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[usps.org/localusps/utica](http://usps.org/localusps/utica)

January 2007

District 6

## HEAR YE HEAR YE! IT'S A PARTY!

It's once again time for our Founder's Day Party! This is our come as you are, bring a dish to pass and plenty of cash party. Following an always varied and creative collection of palate pleasers, we will have an auction of various treasures and collectibles. Your squadron is asking you to donate an object (old or new) to be auctioned to the highest bidder. This party is always a lot of fun and is not to be missed. So, if one of your New Year's resolutions was to attend a Squadron's function and the other was to re-gift a present, this party was made for you! See you there.

Now for the particulars:

Time: 1800 hr ( 6:00 PM)

Date: 16 February (third Friday)

Place: Verona VFW Post 6811

4928 Spring Rd

Verona, NY Phone: 363-9327

Cost: A smile, a dish to pass, an item to auction and \$5.00 per couple.

The beer soda and wine our provided by the Squadron.

## 12TH NIGHT

It's not too late! You can still make reservations for the 12th Night Party that will be at the Ramada Inn, New Hartford at 1230 on 14 January 2007. Call Lt/C Linda LaDuc, P at 315-839-5522. Don't put off the call the deadline is 8 January 2007.

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

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# UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

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### DATES TO REMEMBER IN '06

<b>12<sup>TH</sup>. NIGHT PARTY</b>	<b>14 JANUARY</b>
<b>SQUADRON MEETING</b>	<b>7 FEBRUARY</b>
<b>BILGEWATER DEADLINE</b>	<b>14 FEBRUARY</b>
<b>FOUNDER'S DAY</b>	<b>16 FEBRUARY</b>

Happy New Year, to one and all. As I write this on the darkest of all the dark days of winter, it is nice to know that we are now nearing the upslope of longer and longer days. But they are dark days and our boats sit on the hard. How do we pass our leisure hours, if we are fortunate enough to have any leisure hours?

Some of us sneak off to warmer climes. Vicky and I are heading to Florida for three weeks including seven days on our first cruise. We are really excited because we have heard so many positive things from many of our fellow USPS members. We hope to get some celestial sights for our N sight folder while on the boat. Now how do we measure height of eye from that upper deck?

A few years ago Vicky was invited to consult on a freshman experience video production being done by the Orange County Community Colleges near Los Angeles, CA. Of course I went along to carry her bags. One evening the college folks took us to Newport Beach for a nice dinner. You know, the Newport Beach where the two car dealerships in town are the Benz and Beemer outlets. We were seated by the window overlooking the harbor on 18 December that year when they had their Christmas parade of boats. Every yacht was decorated with Christmas tree lights on the mast shrouds and stays. It was only disappointing when it became so dark that all we could see was the lights and not the boats. Just something to think about as we watch the days get longer again.

Of course some people look at seed catalogs at this time of year and plan the summer planting. Others look at boat sale web pages or catalogs of marine parts. Other folks

*See Commander page 3*

## Commander from page 2

start new USPS courses. It is interesting that this year national USPS wants us to elect or appoint a chairperson for seminars and another person to chair the USPS Guides Committee. The seminars are new so please read about the upcoming meeting to be held in early February as explained in the SEO report. The USPS guides have been around for some time and many of you have seen them for sale in the West Marine or Boat US stores. They are excellent short texts about many boating subjects. Again, see the SEO report for more details. We will try to bring both of these great sources of boating knowledge to your attention on more occasions.

Now you simply can't have all work and no play during the dark days so I hope you made it to the 12<sup>th</sup>. Night Party. The Founder's Day party is in February and the Change of Watch dinner is in March. Take some time out from all your boating catalogs to attend these fun squadron events. USPS boaters sure know how to get through those dark and storm nights.

### AN OBSERVATION

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

### BoatU.S.

Because of the special arrangement made with BoatU.S. our members are able to pay only one-half of the regular dues of \$19.00 - only \$9.50 per year for our members.



## The Old Skipper Sez!"

by P/C Robert Skalwold, SN

The pocket calculator or even a slide rule is an invaluable aid to piloting and navigation. It can be used to rapidly work time, speed and distance problems; set and drift problems; distance off by two bearings, longitude by sextant and chronometer without plotting, L.O.P.'s from dead reckoning position; course and distance from a departure on one chart to a destination on another chart of different scale; and many otherwise time consuming and fatiguing jobs.

*Next Issue we will explore some books I would have on Board.*

**Happy Birthday Bob!!!**

### PILOTING CLASS

It's time to sign up for that Piloting class you have always wanted to take.

Lt/C George Peckingham, AP will be offering the Piloting Class at Whitesboro Senior High School starting on January 16, 2007.

If you think you may be interesting please call George at home or send him an e-mail.

WANT A NAME TAG?  
NEED A HAT? WANT A NEW BURGEE?  
HOW ABOUT A SHIRT?  
George Peckingham at 315-831-2170  
duke\_peck@msn.com

## UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS DISTRICT 6

**2007 EDUCATIONAL MEETING 2 – 3 FEBRUARY 2007**  
**Ramada Geneva Lakefront, 41 Lakefront Drive, Geneva, NY 14456**  
**315-789-0400**

**TO: All District 6 Members**

The first of its kind Educational Department Meeting will begin with an informal dinner featuring R/C Robert Sweet, SN with an inspiring talk about the Future of USPS. Come on Friday evening, 2 February and enjoy dinner at 1730 with fellow members, and a refreshing night's stay at the Ramada Lakefront Inn. Friday night is a great time to share ideas and ask questions. On Saturday beginning at 0900, R/C Robert Potter SN, will present the "Boat Operators Certification program and will actually begin Certifying Certifiers for the program. D/6 will be the first to see this new program and the first to participate. The Ramada Lakefront is located in Geneva. Take exit 42 off the NYS Thruway I-90. Take Route 14 South to Geneva.

**TO: Squadron Commanders, Educational Officers, Executive Officers, Administrative Officers, Instructors, Department Chairmen and all that would like to attend.**

The Education Department requests that you inform your officers, the district lieutenants in your squadron, and your members that they are all are invited to attend this event. Be prepared to participate in ground breaking educational material featuring demonstrated on the water skills called *Boat Operator Certification* beginning at **0900**

Later a presentation by P/C Paul Flagg N, will present "*How to give a seminar*". This is a must see for all who plan to teach seminars from the *USPS University Seminar Series*.

D/1stL/C Bill Herrick JN will follow with "*SEO 101*". This will be open to all and is a must for Instructors, ASEO or SEO and will cover all the operation of the Education Department of you squadron.

We realize that your time is important to you and we **promise** to have you out of this presentation by no later than 1500. Please see the proposed preliminary agenda. Your participation and input to this process is highly encouraged.

### **Preliminary Agenda**

**0900 - R/C Robert Potter SN - Boat Operator Certification**

**1130 - Lunch**

**1300 - P/C Paul Flagg N, - How to give a seminar**

**1400 - D/1<sup>st</sup> Lt/C Bill Herrick JN, - SEO 101**

**Reservations are a MUST!** Since this is the first of its kind meeting, there is no way we will be able to guess who may come as a walk in at the last minute. Please be courteous enough to make reservations by the date below.

For tax-exempt room and lunch reservations, please tear off and send **BEFORE 14 January 07** with a check payable to D/6 Educational Department Meeting. Send to:

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

# From The SEO

By Lt./C Vicky Fry, JN



Exciting educational opportunities are opening up for all of us with the new USPS University. This new university is designed to make you a better boater and be able to prove it. Many of our members have chartered boats for a week or two in far off waters. When you want to do the same, how will you convince the chartering company that you are a qualified skipper? A competence certificate from USPS University is the answer. We know that a certificate of competence can be earned by taking our regular advanced grade, electives and seminar courses.

Many other questions need to be answered about how the university certification will work. We will have an opportunity to ask questions and hear two presentations from national officers on 2-3 February 2007. The location is favorable for us Utica squadron members since this meeting will be held at the Ramada Geneva Lakefront Hotel in Geneva, NY. Not really a long drive to hear Assistant National Education Officer Robert Sweet, SN talk about the future of USPS. Bob is the guy who wrote "The Weekend Navigator" and "GPS for Mariners". These are both great books for modern navigators. Bob's presentation will be at an informal dinner at 1730 on Friday 2 February. In addition at 0900 on Saturday, District 6 members will be the first group to hear Rear Commander Robert Potter, SN describe the "Boat Operators Certification Program". This opportunity to hear first hand how the certification process will work should not be missed. Reservations are required for the tax exempt rooms at \$75.00 per night. Lunch reservations for Saturday noon (\$12.00) are also a must. Contact me and I will have my helper (Gerry) send you the reservation forms.

Seminar courses currently available include: The GPS Seminar, The VHF/DSC Radio Seminar, The Chart Use Seminar, and the Weather Seminar. More of these two hour seminars are being developed and will be brought to your attention as we learn about them. The first four seminars named above are currently in the hands of some squadron members who are planning ways to make them available to our full membership. These seminars will be part of the certification process.

Other helpful sources of quick courses are the USPS Learning Guides that have been sold by national USPS for several years. We can order them directly from national or you can find them at boating supply retailers. They include: Boat Insurance, Compass Adjusting, GMDSS and Marine Radio, GPS, How to Fly Flags, Introduction to Sailing, Intro to Navigational Astronomy, Knots, Bends, and Hitches for Mariners, Marine Amateur Radio, Plotting and Labeling Standards, Predicted Log Contest, Radar, Sight Reduction Methods, Skipper Saver, USPS Glossary of Nautical Terms, and Water Sports.

We can also get at discounted prices the American Radio Relay League books: Now You're Talking, The AARL General Class License Manual, and Amateur Radio on the Move. I have read several of these guides and found them very interesting and informative. The guides are mostly less than \$10.00 each while the AARL books run around \$17.00 depending on how many we buy at a time. Happy learning!



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

The Coast Guard reminds all boaters that beginning January 1, 2007, both 121.5 and 243 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) are prohibited from use in both commercial and recreational watercraft. Boaters wishing to have an emergency rescue beacon aboard their vessel must have a digital 406 MHz model.

The January 1, 2007, date to stop using 121.5 MHz EPIRBs is in preparation for February 1, 2009, when satellite processing of distress signals from all 121.5/243 MHz beacons will terminate. Following this termination date, only the 406 MHz beacons will be detected by the International Cospas-Sarsat Satellite System which provides distress alert and location data for search and rescue operations around the world.

The regulation applies to all Class A, B, and S 121.5/243 MHz EPIRBs. It does not affect 121.5/243 MHz man overboard devices which are designed to work directly with a base alerting unit only and not with the satellite system.

□ □ □

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Do you have any interest in working on public relations? Would you like to try your hand at setting up publicity for our courses and other public activities? If so, we could really use your help. We need a volunteer to fill the very critical post as PRO for the Utica Sail and Power Squadron. If you would like to talk about our needs, please call P/C Woodard at 336-1026.

□ □ □

*. Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.*

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE



For Commander  
George Peckingham, AP



For Executive Officer.  
Linda LaDuc, P



For Administrative  
Officer  
Colleen A. Welch, P



For Secretary  
George Silverman, S



For Treasurer  
Thomas A. Sears, AP



For SEO  
Gerald R. Fry, JN





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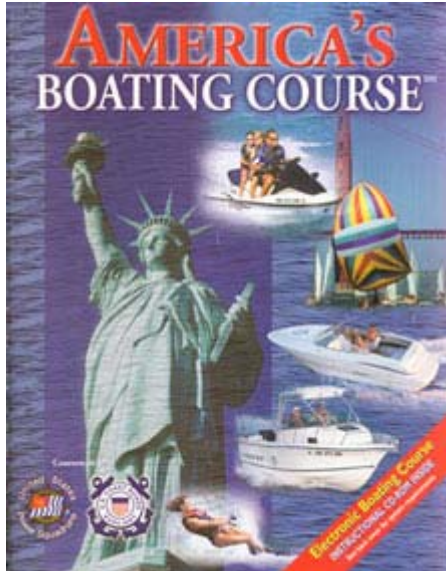
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## **NEED A BOATING COURSE?**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE THAT WANTS A BOATING CLASS THAT MEETS ALL NY STATE REQUIREMENTS - AND THEY WANT IT NOW?**

**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.

The BILGEWATER  
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