



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

December 2013

District 6



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839-5522

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

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Commander Linda S. LaDuc, AP



Hello to all...

As winter settles in we are preparing for a Holiday Party on 11 December that will have taken place by the time The Bilgewater goes to print. In addition, our Bridge members spent most of our December meeting getting our 2014 meeting and event calendar in order (with some dates yet to be finalized). Please take note that the 12th Night Party will be held on 5 January, hopefully at Delta Lake Inn, followed by our Bridge meeting on 8 January at Cornell Cooperative Extension. Details will follow.

We had a very small group of 5 to begin our meeting last week, with another member arriving a bit later. According to my conversations with P/D/C and SEO/Treasurer, Dave Schulz, AP, despite the efforts of our Nominating Committee, it appears that we may not be able to field a full slate of officers for next year. I would like to remind everyone that our meetings are open to all members and we would welcome anyone interested in attending. I don't want to sound overly dramatic, but we really are entering 'dire straits' territory in that we need to find members who are willing to get involved. Like many Squadrons finding themselves "at risk", most of our members have already held offices and/or taught classes and can't be expected to do it all again; which means we have to find new members who share our love of boating and who can spare a bit of their time to help keep our organization strong. Bottom line—we need help!

I would like to send our get well wishes to P/C Harry Winberg, SN, who is still recovering from illness and eager to resume his weather course, and to P/C Jo Zogby, AP, who suffered another fall requiring a hospital stay. Also, our thoughts and prayers are with P/C Ellen Webster, SN, who recently lost her father.

Hope to see you at the Holiday Party next week at The Chowder House. If not, I wish you all a very happy holiday season and I look forward to a healthy and prosperous 2014!

SEO REPORT

By P/DC David Schulz, AP



Our Weather course has been on hold whilst our chief instructor gets his necessary repairs and cure for his ailment. Harry has been hurting with cellulitis and has involved at least 3 overnight hospital visits. We anticipate resuming instruction in January 2014.

Planning is underway for Advanced Piloting (AP). We will schedule following the completion of the Weather Course. Planning is also underway to schedule ABC3 classes. We anticipate a new demand for the public boating classes in light of the new NYS regulations requiring 8 hours of boating safety instruction which includes a proctored exam. (See the report on the law in last month's issue) The mandatory instruction and satisfactory exam grade is no longer for just personal water craft (PWC) operation. It is for all types of boat operation. It is structured so that the mandatory class includes youngsters for now and then everyone within a future time period. (With a birthdate after 1996 to start)

We have not seen the law but will obtain it and publish it in our next report. We have become aware that there are others that are offering the 8 hour ABC3 and New York State Boating Safety class in a single day. We find ourselves in competition with them in that we are losing participants and the opportunity to recruit members. (We note here that Utica Sail and Power Squadron has lost significant members. As of 6 DEC 2013 we have 48 "active" members.)

We have been discussing our "dilemma" at Council and Conference and have determined that other Squadrons are indeed having the same difficulty. Some Squadrons have begun to successfully offer ABC3 in one single day with successful results. Their technique includes a very structured script utilizing several instructors and USPS PowerPoint presentation. USPS is also offering several teaching aids that can be utilized by the Squadrons. We think it time to take a look at how we offer ABC3. We have a unique class in the spring that we feel is worth continuing.

However, we may want to consider either doing the whole 8 hour class in one day and include that unique feature or we might consider a two day class with the unique feature on day one with four hours that day and four hours the following Saturday. There are many variations but we do need to talk about it and plan our action.

Syracuse Sail and Power Squadron has notified us that they are preparing a flyer that will be handed out at the Syracuse Boat show that will include the dates for Syracuse's and Utica's ABC 3 course offering. We will try to get something together at our January meeting. Syracuse is also interested in joining Utica's offering of Junior Navigation (JN). We will discuss that also at our next meeting. Syracuse at present does not have a JN or N instructor but have several interested in taking it even traveling to our area for the instruction.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you all next year.

TREASURES REPORT DECEMBER 2013 BILGEWATER

We are happy to announce that we have successfully changed authority of our banking accounts. Two persons now have the authority to sign checks and transfer funds. This has been accomplished by authority of Executive Committee unanimous decision during our November 2013 meeting. Check signing authority now rests with the Treasurer or the Commander. In the past the authority rested with the Treasurer only. Our Bylaws are silent concerning signing authority.

We have also obtained back statements from AmeriCU that account for our financial activity from September 2013 to the present. All new statements will be sent to Treasurers home address. Statement copies will be made available to any member requesting.

We are currently updating our checking account values and preparing to have our accounts audited by our Finance Committee and Executive Committee appointed auditor, Kathleen Woodard.

We have several outstanding Debits that will be satisfied prior to audit. We also have several Credits that need to be deposited prior to audit. They will also be accomplished by 18 DEC 2013.

Our Treasurer also wore the “hat” of membership. So we need to offer the following;

PC Jo Zogby has sustained another fall in her home that resulted in a very deep and serious incision in her leg. She is recuperating at home but is able to walk about. Her spirit is typically Jo Zogby. It's tough to even try to slow her down. We wish her speedy recovery.

Harry Winberg was facing possible surgery on his leg to alleviate the effects of cellulitis. As previously noted he had to forgo his Weather studies of the Pacific Ocean from a Hawaiian perspective and suspended his in progress Weather course instruction. We wish him speedy recovery.

PC Bob Purpura is recuperating at home from a very serious ailment. It has curtailed his annual visit to Florida. We wish him a speedy recovery as well.

We suggest that you may want to keep all our infirmed in our thoughts and prayers. A card or phone call will let them know we are thinking about them and wishing them speedy recovery.



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder.

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!' (Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you.'

'scripture?' replied the burglar. 'She said she had an Ax and Two 38's!'

Send this to someone who needs a laugh today and remember. Knowing scripture can save your life - in more ways than one!

**

Well, this past Wednesday, I was out on a pre-Thanksgiving evening with friends. I had a few cocktails, followed by a handful of glasses of vintage red wine. Despite the jolliness, I still had the sense to know that I was over the limit. That's when I decided to do what I have never done before: I took a cab home.

Sure enough, there was a police road block on the freeway but, since it was a cab, they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident.

This was both a great relief and surprise because I had never driven a cab before. I don't even know where I got it from and, now that it is in my garage, I don't know what to do with it.

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. 'In honor of this holy season' Saint Peter said, 'You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven.'

The Englishman fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. 'It's a candle', he said.

'You may pass through the pearly gates' Saint Peter said.

The Scotsman reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, 'They're bells.'

Saint Peter said 'You may pass through the pearly gates'.

The Irishman started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, 'And just what do those symbolize?'

The Irishman replied, 'These are Carols.'

And So The Season Begins

With the holidays upon us I would like to share a personal experience with you about drinking and driving after a "social session" with friends.

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