



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 2005

District 6

GREAT DAY IN OSWEGO!

by Lt/C Vicky Fry, JN

Thanks to our Master and Commander, Gerry Fry, a very pleasant day trip took place on 1 May, complete with a bus and 42 eager participants. Leaving Rome at 0900 the trip to Oswego seemed short with anticipation and conversation.

On arrival, beautiful sunny weather greeted the group while at home it rained in great bursts. The group split and made visits to two marine points, the Coast Guard Station and the H. Lee White Marine Museum, next door.

At the Coast Guard Station, the return from training and spring testing of the 47' Rescue Boat quickly drew our attention. Six crewmembers with bright red dive suits added to the attractiveness of the new aluminum boat. This boat is very seaworthy but will right itself within 8 seconds if the sea is too rough. Early planning insured our chances to tour that boat in small groups. Though some members could see themselves at the helm of the 47 footer others wanted to head out with the 25 foot RIB. While we thought of adventurous rescue missions, the Guardsman leading our group emphasized homeland security duties. Our tour of the station was also very interesting in that it displayed the support levels needed to run such an operation. Pictures of several boats and squadron members at this station may be seen on our Squadron web page. www.usps.org/localusps/utica

The H. Lee White Marine Museum is a truly fascinating and artifact filled building. What a small gem to find and Gerry found it in the new Syracuse area Yellow Book phone directory. Along with local photos, miniature ship models, and historical paintings, a trip back into Oswego's maritime history was fulfilled. To remind us of this rich Lake Ontario and Oswego history, the gift shop held a great supply of books and novelties.

To the imaginative boat lover, nothing could beat the LT5 "Nash", the 120 ft. ocean going tug that saw action off the coast of Normandy during WWII. In addition to the fascinating history of the use of tug boats in the invasion, the tour of the boat brought forth a mariner's imagination. The tug is not usually open for tours before 21 May but through our prearranged visit, the museum staff gladly gave us a tour even though the Captain and other volunteers were still bringing it out of winter conditioning.

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by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Squadron Meeting** **1 June 2005**
- Launch Party** **20 May 2005**
- National Safe Boating Week Kick Off,**
Boat Smart Class and Vessel Safety Checks
All on 21 May 2005

Member benefits are directly proportional to member involvement. That is to say, in USPS as in most endeavors, you must invest your time, treasure, and talent to receive benefits. This notion is certainly well founded with reference to our boating activities. We know that our love for boating requires and gives pleasurable time, it costs us some of our money, and it requires that we develop the talents and knowledge to enjoy safe and rewarding boating experiences. Our Utica Power Squadron experience is similar and is planned to assist you with your boating enjoyment.

Your involvement in Utica Power Squadron is necessary for you to reap the benefits. If you have any question about what many benefits are available to you just phone, e-mail, or collar me in person at any event. Briefly, I must say that we have an excellent education program for members with most courses recently revised. The boating skills and knowledge available to you in these courses will certainly make your on the water time more enjoyable and fulfilling. Look on our web page (www.usps.org/localusps/utica) to see the social Activities List planned for this year. Our service to the public involves several boating safety classes each year and Vessel Safety Checks. And we really try to keep costs down so we can put more money into other demands and pleasures.

P/C Dave Schulz, AP has volunteered to be our Member Involvement Chairman. See the District Treasurer article to learn about Dave's new job and title. Dave is a great guy and a wonderful past commander. Dave will look at the national web site for ideas about member involvement. He will listen to all suggestions for interesting ideas. However neither Dave nor I or any other Squadron Bridge member can perform miracles. Your benefits depend on your involvement. It is your decision. Please join us in our planned activities. We are having a great time! Ask anyone who went on the Oswego Coast Guard and Museum trip.

Oswego from page 1

Though we spent about an hour at each spot, a well set up trip is ready to cater to its participants. What next? Why, of course, FOOD! And where did we go, the most popular place on Lake Ontario, Rudy's Fish Fry. One of Rudy's managers met the bus and quickly got us into a very busy building. By dedicating a block of seats and a couple of waitresses, we were served promptly and ate with gusto. Lucky it wasn't August because we wouldn't have found a seat then.

So our trip was great, with education, fun, food and a chance to be together with family members and friends. It seemed like everyone enjoyed the excursion and it was just one more benefit of being a Utica Power Squadron member.



MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO

Go to our web page at
usps.org/localusps/utica
then click on
Squadron Events
then click on
May 1
And pictures will appear.

From The SEO

Lt/C Victoria Fry, JN



Classes have been busy this Spring with the March Boat Smart class, Sailing 101 and 102, Seamanship, and the upcoming 21 May Boat Smart class.

I can't complain about the SEO duties since I have Ellen Webster and Gerry Fry to direct me. Though I am still hesitant about USPS policy and how to proceed sometimes, our Squadron has many members who participate in our educational program and this makes all the difference in gaining confidence.

At the end of our last Boat Smart class, we had one of the best showings of members ever! Ellen Webster and Dean Woodard had taught the course and they smoothly started the students on the test. Linda LaDuc, Randy Webster and I graded the tests. After completing the test, students went to Gerry Fry to get their certificates which were hand lettered by Dave Schulz. Ellen, Dean, Dave Schulz, Rick Gassner, Howard Wyatt, and Jo Zogby spoke to the students about USPS membership. Rick Gassner also brought some drinks and his member course textbooks to display. Since Gerry Fry, in full uniform, had delivered a smooth presentation on the benefits of being a member, the graduation party resulted in five new members that evening.

I guess my message is this; with more member help we can revitalize our squadron. Seeing us laughing and enjoying each other's company as a group should be part of our message that we are worth joining! So help a poor SEO do her job, donate an hour to come at the end of our next Boat Smart class. This next graduation party will occur on 26 May at 1900 at Whitesboro High School. Help us all out and a big thank you to all who are.

P/C Dave Schulz, AP DISTRICT 6 TREASURER

P/C Dave Schulz, AP is the new Treasurer of District 6. As a member of the District 6 Bridge, Dave will oversee the financial resources of our district. Dave brings several years of USPS membership and involvement at Utica and the Swiftwater squadron near Buffalo. He began his squadron bridge experience at Swiftwater and continued as Commander for two years at Utica. Dave has attended D6 Council and Conference meetings for many years. He is very familiar with USPS mission and activities at the squadron and district levels. Please note: He may sound perfect but he admits that he could use some help with "Quicken" to keep the D6 books.

A committee of Past District Commanders recognized Dave's talents and nominated him for the District Treasurer position. His election along with the entire new district bridge was held at the Spring District Conference in Rochester. The Conference was held at the Clarion Riverside Hotel over the weekend of 8 - 10 April 2005. Five Utica Squadron members attended the Conference. We enjoyed Dave's installation, several interesting meetings, parties in the various squadron hospitality rooms, a wine and cheese party, and the formal Saturday night dinner/dance. Utica Power Squadron congratulates Dave, the entire D6 Bridge, and the Rochester Power Squadron, our host.

D6 is made up of 18 squadrons in central and western New York. The District organization assists our squadron with all of our many programs. It also conducts two district meetings in the Fall and two in the Spring. The Fall District Conference will be held at the Hotel Utica in early November with guess what, the Utica Power Squadron as host. Also note that the D6 Summer Rendezvous will be held at the Riveredge Hotel in Alexandria Bay during the last week in July. You can link to the D6 web page from our Utica web page or read all about these activities in the District Newsletter [The Deep 6](#).

ANNUAL LAUNCH PARTY PLANNED

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, Lock 20 in Marcy is where the party is.

The annual Launch Party on 20 May, that is. This Friday evening event kicks off the boating season and National Safe Boating Week.

Friends in the Utica Power Squadron have gathered in May for many years to celebrate the launching of our boats. We will enjoy a picnic style meal in the pavilion at Lock 20. Starting at 1730 or thereabouts the families will gather to share their dish to pass. The Committee will provide meats and drinks in addition to table service and condiments. The cost per family is \$5.00 payable at the door.

Safe boating through proper fitting out of your boat will be the program delivered by P/C Dean Woodard, P. Dean is Chairman of our Boating Safety and Vessel Safety Checks committees. He is a certified Vessel Safety Examiner who has examined many boats over the years to help the owners prepare for safe boating and Coast Guard boarding. Several law enforcement agencies are now patrolling our larger bodies of water. Please listen to Dean and request your free Vessel Safety Check to insure that you are ready for an official boarding and safer boating



VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS AND BOAT SMART CLASS

On Saturday, 21 May at Lock 20, Vessel Examiners will be on hand from 1000 to 1600 to do Vessel Safety Checks on trailerable boats. Interested members can also be trained at this time to become Vessel Safety Examiners.

P/C Dean Woodard, P, will also lead a team of squadron members in presenting a Boat Smart class to the public. The class is great fun with demonstrations of signal flare usage and fighting petroleum fires. Boat Smart will run from 1200 to 1600 on Saturday 21 May at Lock 20. It will finish in Whitesboro High School on Tuesday 24 May and Thursday 26 May 1830 to

2030. The final exam and recruiting party will be on Thursday evening. All members are welcome and encouraged to enjoy all of these events.

FRIDAY 20 MAY AT 1730 LAUNCH PARTY
SATURDAY 21 MAY AT 1200 SAFETY
DEMONSTRATIONS AND BOAT SMART CLASS
COME JOIN US FOR BOTH



CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

DO YOU LOVE YOUR BOAT?

If you do, share the love by sharing a good photo of your boat along with vital statistics. The boat statistics, not yours, but you can be in the photo too. We will only list your name if you give permission to do so.

We would like to set up a display for assorted functions like boat shows, boating classes, and new member recruitment. Please mail your photo or e-mail digital photos to Walt Kramer (walk@aiusa.com) or to Gerry Fry (frygr@dreamscape.com). Mailing address for Gerry Fry is 4224 East Lake Road, Hamilton, NY 13346. If you prefer just hand the photo with statistics to one of the Bridge members at the upcoming Launch Party on 20 May. Show your boat you care!



What's in a name? Do you think we should add sail to our squadron name? Should we change to something like Mohawk Valley Squadron? As we work on bylaw updates—let the Commander know what you think.

BUILDING A BOAT

by Loren Church

Loren was a member of our last Boat Smart class. He asked questions we had no answers to. He did the research and shares with us. Thanks Lauren.

Get COMDTPUB P 16761.3B (if you use this address in Google it will find the document). It is a United States Coast Guard document “Safety Standards for Backyard Boat Builders.” (USCG Safety phone number is 1-800-368-5647)

You are considered to be a manufacturer responsible for motor size, load weight and number of persons. Once you determine these ratings a label is to be mounted near the operator's position. One possibility is to have the information engraved on a plaque.

Another requirement is to get a Hull Identification number. New York State requires two identical photos of the boat and a form from the DMV. Send the required form to the address in Albany indicated on the form.

I elected not to sink my boat to find its “displacement”. I calculated the hull volume. I then followed the calculations and examples in the Coast Guard document.

This information leads to maximum motor size, load and number of people. Other topics covered are electrical system, fuel system, ventilation and survival handles.

I hope this information will be useful to any other boat builders. Good Luck!
Loren Church



DUMBER THAN A BOLLARD AWARD

Sonny and Dawn were at the west end of Oneida Lake looking at a boat when much to their surprise police swarmed around the boat next to them with guns drawn. The man was “removed” from the vessel without his feet once touching the ground and the young lady came off in handcuffs. The marina mechanic was left standing with his hands in the air.

Seems that the couple were wanted for bank robbery in PA and had bought this boat the night before for some \$9,000 in \$20's. The cops found them by tracing the GPS cell phone they had been using.

It has been some time since we had a good nautical candidate for this award—sure looks like we found a couple.

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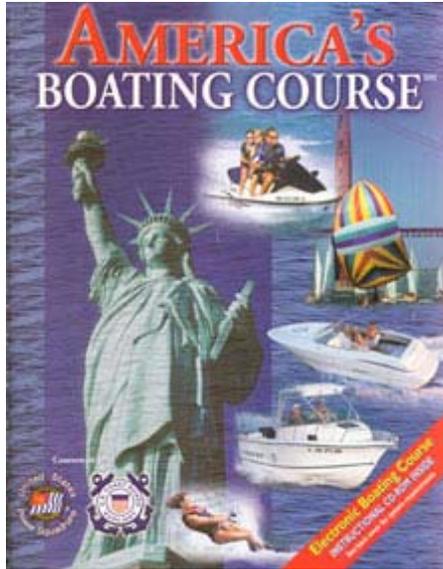
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America's Boating Course is a self study course that has a textbook and a CD for your computer. We will also supply NY State specific information and study questions. When you have finished the course, we will provide a proctored exam and a certificate that states that you meet all NY State requirements for boating and PWC.

The cost is \$35 which covers one exam. Additional exams will be \$5.00 each. Questions? Give Ellen a call.

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