



THE BILGEWATER

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June - July 2007

District 6

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

June 2, 2007 marked the start of Safe Boating week for the Utica Squadron. With a boating class, demonstrations and Vessel Safety Checks we may have started a bit late for this national event, but this year the weather cooperated in a big way.



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UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

Commander..... George Peckingham, AP
831-2170
Executive Officer.....Linda LaDuc, P
839-5522
SEO..... Gerald R. Fry, JN
824-0978
Administrative Officer..... Colleen A. Welch, P
797-2009
Secretary.....George Silverman
336-2810
Treasurer..... Thomas A. Sears, AP
337-6953
Assistant SEO.....Ellen Webster, SN
336-3444
Membership..... Fred S. Dyer, JN
336-5396
BILGEWATER EditorDean A. Woodard, P
336-1026
woodardd@twcny.rr.com
Circulation.....Vivian Selover
Web Master Rick Gassner, AP
723-2582

NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page

usps.org/localusps/utica

e-mail the Commander at:
duke_peck@msn.com

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DATES TO REMEMBER IN '07

SQUADRON MEETING 6 SEPTEMBER
HAUL OUT PARTY 14 SEPTEMBER
SEE PAGE 4 FOR OTHER EVENTS

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr George Peckingham, AP



Hi folks. Boating season is here and squadron activities are taking a brief holiday.. The expanded Launch Party and auction at Lock #20 in Marcy on May18 was blessed by good weather, excellent food and great fun. Thanks are extended to the organizers: Lt/C Colleen Welch, P, and Lt/C Linda LaDuc, P, the auctioneers P/C Dean Woodard, P and P/C Ellen Webster, SN, and to the food and auction items contributors. The Commanders favourite dishes were the greens and the brown coconut cookies. Due to poor planning and a faulty memory I did not record the winners' names or get copies of the recipes. I would appreciate it if the winners would send the recipes to the Bilgewater so we can publish them in September.

The Boating Class, which is normally part of our Safe Boating Week activities, was conducted by P/C Dean Woodard with a little help from his friends. The course started on June 2 at 1200 at Lock #20 followed by two evening classes at Whitesboro High School. Twelve students took the course. Vessel Safety Checks were also conducted on 2 June at the Lock and 5 June before class.

At the 6 June squadron meeting one actionable resolution was passed. The Squadron is sending a thank you letter and making a contribution to the Maynard Fire Department for the fine presentations they have made at our Lock 20 boating classes. Gerry Fry is trying to set up a Haul Out Party on 14 September, so mark your calendars. Complete details will be in the September "Bilgewater".

Dean Woodard is working on finding Squadron activities to involve members' children and potential new members. The objective is to increase membership and membership participation. Dean is currently pursuing the costs and timing possibilities for a ride on

see Commander page 4

LAUNCH PARTY AT LOCK 20

What fun it was at the launch party and auction.
We had a fine turn out, great food and a lot of fun!



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.

Commander from page 2
the Adirondack Railroad this fall. If you have any ideas for other events please contact either Dean or me.

The District 6 Rendezvous is scheduled for 26 July through 29 July at Grand Island. Squadron members wishing to participate should contact Karen Wallace, Rendezvous Chairperson, or Mary Ann Kostusiak, Activities Coordinator.

Enjoy the summer and make plans to participate in at least one of our fall parties, classes or seminars.

D 6 EVENTS

by D Lt/C David Schulz, AP

15 July - 22 July Canal Fest of the Tonawandas, Tonawanda/North
Tonawanda, NY

26 July - 29 July` D6 Rendezvous 2007,
Grand Island, NY - See Deep 6 for
info.

4 Sep - 6 Sep USPS Governing Board,
Norfolk, VA - See Ensign for info

14 Sep Haul Out Party, Sea Shell
Inn, Verona (Oneida Lake)

21 Sep - 22 Sep D6 Fall Council, Ramada
Inn, Geneva, NY (this could
change to a USPS Ed. Dept. event)

9 Nov - 11 Nov D6 Fall Conference,
Canandaigua On The Lake, Geneva, NY
(this could change to a combine Council/
Conference event.)

NOTE

PC Gerry Fry, JN writes:

The Haul Out Party is all set for 14 September at 1800 at the Sea Shell Inn. I will get menus in August and we can plan the menu choices then.

BOAT TRAGEDY PROMPTS SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

When the cruise boat flipped over on Lake George and killed a number of people on board the issue of passenger weight became an issue. At the time of the accident the per person weight was 140 pounds which has now been changed to 174. Read the following from the Rome Sentinel and think about the capacity plate that may be on your boat. Was that number also based on 140 pounds?

“According to the report issued Thursday, the grand jury looking at the Ethan Allen case recommended every public vessel be certified for stability and structural integrity every 10 years, mandatory training for crew members, especially for emergency situations, and requiring life jackets - not just seat cushions.

The grand jury also concluded that Shoreline Cruises and boat captain Richard Paris could not be charged with criminal negligence because the capsizing could not be anticipated. The 40-foot Ethan Allen carried 47 passengers and the captain when it suddenly tipped over on a clear, sunny day, sending screaming tourists into the Adirondack lake on Oct. 2, 2005; Nineteen of those killed were from Michigan and one was from Ohio.

The report from the grand jury focused on ensuring boat stability. "The conclusion of the grand jury is that the issue of stability was the primary factor in the capsizing of the Ethan Allen. In light of the new weight standards, the Ethan Allen was grossly overcrowded," the report reads.

When a stability test was conducted on Ethan Allen's sister ship, the de Champlain, it was concluded only 14 passengers could fit safely on the boats, according to the report. The Ethan Allen had 48 people on board the day it capsized.

The grand jury recommends:

-Every public vessel be certified for stability and structural integrity prior to service and every 10 years. A new 174 -pound weight standard must be used.

-The results of those tests must be provided to the inspector at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation:

-Certificates of inspection must include the date of the last stability test, and every public vessel should be required to prominently display certificates.”

From The SEO

by P/C Gerald R. Fry, JN



Summer days are here! How wonderful to experience the change of seasons. Change is one constant in our lives, among others. As we complete our spring program of USPS courses, we look forward to the fall courses.

P/C Dean Woodard, P just completed another public boating safety course with 12 students. He was ably assisted by Ellen and Randy Webster, Dave Schulz and George Peckingham. None of the students wanted to take the extra four hours of chart reading and course planning that is part of the new Squadron Boating Course that has replaced Boat Smart. Where are the serious boaters? This course was well advertised thanks to Bryan Walrath, P who is very nicely doing the PRO tasks. Thanks to Dean, Bryan and all.

Starting in September, we will offer Seamanship, Advanced Piloting and Cruise Planning. We will also do the GPS Seminar again and try to work up some interest in the other available seminars. I will start to phone all members who have not had these courses to round up a nice group of friends in each class. It seems to me that Vicky and I have made our best friends in the Utica Sail and Power Squadron through our sharing of fun and work in squadron courses. It is even fun and a little frustrating to drive to Godfrey Point on Oneida Lake on just the right day to get sextant sights of the Sun and Moon together. Just ask Rick Gassner if we created any new words when the clouds covered the Moon before we could take sights on the second day that we tried.

There has been some talk about our courses being “dummied down”. That doesn’t appear to be the case in reality. The sextant sights are still a chore that requires planning, knowledge of the heavenly bodies and your sextant, and some luck. Reducing the sights and plotting the lines of position are no easier than they ever were in the last 50 years. Some of the sight requirements are different for Junior Navigation and Navigation but much more realistic for the average boater. Our courses have been enhanced with a great deal of material about electronic navigation equipment, while the courses still cover the “fall back” skills represented by the technology used by our earlier members. Lastly, if the new 2007 Seamanship course is any indicator, course rigor has been increased. The final exam in Seamanship is up to 100 questions and not easy by any stretch of the imagination. It appears to me that the national committees that have been revising our courses still realize how important it is for you to know what you are about when you challenge the deep blue sea.

Plan to take a course this fall for the fun of it and the challenge and the margin of safety that it gives you on the water. I hope you have a great summer of boating and boating related fun.

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WIFE ALONG AND GET A
WONDERFUL BARGAIN?



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

U.S. STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1907 :

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years old.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. , and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower !

The average wage in the U..S. Was 22 cents per hour. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year .

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, A dentist made \$2,500 per year.

A veterinarian \$1,500 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at *HOME* .

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:

1. pneumonia and influenza 2. tuberculosis 3. diarrhea 4. heart disease 5. stroke

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 U.S. adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drug-stores. Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A. !

□ □ □

THAT'S ENOUGH!

It's that time of year again when we thank all of the folks that have contributed to the Bilgewater this past year. Your efforts are what make this publication possible.

Special thanks go to Tom and all the great people who make the printing of this little work possible. They always greet us with a friendly smile and a helpful attitude. It is great that they are always willing to take the time to bail us out when we make mistakes with their machine. Must be the copy machine likes them better than it does me.

If you have any ideas for the next season of the Bilgewater, drop a line and we'll see what we can do.

□ □ □

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DOOR - THE BELL
> DOESN'T WORK)

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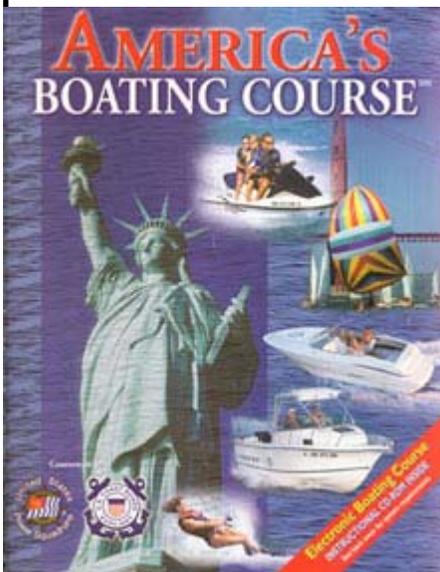
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The BILGEWATER
Dean A. Woodard
8268 Winchester Dr.
Rome, NY 13440