



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

January, 2004

District 6



Breakfast before the Lock visit has become another squadron tradition. Seen above at the Vienna Hotel from left to right are P/C Fred Dyer, AP, P/C Dave Kobernuss, SN, Tom Mahar, Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN and Lt Vicky Fry, JN. The food was fine and the conversation was entertaining.

LOCK 21 MISSION COMPLETED

In the winter of 1997 the Utica Squadron visited the Utica Section Headquarters for the barge canal system. We toured their workshop and the equipment in the Utica Harbor. It was a great trip. Soon after Lt/C Walt Kramer, AP, suggested and arranged for a tour of Lock 22 during its winter repair cycle. It was a little cold, but a great learning experience.

Over the years we have had the opportunity to visit all the locks, from 17 to 22 under the control of the Utica Section. Without exception we have always been impressed by the quantity and quality of the work accomplished by the Canal Corporation staff. They have always been most courteous and helpful toward us. They have shown us around and answered all of our questions. They are an impressive crew and we have grown to have great respect for a really hard job very well done. As a matter of fact the modern Erie Canal is as much a living and working museum as anything else. Its structures give a meaningful insight into late 19th and early 20th century industrial America. We just don't make things like this any more.



Some of the crew with Canal Section Chief Dan Cornmire

Our canal journey is not over. We have one more lock to visit. Where? The Utica Harbor Lock remains on our list. This is the entrance to the maintenance area at Utica. As such it is not really a "public" lock in the same way the others are. But we will try to get to see it. Our quest continues. It also know that there is a drydock near New London. Wonder what that looks like?

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by Cdr David W. Schulz, AP

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SQUADRON MEETING - 4 FEBRUARY 04
BILGEWATER DEADLINE - 10 FEBRUARY 04

12TH NIGHT - 18 JANUARY 04

**FOR A FULL LIST OF
COMING EVENTS TURN TO
PAGE 8 OF THIS ISSUE**

Happy New Year to all.
The Holidays are behind us now and so is the weight gain. So maybe now we can blow off some of that excess ballast and get ready for our boating season without having to buy a bigger boat – wait just a minute! Oh well, another excuse shot. We are looking forward to the start of Seamanship and a few other courses. Should be fun and informative.

Our 12th Night party honoring the Elisions will be a real treat for all of us. They have contributed so much to our community and our Squadron.

Congratulation to Dick and P/C Dean on a 100% passing rate in their last large Boat Smart class. They even had the Canal Section Chief's wife in the class. We may even get a member or two!?!

Our trip to lock 21 was the on the warmest day that I can remember since my first visit three years ago. The full report on that amazing trip is in this issue. I finally remembered the name of the wood that is being used instead of Oak. It is Ikki wood from South America. As of the visit it was still "hung up" in customs but will soon be machined to the unique shapes required for the Quoins on the lock doors.

Bob Hyde is still undergoing treatments at the VA so he visits there weekly. Please keep him in your thoughts. Dean Woodard will have had surgery when you read this and will be away for a few days in "recovery". Have a good time Dean. We are sure the surgery will go well – the doctor, it is rumored, is a Democrat.

See you all at 12th Night and our 7 January 2004 meeting.
Dave

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

by Lt/C Gerry Fry, JB

Oh, you're back to read my number two opinion paper that is attempting to discover ways to make Utica Power Squadron more interesting. Thanks for exploring ideas with us. Last month we listed the three-part mission of United States Power Squadrons. They are: social interaction, member education, and public service. Let's talk in more detail about social interaction in the Utica Power Squadron.

We have the pleasure of interacting with fellow members in several ways. Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1930 in the Sears Oil Company building in Rome. All members are welcome! We also hold special events including the 12th Night Party in January, the Founder's Day Party and nautical auction in February, the Change Of Watch party in March, the Launch Party in May, the Adirondack Railroad trip in September, and the visit to a drained Erie Canal Lock in December.

One year we traveled by bus to the New York City Boat Show in January. This was very special and some members even took a side trip to tour the military vessel "Intrepid". We also make great friends in our boating courses that are part of the member education mission. Many members also get together in small groups for cruises, picnics, and parties. Teaching the Boat Smart course and helping with Boating Safety week also give us opportunities for social intercourse. Some people may even want to try partnering to do Vessel Safety Checks or to look for Cooperative Charting update possibilities.

In thinking about the above listed opportunities for enjoyment and networking, we may discuss ways to make a great group even better. The monthly meeting used to be called "Bridge Meetings". At my request and maybe others, Past Commander Woodard changed the name to "Membership Meeting". Our hope was that more members would attend. PC Woodard and PC Gassner also encouraged members to set up a couple of dinner meetings. At one of these we heard an excellent presentation about the original Erie Canal. At another, a portable defibrillator was demonstrated. Great ideas and very interesting but too many members missed these informative presentations.

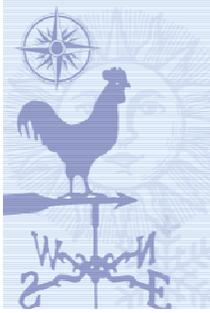
Perhaps we should still have bridge meetings for officers to plan our future. Other very interested sages could also attend to help in the planning. The full membership of UPS would be encouraged to attend the Special Events. Only April, June, July, August, October and November lack a special event at this time. Regular monthly events with interesting nautical programs, good food, adult libations, and jocularly should attract more old and young tars. If you think that tars is a derogatory name, please don't, just think of yourself as a regular party on the quarter-deck. Perhaps you could phone Commander Dave Schulz with your ideas or desires. It may take a while but we can all benefit from change.

New member involvement can improve with these and your ideas. When Vicky and I joined Utica Power Squadron, it took a while for us to get involved and meet new friends. Past Commander Jo Zogby started us in a Seamanship class with Bob Purpura. The course and Bob were both great. We have had very fulfilling experience ever since. Are we getting our new members involved promptly at this time? It only takes one "senior grade" to reach out to the new "midshipman" to get them started.

For Vicky and I, the Utica Power Squadron has opened up new adventures. Each time we attend a class or hear a fellow member relate some boating experience, we also enjoy and learn from that experience. Hopefully we have made and will continue to make our own contributions. At one Launch Party we asked members who have built boats to show their creation. The display and descriptions of the building process were enjoyed by all. We even had the pleasure of meeting a couple of members whose special interest is boat building. How many other special interest groups do we have in our club? What is your special interest? I expect that several great programs could be arranged where members display, describe or demonstrate special interests, skills, hobbies, or unique boats. Unique boats make me think of Mike Bamberger, Don Freeson, and Ed Gaffney. Could we meet near their storage barn or slip and get to see the beauties? Who else is proud of their special boat?

Those who teach our member education courses may enjoy giving a short presentation at a dinner meeting. Likewise the chairs of committees could present in a similar venue. PC Gassner once presented a beautiful slide show (computerized - he's so cool!) about chartering a sailboat to cruise in the Virgin Islands(American or British?, ask him). Perhaps the Webster's could introduce us to their small fish collection. All fishermen amongst us will pay close attention.

Networking with associates is the key to success in the world today. Our squadron is our network for boating pleasure, safety, and successful cruising. How can we improve this networking? Thanks



REGIONAL WEATHER, DISTRICT 6 AREA, USPS

*The new USPS Weather Course is designed to offer specific weather information for the United States. As a part of this national project, our own P/C Harry Winberg, SN was asked to contribute a weather guide for the region covered by District 6. The following Regional Weather section is the final installment of Harry's contribution to this national task. If you have missed any of the installments of this weather paper we plan to combine the entire work in an appropriate format for your use. We will let you know when it is available. (Continued from November **BILGEWATER**)*

V. What conditions precede these systems?

A. Prior to the arrival of a cpk air mass we typically see gradually cooling temperatures, an absence of frontal activity, fair skies, and the entrance of a large high pressure dome. These are ideal boating conditions and are much appreciated when they arrive.

B. An mtw air mass moving up from the southwest can easily be powerful enough to generate lows in the Mississippi and Ohio basins and move them into our area as rainy wide warm fronts, followed by warm southwesterly breezes and generally good weather until the cold fronts strike with their wind shifts, storms, etc.

C. The Nor-Easter is usually preceded by southeast winds and gray skies for long periods of time, perhaps a couple of days, ever swinging to east and then northeast winds, and finally rain as the low moves on up the coast and out into the Atlantic.

VI. These systems bring what:

A. Winds?: cpk systems bring west-northwest winds of moderate speeds. mtw systems bring mild southwest winds, veering to strong northwest winds following cold front passages. "Nor-Easter" systems bring steady, moderate winds as previously described.

B. Precipitation?: cpk systems are usually quite dry, except for tail-end lake effect. mtw systems vary from rain preceding warm fronts, to occasional cumulus showers in the warm sectors, to heavy thunderstorms in cold front regions and finally to near zero post-front precipitation. "Nor-Easter" systems bring much rain over several hours or days.

C. Visibilities?: cpk systems bring good visibilities. mtw systems bring poor pre-warm front visibilities and fog; moderate to hazy conditions in the warm sectors, and good visibilities following cold front passages. "Nor-Easter" systems bring moderate visibilities except as reduced by rain.

D. Clouds?: cpk systems have few and non-significant clouds mtw systems run the gamut of cloud types over time. "Nor-Easter" systems bring heavy stratus and cumulostratus clouds.

E. Seas?: cpk systems bring quite steady and moderate sea states. mtw systems bring a variety of sea states, ranging from flat prior to a warm front, to moderate in the warm sectors, followed by heavy and sometimes dangerous seas following cold front passages, especially in Lake Ontario and to some degree in Oneida Lake (confused wave patterns), due to the amount of fetch present with a W or WNW wind. "Nor-Easter" systems bring steady seas of light to moderate character usually without the violent buildup associated with frontal passage. Also, steady rain helps calm the seas.

VII. Currents:

Currents on Central New York waters tend to be nonexistent except for a few notable exceptions. These exceptions, described below, are not weather generated but can be affected in their severity by present and past weather. As Lake Erie empties into the Niagara River it builds up a current until, approaching the Falls, it is a wild thing and virtually un-navigable. This influence is seen after leaving Buffalo on the river and increases over the two branches of the river until they converge beyond Grand Island. The Niagara River north of the Falls is navigable generally from the area near Lewiston N.Y. to the lake but has a strong current all the way to Lake Ontario.

Currents also exist on the Oswego River (Canal System) as it nears Lake Ontario and their effects are seasonable with greatest magnitude seen in springtime when the waters' rush to the lake is most dramatic. Various tributaries to Lake Ontario exhibit similar currents to different degrees. The St. Lawrence Seaway and the 1000 Islands area possess a great variety of currents due to the changing elevation of the river, especially in the narrower channels to the north of the main Seaway channel. Some of these "standing" currents are formidable and can cause near loss of control of small boats in their influence. Currents of a sort can be found in the locking areas of the state's canals, especially the Welland and to a degree, the St. Lawrence Seaway.

VIII. Tides?

There are no discernable tides in our region.

IX. Where to seek shelter during a storm?

There are so many different scenarios possible with boating in this area that no specific tips for shelter are really practical. The obvious measures given in other Power Squadron Texts apply in our region as well as in others, and should be a part of every boater's plan. One caution for the boater who finds himself/herself on the Finger Lakes; there are very few ports of shelter and one must study available charts carefully for such havens.

X. Sources of weather information.

Good weather forecast sources in this area:

Television:

The Weather Channel (cable channels differ with city)
Time Warner Local Weather, (Channel 10 in Syracuse/Utica)
Local network news stations.

Radio:

NOAA Weather Radio (VHF Channel 3 and 4 in our area)
Environment Canada Radio (VHF Channel 2 and 83)

Government:

National Weather Service broad
FAA Wx broadcasts (requires aero VHF/UHF)

COMING EVENTS FROM THE AO

BY LT/C STEVE SMITH, S

This is the last call for the 12th night party on Sunday, January 18th. I

must have the head count to the Ramada on Friday, so RSVP with me (339-3691) by Thursday January 15th.

FOUNDER'S DAY

The Founders day party is also coming up.

Date: Friday, February 13th

Time: 1730 (5:30 p m for you land lubbers)

Location: Verona VFW Post.

Food: Bring a dish to pass. There will be a \$5 per couple charge to cover beer and soda.

Agenda: Auction We say it is for nautical related items - but we really don't care. We have fun selling most everything.



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A, Woodard, P

Lt Richard Smith, P, sent me the following note. I think his observations are well made. What do you think?

There was a little blurb in the paper this past weekend indicating that boat traffic on the canal system was down over 8% from 2002. This was attributed to cool wet weather which cut into pleasure craft outings.

I did some math on numbers in the article. They count the number of "local risings" on the system. In other words, how many boats passed through a lock. The total was 149,635. A boat passing through a single lock would be counted as one "local rising". A single boat traveling through six locks would count as six "local risings."

The article also indicated that since 1995, over \$500,000,000 in state and federal funds has been spent on canal improvements. If over the 9 year period including the years 1995-2003, the average number of "local risings" was 150,000, that amounts to an average of \$3600 per lock passage. I know that boat fees don't come close to that.

I also know that canal improvements also include marinas and other improvements that communities think will improve their economy (such as the river front park in Canajoharie right next to the waste water treatment plant!). I believe it also includes construction of the Erie Canal bike path, which I use frequently.

Personally, I like the canal. I'd love to take a canal vacation on a houseboat one of these years. Still, the numbers are mind boggling.

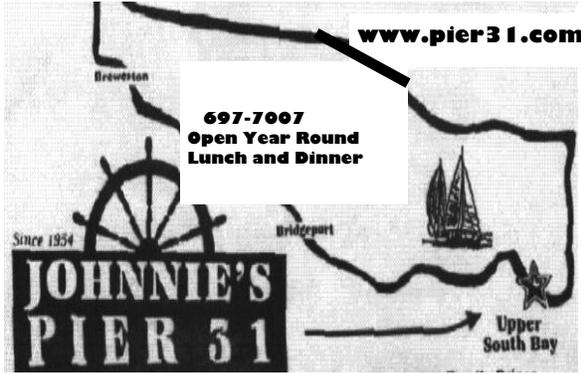
☼.☼.☼.

And a word in response to Dave. Thanks for your kind words in the Commander's message, but the doctor must have been a Republican - it hurt like hell!

☼.☼.☼.

We are very sorry that we will not be able to be at the party with the Ellisons. We wish them the very best. They are the type of people that make USPS the great organization it is.

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made with BoatU.S. our members are able to
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members.

GA81671P

is our membership number.

Contact Cdr Schulz with any questions.

COMING EVENTS

The following colander of events are being planned. You may want to clip this section for future reference.

14 Jan 04 - 18 Jan 04 USPS Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

18 Jan 04 12th Night, Ramada Inn, 1230 (Honoring the Ellisons)

08 Feb 04 D/6 Spring Council, Waterloo, NY

13 Feb 04 Founders Day, VFW Post (Verona?) Our annual Nautical Auction

21 Mar 04 Change Of Watch at Kitty's on the Canal, 1230

Apr 04 D/6 Spring Conference

May 04 Launch Party

**22 - 28 May - National Safe Boating Week - Squadron Events at Lock 20 in Marcy 22
May**