



THE **BILGEWATER**

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC
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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York
<http://www.uticainfo.org>

March, 2008

District 6

CHANGE OF WATCH 2008



George V. Peckingham, AP
Commander



Gerald R. Fry, JN
Education Officer



Colleen A. Welch, P
Executive
Officer



Randall I. Webster, AP
Administrative Officer



Bryan E. Walrath, P
Secretary



Thomas A. Sears,
AP Treasurer

Ellen E. Webster, SN
Assistant SEO
David Schulz, AP
Director
Dean A. Woodard, P
Director
Richard R. Gassner, AP
Director

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
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NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr George Peckingham, AP



Hi, Folks! The revised bylaws for the Utica Sail and Power Squadron were approved by the USPS on March 3, 2008 and are posted on our web site @ Uticainfo.org

The Change of Watch was held at the Beeches on March 9, 2008 was attended by a hardy bunch of boaters who braved the snow storm to attend. The ceremony was conducted by District 6 Executive Officer David Schulz, AP. The new bridge retains Tom Sears, AP as Treasurer, Gerald Fry, JN as Education Officer and myself as Commander. Colleen Welch, AP moves up to Executive officer. Randall Webster, AP becomes Administrative Officer and Bryan Walrath, AP becomes Secretary. P/C Richard Gassner, AP, P/C Dean Woodard, P and P/C David Schulz, AP were elected to the Executive Committee along with the others on the bridge. Thank you for your past and future service to the Squadron.

Linda LaDuc, AP and George Silverman, P chose not remain on the bridge but expect to remain active in the Squadron. I wish to extend my thanks for their many contributions of time, energy and thoughtful suggestions.

Thanks again to Gerry Fry and Hester Jager, we had two new members voted in this month. When you meet Barbara J. Allen or Roger X. Vogel at future events please welcome them. Welcome aboard.

The Boating Course which started on March 6 at Whitesboro High School has 22 participants. The final class and exam will be on March 27.

The big occasion this year is the District Spring Council/Conference at the Hotel Utica on 11-13 April, 2008. It is really huge because your squadron is hosting it and our own Dave Schulz is to be the next District 6 Commander. Elsewhere in this Bilgewater is the meal reservation form. Send it in now and avoid paying extra. A big turnout would be nice to show our support of Dave for his past, present and future contributions to the Squadron and District.

Reservation Form for Meals – Spring Conference 2008
Hotel Utica, Utica, NY

11th – 13th April 2008

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Grade: _____

Additional Name: _____ Rank: _____ Grade: _____

Additional Name: _____ Rank: _____ Grade: _____

Additional Name: _____ Rank: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Squadron Name: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____ District: _____

Special Diet/Vegetarian request available until 28th March 2008: _____
_____ Number of Lunches @ \$12.00 \$ _____ (\$17.00 after advanced deadline)
Dinner Choices:
_____ Number of Chicken Françoise
_____ Number of Sesame Salmon
_____ Number of Sage Apple Pork
_____ Total Number of Dinners @ \$25.00 \$ _____ (\$30.00 after advance deadline)
_____ Total Number of Children's Dinner @ \$11.00 \$ _____ (\$12.00 after advance deadline)

Total: \$ _____

ADVANCE RESERVATION DEADLINE IS 28 MARCH 08. CANCELLATION FOR FULL RE-FUND DEADLINE IS 4 APRIL 08.

Please send this form, a separate sheet noting any special diet meal requests, and your check for the "Total Amount" shown above, Payable to **Utica Sail and Power Conference** (in US Funds) to:

P/C Richard R. Gassner, AP
122 Forrest Street
Utica, NY 13502-2541

Questions may be addressed to P/C Richard Gassner, AP
(315)-735-2541 or gassnerr@adelphia.net

NO T SCHULZ TO BE DISTRICT COMMANDER

Our own Past Commander Dave Schulz, AP will be sworn in as District 6 Commander for 2008-2009 on 12 April 2008. The ceremony will be held at the Saturday evening dinner dance of the D/6 Spring Conference to be held at Hotel Utica. This is an occasion that should give our members justifiable pride. Dave is only the fourth district commander to come from the Utica Sail and Power Squadron since its founding in 1941. The other three District Commanders from Utica were Frank E. Hardin (1946), Peter V. Ancona, JN (1968) and Dagne D. Strothers, SN (1997).

We need to attend this event in large numbers to honor D/C elect Dave Schulz. All squadron members are invited to attend the full conference activities to enjoy the Saturday meetings, ceremonies, seminars, Ship Store, and the Friday night hospitality rooms. Casual wear is fine for Friday night while a business suit is best for Saturday. It will be great to honor Dave and have a good time. Some of our new members may want to learn more about leadership roles at the squadron and district level. Please see the last issues of the Bilgewater or the Deep Six for meal reservation directions or phone P/C Rick Gassner, AP at 735-2541. Meal reservations by 28 March are a must because they charge extra if you register late. Hospitality rooms and conference sessions are free.

Dave joined Utica Sail and Power Squadron in 2001 and was formerly a member of the Swiftwater Sail and Power Squadron for many years. By participating in Utica Squadron activities and courses, Dave has demonstrated his friendly and interesting personality. He earned the No T handle by reminding us that there is no t in his last name. As squadron Commander, Dave inspired our very enjoyable fall Haul-Out Party at the Sea Shell Inn. He started the movement to complete much needed revisions to our squadron by-laws. He stressed the importance of a prayer and pledge of allegiance at our monthly meetings, emphasized the compassion and respect that we should show to infirm and deceased members, and improved the structure of our annual Change of Watch dinner/meeting. Dave remains active in Utica Sail and Power Squadron as our Chaplain, a Vessel Safety Examiner, and a course instructor. With past "Commandorable" Ann, his better half, Dave enjoys piloting his 23 foot SeaRay power boat on the Erie Canal, Oneida Lake and the Finger Lakes.

Moving up through the ranks in our squadron, Dave then dedicated many days of work to District 6 which includes 18 squadrons in central, northern and western New York. He moved from District Treasurer to D/6 Administrative Officer, to District Executive Officer, and now to District Commander. Following in the footsteps of several other squadron members who have been active in D/6 activities, Dave feels that service and support of local squadrons is the primary goal of the district. One innovation that Dave has already accomplished is to have past district commanders seated for dinner at the conference with squadron members rather than in honorary groupings with other past commanders. In Dave's mind every member is a VIP. His outgoing personality has earned him the respect and friendship of folks in our squadron and from many other squadrons in D/6. Congratulations in a big way to Dave (No T) Schulz.

Contact Rick Gassner or Commander George Peckingham for more information about the conference and the interesting activities planned for you.

From The SEO

by P/C Gerald R. Fry, JN

Your squadron educational program is in high gear this winter. Fourteen members are working with P/C Rick Gassner, AP to learn Marine Electronics. This is a fun group! Another six members are studying Piloting with P/C Ellen Webster, SN. Ellen is always fun and a very knowledgeable instructor. Many thanks to Ellen and Rick for their dedication to boating safety and competence.



The Squadron Boating Course started 6 March with at least fifteen students. This public boating course is a shared effort by Commander George Peckingham, AP, Lt/C Randy Baker, AP, and P/C Dean Woodard, P. Thanks to these gentlemen we are looking forward to nice group of new members.

Old and new members alike can look forward to a good selection of courses for next fall and beyond. You will note the "Planned Schedule of Member Courses" printed elsewhere in this BILGEWATER. This schedule is not inflexible. We can change it anytime that a group of members ask for a particular course and we can find a willing instructor. Have you considered volunteering to teach one of our courses? Please let me know of your preferences.

I have been remiss in my duties by not reporting the names of members who completed courses last fall. D/X/O Dave Schulz, AP, who will soon be District Commander, led a Cruise Planning class with seven students. All successfully completed the course and passed the final exam. Congratulations to George Peckingham, John Reittinger, Dave Schulz, George Silverman, Peggy Silverman, Kris Tilbe and Robert Walker. Commander George Peckingham, AP guided seven students through the intricacies of Advanced Piloting to a successful conclusion. Completing Advanced Piloting were Linda LaDuc, John Reittinger, Dave Strobino, Robert Walker, Bryan Walrath, Colleen Welch and Leonard Young. Kudos to all and many thanks to Dave and George for their many efforts on our behalf.

Next month I hope to discuss the current offering of USPS seminars that were developed by national committees in the last year. We have offered the GPS seminar twice to members and the public. Several others can be offered once we learn of your interest. You may look at WWW.USPS.ORG to find information about the seminars and other materials available from national. It will take some effort to find what you want to read but the effort will reveal lots of very interesting things about our club. Or you can just wait for me to give more details. You may recall the old saying; "Nothing ventured, nothing gained". Well, let's have some more ventures together. We will have a good time and get to know each other better and we will become better boaters.

Planned Schedule of Member Courses

	Spring	Fall
2008	Squadron Boating Course (2+) Piloting Marine Electronics	Seamanship Advanced Piloting Squadron Boating Course Engine Maintenance
2009	Squadron Boating Course (2+) Piloting Operations Training Junior Navigation	Seamanship Squadron Boating Course Advanced Piloting Weather Junior Navigation



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

EARLY EASTER

Easter is early this year. Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Based on the above information, Easter can actually be one day earlier (March 22); that is rare.

Here's the interesting information. This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! And only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! Here's the facts:

1) The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 (220 years from now).

The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the Only ones that were around for that!).

2) The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now).

The last time it was on March 22 was 1818.

So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year!

☺ ☺ ☺

Why athletes can't have regular jobs...

1. Chicago Cubs outfielder Andre Dawson on being a role model: "I wan' all dem kids to do what I do, to look up to me. I wan' all the kids to copulate me."

2. New Orleans Saint RB George Rogers when asked about the upcoming season: "I want to rush for 1,000 or 1,500 yards, whichever comes first."

3. Frank Layden, Utah Jazz president, on a former player: "I told him, 'Son, what is it with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?' He said, 'Coach, I don't know and I don't care.'"

☺ ☺ ☺

THANK YOU

We extend our thanks for a job well done to P/Lt/C Linda LaDuc, AP for her many years of service on our bridge. She will be missed as an officer but not as a member. We look forward to seeing her at all of our events.



We also thank P/Lt/C George Silverman, AP for serving as Squadron Secretary over the past year. We will miss him on the Bridge but look forward to seeing him on Oneida Lake, at squadron classes and at our events.



☺ ☺ ☺

Seen during a conference:

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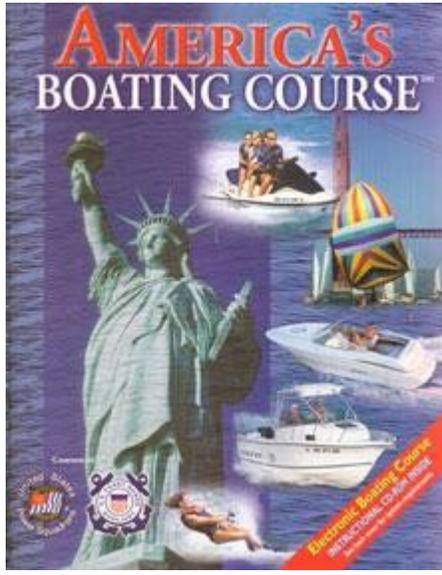
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The BILGEWATER
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