



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

February 2014

District 6

Dear members,

After extensive poling by our Commander we have ascertained that due to lack of interest and prior commitments **Utica Sail and Power Squadron's Founders Day Celebration at Verona VFW Post is CANCELED.**

Our Change Of Watch (COW) on 09 March 2014 at The Beeches will include elements of Founders Day in that **United States Power Squadrons** are celebrating **100 years** of providing Boating Education to ourselves and the Boating public throughout 2014.

We hope you will plan on attending this very important milestone and Change of Watch to also show our support to our 2014 – 2015 Bridge and Executive committee members. This is our Squadron's Premier event. We need your help and support to insure our existence as a thriving Squadron that continues to provide the quality boater education that is our hallmark and foundation.

We will enjoy a wonderful **Brunch** beginning at **1200 (noon)** at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Our officers will be installed by USPS District 6 Lt. Commander Al Carmon, JN who serves as District 6 Treasurer.

Please Email our Commander (coolskip26@gmail.com) or call her (315) 839-5522 with your attendance intentions.

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

Commander..... Linda S. LaDuc AP
839-5522
Executive Officer.....Robert Walker, JN
SEO..... David W. Schultz, AP
266-0511
Administrative Officer..... Colleen A. Welch, AP
797-2009
Secretary.....John J. Reittinger, JN
868-8585
Treasurer..... Gerald R. Fry, JN
824-0978
Assistant SEO.....Linda S. LaDuc, AP
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NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page
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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Commander Linda S. LaDuc, AP



.Mother Nature was up to her old tricks on 5 February leaving us with some nasty weather that forced us to cancel our monthly meeting. The next time my Mom tells me that “The Farmer’s Almanac” predicts a long and snowy winter, I won’t be such a skeptic and I will believe what I am told. Perhaps I just didn’t want to believe it!

Lack of interest and several folks being away resulted in our having to cancel our Founder’s Day Party on 9 February. Since this is the USPS 100 Year Anniversary, we plan on adding a bit of a celebration to our C.O.W. on 9 March to commemorate this event. Speaking of the C.O.W., we do hope you will be able to take some time out of your busy schedules to come and support your new Bridge and partake in a wonderful brunch as well. As far as our new Bridge...we still have some holes and empty positions, so if you have some time to help out, please let me know.

Some notes:

P/C George, SN and Louise Peckingham have finally sold their Remsen home and are seeking a permanent residence in South Carolina. While we are very happy for George and Louise we will miss the enormous contributions George has made to our Squadron over the last several years—we will be hard-pressed to find someone to fill his shoes. We did send George off with a gift card and plaque in appreciation.

We also would like to send our thanks to AO Colleen Welch, AP who has decided to pursue other interests. We do appreciate all that you have done for us as well.

P/C Harry Winberg, SN has resumed his *weather course*.

See page 4 commander

SEO REPORT

By P/D/C David Schulz, AP



Education Department report Feb 2014

PC Harry Winberg's Weather Class has concluded and is awaiting the arrival of their examinations. We have been notified of their shipment - however, today, Raleigh, NC was inundated with an ice/snow storm that has crippled the city. Raleigh, as you may recall is the home to our USPS National offices. The Weather Class has given us three new members; Peter F. Kaido, John B. Sterling III and Gregory Scott Warne. Let's give them a warm Utica Sail and Power Squadron welcome.

PC Rick Gassner, SN recently held an ABC3 class consisting of 10 students. The course was given in two 4 hour segments. All students were successful in their examination. Congratulations to Captain Rick and his unique class. Unfortunately no one wished to join USPS at this time but we do have their names and who knows maybe we will become attractive to them in the near future when they get on the water. (whenever Spring and warm weather arrives).

We are in the process of offering Advance Piloting (AP) and are organizing our next ABC3 offering. Other Seminars and Classes can be offered but we need to know your wishes. We have willing teachers who would be glad to hook up with willing students. Just let us know.

We were unhappy with cancelling our Founders Day celebration. But poor attendance precluded holding the event. It was unfortunate in light of our yearlong celebration of our 100 years of existence of offering quality, relevant boating courses along with fellowship and community service. Founders Day is the birthday celebration for USPS.

We hope to see everyone at our 74th Change of Watch (COW), 09 March 2014 at the Beeches in Rome, NY. Note that next year we will be celebrating 75 years of existence. We have come a long way. However, we have lost a significant number of members this past year due to death and non-renewals. The loss is more significant when we examine our 2014 – 2015 Bridge and Executive Committee. For the first time we have had to request our current Commander to serve an unprecedented third term. In addition we have not filled the Administrative Officer and Executive Officer positions with new names. We will not have an Executive Officer but the Administrative officer will be filled by a Past Commander. Other positions have been filled by doubling up. We need to find new members. Each of the Officer and Board member positions require a commitment of time and energy. Each position offers the person filling the position an opportunity to improve themselves through attendance at District events and through the interaction with other Squadron and District Officers and members. An example – - 1 March 2014 will be District 6 Spring Council 2014 in Newark, NY. There will be a short but formal business meeting then an Instructor Recertification Class. Along with an inexpensive lunch, there will be plenty of time for Squadron officers and members to interact with each other to share failures and successes.

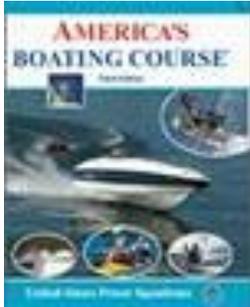
Why did we include this in our Education article? We need you to be aware of our need for help and rejuvenation.

Commander fgrom page 2

P/C Jo Zogby, AP is recuperating from her most recent fall—we wish you well Josephine.

Spring Council will be held on 1 March at the Newark American Legion and Spring Conference will run from 28-30 March in Batavia, NY. I think I wanted to remind folks of those events because they include the word “spring”!

Hope to see you soon. Linda



The 8 hour Basic Boating course (America’s Boating course) was taught on Sat. Jan 25 and Sun. Jan 26. This course was unique in that it was taught at a family home with 10 people attending. It was easy to connect my computer to their large screen TV so the Power Point presentation could be made. This made an informal atmosphere where it was easy to ask questions. All 10 people passed and were issued their boating certificate. If anyone knows of a family group that wants the basic boating course I would be happy to teach another one.

Bilgewater Subscriptions

The production and distribution of our newsletter has been labor intensive and expensive by having paper copies sent. For some time the squadron has eliminated paper copies to people that have valid email accounts. It is time to update the email list and check to see if we can eliminate more paper copies. Please evaluate your subscription and see if you can go digital and save our Utica Squadron some time and money. If so please email gass-nerr@roadrunner.com

Don't forget
Change of
Watch
2014
March 9 at the
Beeches

If you can come
Call the Commander



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

Gun Control Has Started!

It has already started at Dick's Sporting Goods Store.

There was a bit of confusion at their store this weekend.

When I was ready to pay for my purchase of some ammo, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."

Making a mental note to complain to the NRA about these gun control whackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.

When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out that she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card-reader.

I have been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to us seniors a little clearer!

The Blonde Pilot..

This is the story of the blonde flying in a two-seater airplane with just the pilot.

He has a heart attack and dies. She, frantic, calls out a May Day.

"May Day! May Day! Help me! Help me! My pilot had a heart attack and is dead. and I don't know how to fly. Help me! Please help me!"

She hears a voice over the radio saying: "This is Air Traffic Control and I have you loud and clear. I will talk you through this and get you back on the ground. I've had a lot of experience with this kind of problem. 'Now, just take a deep breath. Everything will be fine!

Now give me your height and position." She says, "I'm 5'4" and I support Obama."

"O.K." says the voice on the radio....

"Repeat after me:

Our Father. Who art in Heaven."

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

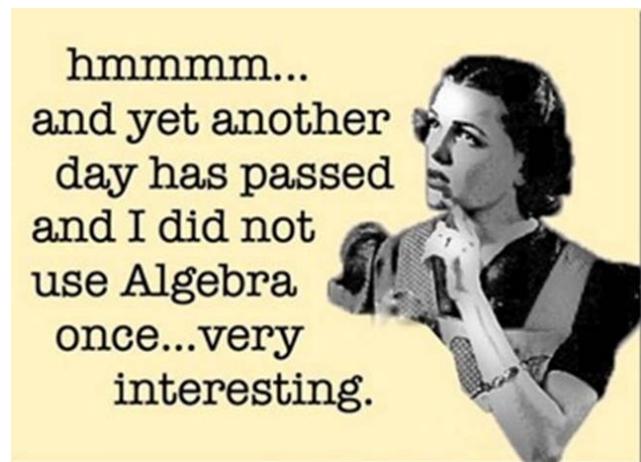
The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'



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