



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

<http://www.uticainfo.org>

February, 2011

District 6

## PC Edward T. Gaffney, AP

It is with deep sadness that we announce that one of our beloved Past Commanders, Edward T Gaffney, MD. (PC Edward Gaffney, AP), has sailed into his final horizon.

Doc had a major Coronary about 23 years ago while piloting his 42' Chris Craft Cruiser on Oneida Lake. The coronary left him operating with 40% of one half of his



heart. He discontinued his practice in Internal Medicine but remained active in medical circles, doing hospital charting, teaching classes in medical quality assurance, and chairing many medical committees. Recently he was employed by Oneida County Medicaid office. He and his brother, Brian Gaffney, MD built an office for their separate practices near St. Elizabeth's Hospital. In later years they donated the office building to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Doc once told me that he was expected to live for only about 5 years after his coronary. All of his family, medical staff and doctors called him the "medical miracle" for surviving 23 years and outliving two implanted pacemakers.

Ed was a true Renaissance man. He was fascinated by mechanical things and tinkered with them all. He was as much at home with tools as he was with medical instruments. He told me that he had every hand tool that Sears Roebuck ever made. He also made monthly trips to Harbor Freight Tools. His basement and garages attested to his possession of tools. Besides repairing his own automobiles, tractors, back hoe, bucket truck, mail truck and boats he also did his own home repairs.

He became a volunteer for the Adirondack Scenic Railroad and eventually became a qualified Conductor and Engineer. A title and volunteer job that he took great pride in and had a great passion for. Doc had a life long passion for trains. Not just the little Lionel trains but also the big full sized ones. When I first met Ed (he introduced himself as Ed Gaffney - I didn't know he was an MD until months later) he ascertained that I was just as interested in boats and trains as he was. He invited me to join him

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# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Bryan E. Walrath, JN



Hi everyone,  
Here's the monthly sloop. The new meeting place committee has met and we finally decided on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County on 121 Second Street, Oriskany, NY. We will have our first meeting there on March 6, 2011. We will continue to meet at the Sears building March 2. There is no charge to the power squadron for use of a conference room.

Our PR efforts continue to promote the public awareness of the Power Squadron and the benefits of membership and services to the community. We have mentioned numerous events in the last Bilgewater and we have one event that is starting to solidify, Paddle fest in Old Forge on May 20 - 22. I have talked with John Farrell from Old Forge and discussed possible options. He liked the idea of a PFD demonstration and doing a Paddle Smart seminar. Dave Schultz our SEO is ordering the education version of the Paddle Smart seminar and we can check it out.

We will continue to look at other opportunities to show case our squadron. We had a bit of a mix up and I must apologize to everyone. We did not have good attendance at our VFW party. This was in part due to the conflict with the district conference at Canandaigua. This was a mistake on the bridge and will not happen again.

Our next event is the change of watch to be held at the Beeches on March 6. Russell C. Dibble will represent District 6. The price is good and the food is great.  
My I add a special welcome to our nine new USPS members. We welcome you all with a warm summer breeze and blue sky welcome. If anyone has a good story or experience please send it to Dean and the Bilgewater.

one day in the cab of the locomotive that he was the engineer in charge. It was the Adirondack Scenic Railroad train hauling a load of passengers to Thendara – just a bit south of Old Forge, NY. It was my first ride in a locomotive. We arrived in Thendara, discharged the passengers then did some train movements including switching tracks. Doc then announced we would have lunch and return to the locomotive to do some repair work. He said that he felt the brake shoes on the loco were so worn that the return trip to Utica could be dangerous. The locomotive was disconnected from the train and placed on a siding next to an old freight station and shut down. Next thing I knew, there was Ed sitting in the ballast replacing eight sets of brake shoes. He was definitely in his glory. He narrated every move while I, also, sat in the ballast handing him tools – just like in a hospital operating room.

He was a member of Utica Power Squadron for over 50 years and has a complete collection of the Bilgewater dating from the first time it was published.

He was also an avid toy train collector, possessing a large collection of early and late Lionel model trains. Doc had many talents and interests.

About two years ago, Ed was diagnosed as having prostate cancer. Surgery was recommended as the cancer was aggressive. After surgery it was determined that the cancer remained active. Radiation proved ineffective. Hormone replacement therapy finally was effective in placing the cancer in remission but it was not determined where the cancer was hiding.

Doc returned to normal activities but noted that he was tiring easily and often found himself short of breath after walking short distances. He returned himself to St. E's for testing. They admitted him that day. Staff physicians thought that he had a massive virus infection and began to treat him accordingly. Doc disagreed and requested another approach.

His brother, Dr. Brian Gaffney, gave the Eulogy at his funeral and said it best. "Ed always wanted you to know his point of view – no matter how long it took". Doc finally convinced his new MD of the "correct" diagnosis. It was found that he was correct. He was discharged a day later, again returning to "normal" activities. His loss of strength and shortness of breath continued to become more of a problem. He returned himself to the hospital where they placed him in ICU. More testing revealed that his heart was weakening. Doc was then flown to Cleveland Clinic. In an attempt to strengthen his seriously weakened heart, a pump with tubes to chambers of his heart would be surgically placed. The medical staff, however determined that his heart was so weakened that the procedure could not be successfully performed. He was returned to St. Elizabeth's. At his request he was discharged to his home where he died the following evening with his entire family with him.

His Funeral was Wednesday, 19 January, 2011 AM. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Marsha, one daughter and family, three sons and families, eight grandchildren (grandpa's favorite people ever), and one brother - also an MD - three sisters – one of which is also an MD, many nieces and nephews and many, many friends. He will be missed by all of us, and probably mostly, for his ever present points of view and humor.

Dave Schulz



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

A motorcycle patrolman was rushed to the hospital with an inflamed appendix. The doctors operated and advised him that all was well; however, the patrolman kept feeling something pulling at the hairs in his crotch. Worried that it might be a second surgery and the doctors hadn't told him about it, he finally got enough energy to pull his hospital gown up enough so he could look at what was making him so uncomfortable. Taped firmly across his pubic hair and private parts were three wide strips of adhesive tape, the kind that doesn't come off easily --- if at all. Written on the tape in large black letters was the sentence, 'Get well soon - from the nurse in the Jeep you pulled over last week.'

Kinda brings tears to your eyes don't it.

☺ ☺ ☺

### TO BE 6 AGAIN!

A man was sitting on the edge of the bed, watching his wife, who was looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off he asked what she'd like to have for her birthday. 'I'd like to be six again', she replied, still looking in the mirror.

On the morning of her Birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Lucky Charms, and then took her to Six Flags theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park; the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Roller Coaster, everything there was.

Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake..

Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a soda pop, and her favorite candy, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure!

Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed exhausted. He leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, 'Well Dear, what was it like being six again?'

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed.

'I meant my dress size, you ?@\*#! retard!!!!'

The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, he is gonna get it wrong.

☺ ☺ ☺

Eleven people were hanging on a rope, under a helicopter.

10 men and 1 woman.

The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave, Because otherwise they were all going to fall. They weren't able to choose that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech.

She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids or for men in general, and was used to always making sacrifices with little in return.

As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping . . .

☺ ☺ ☺

We had to reduce the size of this issue of the Bilgewater because required material was never submitted by deadline. We have printed everything provided, but apologize for the two missing pages.

Our deadline for submission is the SECOND Wednesday of the month. It takes time to get everything together and get things printed.

Again we are sorry that this issue of your news letter had to be reduced in length.

DAW

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## COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, March 6, 2011** Change of Watch No detail confirmation at this time.

**Friday, June 3, 2011** at 5:30 PM  
Launch Party Picnic  
Lock 20 Marcy  
Bring a dish to pass and \$5.00 per person