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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York
usps.org/localusps/utica

February 2006

District 6



NOMINATIONS FOR 2006

Commander
Gerald R. Fry, JN



Executive Officer
George Peckingham, P



Administrative Officer
Linda LaDuc, P



Treasurer
Thomas A. Sears, AP



Secretary
Colleen A Welch, P

FOUNDER'S DAY PARTY!

The date is 17 February 2006 at the
Verona VFW Post 6811,
4928 Spring Road Verona,
phone 363-9327.
Time to be there is 1730
(05:30 PM).

(It's a party, there's no time clock,
get there when you can!)
Bring a dish to pass and \$5.00 per
couple for drinks.
This is the auction!!
Bring your "best" items.

TRIP TO LOCK 17

23 February 2006
Breakfast in Herkimer
at 0930
Lock trip at 1100

Details at Founder's Day Party
or call the Commander

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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
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usps.org/localusps/utica

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DATES TO REMEMBER IN 06
SQUADRON MEETING 1 MARCH
FOUNDER'S DAY 17 FEBRUARY
TRIP TO LOCK 17 23 FEBRUARY
TRIP TO GEORGE PECKINGHAM'S 11 MARCH
CHANGE OF WATCH 19 MARCH

Spring is just ahead so we look forward to the next boating season. Of course we were spoiled by all that nice weather in January and now we must do winter activities again. Are you looking in the catalogs or online for those essentials to add to your boat? Are you planning your cruises for next summer? Perhaps you are taking a course with many of your Utica Power Squadron friends. All important things to do!

A trip to Florida this past January gave Vicky and me a chance to meet Rick Gassner to attend one day of the US Power Squadrons' annual meeting. We saw a lot of good ideas for teaching aids and enjoyed the booths staffed by national committee members and vendors. Several booths displayed Chart Plotters including Maptech. See the national web page www.usps.org for an opportunity for you to download free nautical charts from Maptech. I have several copies of the Maptech Chart Navigator Training CD. For \$100 you can upgrade this to Offshore Navigator so you can link your laptop PC with your GPS for real-time positioning. Please contact me if you are interested in some help on this electronic navigation software or finding the free charts on the website.

Last Saturday 4 Feb. five squadron members attended the District 6 Spring Council meeting in Geneva. It is always nice to visit with members from other squadrons and hear about their plans and problems. Any member can attend these council meetings and are most welcome to come along. All members are also welcome at the monthly Utica squadron meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month. Just in case you didn't know you are welcome.

Council meetings are held to plan for the Spring or Fall Conference and to update us on timely topics from national headquarters.

see page 5

A PROCLAMATION FOR LT/C THOMAS A. SEARS, AP

WHEREAS, Thomas A. Sears, of Rome, New York, did distinguish himself in furthering the accomplishment of goals set by the Utica Power Squadron, of the United States Power Squadrons, and did unselfishly give to that organization and to the City of Rome his time, talents, and resources for the betterment of civil and nautical society,

AND WHEREAS, more specifically, he and his family, through the Sears Family Foundation, donate significant fund grants to over fifteen qualifying community organizations in amounts annually over six figures,

AND WHEREAS, the Sears Corporate entity contributed \$500,000 to the 2003-2004 Rome Hospital Capital Campaign,

AND WHEREAS, the Sears Family has provided inputs to the Scholarship Foundation, their Church, and are a major sponsor of local concerts of The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra,

AND WHEREAS, Tom Sears has served as loyal and obedient Treasurer of the Utica Power Squadron for perhaps greater than twenty years (no one seems to know accurately), and has been known to save a temporarily foundering Treasury from financial mortification,

AND WHEREAS, Tom Sears has graciously offered his Corporate offices and copying equipment to be continually used by the Squadron, and during Bridge meetings has quietly maintained his composure during occasional internecine warfare witnessed in his premises,

AND WHEREAS, Tom Sears has donated an astounding number of really great and useful prizes to be raffled and auctioned off at Squadron functions,

AND WHEREAS, his monumental calm and dignity are never perturbed, (with the possible and understandable exception of the mention of the name Sears, Roebuck),

AND WHEREAS, we have in our midst an expert boater and captain of his fine ship, and who has the extreme good fortune of having as his lovely First Mate, Winifred (or Winnie to us) to insure that we, as she, has among us, a pretty damn good Guy!

LET US THEREFORE PROCLAIM this 15th Day of January 2006, as Tom Sears Day in the Utica Power Squadron.

Cdr Gerald R. Fry JN,

SPIDERS ON YOUR BOAT?

by Beth Joyal, P



Spiders, among other much more pleasant topics, came up while enjoying our afternoon at the 12th night celebration.

Rick and I came upon a fabulous product this summer when visiting Rienman's Ace hardware store in Clayton, NY. We were in search of a telescoping dust buster to act as a spider buster on the boat - a kind young lady helping us suggested we try Spiderkill II.

Well, try it we did. We followed the directions on the spray bottle, saturated our canvas sail cover inside and out, our winch covers, the pulpit, the swim platform - basically anywhere we had seen spiders, spider droppings or cobwebs. Much to our delight,

the odor was not unpleasant, almost like a ripe banana. Most important to us also was that the product is pet safe (unless you consider these giant spiders your pets)

Upon waking the next morning, armed with our spider buster ready to do battle as we do every morning with cobwebs and wash away spider residue - we were elated to find not one cobweb, not one sleepy spider and no ugly spider droppings.

Other than Clayton, I am not sure where you can find this product - check your local hardware store, pool store, boating store. Its just under \$20.00 for a quart size spray bottle, but according to the directions, if you saturate and let dry, the product stays active for 3 months. Unfortunately, we "found" the product in August, so we can't vouch for that.

Happy Sailing

Beth Joyal

Editor's Note: We did a little searching and made a few telephone calls. It seems that the product is made by an outfit named Clipper in Cleveland Ohio and is called Spider Kill II Marine and Household Insect Spray. Working on a local source but can't find one at the moment. Guess we will need to drive or sail to Clayton..

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some examples:

1. *Cashtration (n): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.*
2. *Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with*
3. *Bozone (n): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.*
4. *Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is, like, sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's, like, a serious bummer.*

12TH. NIGHT PARTY 2006

Members and guests attending Utica Power Squadron's annual 12th. Night Party (2006 version) enjoyed the company and entertaining program. A highlight of the afternoon program was a proclamation written by P/C Harry Winberg, SN honoring Lt./C Tom Sears, AP. 15 January 2006 was proclaimed "Tom Sears Day" in honor of the many, many, many contributions of Tom and his wife Winifred have made to the Utica Power Squadron and the Rome community. Tom has been Treasurer of UPS in excess of 18 years. Not that anyone is counting. Congratulations Tom and please keep up the good work. Harry made the proclamation (see page 3) humorous while maintaining a sense of the great scope of the Sears' family contributions.

Pictures and anecdotes by Captain Carl Albrecht, USN (retired) added to this excellent squadron event. Carl talked about the ships that he served on and described his duties as he rose up the Navy ranks to Captain. Carl saw service in Viet Nam and at the Naval Academy before his tours as Captain of two Navy vessels. Several anecdotes spiced up the presentation and provided member boaters with a snapshot of some "white knuckle" experiences. Fire in the battleship's main gunnery room, docking in Alaska with 40 knot winds, and a night transit of a narrow Japanese channel with many fishing boats are a few examples. Carl displayed a very positive attitude about his career and the Navy.

Last but not least came our raffle of the second beautiful boating picture donated by P/C Bob Hyde's widow TJ Hyde. The first winner was Hester Jager, P. However, Hester graciously declined the picture and graciously accepted some teasing because she had won the first picture at the Haul Out Party in September. Then P/C Ed Gaffney, AP won on

the second draw and was happy to take this wonderful remembrance of Bob Hyde to his home. By the way, Colleen Welch, S brought in some antique pictures of old boats for future raffles. How nice of her, and what beautiful pictures they are.

After the party some members stayed a while at the bar to watch a football game. Nice company. Nice food. And nice entertainment for all.

Commander from page 2

The D/6 Spring Conference will be held 31 March through 2 April 2006 on Grand Island in the Niagara River. The big topic of the day at Spring Council was ways to improve our use of Power Point software in our classes. There is never a shortage of things to learn for the inquiring mind.

Please look forward and plan to attend the Founder's Day party on 17 February and the Change of Watch Dinner on 19 March. See more information in this issue and next month. Our Founder's Day Party is great fun with the nautical items auction and social intercourse. Change of Watch is your chance to attend our squadron's annual meeting and see the installation of new officers. I will e-mail the list of nominees for 2006 -2007 squadron officers to everyone on my e-mail list. Contact me if you don't receive e-mails from me and send me your e-mail address. I can also send you a printed copy of the nominees if you request it. We will also conduct a membership vote on changing the squadron name from Utica Power Squadron to Utica Sail and Power Squadron at the Change of Watch Dinner.

Remember, member benefits are directly proportional to member involvement!

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

SEO REPORT – EDUCATION WITH A SMILE

By Lt./C Vicky Fry, JN

I'm happy to report that fall courses finished with 22 members becoming more proficient in their boating skills. Now we have to wait a few weeks for the graders at national headquarters to look over the final examinations. Not really like being a teenager again and worrying about Regents exams, but more fun and the courses are so relevant to our boating experiences and plans.

P/C Harry Winberg, SN has 7 students currently enjoying the Weather course. P/C Ellen Webster, SN reports ten members in the brand new "Advanced Piloting" course. I say brand new because the course includes so much new material about electronic navigation techniques. Both the new AP student manual and the "Weekend Navigator" book are packed with those skills that you need for safe piloting in inland and coastal waters.

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 share teaching duties with Dick Smith, P. Boat Smart is an 8 hour course designed to provide basic knowledge and skill training for personal water craft operators and beginning boaters. Reminds me of when Gerry and I took the Squadron Boating course several years ago with these venerable instructors.

Please note that the new 2006 New York State boating law book informs us on page 60, of a change in the age limit for children to operate personal watercraft. No child under 14 years of age may operate a personal watercraft unless accompanied on the PWC by a boating safety certified adult. However, until January 1, 2009, children between ages 10 and 14 who have taken a certified boating safety course may operate a PWC while alone on the PWC, when accompanied by a boating safety card carrying adult (over 18 years of age) who is on the water within 500 feet in a conventional boat or another PWC.

Remember National Safe Boating Week, May 20 to 26, 2006. 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.

Lifelong learning is one of the spices of life so keep learning.



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

Did you know that Lt/C George Peckingham, P was not only a fine squadron officer but also a boat builder? Well he is, and he has invited us to visit him at his "boat works" **On Saturday March 11th.** This should be a fun trip and an interesting experience. More information at Founder's Day Party, or give George a call.

☺ ☺ ☺

We ask your forgiveness for the quality of the photos on page one. The publishing process gets things a little distorted at times. We will try to do better at the Change of Watch. In the mean time, take our word for it, our officers are all fine looking people.

☺ ☺ ☺

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours

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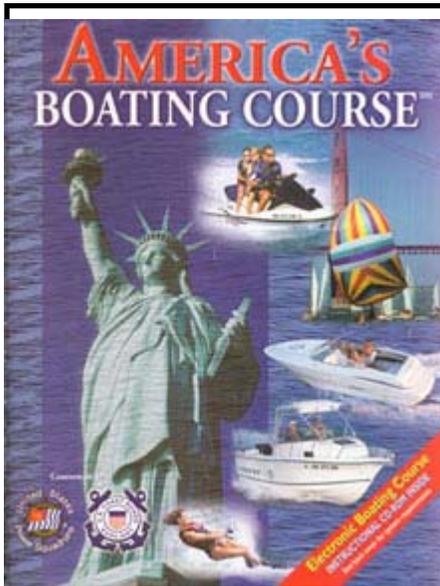
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The cost is \$35 which covers one exam. Additional exams will be \$5.00 each. Questions? Give Ellen a call.

The BILGEWATER
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