



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>

January , 2009

District 6

FOUNDERS DAY PARTY

Once again it is time for our annual pot luck dinner and auction at the Founders Day Party. The date is set for 13 February 2009. Yes, we are braving the odds by holding the party on Friday the 13th. Please don't be afraid to attend. Last I've heard, misery loves company!



The activities at this party are as follows: First and foremost is for someone to steal \$5.00 per couple the instant you walk through the door. You are then to proceed to the food table with as little attention as possible and place your dish to pass. If you don't draw attention to yourself, no one can blame their heartburn on you later. You are to then go to the auction table and place your auction item. Once again, discretion is key. This way you can bid on you own item and bring it back home with no one being the wiser! The next thing to do is to eat drink and be merry. Your Squadron will provide the beer, wine, soft drinks and coffee. The bar is open and will take your cash with no questions asked.

This event will be held at the Verona VFW Post 6811. The address is 4829 Spring Road Verona, NY 13478. Phone 363-9327.

Time to be there: 1730 (5:30 PM for you land lubbers)

When you enter the building, you will walk directly into the bar. Cross over the floor into the far left hand corner where there is a step up and a door. Proceed through the door (Once you have opened it) and then up a short flight of stairs. Last I knew there were no black cats or ladders to walk under on the premises, but do be careful. I do believe that they have some cracks in the sidewalk so keep a watchful eye.

Hope to see you there!
AO Randy Webster, AP

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

Commander..... George Peckingham, AP
831-2170
Executive Officer..... Colleen A. Welch, P
797-2009
SEO..... Gerald R. Fry, JN
824-0978
Administrative Officer..... Randal Webster, AP
336-3444
Secretary..... Bryan E. Walrath, P
337-6051
Treasurer..... Thomas A. Sears, AP
337-6953
Assistant SEO..... Ellen Webster, SN
336-3444
Membership..... Fred S. Dyer, JN
336-5396
BILGEWATER Editor Dean A. Woodard, P
336-1026
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NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page

usps.org/localusps/utica

e-mail the Commander at:
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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr George Peckingham, AP



Hi, Folks. The 12th Night Party held at the New Hartford Ramada Inn on 11 January was well attended. Thirty-four attendees came, enjoyed the brunch and listened to a slide presentation on their trip through the Panama Canal by Dean Woodard and Rick Gassner. The highlights were an excellent demonstration on how not to run a computer slide show and a picture of the Woodard's and the Gassner's with Dean in a suit and tie. Party organizer Colleen Welch did a marvelous job and even thought to bring bags so that the table centerpiece flowers door prizes could be taken home without winterkill.

Sad to say the Skawolds were missing because Bob is in Rome Hospital. A get well wish is extended from the Squadron and his friends perhaps can send him a card.

The next social event is Founders Day pot luck and auction party, which will be held at the Verona VFW on Friday February 13th. Ellen Webster and Dean Woodard have agreed to run the auction, You need to search the attic and garage for items to auction and cook up a storm, as topping last years results will be difficult.

The nominating committee has come up with a fine slate for next years Bridge and committee chairs. Please review the proposed slate of officers, shown elsewhere in this issue. The COW is scheduled for 22 March at 1200 be prepared to vote intelligently by getting to know the nominees,

Welcome to our two new members Dave and Janice Hinman of Rome.

National and district membership continues to slide with national down by 2,743 from 40517 to 37,774 for the year ending 30 November 2008. Educational material sales were down substantially. Utica Squadron is bucking the trend in both areas thanks in part

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REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Commander

Richard R. Gassner, AP



Executive Officer

Colleen A. Welch, AP

Educational Officer

Gerald R. Fry, JN

Admin. Officer

Bryan E. Walrath, AP



Secretary

John J. Reittinger, AP

Treasurer

Thomas A. Sears, AP



Squadron PRO

George M. Silverman, AP

Ch/Newsletter

Dean A. Woodard, P

Ch/Safety

Randall I. Webster, AP



Ch/Membership

Gerald R. Fry, JN

Ch/Member/Involvement

Colleen A. Welch, AP

Assistant SEO

Linda LaDuc, AP

Ch/Vessel Safety Check

David W. Schulz, AP

Ch/Operations Training

George V. Peckingham, AP

Ch/Boating Activities

Charles R. Harter

Ch Ship Store

David E. Strobino, AP

Executive Committee

George V. Peckingham, AP

David W. Schulz

Dean A. Woodard, P



SEO REPORT

By Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN



Seamanship and Advanced Piloting courses held this fall are finished with six successful members. John Reittinger, and Bob Walker finished Seamanship after Advanced Piloting so they may now officially be called Advanced Pilots. Josie Amodio also finished Seamanship while Bill Newman, Frank Newman, and Ron Squires are awaiting evaluation of their AP final exam by national committee members. It is great to be able to call Josie by the title of Seaman Amodio and happily anticipate hailing the Newman brothers and Ron as Advanced Pilots. Good job fellow members!

Starting February 5 at 7:00PM Commander Peckingham will lead about ten fellow members in Junior Navigation. The class will meet on Thursday nights at Whitesboro High School. I look forward to seeing a very high percentage of these students finish the course and their sight folders. I have not read the new JN course requirements but I know that it will require dedication and commitment to successful completion.

We are going to need to offer our public service Squadron Boating course more frequently this spring. We usually depend on P/C Dean Woodard and Lt/C Randy Webster to teach the course in March at Whitesboro or Rome. Also Dean and Randy have had several helpers to teach the course in late May or early June at Lock 21. These public courses are our primary source of new members. It is no secret that the number of new members has not been adequate to sustain our squadron size and educational program in recent years.

We should plan to offer a class on the east side of Utica and to the south and/or west side of our membership area this spring. A class could be added to the schedule in both April and May to meet this need. Some people may not be willing to travel to Whitesboro but would respond to our call if the class was located near their home town. Likewise you may be willing to help mentor the course if you only had to drive a few miles. We certainly need more people to help teach. The Squadron Boating course is only an eight hour course. It can be taught in two four hour sessions or four two hour sessions. The students do need some time to study the book between classes. The final exam is usually given during the last two hours of the course. Several members help with administering and correcting the final exam so as a volunteer teacher or team member, you would not be burdened by needing to prepare and give a final exam. Please think about helping your squadron with this short term volunteer effort.

Next fall I hope we have enough new members to offer Seamanship or Piloting again to start a new rotation through the advanced grade courses. Also, in anticipation of a successful conclusion to the Junior Navigation course in late spring, we should think about offering the highest advanced grade course known as Navigation. Your advice is needed for me to set up an elective course for the fall. Are you interested in Sail, Weather, Engine Maintenance, or Marine Electronics?

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Founders Day party on February 13th. Stay warm and think "soft water".

UTICA SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON PLANNED ACTIVITIES LIST FOR 2009

January

7 January	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
11 January	12 th Night Party	1200	Ramada Inn New Hartford

February

4 February	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
5 February	JN Course Start	1900	Whitesboro High School
13 February	Founders Day	1730	Verona VFW

March

4 March	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
22 March	COW	1200	The Beeches Rome

April

1 April	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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May

6 May	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
29 May	Launch Party	1700	Lock 20 - Marcy
30 May	Boating Course	1200	Lock 20 – Marcy

June

3 June	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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September

2 September	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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October

7 October	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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November

4 November	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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December

2 December	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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Commander from page 2

to the efforts of your Bridge and in particular Gerry Fry's efforts. Please promote membership to fellow boaters whenever possible. It appears that the boating course test requirement for membership waiver will cease by year end.

Till the ice parts and the waters flow again keep warm and socialize at squadron parties.

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.

GA81671P is our membership number.



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

Two Little Old Ladies

Two little old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. The thin one leaned over and said, 'Life is so boring. We never have any fun any more. For \$10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid flower show!'

'You're on!' said the other old lady, holding up a \$10 bill. The first little old lady slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. The smiling and naked old lady came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering crowd.

'What happened?' asked her waiting friend.

'I won 1st prize as Best Dried Arrangement.'

☺ ☺ ☺

A state trooper spied a car puttering along at 22 MPH. So he turned on his lights and pulled the driver over.

Approaching the car, he noticed that five old ladies were inside, and they looked wide-eyed and terribly pale.

The driver pleaded with him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "You weren't speeding, but driving slower than the speed limit can also be dangerous."

"I beg to differ, sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly: twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman said.

The State Police officer, chuckling, explained to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car ok?"

These women seem awfully shaken," the officer asked.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."

☺ ☺ ☺

Did you hear about the 83 year old woman who talked herself out of a speeding ticket?

She told the young officer she had to get there before she forgot where she was going!!!!

Makes perfectly good sense to me.....

☺ ☺ ☺

How did we get on this old folks theme? It all goes back to Randy Webster at the last Bridge meeting. Everything was going along well with a general discussion of where we might have Squadron events in the years to come. Many very good suggestions were made and folks expressed their opinions and had a lot of ideas.

The topic of getting to the event came up and it was suggested that some of the members were "getting a little long in the tooth" and the brunch idea was working out well. Good old (not really very old) Randy just had to say: "Maybe we should plan the events being catered by Meals on Wheels."

When I mentioned this at the Founders Day Party and thanked Linda and all for their contributions and requested more, this page was the result. So the whole thing was caused by Randy Webster. Good job Randy.

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WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW?

Do you know of a member who is hospitalized, in need of a little cheering up from their friends, or celebrating a special occasion such as the birth of a child or grandchild, birthday, wedding, promotion, etc? Do you want to share an outstanding recipe with our members? Then fill in the information below and send to **George Silverman at 2010 Holly St., Rome, NY 13440 or e-mail to gsilverm@twcny.rr.com Tel 315-336-5557**

INFORMATION TO INCLUDE :

Submitted By: _____

Name for Submission: _____

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