



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 2005

District 6



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UTICA POWER SQUADRON OFFICERS



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

Commander.....	Gerald R. Fry, JN 824-0978
Executive Officer.....	George Peckingham. P 831-2170
SEO.....	Victoria A. Fry, JN 824-0978
Administrative Officer.....	Howard Wyatt 429-3909
Secretary.....	Linda LaDuc, P 839-5522
Treasurer.....	Thomas A. Sears, AP 337-6953
Assistant SEO.....	Ellen Webster, SN 336-3444
Membership.....	Fred S. Dyer, JN 336-5396
BILGEWATER Editor	Dean A. Woodard, P 336-1026 woodardd@twcny.rr.com
Circulation.....	Vivian Selover
Public Relations Officer	Jacqueline 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:

fryg@dreamscape.com

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SQUADRON MEETING 4 DJANUARY 06
12TH NIGHT PARTY 15 JANUARY 08
FOUNDER'S DAY 17 FEBRUARY 06
CHANGE OF WATCH 19 MARCH 06
TRIP TO LOCK 17 TBA

Happy Holidays to one and all! It has been rather nice, to be honest with you, to have a little break in squadron activities after the busy time we had in early November with the District 6 Conference. We know that December is also a very joyous and busy time for you as you prepare for the holiday season.

By 15 January 2006 you should be ready for your Utica Power Squadron's annual 12th. Night Party. This is a fine event with adult libations, good food and a most enjoyable program. I always look forward to it. P/C Harry Winberg, SN has made the arrangements with the Ramada Inn on New Hartford Road in New Hartford to welcome us at 1230 and serve dinner at 1330. Your food choices are Prime Rib at \$14.00 and Seafood Newburgh at \$11.00. These are excellent prices for the excellent food that we have always enjoyed at the Ramada Inn. Please phone any Bridge member with your choices. Captain Carl Albrecht, USN (retired) will speak about his experiences while captaining several large Navy vessels. I know this gentleman personally and can assure you that this will be a very informative program. We will also raffle off another of the two paintings donated by TJ Hyde, widow of P/C Bob Hyde, AP. P/C Rick Gassner, AP will run the raffle. I hope to see you there.

I also look forward to our Founders' Day party scheduled for 17 February at the Verona American Legion. Another more elegant affair will be the Change of Watch dinner scheduled for 19 March. We are also working on a visit to Lock 17, the highest lock in the canal system. More later.

Please stay warm and healthy so you can enjoy life to its' fullest.



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

by P/C Harry Winberg

It's the time of year for the Utica Power Squadron's belated Christmas Party, which we, with political correctness, term The Twelfth Night Party. Except that we have ours on the 15th of January, and it's not at night at all, but at 1230 in the afternoon on a Sunday. Instead of at a church, our party is held at the Ramada Inn in New Hartford, NY, and features a cash bar and fellowship for an hour, followed by a great lunch /dinner, followed by a great sermon - aah- program. Find \$15 for Prime Rib, or \$12 for Seafood Newburgh, bring those funds to the door, and the place is yours.

The program will be a talk by Carl Albrecht, Capt. USN (ret.) on ship stories of his service experience, and it should be well worth our attendance. For those of you who have attended this event, the way to the Ramada Inn has changed. They've rebuilt the highways around the place and the entrance ramps may cause some internecine warfare in your car as you approach. Please be mindful of this as you locate it. (I can't help you, as I haven't been there recently, nor have I solved the problem.) However, if you've successfully passed at least Piloting you should find it with ease, I'm told. See you there! For those of you who may forget the date there will be a friendly phone reminder a few days before. Thank you!



WE NEED TO KNOW

We are in the process of working on the squadron by-laws and we need your help.

Do you think we should alter our name to add the word sail to? We need to know what you think. Please take a moment and call or e-mail any of your officers and let them know what you want.

We plan the January meeting as a time of by-law discussion and action. The name is a critical decision and we need to hear from you. As a first step in the amending process we need to address our name. We pose a simple question to start, do you want *sail* in our name? Please take a moment and contact any of the bridge officers listed on page two and tell them yes or no. They will be waiting for your call.

Yes I think we should add *Sail* to our name

NO I don't think we should add *Sail* to our name

Call today!!!!

YOUR NOMINATION COMMITTEE



Work, work, work. There seems to be no end to the hard work performed by your nomination committee this time of year. On December 14th we forged our way thru the deep and drifting snow to the beautiful home of longtime nomination committee member P/C Josephine Zogby, AP. As you can see from the photo above we were greeted by Jo and a simple luncheon of Quiche, Salad with oil and vinegar, a chicken leg and blueberry pie with ice cream and coffee.

As you can see this committee is a real struggle. Jo wonders why we won't let her off of the committee.

We are making progress but still need candidates. Interested? Give any of us a call. P/C Rick Gassner, P/C Dean Woodard or P/C Dave Schulz. (You could call Jo but we want her to keep working in her kitchen.)

From The SEO

EDUCATION WITH A SMILE

By Lt./C Vicky Fry, JN



Happy Holidays to all of you. The temperature outside is definitely going to keep that snow on the ground for Christmas so be merry and enjoy.

A very successful fall educational program is wrapping up with 13 members working on the take home final for Piloting. Six more members are studying for the Instructor Qualification final exam scheduled for 1815 on 1 Feb 2006 at Sears Oil Co., just before the squadron meeting scheduled for that evening.

Spring 2006 courses will include the elective course "Weather" with P/C Harry Winberg, SN repeating his past stellar performance as instructor. Another very experienced instructor P/C Ellen Webster, SN will teach the brand new "Advanced Piloting" course. Several members will also be involved in teaching the "Boat Smart" course to at least four classes of students. A Seamanship course is also being considered later in the spring if we recruit an adequate number of new members. All courses will be held at Whitesboro High School, with the exception of two of the Boat Smart classes.

Weather will be split into two modules with module 1 starting Wednesday 18 January 2006 at 1900. This first module will finish with a final exam on 1 March. Module 2 will start 22 March 2006 and finish with a final exam on 17 May. Harry is most gracious to schedule these two modules around his planned travel itinerary. Thanks Harry. This course will increase your understanding and familiarity with global, national and regional weather characteristics. Better understanding of weather conditions and forecasting will help you to better appreciate the dangers of severe weather and learn ways to avoid weather hazards while boating.

Many thanks also to Ellen who will start the AP course on Thursday 19 January 2006 at 1900. The AP course should finish after ten weeks depending on the weather. Whitesboro High School is closed the week of 20 thru 24 February. Building on the new Piloting course, AP will use the Weekend Navigator book and a new AP student manual to expand your knowledge of GPS and traditional positioning and navigation techniques. Navigation with other electronic devices (radar, sonar, autopilots, chart plotters and computers) will be included. This course is more oriented toward coastal ocean navigation so it will include techniques to use when dealing with tidal currents and water levels. Regardless of this coastal emphasis, this and all USPS courses will increase your competence to handle the many challenges encountered in being safe boaters.

Boat Smart will be offered on Tuesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 March 2006 in Whitesboro High School at 1900. P/C Dean Woodard, P will lead the volunteer teachers. Two more Boat Smart classes are being planned for April at the Town Hall in Barneveld and at the American Legion in Verona. Rick and Beth Joyal joined the squadron last spring and have already finished Seamanship and Piloting. They have expressed an interest in teaching the Boat Smart class at Barneveld. We will certainly give them a lot of help and our gratitude for helping to foster safe boating. Remember every one of these Boat Smart classes is our opportunity to find and recruit new members.

Also during National Safe Boating Week in May we will offer a Boat Smart class at Lock 20 on Saturday, 20 May 2006, finishing up on the following Tuesday and Thursday evenings (1900 – 2100) at Whitesboro High School. More information will be provided as available. Boat Smart is an 8 hour course designed to provide basic knowledge and skill training for personal water craft operators and beginning boaters.

We are being encouraged to offer Boat Smart in June or July when the urge strikes many people to learn about boating. During these frigid days of December, can anyone think about possibly forgoing some precious boating time to teach a course during warm weather? You don't live on your boat in the summer time, do you? Happy Holidays!



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

Raymond A. Meier, New York State Senator, 47th District, informs us that a new law regarding the age to operate a Personal Watercraft has been passed. The new law will take effect January 1, 2006. The update is available at: www.nysparks.state.ny.us/boating/navigation.asp

Personal Watercraft - Minimum Age of Operation

On July 28, 2005 Governor Pataki signed a law amending Section 49, Subdivision 1-a of the Navigation Law raising the minimum age of operators of personal watercraft (PWC) to fourteen (14). This new law will take effect January 1, 2006.

However, in order to minimize the impact on riders currently under the age of fourteen (14) certain allowances have been to phase in this new law.

Until January 1, 2009, those operators age ten (10) through thirteen (13) that have a boating safety certificate may continue to operate a PWC if they are accompanied by:

- someone over 18 years of age and
- within 500 feet on another personal watercraft or vessel and
- within sight of the personal watercraft and
- holding a safety certificate of their own.

A Boating Safety Certificate is a certificate issued by the Commissioner, the United States Power Squadron, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, or in the case of a non-

resident his/her home state or country, as a result of completing a boating safety course.

This law only affects the operation of PWC's. Anyone over the age of ten (10) that holds a boating safety certificate can still operate a motor boat alone.

For more on this - go to the squadron web page,

☺ ☺ ☺

IT'S BACK!



Four years ago we searched the D 6 Conference at the Hotel Utica for the Utica Cup. we didn't find it but we did donate a new cup with the Utica name on it.

We are pleased to inform you that we finally have the original Utica Cup back home. It will be returned to its creators, P/D/ C Dagne Struthers, SN and Tom Baker for safe keeping.

Welcome home little cup. You were missed.

WANT A NAME TAG?

NEED A HAT? WANT A NEW BURGEE? HOW ABOUT A SHIRT?

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12TH NIGHT PARTY

JAN 15, 2006, 12:30PM
RAMADA INN

This painting will be raffled off at this event. The proceeds will be donated to the "Utica Power Squadron Education Fund". Raffle tickets cost \$1 each or \$5 for 6

tickets. The painting was donated by T.J Hyde, widow of P/C Bob Hyde, to commemorate his memory. The 17"x21" painting is by Gordon Grant -1927.

Go to usps.org/localusps/utica to print your own tickets. Bring the tickets and money to the Party or send them to P/C Rick Gassner, AP or the Commander.

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