



THE **BILGEWATER**

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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York

March 2012

District 6

**OUR PAST COMMANDER, BYRAN E WALRATH JN,
LEADS THE SQUADRON IN THE CHANGE OF WATCH
CEREMONY.**



THE NEW OFFICERS ARE

Commander	Linda Duc
Ex Officer	Robert Walker
Education Officer	David Schultz
Adm. Officer	Coleen Welch
Secretary	John Rettinger
Treasurer	Gerry Fry

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

- Commander..... Bryan E Walrath, JN
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- SEO..... David W. Schultz, AP
266-0511
- Administrative Officer..... Colleen A. Welch, AP
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- Secretary.....John J. Reitinger, JN
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- Treasurer..... Gerald R. Fry, JN
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- Assistant SEO.....Linda S. LaDuc, AP
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- Membership..... Gerald R. Fry, JN
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- BILGEWATER** EditorDean A. Woodard, P
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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Commander Linda S. LaDuc, AP



I've been very busy and preoccupied of late with the Whitesboro High School girls' bowling team that I coach, traveling to Fulton, Syracuse and next with one individual to Waverly, for the NY State High School Bowling Championship Tourney (which is where I am as this is being read). So, when I first got the message on my answering machine last Saturday to call Dave, my first thought was, "oh, he must not be able to make the Seamanship class we're teaching," not giving any thought to the topic we had mentioned on more than a few occasions; that topic being taking on the position of Commander for the Utica Sail and Power Squadron. My chagrin was evident when that was exactly the reason Dave wanted to talk to me. Imagine my consternation when I actually accepted that same position.

We have talked a lot over the last few years about the dwindling membership in our squadron and others, and especially the difficulty in getting new members involved and staying active in the nuts and bolts of running an organization. Despite having been Squadron Secretary, AO, XO and most recently Assistant SEO, when the topic of Commander came up, I turned tail and ran in the opposite direction as fast as I could.

Prior to that fateful phone call from Dave however, I started thinking that I did not want our organization to go the way of so many others that are in the same position--that is, having such great difficulty getting newer, younger members involved and willing to accept positions of leadership. Now, I know that I am certainly not young by any stretch of the imagination, but as far as the Squadron goes, I guess I qualify (since I am miles away as this is being read, I think I can get away with saying that!) So, I thought—I'm the next group in line—here is an organization I sought out—I wanted to join to learn as much as I could about something that I love to do, and later to impart some of that learning to others. Finally, it hit me—if I want to be a member of this organization and expect it to survive, it was my responsibility to accept the position—no more sitting back to wait for someone else to do the hard work.

So, here I am, about to take on a position of leadership, a somewhat intimidating position for me, but one that I will tackle to the best of my ability. I will need help—there is more I don't know about running a Squadron than what I do know. Things may not always run smoothly, but being a coach, I believe in teamwork. In order for a team of any kind to function well communication, the ability to work together and supporting one another are key factors for success. Most important, each member of that team must be willing to put forth their very best effort, not for themselves, but for the good of the group as a whole. I can't promise that we will get more people involved in the leadership aspect of our organization, nor can I promise that our numbers will grow. What I can promise is that I will give it my best shot and enjoy myself while doing so.

I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me. Now I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work—won't you join me?

Linda

SEO REPORT

By P/DC David Schulz, AP



We do not have much to report this month. Two classes are continuing to meet. Seaman-ship students have inquired about the next course so we are enthused by their desire to move on. Our ABC3 class starting at Lock 20 is approaching very fast. We need to get the advertising out for this great event.

We have noticed that many of our new officers need to take Operations Training (OT). We are going to try to do that class before we break for the summer boating season. All will be welcome to take that class. It is recommended that all of our members take OT at least once. We have been invited to join Syracuse Squadron in teaching Seminars at Smith Boys new boat show room in East Syracuse. So far there has been no response. If you would like to present a Seminar please call us and let us know.

We have been notified that Junior Navigation has been rewritten and will ship soon. If you are interested please let us know. I know that I for one would like to take it and complete it in 2012. Anyone care to join me?

Let's get out there and advertise our ABC3 course. It would be great if we could have a gang take the class. We have the best boating safety class available in the USA. So help us fill the class.

CHANGE OF WATCH

The Change of Watch 2012 was a small but elegant event celebrated at Beeches in Rome, NY, 04 March 2012. The food was great, fellowship warm and there was no significant snow fall for once. District 6 Commander was represented by D/Lt/C Charles Gray, AP and his wife Judy from St. Lawrence Power Squadron and soon to be District 6 Commander. "Charlie" broke bread with us and conducted our Change Of Watch. Two of our nominated inductees were absent due to long standing obligations. Our Commander elect P/Lt/C Linda LaDuc, AP and Executive Committee member elect P/C Rick Gassner, SN will be installed 4 April 2012 during our monthly meeting at Oneida County – Cornell Extension Center.

Many thanks to P/C Bryan Walrath, N, for his warm and unique leadership over the last two years. He opened many doors for us and we will benefit greatly from his continuing efforts.

We were happy to see P/D/C Dagne Struthers, SN (and P/C of Utica Power Squadron) and Tom Baker. As we ascertained, Dagne and Tom are longtime friends of Charlie and Judy Gray.

We are also very happy to welcome Linda to the Commander's Big Chair. Her inspiring message should challenge us all to join her as we continue to move our Squadron into greater ventures while informing our communities who and what we are. We have a grand tradition. Let it now continue and expand.

Boating is Fun – We can, and will show you how.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES LIST FOR 2012

4 April 13-15 April	Squadron Meeting Spring Conference	1930	Cornell Cooperative Extension Batavia, NY
2 May	Squadron Meeting	1930	Cornell Cooperative Extension
6 June	Squadron Meeting	1930	Cornell Cooperative Extension
1 June	Launch Party	1700	Lock 20
2 June	Boating Course	1200	Lock 20 Marcy, NY
5 September ? September	Squadron Meeting Fall Council	1930	Cornell Cooperative Extension Geneva Lakefront
3 October	Squadron Meeting	1930	Cornell Cooperative Extension
7 November ? November	Squadron Meeting Fall Conference	1930	Cornell Cooperative Extension TBA
5 December	Squadron Meeting	1930	Cornell Cooperative Extension



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

A MOST HAPPY MARCH 17TH TO ALL

A woman was sitting at a bar enjoying an after work cocktail with her girlfriends when Steven, a tall, exceptionally handsome, extremely sexy, middle-aged man entered. He was so striking that the woman could not take her eyes off him.

This seasoned yet playful heartthrob noticed her overly attentive stare and walked directly toward her. (As any man would.) Before she could offer her apologies for staring so rudely, he leaned over and whispered to her, "I'll do anything, absolutely anything, that you want me to do, no matter how kinky, for \$20.00.. on one condition..."

Flabbergasted but intrigued, the woman asked what the condition was. The man replied, "You have to tell me what you want me to do in just three words."

The woman considered his proposition for a moment, and then slowly removed \$20 bill from her purse, which she pressed into the man's hand along with her address. She looked deeply and passionately into his eyes, barely concealing her anticipation and excitement, and slowly and meaningfully said....

"Clean my house."



A Muslim was sitting next to Paddy on a plane.
Paddy ordered a whiskey.
The stewardess asked the Muslim if he'd like a drink.
He replied in disgust "I'd rather be raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lips!"
Paddy handed his drink back and said
"Me too, I didn't know we had a choice!"

Paddy calls Easy-jet to book a flight.
The operator asks "How many people are flying with you?"
Paddy replies "I don't know! It's your bloody plane!"



Paddy, the electrician, got sacked from the U.S. prison service for not servicing the electric chair..
He said in his professional opinion it was a death trap!



Paddy and Murphy are working on a building site.

Paddy says to Murphy "I'm gonna have the day off.

I'm gonna pretend I'm mad!"

He climbs up the rafters, hangs upside down and shouts

"I'M A LIGHT BULB! I'M A LIGHT BULB!"

Murphy watches in amazement!

The Foreman shouts "Paddy you're mad, go home"

So he leaves the site.

Murphy starts packing his kit up to leave as well.

"Where the hell are you going?" asks the Foreman.

"I can't work in the friggin' dark!" says Murphy.



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In these days of ever increasing printing and mailing costs, an electronic PDF file of the BILGEWATER sent to your e-mail address may be an acceptable option for you.

For or against, let George know what you want done. Call him at 315 831 2170
Or e-mail him at duke_peck@msn.com.

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