



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

March, 2004

District 6

CHANGE OF WATCH

SUNDAY MARCH 21, 2004

1200 - 1300

Kitty's On The Canal

Harbor Lock Road

Utica, New York

Dinner Sit Down (Choice of One Entrée)

Blackened Tuna with Baked Potato & Broccoli

Prime Rib with Baked Potato & Broccoli

Individual Salad

Rolls w/ butter

Dessert

Beverages

Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, 7 Up, Coffee, Hot Tea

A full Cash Bar will be available

\$15.00 each

Notify PIC Dean Woodard at 336-1026 or email woodardd@twenny.vr.com

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SQUADRON MEETING - 7 APRIL 04
BILGEWATER DEADLINE - 12 APRIL 04

CHANGE OF WATCH
21 MARCH 04

SEE PAGE 8



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr David W. Schulz, AP

Winter seems to have a significant grip on our waterways. But, I am amazed how fast the accumulated snow pack was reduced in such a short period of warmer weather. I was in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina recently. I traveled there by auto visiting a daughter, son and families living in Northern Virginia. Boats are kept in the water there all year round. The ICW was also observed to be quite active. To me, these are all good signs and encouragement. However there is still so much frozen water. Courage – my friends! I've just seen robins – several. The ice will surely soon disappear revealing our beloved liquid water and our boats.

Our latest Boat Smart class is a large one with 74 in attendance the first night. We have had many calls since the beginning of March, which may indicate the need for additional classes. If you are interested in teaching, now is the time to make yourself known so that we can hook you up with one of our experienced staff that has been teaching Boat Smart. There are other courses that we would like to run and new teachers are indeed welcome. Call P/C Ellen Webster, SN. She will indeed get you started. Teaching an USPS class is a very rewarding experience.

Speaking of teachers, Lt Richard Smith, P, has had successful open-heart surgery. He is doing well and is recovering, as of this writing, in hospital. By the time you get this he may be home. Our thoughts and prayers are with him for a speedy recovery.

P/C Bob Hyde, AP is still infirm and visiting the VA each week for treatment. Our thoughts are with him as, well.

Continued page 3 Commander

Commander from page 2

We lost a member and his First Mate in a tragic fire that also destroyed their home. John H. Butts was a member of Utica Power Squadron since 1986. Although he was not very active in our squadron he was keenly interested in safe boating and the St. Lawrence River. His family owns several islands in the 1000 Island region, At their funeral reception, their family told us how proud he was to be a member of Utica Power Squadron and of the work that the United States Power Squadrons do to promote safe boating. The condolences of our Squadron are with their children and surviving families.

Change of Watch will be 21 March 04, 1200, at Kitty's' On The Canal which is located just west of Genesee St. on the south side of the Canal. District 6 Commander, Michael Kelly, AP, and his First Mate will be our guest and conduct the Change of Watch. A fine meal is planned. Hope to see all of you at this fine event which will also be the kick-off for another great year for the Utica Power Squadron. Our Bridge will not change very much this year but there is strong enthusiasm to continue to build our Squadron. Each Bridge Officer is bringing new ideas for activities and educational experiences to our Squadron and public boating classes. We encourage you to get involved with us.

We have met with the executives of the local council of the Boy Scouts of America concerning the possibility of our Squadron providing adult leadership and sponsorship. Scouting, in particular Exploring has been undergoing big changes. Exploring is now called Venturing and is co-educational. Sea Scouts still exist but it too has changed and is co-educational. We are exploring what we have to offer Scouting. There seems to be need and interest in local teens in boating and sailing particular. We will keep you posted. Personally, I and several of our Bridge and past officers are excited about the possibilities.

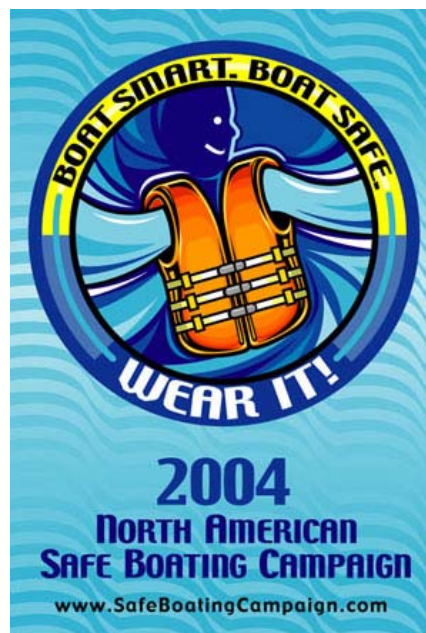
FROM THE AO

by Lt/C Steve Smith, S

This is the first announcement for the Utica Power Squadron's "**Launch**" party on May 21st at 1730. The Bridge has agreed to change the location this year to lock 20 in Marcy instead of Holmes Marina. Marcy has the advantage of being closer to Utica/Rome, a larger pavilion, and a lot more parking for all the people that will want to attend. As usual the hamburgers, hotdogs, and refreshments will be provided at a cost of \$3.00/person or \$5.00/couple. We also ask you to bring a dish to pass.

The day after the Launch Party we will be holding the kickoff to National Safe Boating week at the same location—Lock 20 in Marcy.

We encourage everyone to participate in this event starting at 1200 on Saturday the 22nd of may. We will have a Boat Smart Class, Vessel Safety Checks, Demonstrations and more. We need your attendance and help. Contact P/C Dean Woodard for more information.





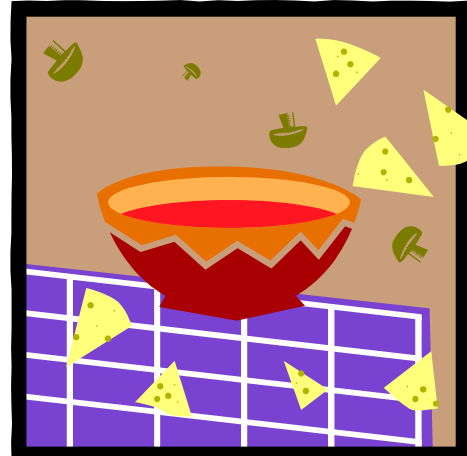
CAUGHT ON THE NET

Great link to kids safe boating activities from USPS.

<http://www.usps4kids.org/>

Welcome

Aboard! It's great to have you onboard our site, which is designed to provide you information about the wonderful world of safe boating. We encourage you to get your parents involved in this site as well since there are specific items for KIDS of all ages.



WHAT A DIP IT MUST HAVE BEEN

P/C Joe Zogby took a dip to the last Founder's Day Party that seems to have been a big hit. She told us at the last Squadron meeting that she was tempted to just take the credit—but we know Jo and we know she would never do such a thing when she had bought the dip in question. She wrote:

“For those ladies who wanted the name and where to purchase the dip Jo Zogby brought to the Founder's Day party, I wrote to the company for Sheila's Select Roasted Pepper dip. Bear Creek Country Kitchens sent a nice letter saying that the product was available at Sam's Club, BJ's Wholesale Club, Wal-Mart Super Centers, Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Pathmark Stores, Ahold USA (Giant), Foodarama Supermarkets, and King Kullen. If you are unable to find the product you're looking for or would like to order directly through us, contact us at 1-800-516-7286.”

We know that Jo can always be counted on to do every job well beyond what is required. We hope that this answer any and all questions re said dip. Thanks again Jo.

USEFUL MILITARY WARNINGS

"Aim towards the Enemy."
-Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." -U.S. Army

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." - Infantry Journal

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." -Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed." -U.S. Air Force Manual

"Any ship can be a minesweeper ... once." - Anon



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

OLIN PLASTIC FLARE GUN

ALERT! BoatU.S. has learned that some of the plastic flare guns made by Olin (now Orion) can't be opened wide enough to accept a flare cartridge and would be useless in an emergency. Ted Swanson, a marine surveyor in Florida, regularly checks flare guns while doing surveys and found that 13% of the Olin guns (9 out of 69) he has inspected can't be fully opened.

A spokesman at Orion Safety Products confirmed the problem; nylon material used to keep the breech closed can deform and jam the opening mechanism. Any Olin plastic flare gun is suspect, as are Orion guns made before 2000, the year the mechanism was reengineered (guns with the modification have the USCG approval code 160.028/12/1 stamped on the body). A recall has not been issued, although Orion has agreed to replace any of the defective guns, regardless of age. Orion recommends checking the operation of the guns now and at the beginning of every season: if the breech won't open, the gun should be sent back for replacement.



We wrote some time ago that Boat US and West Marine would offer a discount to folks that had a Vessel Safety Check. Just got the following e-mail which tells the "rest of the story":

"WEST MARINE and BOAT/US VSC DISCOUNTS

The West Marine corporate office gave an official answer. I talked to Ms. Gail Jones in marketing and one who is in charge of many of the Discount Programs which follows:

West Marine and Boat/US stores will give boaters who have had a VSC performed on their boat a 10 percent discount on All SAFETY ITEMS regardless of Pass or Fail. Boaters must take their ANSC7012 Form (old 204 Form) to show proof of having had a VSC. The discount / reward program also extends to future purchases during the calendar year for additional Safety Items and is not just a one time benefit to purchase gear that failed."

It would seem that a Vessel Safety Check and the form that results is worth 10% off all safety equipment or the year. Not a bad deal.



On the safety equipment issue. We need your OUT OF DATE flares for the Safe Boating week program. We have some hand helds but we need Arial types. 12 gage and anything else you might be willing to donate. (You are more that welcome to come to Lock 20 on the 22nd of May and shoot off your own "bombs". If you can't make the show but have some pyrotechnics to donate, contact Woodard or Cdr Schulz.




A REQUEST FROM EARL

P/C Earl Selover, SN is looking for information about you.

When you look on the back of the next dues payment form, you will note a space for your boat and some other information. Earl would like to have you also print your e-mail address on the back of this form.

Every year a great effort is made to produce an accurate listing of our members. Your efforts to get the information to Earl by way of your dues statement is a big help.

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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.

Contact Cdr Schulz with any questions.

CHANGE OF WATCH

21 MARCH 2004

1200 - 1500

KITTY'S ON THE CANAL

LAUNCH PARTY

21 MAY 2004

LOCK 20 PARK MARCY

KICKOFF NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

22 MAY 2004

LOCK 20 PARK MARCY