



THE

BILGEWATER



UTICA 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

December, 2004

District 6



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UTICA POWER SQUADRON OFFICERS

- Commander.....David W. Schulz, AP
266-0511
- Executive Officer.....Gerald R. Fry, JN
824-0978
- SEO..... Ellen Webster, SN
336-3444
- Administrative Officer.....
- Secretary.....Walter H. Kramer, AP
245-0578
- Treasurer..... Thomas A. Sears, AP
337-6953
- Assistant SEO..... Victoria A. Fry, JN
824-0978
- Membership..... Fred S. Dyer, JN
336-5396
- BILGEWATER** EditorDean A. Woodard, P
336-1026
woodardd@twcny.rr.com
- Circulation.....Vivian Selover
- Public Relations OfficerJacqueline Smith
339-3691
- Web Master Rick Gassner, AP
723-2582

NOTE: Utica Power Squadron Web Page
usps.org/localusps/utica
e-mail the Commander at:
david.schulz@verizon.net

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DATES TO REMEMBER

12th Night	16 Jan 05
Spring Council	4-5 Feb 05
Founders Day	18 Feb 05
COW	20 Mar 05
Launch Party	May 05
Haul Out Party	Sep or Oct



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr David W. Schulz, AP

There is no denying what time of year it is. Boats are on cradles, trailers or jacks and blocks and covered with tight fitting white or blue plastic. The canal water is disappearing ever so slowly. Soon everything will be covered with that white stuff.

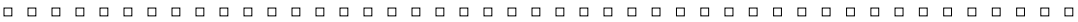
There are some really good things also evident. Our education classes have begun and our social calendar is filling fast and it will only be about 135 days until our boats are back in the water.

Our Twelfth Night party will be quit delightful. The Skawolds have consented to do their Wild Flower program for us. It is a wonderful show at a very bleak time of year. We know you will enjoy their labor of love. The new Piloting course is in full swing and is very exciting. As a matter of fact Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN and P/C Rick Gassner, JN are suggesting that we all may want to retake the new course because of the new instructional material and books used in the course. They are scheduling the next course for fall, 2005. We were actually hoping for a rerun sooner but time just will not permit.

While we are on the subject of course start dates, I spoke recently, some new members. They had a complaint that they were not notified of the Piloting start date. The class had already started and 2 classes had been conducted. We must and will remedy this for future course start dates. We all have busy lives and need to be informed so that we can plan how to spend our time. The Bridge will meet soon to establish a policy so that we will all know when our classes will begin well in advance.

Our Squadron has agreed to host District 6 Fall Conference, November, 2005. The conference will be held at Hotel Utica. We will be looking for help so don't be shy – volunteer.

Ann and I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a very happy and prosperous New Year. Don't forget our next meeting – 5 Jan 05, Sears Oil, 1930, Rome, NY.



STEPHEN E. SMITH FUND FOR EDUCATION

by
Lt/C Gerald R. Fry, JN

With the untimely passing of Lt./C Steve Smith S, his wife Jackie approached the Utica Power Squadron to memorialize Steve with a gift intended to purchase educational equipment and supplies. The fund has grown to \$795.00. This is most definitely a loving and respectful response from squadron members in Steve's memory.

On 2 Dec. 2004 squadron members in attendance at the monthly membership meeting voted to establish an Educational Benefactors Fund with guidelines as described in the November Bilgewater. This fund is a continuation of Jackie Smith's efforts and generosity. You may still want to donate in Smitty's honor in the future or make your gift in memory of another member such as P/C Earl Selover, SN. We sincerely hope that we don't have additional names to add to this list for a long time. However, death and taxes don't seem to go away. This is an excellent way for you to make a tax-deductible gift to the Utica Power Squadron in honor of a friend, a highly respected squadron member, a spouse, or anyone you choose.

We have not compiled an extensive list of educational equipment and supplies. Some ideas follow. The new Advanced Grade courses and some of the elective courses have been rewritten to stress GPS navigation and position monitoring. They also provide experience in plotting courses and data retrieval on the new computer based charting software. These courses require the course teachers to have a laptop personal computer with CD drive and a digital video projector. We are working on the acquisition of these items. Do you have or know of a laptop PC or digital projector that we could have or buy from you. Other equipment or supplies include sextants, parallel rules, 15" course plotters, dividers, and compasses. What aren't you using anymore? Did you stash nautical aids in a closet after you used them the last time? What about Cruise Guides from most anywhere in the world. Your old books can be a great learning experience for our newer members. That old electrical meter, tachometer, hand held compass, a GPS unit, wind speed indicator; heel gauge could be of additional assistance in some classes.

Can you think of who and what I haven't identified as honored people or worthwhile teaching aids? Please get involved in your squadron for the safety and benefit of all boaters.



12TH NIGHT PARTY

16 January 05 **Ramada Inn**

Dinner at 1300

Prime Rib \$15. or Seafood Newberg \$12.00

Deadline for reservations Jan 13, 2005. Be sure to identify your meal.

Reservations to Cdr Dave Schulz at 266-05611 or e-mail david.schulz@verizon.net
be sure to tell Dave what meal you prefer.

Program : Phyllis and Bob Skawold will be giving a most informative presentation on
Wild Flowers

COMING EVENTS

CHANGE OF WATCH

In March we will be holding our annual meeting and electing our officers. Would you be willing to serve ? Your nominating committee is hard at work to present a slate of officers for the 2005 squadron year. If you could help or want to suggest someone who could, contact P/C Dean Woodard, P at woodardd@twcny.rr.com or P/C Rick Gassner, AP at gassnerr@adelphia.net. (Jo Zogy and Ed Gaffney are also committee members)

THE ERIE CANAL

Lt/C Walt Kramer, AP is at work trying to organize a canal trip for this winter. Over the past years we have visited locks 17-22 in the Utica Section of the barge canal. Walt is trying to cook up an activity for this winter. Stay tuned, we will let you know what he comes up with.

FOUNDER'S DAY

Better known as our auction party, Founder's Day will be here in February. We will be at the VFW in Vernon as we have for many years. P/C Ellen Webster, SN is in charge of this event and she urges everyone to get out their nautical and not so nautical items to be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

BOATER SUMMIT - 2003 REPORT— FOLLOWUP

by

David G. White NY Sea Grant SUNY Oswego

www.nysgextension.org

* Water Level Management: For those interested in the water level management of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, the IJC Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Study Board, Recreational Boating and Tourism Technical Work Group, completed its research program and has developed a summary report that is now being used by the board to develop possible recommended changes to the lake level management program. That report can be found at www.nysgmarina.org (click on the synthesis papers and summary report link).

* Boating Economics: As many of you are already aware, the boating economic survey funded by New York Sea Grant and conducted by researchers at Cornell University has been completed and the report released. The report includes a wealth of information on the economic impact of boating in NY (\$2.4 billion in expenditures), and is now being used by many boating interests to share the depth and breadth of boating activity in NY. To view the report you can also go to www.nysgmarina.org (click on the link to the report).

* Clean Marinas/Boating: NYSDEC has finalized and released the "Environmental Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Self-Assessment Guide for the Marina Industry". This publication is a culmination of DEC's education program for marinas regarding pollution prevention. The publication is available at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ppu/p2pub.html#sector. It provides a wealth of information for preventing pollution at marinas, and from boats. Also, this past summer NY Sea Grant in partnership with the Marine Environmental Education Foundation, Boating Industries Assn. of Upstate NY, and the USCG Aux., developed and distributed a "clean boating" packet to all the marinas, US Power Squadrons, and USCG Auxiliaries in upstate NY. The packet provided hands on information for use in developing pollution prevention and reduction programs for boaters and marinas. To learn more about this program you'll find the press release announcing it at www.nysgmarina.org.

* Developing a "NY Boater Information Program": At the summit the need was identified to better engage NY boaters in understanding and participating in boating issues. We identified BOAT-US as a primary partner to possibly achieve this goal. As a result, I met with a BOAT-US (Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water) staff member and presented the conceptually idea for a NY-BOAT US email service. This proposal is now under consideration by BOAT-US for implementation in 2005. Our goal is to develop an email based newsletter in partnership with BOAT-US that they would send to all members in NY.



BoatU.S.

Because of the special arrangement made with BoatU.S. our members are able to pay only one-half of the regular dues of \$19.00 - only \$9.50 per year for our members.

CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard P



REMEMBER THIS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should've known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat-ass man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

And all of this time we were told that Santa was rated SN. Live and learn.



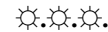
D/C Mary Joyce Fisher D'Aurizio, P is shown above with the Bowsprit Award at the Fall Governing Board Meeting.

The Bowsprit Award is our management tool that measures a district's yearly improvement in four major categories of squadron life. These measurable areas are:

active membership growth, total public safe boating course registrations, internal educational program graduates and total active membership retention. Your Utica Squadron was presented a copy of this award.

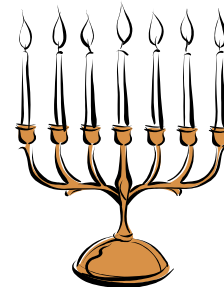
The source of the photo of our District Commander was the National Photographer's Website. If you would like to see more national photographs you may go to:

<http://www.usps.org/national/NationalPhotographer/>



We at the Bilgewater wish all a most enjoyable Holiday Season.

A Special thanks to all of our contributors. We would be nothing without you.



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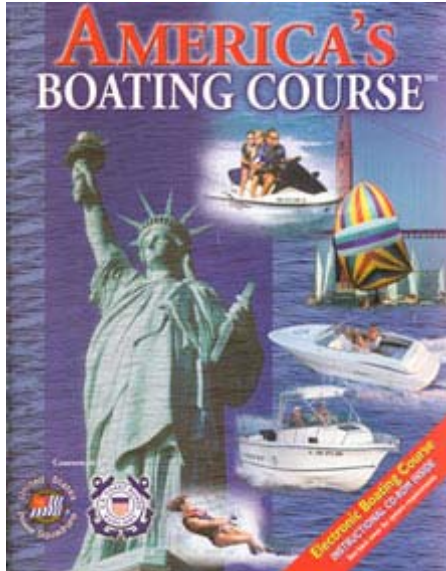
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NEED A BOATING COURSE?

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE THAT WANTS A BOATING CLASS THAT MEETS ALL NY STATE REQUIREMENTS - AND THEY WANT IT NOW?

IF SO, YOU MAY WANT TO SUGGEST THAT THEY CALL ELLEN WEBSTER AT 336-3444 AND BUY A COPY OF AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE.

America's Boating Course is a self study course that has a textbook and a CD for your computer. We will also supply NY State specific information and study questions. When you have finished the course, we will provide a proctored exam and a certificate that states that you meet all NY State requirements for boating and PWC.

The cost is \$35 which covers one exam. Additional exams will be \$5.00 each. Questions? Give Ellen a call.

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