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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons

Utica, New York

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March 2006

District 6

CHANGE OF WATCH

by Cdr Gerry Fry, JN

Please make a special effort to attend the squadron's Change of Watch and annual meeting dinner on 19 March, 2006. This Sunday afternoon event will be enjoyable for several reasons. First, we have the honor of hosting our District 6 Commander Gerald Zambroski, P and his first mate Commandorable Kathy. Second, we will have a fine dinner buffet consisting of Beef Burgundy, Seafood Scampi, and Stuffed Boneless Chicken Breast. Third, the "Winfield Four", a barber shop quartet from West Winfield will entertain after dinner. Fourth, both the District Commander and I will give very short presentations concerning the future of your Power Squadron. Fifth, you will have an opportunity to vote on the squadron name change and your new Bridge officers.

Utica Sail and Power Squadron is the proposed new name. This name is suggested to better reflect the interests and passions of our membership. Bridge officers nominated are Cdr. Gerry Fry, JN, XO George Peckingham, P, SEO Vicky Fry, JN, AO Linda LaDuc, P, Treasurer Tom Sears, AP and Secretary Colleen Welch, P.

Serenading the ladies by the Winfield Four is expected to be very delightful. At least two of these men have experienced international competition in barber shop singing. A couple of surprises are in store.

Our dinner at the Ramada Inn on New Hartford Street in New Hartford will be much improved from past events at that location. We have decided to raise the price to \$20.00 per person (includes gratuity) to assure a fine dinner buffet selection. Members and guests are asked to arrive close to 12:30 PM for a 1:00 PM seating. Cash bar will be available. We expect this event to be on par with the very successful "Haul Out Party" held last September.

This will be an excellent event to renew old acquaintances and enjoy your squadron affiliation. If you have not been contacted by one of our member involvement team, please let me know by 13 March of your intention to attend. I need to phone the Ramada Inn by 14 March with a count of members and guests.

See you there

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UTICA POWER SQUADRON OFFICERS



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

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Executive Officer.....	George Peckingham, P 831-2170
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DATES TO REMEMBER IN 06

SQUADRON MEETING 5 APRIL

TRIP TO GEORGE PECKINGHAM'S 11 MARCH

CHANGE OF WATCH 19 MARCH

Happy March to one and all! We are on the way to soft and warmer water again. It seems like it has been a long February, but then we were spoiled by January weather.

Have you seen the humorous piece by P/C Robert Skalwold, SN in the latest issue of the "Ensign" magazine? A three part series no less. Nice job Bob. Have you ever wondered where the articles in the "Ensign" or our own "Bilgewater" come from? The answer is from members just like you.

The "Ensign" has appointed readers to look for interesting articles in the squadron newsletters from the entire country. What an honor to be selected for publication in a national magazine. Why don't you think about some topic that may be interesting to fellow members? Submit your article or articles to our newsletter editor P/C Dean Woodard, P for inclusion in our newsletter. Or send them to Dean and the "Ensign" editor. Spouses and children may also contribute.

Topics may include: "Planning and preparing for the trans-Atlantic cruise"; "Buying a new boat"; "Buying a used boat"; "Preparing my old clunker for spring launching"; "How I built my own boat"; "Problems we encountered and fixed on the briny deep"; "Recruiting, organizing and feeding my crew for the big cruise"; "How much navigation do I need to know, really?"; "Do I actually need paper charts in the 21st. century?"; "Anybody can drag an anchor!"; "Why I have never hit a rock in my whole life, honest.". You get the idea. There are a lot more topics of course. Have at it!

We are planning two events in March that you will not want to miss. The annual meeting and Change of Watch dinner is described elsewhere in this issue. So is the trip to

to page 3

FOUNDER'S DAY

A delightful Founder's Day party and auction held on 17 February was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. Vernon's VFW Hall resounded with the laughter and conversation. Dishes to pass were a hit as was the wine and beer.

D/Lt/C Dave Schulz, AP represented the District Commander and he spoke briefly about the founding of the United States Power Squadrons. That was nice but everyone really wanted to dig into the beautiful birthday cake that Dave provided. Oh so delicious!

With packed tummies and a few words of history, the assemblage was ready to enjoy the auction. However, P/C Dean Woodard, P the regular auctioneer was babysitting a generator during the power outage in Rome. Commander Fry was drafted to do the selling of the goodies as donated by the members. Our treasury realized a gain of \$250.00 from the sale. Did we have fun? There were a lot of smiley faces throughout the auction.

Special thanks are due to Lt/C Tom Sears, AP for his many donated auction



items. Also thanks to Dave (no t) Schulz for the cake and all the ladies for the tasty buffet

To the left we see P/C Josephene Zogby, AP doing what she always does. Being helpful!



Commander from page 2

visit Lt/C George Peckingham, P at his shop to hear and view his boat building skills and resulting beautiful boats.

Now is the time to think about getting ready for spring. While your significant other is reading the seed catalog, look at some marine supply catalogs. Are your personal flotation devices in good condition? Do you have enough of them? How about your flares? Do you have a swim ladder on your boat so you can get back aboard if you fall in the drink? Is your anchor and rode in good shape? Are you ready for a free Vessel Safety Check this spring?

Of course, I am such a good boater that I can ignore these and many other precautions. What about you? Good luck!

Gerry

UTICA SQUADRON TO LOCK 17

Another very interesting but very chilly excursion during the month was our Thursday trip to Lock 17 on the east side of Little



Falls, NY. About seven hardy mariners took a look at this lock which is the highest single lock lift in the New York State Canal System.

Your boat can be dropped 40 feet or lifted the same distance when traveling west. This lock is quite interesting not only because of its high lift but also because it has a lift gate at one

end and a swing gate at the other. Since each lock is rebuilt every seven years this year the state crew is doing Lock 17. New oak seals are put on the leading edges where the swing gates come together and on the wall end of the gates. All the valves are rebuilt and the electrical controls are tested and refurbished. The valves are nothing more than a special wagon with four wheels. The wagon is hung on a steel cable so it can be lowered into a position where the wagon bed blocks the flow of water. The wheels just make it easier to lift the wagon against the heavy weight of water that pushes on the bed. Another example of 19th. century and earlier technology that is still working.

And we enjoyed a geology lesson about central New York. Lock 17 is built at the site of the former outlet of Lake Iroquois that covered our area many years ago. As the glacier melted back much water ran east over the lock site and wore away many layers of sedimentary rock that covered the area. At the site of Lock 17 the water wore away right down to the gneiss that is some of the oldest and hardest rock in the world. We observed layers of gneiss that had been eroded by the water to actually look like it was sedimentary layer. At one point a pothole that was dug by the swirling of a large rock, was observed with water washing out of one side of the pothole.

SEE THE CURRENT STRIP PLANKED CANOE PROJECT
at George Peckingham's Shop
9240 Brown Tract Road, Remsen, NY 13438
1000 hours Saturday March 18, 2006



This example of a guide boat was taken from Google.com. We are sure that George's examples will be nicer.

Coffee and donuts will be available.

George will demonstrate strip making, steam bending, hull forming, glue up, and seat caning.

A completed Adirondack guide boat and a canoe like the one under construction will also be on display.

Directions: From Utica take Rte. 12 north. From Rome take Rte. 365 east to Barneveld to Rte. 12 north. Stay on Rte. 12 past the flashing light at Remsen. About four miles past the flashing light turn right on Dayton Road (the Agway, Evans Equipment marks the corner). About two miles up Dayton you will come to a hill. At the bottom of the hill the road bears to the right. You need to turn left onto Brown Tract Road. Stay on Brown Tract until you see signs for Private Road. Take the leftmost fork. Note Beige arrow shaped sign 9240 with red outline. These mark the turns that follow. Take the right past the large pole barn. Go left at the next fork and follow the plowed road till you see the teal house. You may park anywhere. Shop is the blue building on the left. If you get lost call 831-2170 and we will send out the rescue team.

A LESSON IN PERCEPTION

This is the transcription of the ACTUAL radio conversation between the British and the Irish off the coast of Kerry, October 1998. Radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations 10-10-98.

IRISH: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

BRITISH: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

IRISH: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

BRITISH: This is the Captain of a British Navy Ship.. I say again. Divert YOUR course.

IRISH: Negative. I say again, you will have to divert YOUR course.

BRITISH: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER H.M.S. BRITANNIA THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE BRITISH ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. I SAY AGAIN, THAT IS 15 DEGREES NORTH OR COUNTER MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

IRISH: We are a lighthouse.....Your call.



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

It is with great regret that we note that long time member Harley Smith, passed away on Feb 14, 2006, at the age of 92.

Jackie Smith writes: "I can just picture Harley, Smitty, and Earl sailing in brisk winds in heaven...sails all the way out and heeling way over without me freaking out...Picture that! Please pass the word to the membership. I know Harley had a lot of friends in the squadron."

☺ ☺ ☺

For the first time in many years we missed the Founder's Day party. I must confess that P/C Louis Spiridigloizzi, SN way to a large measure responsible for our absence,

What did Lou have to do with my missing a party? OK! I'll tell you the rest of the story.

About a year ago Lou came by the house to give me an estimate for a new furnace and air conditioner. We took him up on his fine offer and a new system was installed. I had been given a real nice Honda generator for Christmas and asked Lou if they could set up the furnace so I could run it on the generator. No problem. The job was completed by his son, grandson and helper. Lou, Kathy and I sat on the drive drinking coffee listening to stories of water and heating systems.

What was the magic? They left me with a switch and a plug to run the furnace from the generator.

On the day of the party the wind blew and our power went out around 0900. When it became evident that things were going to be dark for some time, Lou came to the rescue.

I got the cords out, found the special

plug I had made and started the generator. HEAT! My was that ever nice.

All day long I baby sat the generator and Lou's connection point. I was warm and life was grand.

It was not until about 2100 that National Grid allowed the removal of the Woodard grid. Too late for the party.

So it is true that Lou kept me from the party, but I really appreciated his intervention. It's nice to have a friend that helps you keep warm when the heat goes off.

☺ ☺ ☺

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

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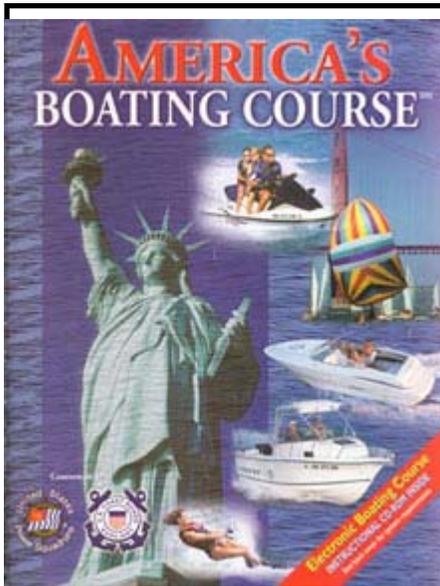
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finished the course, we will provide a proctored exam and a certificate that states that you meet all NY State requirements for boating and PWC.

The cost is \$35 which covers one exam. Additional exams will be \$5.00 each. Questions? Give Ellen a call.

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