IRS letter we again went to the website and set up a new account with new passwords, etc. We received confirmation email that our information was acceptable and we could file our two delinquent years 990N. As we entered the IRS website we entered our new password and etc and our EIN number. We had an immediate error message. Further attempts were met with the same error message. After careful examination we determined that the EIN number in the IRS letter and our EIN number assigned in 1998 were not the same.

In 1941 when Utica Power Squadron was incorporated we were assigned an EIN number. In 1998 we were assigned a new EIN number. Neither of those numbers matched the number on the IRS letter received in March 2015.

We then called the IRS technical support team. You guessed it - - - 30-60 min. wait time. We hung up. For whatever the reason that possessed the next move, we called another IRS number. This time the wait time was 15-30 min. We waited. 14 minutes later a human identified himself. Imagine our shock!!

See SEO page 5

CHANGE OF WATCH MARCH 2015

THANK YOU LINDA FOR LEADING US THROUGH
OUR
75TH YEAR



Commander from page 2

Notices will be sent out for all of these events. If you have changed your email address, or are not receiving messages for some reason, please let me know so that we can keep you informed.

Remember that all are welcome to attend our Squadron meetings which are held the first Wednesday of every month at 1900 (7:00 p.m.) at Cornell Cooperative Extension.

I do want to say thank you for allowing me to continue as your Commander.

Linda

***There is some confusion over whether this is actually our 74th or 75th year. I am in possession of an officer's manual that states that the Utica Power Squadron received its charter on 16 March 1941, which would make this our 74th year.

SEO from page 3

Saving all the details, it was determined that Utica Sail and Power Squadron has not filed a 990N form in over 5 years and our number had been deactivated. Apparently a 990N had been filed for Utica but under the wrong number(s). The IRS is either going to purge that file or considers it too messy to deal with. Soooo – here is what is happening.

The human at the IRS said we will start all over using our correct number. He re-activated our number assigned in 1998. We will begin that process in 6 weeks to 6 months – whenever the IRS can get it moving, by sending us a series of letters. We will need to follow through with the procedure the IRS prescribes in the letters. It will take us 3 years to become completely in compliance. In the meantime we have our tax exempt status and it has nothing to do with our tax exempt status with New York State which is intact.

We never did get the name of the IRS agent but we did get his ID number. We were very grateful for his help and understanding of the system. Near the end of his conversation with us explaining the process we will deal with, our wireless phone died.

Here also endith our tome. We have endured indeed.

**Minutes of the Utica Sail & Power Squadron
1 April 2015**

Present: Dave Schulz, Linda LaDuc, Ellen Webster, Dean Woodard.

Call to Order: 1905 – Quorum was not present for the meeting.

Minutes of 4 March: Accepted with noted corrections.

Secretary and Committees:

Bilgewater Editor Dean. Woodard reported that we missed a month (Feb). the next issue will be for April 2015.
Deadline April 8, 2015. Please get articles to Dean.

Web Page/Webmaster No report

Treasurer and Committees:

Treasurer's Report (Dave Schulz): Accepted \$3794.29 Savings/ \$1881.51 checking

a. Still working on our tax exempt status. Dave reported that the squadron has 2 EIN numbers.

Administrative Officer (AO) and Committees:

Administrative Officer (Ellen Webster) Locations and dates for upcoming events

Launch Party, Locke 20, June 5, with auction

Price will be \$5.00 per couple, \$3.00 single. An article will be ready for the Bildgewater.

Haul Out Party, Oct 2, TBA different venues were discussed.

Squadron Education Officer (SEO) and Committees:

The Squadron will continue planning to offer more seminars

Wednesday, May 20, Trailing your Boat. To be offered as a lecture only – no sale of course material. Ellen Webster and Dean Woodard volunteered to teach.

These will be offered at the Oneida County Cooperative Extension from 7 to 9 pm. The seminars run about 2 hours.

We will check into offering a paddle smart class

There are 2 more ABC classes scheduled this spring 2015.

April 18 and 20 at Oneida County Cornell, 6 hrs. and 2 respectively

June 6, 9 + 11 at Lock 20 and Whitesboro High School* (4 hrs., 2 hrs., 2hrs.respectively)

*Possible CCE instead of Whitesboro

Rick Gassner has created trifold holders to distribute our material at local sporting stores.

Rick Gassner will contact and update the national site with our new education dates.

Vessel Safety Checks: Dean Woodard reported that he received 15 VSC stickers. Dave Schulz was going to look into procuring some additional stickers.

Commander's Report:

A. The Spring Conference will be held on April 18, 2015.in Binghamton, NY. Linda La Duc and Dave Schulz will be attending

B. Linda reported that 17 students took and passed the last ABC exam on March 15, 2015. Two student accepted the 6 month membership agreement.

Announcements: Dave Shultz reported that the District dues were increasing \$2.00.Dave Shultz announced that the Utica Sail and Power Squadron is 75 yrs. old this year and that our burgee should have its gold border replaced with a platinum border. There was some discussion as to it being our 75th year and the anniversary will be in March 2016. Linda was going to check some squadron records so the burgee order was put on hold. (Personally, I think Dave was trying to pull an April fool's joke on us!)

Old Business: The Squadron needs to locate the lost sextants. It is believed that 2 Davis Mark 25, 1 Davis Mark 15 and an old Navy Brass sextant are at large.

Dean Woodard brought up the idea of purchasing a digital overhead projector. He will conduct a purchase feasibility study of said item.

New Business: Ellen Webster suggested advertising at the local libraries with an information display

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 6, 2015 @ 1900 hrs.at CCE Oneida County.

Meeting Adjourned: 2045 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ellen E Webster

Acting Squadron Secretary

Some interesting stuff next month Ran out of room.

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