



THE BILGEWATER



UTICA POWER SQUADRON, INC
Sail and Power Boating - America's Boating Club ®
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York
usps.org/localusps/utica

May, 2004

District 6

LAUNCH PARTY

21 MAY 2004

LOCK 20 PARK - MARCY, NY

AND

22 May

Bring your dish to pass and your \$5.00 per couple to the Lock 20 Park on Friday evening about 1700.

Saturday at 1200 we start National Safe Boating Week at Lock 20 Park.

This will be a fun event for everyone. Come join us at this new location for a new year!

If you are able to join us for the Saturday Boat Smart Class we could use your help at 1100.

There have been some big changes to the roads in the area of Lock 20 Park. In fact you "can't get there from here" any more. Check it out if you are on the road from the west, the exits have changed.

See you on Friday evening and Saturday at noon!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SQUADRON MEETING - 2 JUNE 04
BILGEWATER DEADLINE - 9 JUNE 04
LAUNCH PARTY 21 MAY
KICKOFF 22 MAY
SPECIAL ISSUES OF THE BILGEWATER
COMING THIS JULY AND AUGUST



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr David W. Schulz, AP

Dreams do come true and snow does disappear. Would you also believe that my hull is cleaned and waxed? Would you also believe that all mechanical repairs are made and the new canvas has been hung? 'Tis indeed true and she should hit the water by this Sunday! I hope all your vessels are either in the water or will be shortly. Don't forget about your VSC's. We are available (Woodard and Schulz) to do them where they float! Just give us a call. I am sure we are all anxious to put all those new skills we learned over the winter to use - finally. Your new Bridge is at work putting together all our events for this watch. All our dates should be available after 30 June 04.

Our Launch party on 21 May 04 has been planned. Hope to see you all out for this fun event. We have a few presentations to make including the introduction of our new members.

Saturday 22 May 04 is our Safe Boating Week kick off and the start of what may be the largest Boat Smart ever. We have received many calls, as has P/C Dean Woodard, P. Lt. Jackie Smith has done another fine job at PR for this event. We have appeared in the OD and I have been on WIBX promoting boating safety and out Boat Smart Classes.

We may need lots of help on 22 May and in the classes scheduled for 25 and 27 May at Whitesboro SR. HS. 1900 - 2100. If you can help please be at Lock 20 Park by 1100 so we can get set up. We can use all of the help we can get.

There is a great story on how I got on WIBX that I will share at another time.

We will also be appearing at Toys R Us in New Hartford doing Vessel Safety Checks on Saturday 12 June 04 in their parking lot.

Bob Hyde continues under care at the VA outpatient. I'll bet he would enjoy hearing from us. We miss him at our meetings.

D/6 Summer Rendezvous at the 1000 Islands should be great fun. Let's make a good showing at this fun event. We will not be going by boat but by auto. If you need more information about the rendezvous give me a call.

We have been in Ottawa, CA checking out the Rideau Canal. We are planning on navigating this marvel next summer. Anyone interested in boating along with us?

See y'all at our events.

dave

Information for the Sailing Guest
(or How to Avoid Confusion or Panic Under Sail)
by P/C Robert N. Skalwold, SN

Have Fun

Your host is the Skipper, Boss, that is. Please defer to him in all matters concerning the care and handling of the boat. When he asks you to do something, please respond and do it. Unless he hears differently he will assume you understood and have done it. Don't wait for him to say "preety please", by the time he notices, you may be too wet to care. If you perceive a hazard of which you think he may not be aware, tell him about it. Sing out loud and clear, like "submerged rock off the port bow." It is not considered good form to holler, "Look out for that rock, stupid."

Words You Should Know

Bow The front end of the boat
Ahead.....Out in front of the boat
Forward.....Towards the front of the boat
SternThe back end of the boat
AsternBehind the boat
Aft Toward the back of the boat
Below Inside the boat as "Go below and break out some soup and sandwiches
DeckWhere you walk around on top of the boat
Sole The "floor" of the Cabin
Port The direction which is to your left when facing forward. "the red running light is always on the port side of the boat."
StarboardThe other side. (Boats never have a left and right, front and back.
CleatThe thing you fasten lines to. Verb, Fasten to a cleat
LinesRope when made up and put to use on a boat
SheetA line used to hold a sail where the skipper wants it
HaylardA line that hauls things up the mast.
TillerThe handle to steer the boat, may be a wheel or helm.
FenderThose soft rubber or plastic things hanging over the side.

Words You Should Not Know:

Beyond the scope of this work.

Protocol:

Have Fun.

Privacy is difficult in the close quarters prevailing on most sailboats.

Don't go aboard anyone's boat until you are invited, you might be embarrassed or get wet. If you just can't wait, "May I come aboard?" will show that you are with it, and get you a helping hand over the rail. Don't Jump.

Don't go aboard any boat, no matter how beat up it looks, with your shoes on. Take shoe off and go bare or change to rubber boat shoes. Take off your boat shoes before you go ashore. Shoes often have nails and tacks sticking out which scratches the boat and irritate the skipper. Also, sand, dirt, gravel, paint, grease, chocolate, oil, tar, chewing gum and similar crap gets on shoes ashore and then gets all over the boat and sails if you wear them aboard. That weather-beaten gray wood deck is probably very expensive, carefully laid and maintained teak which gets nasty stains if you get grease (drop potato chips) on it.

(Continued page 4)

Every skipper is inordinately proud of his boat. It may be O K to make disparaging remarks about his parentage, his mate, or his dog, but never about his boat. Admire his boat, there must be something commendable about it to make him spend so much time and talent on it.

Guests are generally expected to be part of the crew. Help out as directed. If not directed, volunteer. Make yourself useful, pick up beer cans, mix drinks, serve coffee, take in the fenders when leaving the dock, retrieve trailing lines, hold hands or converse with the skipper as appropriate. If you are completely helpless, be decorative.

Always return gear to its customary place. Don't rearrange the furnishings.

If the skipper tells you to put on a life vest, don't panic, don't disdain, don't fuss, just do it. People fall off boats fairly often and in some circumstances the skipper wants to be able to take his time picking you up.

When the boat is under way try to stay on board. Always use at least one hand to hold on to the boat with, you can use your other hand, feet, chin, teeth, knees, etc., to work with.

Sailboats lean over (heel), sometimes all the way over. Don't panic, the situation is normal and probably under control.

If part of the sail is lying on deck and you step on it you may rip or stain it. It is made of Dacron or Nylon and very slippery and, hopefully, you will fall overboard into very cold, dirty water, full of nasty things.

If you fall overboard you must yell as loudly as you can when you start to fall. Most people forget to do this and some are never seen or heard from again.

If you smoke, don't let the embers fly around, they play hell with the sails. When the skipper pulls up to the gas dock, make sure all lights are out, because boats make loud uncomfortable noises when gasoline fumes mix with fire in them.

Be nice to powerboats. They are often very helpful when you are becalmed (no wind) and when you are aground. Also they are roomy and warm in nasty weather. They generally carry lots of ice on board. Many of their people are just as nice as sailors.

Don't throw stuff overboard, find the trash container.

Keep your hair, clothing, and fingers out of the bilge pump, winches, and running gear to keep them working smoothly.

If you bring a battery operated camera, light meter, transistor radio or similar goody on board, tell the skipper and he will explain how to stow it safely. If you put this sort of thing near the ship's compass, even on the other side of a bulkhead, all sorts of confusion may result.

Your Gear

Bring your personal gear aboard in a bag. Don't use suitcases, they can't be stowed conveniently and lead to disaster about the third time the skipper trips over one. Use any kind of bag, sea bag, laundry bag, duffle bag, trash bag, knitting bag, pillow case, blanket bag, knapsack, etc. Use a small cosmetic case or travel kit for small stuff. Try to keep down the bulk of the whole mess. Plastic shirt bags are great for keeping socks, underwear, and shoes organized.

What gear to bring? You will need almost as much for a weekend as for a week. Be prepared for wind and water, hot and cold, bright sun and dank fog. Clothing should be simple, permanent press, but not roughhouse, sailing is clean. (Only a cad would expect you to help clean the bilges or scrape the bottom without some prior notice.)

(Continued on page 5)

You should be able to cover up completely with cool clothing to keep from being sunburned to a crisp in the six or seven hours you may be exposed. That sun is a triple threat when reflected off the water, deck and sails.

You will need warm clothing and some kind of windbreaker for the windward work and in the cool of the evening. Nylon ski or golf shell with a sweater will do it.

For lounging on board and boat hopping, you will need a shirt and shorts or slacks. Shirt and slacks or skirt with some sort of sweater or jacket will also serve for shore side dinners.

Extra socks are needed. Make some of them wool. If the wind is good, some water will come aboard and wet your feet.

Check with the skipper to see if you need foul weather gear. He usually has some on board for his regular crew, but you may want to bring your own.

Sleepwear should be something you could wear on deck and not feel too conspicuous.

It is proper to bring bathing suit and towel along to show your confidence in your skipper's ability to order up good weather. Hot showers are almost never found on small sailboats.

Dramamine, aspirin, alcohol and Tums are generally available from ships stores. There is usually some form of snake oil for sunburn and insect bites too, but you should probably bring along your own favorite brands. There is almost never electricity for shaving or hair drying.

Bring along a small flashlight for rummaging around in that duffle bag, finding that other sneaker, or exploring the shore facilities during the evening.

You might want to bring along a good book for quiet times, if any. A musical instrument of appropriate size is great for gay times.

Hey, don't forget your dark glasses.

Have fun.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

from

Your National Membership Committee

It's a New Year for all USPS Members. Dues notices have been mailed to every member.

Don't delay send your check today!

Following is a list of just a few of the numerous Benefits and Opportunities in belonging to USPS:

- **Opportunity to receive Discounted Boat Insurance with Mc Griff & St Paul.**
- **Opportunity to save 50% off Boat US Membership Fees.**
- **Opportunity to receive Discounts on purchases from Dell Computer, Nobeltec producer of navigation software, Soundings Magazine Subscriptions and more.**
- **Opportunity to take Advanced Education Courses in Safe Boating.**
- **Opportunity to Socialize and Travel with other experienced boaters.**
- **Opportunity to make Lasting Friendships.**
- **Opportunity to Participate in Civic Duties in your Community.**
- **Opportunity to help us Save Lives on the Waterways.**

The Opportunities are there, reach out and take advantage of all or some. When you add it all up.....

CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD NOT TO BELONG TO USPS?

Don't Delay, send your check today!

Stf/C Laura M. Teatero, SN



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A, Woodard, P

We wish to extend our thanks to

Metzger Fire Fighting

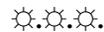
Equipment for their generous donation of dry powder extinguishers for our annual Safe Boating Week activities. They not only gave us the extinguishers but saw that they were filled and ready for use. If you have fire equipment needs or need some advice, why not give them a call at 337-8150. Their offices are located on Upper West Thomas Street in Lee Center.



I HAD A DRUG PROBLEM

My generation just might have been lucky. I had a drug problem when I was young, but I turned out all right. I was drug to church. I was drug to family reunions. I was drug to the bus stop to go to school. I was drug by the ears when I was disrespectful. I was also drug to their woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, and think. They are stronger than cocaine; crack or heroin and if today's children had this kind of drug problem.... the world might be a better place.



Most people don't know that back in 1912, Hellmann's mayonnaise was manufactured in England. In fact, the Titanic was carrying 12,000 jars of the condiment scheduled for delivery in Vera Cruz, Mexico, which was to be the next port of call for the great ship after its stop in New York. This would have been the largest single shipment of mayonnaise ever delivered to Mexico....But as we know....the great ship did not make it to New York....The ship hit an iceberg and

sank....and the cargo was forever lost.... The people of Mexico, who were crazy about mayonnaise, and were eagerly awaiting its delivery....were disconsolate at the loss....

Their anguish was so great, that they declared a National Day of Mourning which they still observe to this day.... The National Day of Mourning occurs each year on May 5th....and is known....of course....as Sinko de Mayo....



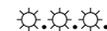
The Commander wrote that this Boat Smart Class on Saturday 22 May 2004 may be the biggest public boating class we have ever conducted by the Utica Squadron. The primary reason for this is the requirement as of January of this year that everyone who operates a personal watercraft must have a boating safety certificate.

Our plans are to use the Lock 20 facility to present a hands on boating experience. We will coordinate the text book with the facilities at the park to present fun filled educational opportunity.

We will demonstrate fire extinguishers, flares as well as look at boats as we discuss hull and vessel types. We will also tie knots and show how marine radio works.

Our location offers the opportunity to do a lot of things that are only talked about in class.

You can be a real help. Do you have a trailorerable boat of any type or size? If so, bring it along so we can discuss what type it is. We will also explain what a Vessel Safety Check is and have the students try to fill out the form . We also need you to help with the class.



I didn't think there was anything much better than getting a new, big, boat. Then on Saturday May 8, 2004, I watched my son awarded his PhD from Kent State. Things are a lot better. Congratulations Marty. Or should I say Dr Marty

**KICKOFF NATIONAL SAFE
BOATING WEEK**

22 MAY 2004

1200

LOCK 20 PARK MARCY

LAUNCH PARTY

21 MAY 2004

LOCK 20 PARK MARCY