



# 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>

March, 2009

District 6

---

## THANK YOU GEORGE

*By PC Dean A. Woodard, P*

Cdr George Peckingham, JN has served our squadron with great distinction for the past two years. George has slowed way down on his boat building and many other activities to work for the Utica Squadron.

In addition to his efforts as our commander he has taken upon himself the data management of our addresses as well as courses passed. George has also devoted many hours to teaching others the valuable boating skills he has acquired through many boating classes.

The highest rank in any squadron is that of Past Commander, of PC. George has finely achieved this coveted distinction.

We thank you George, and welcome to the ranks of the PC's. We look forward to many years of your service to our squadron. We are all better off for your leadership and encouragement.



**DON'T FORGET  
OUR CHANGE OF WATCH**

22 March 2009

1200 Dibbles Inn - Vernon

# 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  
**woodardd@twcnny.rr.com**

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**

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Utica Sail & Power Squadron, District 6 or the United States Power Squadrons. Copyright © 2000 Utica Sail & Power Squadron ® All rights reserved. The Squadron®, United States Power Squadrons®, USPS®, The Ensign®, the Trident and the Wheel and Ensign designs and America's Boating Club" are registered trademarks of United States Power Squadrons Inc. Jet Smart®, BoatSmart®, The Squadron Boating Course, and America's Boating Course are additional property of the USPS.



# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr George Peckingham, AP



Hi, Folks. Its has been a fun filled two years as Commander. Next month I expect to be playing golf in Myrtle Beach and erasing memory cells of all the work required of a Squadron Commander. Good luck Rick! My first thought is to list and thank all of the people who helped me to carry on the functions of the Squadron. Then I realized that a sixty page **BILGEWATER** or some missed kudos would either break the budget or miff the people whose help I wanted, needed and received.

The Founders day Party at the Verona VFW Post 6811 was held on Friday 13 February. The passed dishes were excellent. Being February everyone was ignoring their January resolutions and unlike the economy, consumption appeared to be up. The auction was fun and ably conducted by Randy (expediter) Webster and Dean (auctioneer) Woodard. The door money and auction proceeds were collected by Gerry Fry. The most unusual donation was a silicon bronze seacock from Harry Winberg, which went for a small fraction of its worth.

The Change of Watch will be on March 22 @ 1200 at Dibbles Inn in Vernon. Someone will be calling to check on your meal choice. If you don't hear from someone by 15 March please call me to book your reservation. (831-2170) The District 6 Representative will be DXO Isabel Warren, P accompanied by her husband PDC William Warren, AP.

The District 6 Council was held at the Geneva Ramada Inn Lakefront on 27 and 28 February 2009. P/C Richard Gassner, AP and I attended. Both Rick and I became Boat Operator Certifiers and Instructor Recertifiers by attending classes at the council. We will be recertifying the squadron instructors before the 6 May Squadron Meeting at Sears Oil Co.

*Seer Commander page 4*

# SEO REPORT

*By Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN*



Renewed and revitalized are two very appropriate adjectives for the USPS educative program. Nearly all public and member courses have been updated in the last 10 years. Electronic aids to navigation have been integrated into the courses and a world recognized boating proficiency certification program is now available to members.

Thinking back a few years, most of us started our coursework with a public boating course. This offering has transitioned from the Squadron Boating Course to Boat Smart to a more comprehensive Squadron Boating Course and now to a newly revised America's Boating Course version 3. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, The United States Coast Guard, and New York State Parks and Recreation have influenced the design and approved this new ABC course. One might think that they are preparing for a boat operators certification requirement for all boaters. New York State is now requiring "in class" coursework and not accepting "online" or "self study" boating safety courses. One step toward tightening the rules a bit.

As USPS members most of us have moved on to our "member courses" in the form of advanced grade and elective courses. We know that after finishing the Seamanship course we can be addressed as Seaman Popeye or Seaman Olive Oil. Completion of Piloting supports the Pilot Popeye salutation and completion of Advanced Piloting earns the Advanced Pilot grade title. We have enjoyed receiving an Educational Proficiency Award upon completion of these three advanced grades and three elective courses. Onward and upward we strive to improve our boating safety and enjoyment with more electives and completion of Junior Navigation and Navigation. Another goal is reached when we complete all of the Elective courses and Navigation, at which time we advance from Navigator to Senior Navigator. This level is also sometimes called "Full Certificate", and at this level National USPS gives us the Educational Achievement Award.

Reaching the pinnacle of "Senior Navigator" fosters a well deserved sense of pride in many of our members. They have worked hard and mastered a very respectable and rigorous body of knowledge with very valuable boating skills. Unfortunately some members, who have sought to charter larger boats in international waters, have found that chartering organizations don't always give them full credit for their boating knowledge. National USPS has now recognized this problem and found that a lack of on water skills certification is the missing component for full recognition of our excellent coursework. The next level of boating proficiency has been created through the "USPS University" program.

USPS University certification of boating skills is expected to be recognized by major chartering organizations around the world. This program offers four levels of certification including "Inland Navigator", "Coastal Navigator", "Advanced Coastal Navigator" and "Offshore Navigator". These certifications all have requirements that include our advanced grade courses, our elective courses, seminars, and on the water testing. Any current Senior Navigator has completed the advanced grade and elective course requirements for the highest level of



## FOUNDER'S DAY

The Founders Day Party at the Verona VFW Post 6811 was held on Friday 13 February at 1730. We had great fun.

The event was well attended, the food was great and the "stuff" that was auctioned off was just outstanding.

If you missed this one—you missed a good one. Make plans now not to miss the Change of Watch. All of the new officers will be looking forward to your support and good cheer.

### *Commander from page 2*

The On Water Boater Certification Program is a program designed by National to prepare for the expected state boater licensing programs and to qualify USPS course and training materials. As the individual states are probably going to come up with different requirements for licensing, the development is proceeding in fits and starts and more slowly than expected by National. The next step for the Squadron will be to train and get certified Master Certifiers. We anticipate doing this during May or June. At this point we have five volunteers and could accommodate up to eight in the first session. If you are interested contact me and I'll give you more details.

Thanks again for all the help, advice and encouragement you have given me over my very enjoyable run as Squadron Commander.

### *SEO from page 3*

certification. Please use the URL:

[www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm](http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm)

to get a very comprehensive description of the certificate program and all requirements. You will note that the USPS University requirements integrate nicely with the coursework as we advance to Senior Navigator, while enhancing our experience with on water proficiency demonstrations and testing.

We must congratulate and bountifully thank Commander George Peckingham and Commander elect Rick Gassner for becoming certified "on-water" certifiers. With their help and the assistance of P/DEO now Regional Commander Jack Fletcher, SN we can all reach the highest level that we

# THE CHANGE OF WATCH

The Utica Sail and Power Squadron would like to invite you to the annual Change of Watch. In our ever changing times, it is once again time to transfer the leadership of this fine organization to the new Officers of the Bridge. This event is our most formal affair full of protocol tradition and fanfare. It is know as the Change Of Watch. Hereafter referred to as C.O.W.

The C.O.W. will take place in Vernon, NY on 22 March 2009 at Dibble's Inn located at 5311 E Seneca St. (Route 5).

PH 829-3022. Time to be there is 1200 HR.

The cost will be \$ 20.00. You truly can have a C.O.W. this day but due to our current economic conditions, you must pay for the milk!

The installation of officers will take place immediately following the meal.

Hope to see you there.

## Planned Activities List

### For 2009

#### March

- 4 March Squadron Meeting 1930 Sears Oil Co. – Rome
- 22 March COW 1200 Dibbles Inn - Vernon

#### April

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

#### 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

#### September

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

#### October

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

#### November

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

#### December

- 2 December Squadron Meeting 1930 Sears Oil Co. – Rome



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

A two and a half year old walked into the bathroom while her mother was putting on make-up.

"I'm going to look just like you mommy!" she announced.

"Maybe, when you grow up," her mother told her.

"No Mommy, tomorrow. I just put on that 'Oil of Old Lady' you always use." ☺ ☺ ☺

My wife said "Watcha doin today?"

I said "Nothing"

She said, "You did that yesterday"

I said "I wasn't finished."

☺ ☺ ☺

### **Paul Harvey told the following story:**

Two patients at a mental institution were near the pool. One jumped into the pool and started to drown and the second pulled him out and saved his life,

The following day the director of the hospital called the woman patient into his office. He told her that her actions to save the man from the pool illustrated that she now knew right from wrong and was able to act in a responsible way. He then told her that her actions proved that she was now healthy and would be released from the hospital.

She was very happy and thanked the Doctor for his kind words.

The doctor then said: "I must give you some sad news. The man you saved from the pool went to his room and hung himself with a sheet. I am very sorry but he is dead,"

The woman said, "Doctor, he didn't hang himself. He was so wet when I got him to his room that I hung him up to dry!"

***Now you know the rest of the story.***



Greetings from Radford Virginia. This issue is being put together from far far away in a place where it is warm.

Sorry about that, but some of us need to do everything we can to keep the economy moving. Now that Kathy and I are both retired we get to play with our grandsons and spend money. I must say that playing with the boys is the most fun.

Many thanks to George Silverman who has printed and mailed this issue.

If there are any mistakes in this issue, they are all mine. Our master proof reader, Prof Benjamin Z. Landset, our most loyal non-member of all time, is in the cold North holding court,

Sorry we missed the COW, but we already know Captain Rick and the great job we are sure he will do.

As long as we are thanking folks, let me take a moment to thank Linda and all for the part of this page that you like to read. It seems that no matter how hard we try the jokes are the only source of comment.

*daw*

**Like Having "Boston" In Your Back Yard**

[www.pier-31.com](http://www.pier-31.com)

**697-7007**  
Open Year Round  
Lunch and Dinner

Since 1854

**JOHNNIE'S  
PIER 31**

**YAMAHA** **Takee** **SEAARK BOATS**

*Oneida Lake Marina, LLC*

*New and used boat sales • service • dockage • storage*

Ron Renslow & Debbie Scarpinato

Sales/Service (315) 697-4867  
Marina (315) 762-4865  
Fax (315) 697-4868

3713 Route 31  
Canastota, NY 13032  
[www.oneidalakemarina.com](http://www.oneidalakemarina.com)

**MARINER'S  
LANDING**  
(Formerly "Skinners Marina")

705 Pioneer Ave.  
Sylvan Beach, NY 13157

315.762.0112

- Small Ship Store
- Gas
- Diesel
- Transient Dockage
- Dockage
- Storage
- Winterization
- Transient Camping

Jean and John Kowalski  
and Family

Casual Waterfront Dining  
315-762-5623

Serving  
Lunch  
and  
Dinner

Open  
March  
through  
November

*Along the Canal by the Fishing Pier*

[canalviewcafe.com](http://canalviewcafe.com)

**COMPLETE MARINE SERVICES  
DOCKAGE, INSIDE STORAGE  
BROKERAGE, TRAVEL LIFT SERVICES**

**HOLMES MARINA, INC.**  
VERONA BEACH, N.Y.  
Ed Holmes - Manager

**JAMES W. HOLMES** HOME: 315-762-4232  
PRESIDENT BUS: 315-762-0036  
FAX: 315-761-0540

**Callahan's**

**Marina**

Located on Rt. 31,  
9/10 of a mile W of Rt. 13

Deep Water Docking &  
Launching

Mike: 315-697-7470  
Jim: 315-697-9729

Callahan's Marina Inc.  
9089 Callahan Dr.  
Canastota, NY 13032

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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