



# 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, 2010

District 6

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## CONGRATULATIONS



**COMMANDER**

Bryan E. Walrath, Jr

We look forward to your leadership.

# UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

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Executive Officer..... Colleen A. Welch, AP  
797-2009  
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NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page

**usps.org/localusps/utica**

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# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Richard R. Gassner, AP



Greetings! This is my last Commanders Message!! It has been fun. Last month Dean put in a "Thank You" to me for being the commander this last year. I appreciated the "Thank You" and want to thank the bridge who did the real work. It was a pleasure serving this past year and now I am happy to pass it on to Bryan (if he gets back from Florida).

I am pleased that we may have up to 8 members attending the Spring Conference in Ithaca on Mar 19-21. Besides being fun and meeting boaters with like interests, it allows you to see how the hierarchy in the Power Squadron works. The education program is always changing and many new things are being developed. Presently a big item is the Inland Boaters Operating Certificate. A push is on to certify the certifiers for this program. Also we can learn about the many new courses and seminars that have been developed and can be taught to the public.

I want to also thank all the members that have supported our squadron. It is most important if we want to carry on the education of the public. A new Basic Boating course for the public is starting March 25. This is where we get new members. My last request is that we all try to get new members, especially ones that are willing to teach. We need younger members and new ideas to make this a better organization.

# SEO REPORT

*By Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN*



The sun is shining brightly and the snow is melting. Now is the time for everyone to start thinking about getting their boat ready for launch day. I just finished registering two boats and two boat trailers with the Department of Motor Vehicles. When the snow is gone it will be time to uncover and clean up our favorite toys. We will check for winter damage which we should not find if we put the boat away properly last fall. Perhaps we need new flares of less than 3 years age. Some numbers on the bow may have worn away. Our personal floatation devices may need repair or replacement. How do our dock lines and ground tackle look? What kind of attention does our engine need? And you sailors prepare to refresh your bottom paint and check out the sails. You may have many plans to properly prepare your boat but what about preparing yourself?

Have you kept up a walking and exercise routine to prepare you for launching and those wonderful days on the water? It is not too late to get into a routine so you can have more enjoyment out of all aspects of life. What about mental preparation for your cruises? Have you reviewed your USPS textbooks lately to refresh those skills that we use less often than others? Are you familiar with how to operate and apply a GPS (Ground Positioning System) as you both plan and execute your cruises?

We have several of the new Seamanship, Piloting and Advanced Piloting textbooks in stock if you would like to update your skills. Consider a new Engine Maintenance book to help with your spring preparations. There are also several USPS seminars that provide a quick review. They are all listed in the national web page or I can get you a list if you phone me.

Several of our members are looking into the Boat Operator Certification program being offered by national. We hope to have an "on the water skill testing session" at Alexandria Bay this July. After that we will have three or four members certified to give you the test and discuss what seminars we can offer for you to become a Certified USPS Boat Operator. Just like registering your boat and trailer, some day we will have to be registered as boat operators. The Coast Guard is working on that issue now.

As I have said many times, contact me for more information. However, I am a short timer in the Squadron Education Officer role. I have been your SEO for several years and feel that it is time to have some new energy applied to the job. I thank you all for your participation and cooperation in our educational program. As of our Change of Watch (14 March) P/D/C Dave Schulz, AP will be SEO. I am sure that he will do a great job as always. If you are looking for me, I will be in the basement working on that old wood and canvas Penn Yan car topper (circa 1945) that I started to rebuild so many years ago.

# Utica Sail and Power Squadron

## Planned Activities List

### For 2010

#### March

- 3 March Squadron Meeting 1930 Sears Oil Co. – Rome  
14 March COW 1200 Dibbles Inn - Vernon  
25 March Public Boating Course 1830 Whitesboro High School

#### April

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

#### May

- 5 May Squadron Meeting 1930 Sears Oil Co. – Rome

#### June

- 2 June Squadron Meeting 1930 Sears Oil Co. – Rome  
4 June Launch Party 1700 Lock 20 - Marcy  
5 June Boating Course 1200 Lock 20 – Marcy

#### September

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

#### October

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

#### November

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

#### December

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

**U.S. BORDER CROSSING REQUIREMENTS HAVE CHANGED-  
MAKE SURE YOU ARE COMPLIANT TODAY!  
SIMPLIFY YOUR TRAVEL CHECKLIST!**

Starting **June 1, 2009**, U.S. citizens returning home from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda, by land or sea, are required to present one of the travel documents listed below.

**U.S. Passport** – This is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies a person's identity and nationality. It is accepted for travel by air, land and sea.

**U.S. Passport Card** – This is a new, limited-use travel document that fits in your wallet and costs less than a U.S. Passport. It is only valid for travel by land and sea.

**Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)** – Several states and Canadian provinces are issuing this driver's license or identification document that denotes identity and citizenship. It is specifically designed for cross-border travel into the U.S. by land or sea.

**Trusted Traveler Program Cards** – NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST enrollment cards can speed your entry into the U.S. and are issued only to pre-approved, low-risk travelers. The cards are valid for use at land or sea; the NEXUS card can be used in airports with a NEXUS kiosk.

**Special Groups** – Information for Children, Groups of Children, Native Americans, "Closed Loop" Cruises, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents, U.S. Military, Merchant Mariners, Ferries and Small Boats, and Boaters.

Knowing what documents are required and having them ready when you return home will help streamline the entry process and ensure your return to the U.S. is as smooth as possible.

## VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

Spring is coming. Every Boat needs a Vessel safety Check!! USPS Vessel Safety Examiners conduct free Vessel Safety Checks. A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of your boat to verify the presence and condition of safety equipment required by State and Federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of USPS or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. They will make recommendations and discuss safety issues that will make you a safer boater.



This is not a law enforcement issue. No citations will be given as a result of this encounter. We will supply you with a copy of our evaluation so that you can follow the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display the VSC decal.

Your Squadron is down to just 2 active Vessel examiners and we need you. If you have allowed your certificating to expire, or would like to become a Vessel Safety Examiner, please contact, P/C Dean Woodard, P. and we can get you back on track. It is really a very rewarding experience and you get to look at a lot of really neat boats in the process.

Much of the qualification work can be done on line. It will take a little effort, but the rewards are worth it.

If you have not participated in the program, why not start with a Vessel Safety Check of your own Boat.

### **PUBLIC BOATING CLASS    SQUADRON ABC COURSE.**

Starting Thursday evening at 6:30 at Whitesboro High School we will be offering the new public boating course. We will run for four Thursdays for two hours each week.

You are welcome to stop by for all or part of the classes. At the very least please inform your boating friends that may wish to join us.



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

### YOUR DUCK IS DEAD--

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head..

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman..

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry.. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150."

☺ ☺ ☺

### HAVE YOU EVER BEEN GUILTY OF LOOKING AT OTHERS YOUR OWN AGE AND THINKING, SURELY I CAN'T LOOK THAT OLD?

WELL . . . YOU'LL LOVE THIS ONE.  
MY NAME IS ALICE , AND I WAS SITTING IN THE WAITING ROOM FOR MY FIRST APPOINTMENT WITH A NEW DENTIST.

I NOTICED HIS DDS DIPLOMA ON THE WALL, WHICH BORE HIS FULL NAME. SUDDENLY, I REMEMBERED A TALL, HANDSOME, DARK-HAIRED BOY WITH THE SAME NAME HAD BEEN IN MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SOME 30-ODD YEARS AGO. COULD HE BE THE SAME GUY THAT I HAD A SECRET CRUSH ON, WAY BACK THEN?

UPON SEEING HIM, HOWEVER, I QUICKLY DISCARDED ANY SUCH THOUGHT.

THIS BALDING, GRAY-HAIRED MAN WITH THE DEEPLY LINED FACE WAS WAY TOO OLD TO HAVE BEEN MY CLASSMATE.

AFTER HE EXAMINED MY TEETH, I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ATTENDED MORGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL .

' YES. YES, I DID. I'M A MUSTANG,' HE GLEAMED WITH PRIDE. WHEN DID YOU GRADUATE?' I ASKED. HE ANSWERED, 'IN 1975. WHY DO YOU ASK?'

YOU WERE IN MY CLASS!', I EXCLAIMED. HE LOOKED AT ME CLOSELY. THEN, THAT UGLY, OLD, BALD, WRINKLED FACED, FAT-ASSED, GRAY-HAIRED, DECREPIT SON-OF-A-BITCH

ASKED, 'WHAT DID YOU TEACH???'

☺ ☺ ☺

## EDUCATIONAL BENEFACTORS FUND

This Fund was established in memory of Lt./C Stephen E. Smith, S to encourage donations for the purchase of educational equipment and supplies to support our two-fold mission: boater safety education for the public as a public service, and Squadron member education. Contributors may donate in memory of loved ones, or to acknowledge special occasions such as weddings, birthdays, promotions, bar mitzvahs, get-well wishes, and special achievements.

**All donations are tax deductible.**

*(Suggested Format)*

**In Memory of John Doe** by: Mrs. John Doe

Congratulations to by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions should be sent to  
Squadron Treasurer Thomas A. Sears, AP**

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The BILGEWATER  
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