



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

February 2005

District 6

12th. Night Party

About 40 Utica Power Squadron members and spouses enjoyed an excellent dinner and very enjoyable program on 16 JAN 2005 at the Ramada Inn, New Hartford.



Photographs of wild flowers of the Rome and Adirondack area were projected by P/C Bob Skalwold, SN with his wife Phyllis providing a spirited description of each picture. Some of the pictures were of flowering trees while most were of flowers. Many were taken in the sand barrens west of Rome. They even had a dozen or so pictures of orchids. What beautiful pictures to share with us on a cold winter afternoon! Since I know zip about flowers, I can not adequately describe the variety and beauty of the flowers. However, the Skalwolds were very well versed in their comments about each flower. Great job from the Nordskip folks.

Commander
Cdr Dave

Schulz, AP did a fine job leading the dinner program and introducing guests. Older members, David and Lucille Ellison were welcomed back. We were all glad to see them as we were glad to see P/C Bob Hyde, AP, Tom Mahar, Jim Davis and other friends. It was nice to see new members Linda LaDuc and Howard Wyeth with his lovely wife in attendance. Nice party thanks to Commander Dave and some helpers.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE - P 2 *** STEPHEN SMITH EDUCATION FUND - P 3 ***
CHANGE OF WATCH - P 3 *** SPRING CONFERENCE - P 4 +++ UPSTATE BOAT SHOW AND NATIONAL MEETING SAILING - P 5 *** BYLAW CHANGES - BRIDGE CANDIDATES AND CHECKING THE BILGE - P 6 *** OUR SUPPORTERS - P 7 ***

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Founders Day | 11 Feb 05 |
| Upstate Boat Show | 4,5 & 6 March |
| COW | 20 Mar 05 |
| Spring Conference | April 8-10 |
| Launch Party | May 05 |
| Haul Out Party | Sep or Oct |



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr David W. Schulz, AP

This is my second to last message as your Commander. It will not be the last time that you hear from me. We intend to stay quite active with our Squadron especially in education and boating issues.

Utica Power Squadron is far from a small Squadron. I have heard, so many times, that we are a small Squadron. True our membership is less than 80 but that can and will change to higher numbers. There are many squadrons in District 6 whose numbers are far less than Utica's. Some of those smaller squadrons are very active especially in public boating courses and member education classes. Some of their course offering look similar to a small community college offerings.

Utica Power Squadron has many very strong points. Most Past Commanders remain quite active. Our instructors teach multiple courses and are among the best I have encountered – some even better than some college professors that I have had. Our meeting room is the finest. Imagine – we meet in an executive board room provided to us by the unrelenting generosity of Tom Sears and Sears Oil Company. Our education classes held at Whitesboro Senior High School are in very comfortable surroundings augmented by a very helpful and accommodating staff. We are most grateful to all of our facility providers.

My watch was not without sadness. The untimely loss in passing of four members including two very active left us with a huge void that will be difficult to fill. At the same time however we will have some very new faces and leaders in our meetings and classrooms. We continue to be blessed with folks that step up to make us what we are.

We just returned from Spring Council. We had the second highest numbers of representatives in attendance. We are proud. Much of Council time was spent discussing changes in our courses and the new technology driving and augmenting them. We all learned something and will be sharing it with all our course participants.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at Founder's Day. Plan now also to attend our Change of Watch.

STEPHEN SMITH EDUCATIONAL BENEFACTORS FUND TEACHING EQUIPMENT ORDERED

Thanks to a most generous donation by Jackie Smith in Steve's memory, Utica Power Squadron has ordered new teaching equipment. New advanced grade courses for members are being developed by the national United States Power Squadron. These courses use Powerpoint presentation software to help the teacher display an excellent array of pictures, diagrams and demonstrations. These course upgrades must be displayed through digital projectors driven by the Powerpoint software running on laptop computers.

P/C Rick Gassner, AP reported at the Utica Power Squadron membership meeting held on Wednesday 2FEB2005. Rick has researched digital projectors and recommended that our squadron purchase an X2 model projector from InFocus Corporation. This projector has been tested by District 6 and other squadrons. InFocus has a contract with USPS to make their projectors available at a substantial discount. Seven of our squadron members observed the projector in action at the District 6 Spring Council meeting at Waterloo. A motion was approved for Rick to purchase the X2 digital projector with an extra bulb and a carrying case for up to \$1200.00.

A laptop computer is being ordered from Dell Computer Corporation. Dell has had a memorandum of understanding with USPS for several years to discount their products to squadrons. Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN studied several Dell laptop models to find a model that will meet our presentation needs for several years. Gerry recommended and received approval to purchase a Dell Inspiron 6000 laptop computer and carrying case. The 6000 has a large internal memory, a fast processor and a CD R/W DVD player. This model will allow UPS instructors and program presenters to display Powerpoint presentations, digital pictures, and DVD. Many thanks to Jackie Smith and all the other members who donated in Steve Smith's memory. This technology will improve our opportunities for interesting courses and perhaps some special meeting presentations.

CHANGE OF WATCH

Sunday 20 March 2005

1230 –1300 Cash Bar

1300 Dinner

\$15.00

Buffet Menu

Tenderloin Steak - Boneless Chicken

Postal - Roasted Red Potatoes

Salads - Coffee and Tea

Homemade Cake

Reservations to Cdr Dave Schulz, AP by 10 March 2005

266-0511 or e-mail to david.schulz@verizon.net

**RESERVATION FORM FOR MEALS AT THE –SPRING CONFERENCE
2005**

CLARION RIVERSIDE HOTEL, ROCHESTER, NY

8th -10th April 2005

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Grade: _____

Additional Name: _____ Rank: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Squadron Name: _____

Special Diet request available until 10 March 2005:

_____ Number of Lunches @ \$12.00 \$_____ (\$15.00 for late registration)

Dinner Choices:

Number of Chicken French _____

Number of Sole with stuffed crab _____

_____ Total Number of Dinners @ \$25.00 \$_____ (\$30.00 after advance deadline)

Total: \$_____

**Advance reservation deadline is 10 March 05. Cancellation for full refund deadline is
25th March 05.**

Please send this form, a separate sheet noting any special diet meal requests, and your check for the
“Total Amount” shown above, Payable to District 6 Spring Conference 2005 (in US Funds) to:

P/D/C Michael R. Kelly, AP 38 Preston Circle Rochester, NY 14626-1157

585-225-0827 or mkelly@rochester.rr.com

**Room Reservation to your Squadron Commander
Clarion Riverside Hotel, Rochester, NY**

120 East Main Street, Rochester, NY 14604

Phone: (585)5462-6400 Fax: (585)546-3908

Room Reservations

Room Rate is \$79.00 per night.

Deadline: 10th March 2005.

**Send completed Hotel Reservation Form to YOUR squadron commander.
2005 Spring Conference Hotel Reservation Form**

Name(s) _____

Nights Staying: Friday, 8 April 2005 _____ Saturday, 9 April 2005

Accommodations: Single _____ Double _____ Smoking _____ Nonsmoking

THE UPSTATE BOAT SHOW

WE ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

The Upstate Boat Show and Fishing Sale at the Turning Stone Casino Events Center will be a very good opportunity for our Squadron to show our value to the boating public. We will be talking about our Boating Safety courses and Boating Safety week programs at Lock 20. Included at the Lock 20 program will be a Boat Smart course and Vessel Safety Checks. Also at Turning Stone we will have some Homeland Security handouts and copies of the ABC course for sale. Brochures highlighting the benefits of Power Squadron membership and member courses will be offered to all interested visitors. If our new digital projector and laptop computer are ready we can show the GPS Seminar pictures as an added attraction. Perhaps we can even sign up some new members.

As usual we need help to staff the booth for a couple of hours at a time. The dates are 04, 05 and 06 March 2005. Daily hours are 1200 to 2000 on Friday, 1000 to 2000 on Saturday and 1000 to 1800 on Sunday. Any member who can help is asked to call Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN at 824-0978 or e-mail to frygr@dreamscape.com. Thanks to all who will help to make our squadron grow with good works and fun.

NATIONAL MEETING

BY LT/C GERRY FRY, JN

Vicky and I drove to Florida by way of Charleston, SC leaving Hamilton on 27DEC2004. We had a nice bus tour of Charleston and viewed that portion of the Intracoastal Waterway East of Charleston. Very beautiful city with lovely rivers on two sides. We stayed at my sister's home near Ocala over New Years, plus a few days to enjoy the 70 - 80 degree F. temp and sunshine every day. On 5JAN we drove to Disney World and stayed in my brother's 30 foot motorhome at Fort Wilderness. After touring Magic Kingdom, Epcot, and Animal Land we attended the USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando on 8JAN.

The annual meeting is held in the Rosen Hotel. Very nice and very expensive. By only attending on Saturday, we missed the vendor exhibits and teaching aids that I had hoped to see. We did get a brochure from Infocus Corporation that is discounting their digital projectors for USPS. More on digital projectors next month.

The meeting itself was in a room so large that a live video feed of the proceedings were projected on a large screen using (guess what!) an Infocus digital projector. This double opportunity to view the meeting was very helpful. Picture 1000plus USPS members in short sleeved white shirts and black pants crowded together. A lot of penguins came to mind somehow. Must have been the association with water.

We stayed long enough to see several national and international dignitaries exchange compliments with USPS and make some awards. These included a Canadian Power Squadron representative, the founder of Boat US, a Coast Guard rep, a Coast Guard Auxilliary rep, a NOAA rep, a National Transportation Safety Board rep and more. They all thanked USPS for our fine work in boating safety education and told us how important we are to our mutual mission of promoting boating safety. Impressive!

Since I had given our District Commander MJ my voting card, we left after a nice lunch. I must say that the whole affair would be more interesting to a member who is on a national committee or more involved on issues at the district or national level. It was a good experience and worth repeating some day.

We started North on 10 JAN to find rain and cold at the PA border. What a bummer after nothing but sunny days and warmth for ten days.

BYLAW CHANGES

Your committee is working to update and correct the Bylaws of the Utica Squadron.

To make it possible for everyone to participate in the process, P/C Rick Gassner, AP has placed the current bylaws and suggested changes on our web page.

Go to usps.org/localuspa/utica and click on the legal heading. This will bring you to a copy of the current bylaws as well as the suggested changes. Look them over and then contact the committee chair, P/D/C Dagne Strothers, SN at 733-1727 and tell her what you think. You are also welcome to click on the webmaster spot and send your views on to Rick via e-mail. In any event. please take the time to let your views be known.

Cdr Schulz has work on the topic of our name. has made it possible to change it if we want. Do you think we should be sail and power? Should Utica become Mohawk Valley or Top of the Erie? What's in a name? A lot when you think about it.

Please let the committee know what YOU think



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard P

HOW TO CLEAN THE HOUSE USING YOUR COMPUTER!

1. Open a new file in your PC.
2. Name it "Housework."
3. Send it to the RECYCLE BIN
4. Empty the RECYCLE BIN
5. Your PC will ask you, "Are you sure you want to delete housework permanently?"
6. Answer calmly, "Yes," and press the mouse button firmly....
7. All done. Feel better?

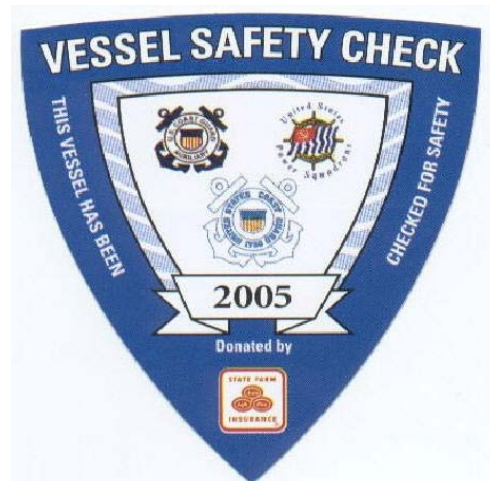
☺.☺.☺.

The weather has been rather mild for this part of the country, but the activities of you squadron have been anything but mild.

Please keep the information flowing to the **BILGEWATER**. We need your thoughts and suggestions to help us all stay informed.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

For Commander
Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN
For Executive Officer
George V. Peckingham, P
For Administrative Officer
Howard Wyatt Howard
For Treasurer
Lt/C Tom Sears, AP
For Secretary
Linda S. LaDuc, P
For Member of Executive Committee
P/C David W. Schulz, AP
P/C Dean A Woodard, P
P/C Richard R. Gassner. JN



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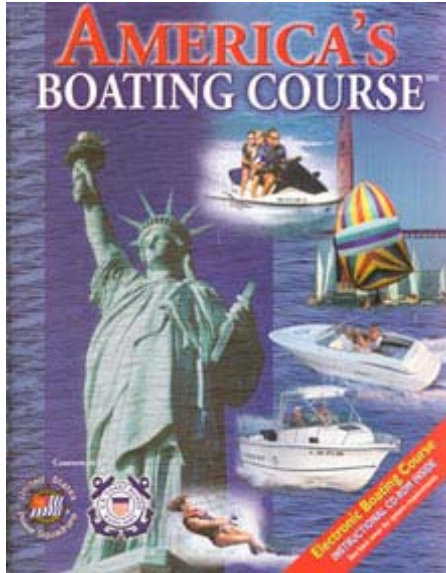
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IF SO, YOU MAY WANT TO SUGGEST THAT THEY CALL ELLEN WEBSTER AT 336-3444 AND BUY A COPY OF AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE.

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.

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