



# 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  
[usps.org/localusps/utica](http://usps.org/localusps/utica)

May 2006

District 6



## ALL HANDS ON DECK

by Lt/C Linda LaDuc, P

Let's all get ready for the Squadron's annual Launch Party, to be held on Friday, 19 May 06, at Lock 20 in Marcy, NY. The festivities will begin at 1730, or 5:30 p.m. for those not inclined to use military time. The cost is just \$5.00 per family, which will cover burgers, dogs, sausage, and drinks, including soda, water and coffee. Please bring a dish to pass, which will then be entered into consideration for "Commander's Favorite" for the night.

**Something new this year** will have anyone **arriving by boat** (on the canal, not on a trailer!) be treated to the evening at no cost. Let's see who takes up the challenge!

Another special treat will be the entertainment provided by the duo "Easy Listening" with Alexis and Bud.

Mark the date on your calendar and come join the fun.

## NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK THE NEXT DAY

On Saturday 20 May 2006 your squadron will be presenting our kickoff for National Safe Boating Week. Starting at noon at Lock 20 Park. We will have live fire extinguisher demonstrations, nautical flares in the air, a Boat Smart Class, Vessel Safety Checks and much more.

We need you, your trailerable boat and expired flares you are willing to donate.

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# UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

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### DATES TO REMEMBER IN 06

**SQUADRON MEETING 7 JUNE**  
**LAUNCH PARTY 19 MAY**  
**BOAT SMART & VESSEL SAFETY CHECK**  
**20 MAY**

Let's toast to all you happy boaters. May your boat splash soon and give you much enjoyment this summer! May you be happy even though you are not buying a new boat or selling the old one. May the sometimes suggested meaning of BOAT (Break out another thousand) not come true for you this summer. Happy safe boating to all.

You may recall that the members present at our Change of Watch Dinner last March voted to change the name of our squadron to Utica Sail and Power Squadron. Thanks to help from Jo Zogby and Colleen Welch who acquired a copy of our incorporation papers from the Oneida County Clerk's Office, we have sent off the legal papers to the attorneys who will register the name change with our state Department Of State. Take pride you "rag baggers"! That's a compliment from one of the "stink potters".

On another matter of organizational procedure, your friends who attended the May squadron meeting voted to send the squadron proposed by-laws as amended to the National Rules Committee for approval. After national approval we will submit the new by-laws to your vote. This is the first by-laws revision since 1993. Of note in the new by-laws is a statement that allows anyone who attends a monthly squadron meeting to vote as opposed to only the executive committee having a vote. This reflects the way we have done business for many years. All members are welcome at the monthly meetings and all are encouraged to voice their feelings and ideas. Please consider attending the meetings that are held the first Wednesday of each month at 1930 hours at Sear's Oil Co. in Rome.

Elsewhere in this BILGEWATER you will find news about our upcoming Launch

Party

*page 4 Commander*

## VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS TO BE HELD AT DELTA LAKE

The Utica Sail and Power Squadron will be conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) at the Delta Lake State park on 10 June 2006. We should get started at 1000 and continue to about 1200. We will be located in the overflow boat launch parking lot. The normal State Park charge of \$7.00 to park will be in effect. The VSC are free. Everyone is encouraged to attend this event. It's always good to know that you are in compliance with the State and Federal laws.

Can't bring your boat? We can also use some members' help with recruiting the boaters from the main boat launch parking lot to participate.

Interested in becoming a VSC inspector? This can also be arranged. Give Dean Woodard a call at 336-1026. But WAIT! There's more!

As you can see, we will be finishing up the VSC at about noon - lunch time! We suggest that you bring a bagged lunch and then stay to learn a thing or two about the Geodetic Survey program that USPS has in conjunction with NOAA. P/C (Captain) Rick Gassner has agreed to cook up a program for us to enjoy.

Administrative note. If you give us a call, we might be able to set up a carpool of sorts. Not only will it save the parking fee at the park, but it will save gas if we go on a geodetic survey marker hunt. Give Dean 336-1026, Gerry 824-0978 or Ellen 336-3444 a call.



## UTICA AWARDS

by D Lt/C David Schulz, AP

Spring and Fall Conference is a time when Squadrons and individual members are recognized for extraordinary efforts and accomplishments. It is always a thrill when one's own Squadron and fellow members are honored. This was the case at District 6 Spring Conference 2006 for Utica Sail and Power Squadron.

First, Utica was awarded "Excellence in Journalism for our monthly publication – "The Bilgewater", P/C Dean Woodard, P editor. Dean puts in many hours writing, assembling, duplicating and encouraging others to contribute. It is a labor of love from Dean for sure because the publication is outstanding. Thanks Dean. We are, and you should be, justifiably proud. Next we were recognized for 100% participation in the Education Endowment Fund. For this award the Squadron must show 100% of its' renewing membership contributing at least \$1.00 to the fund. We did and we are proud. Next, two of our members were recognized and awarded distinctive "Power of One" lapel pins. Lt/C Colleen Welch, P (our Secretary) and P/C Dean Woodard, P recruited at least one new member each for our Squadron. Although P/C Harry Winberg, SN was not able to attend, he was awarded Life Membership. For this distinction one must earn 25 Merit Marks. Congratulations Harry. You help make Utica proud.

The reason I agreed to write this article is because I am very proud to be a member of an award winning Squadron while a member of the District 6 Bridge. I hope all of us are equally proud. We make a difference in our communities. Let's continue to keep up our good work together, recruit more new members and encourage safe boating.

# From The SEO

By Lt./C Vicky Fry, JN



Classes have been busy this spring with the March Boat Smart class, Weather 101 and 102, Advanced Piloting, and the upcoming 20 May Boat Smart class.

We owe a great big “thank you” to Dean Woodard and Richard Smith who taught the Boat Smart class and recruited five new members. Harry Winberg has again done an outstanding job teaching the Weather course. Thanks Harry and congratulations on earning your “Life Member” status. Harry has earned 25 merit marks through his active participation in squadron activities over a 25 year period. Ellen Webster has taught Advanced Piloting again this spring with her usual high level of competence in the subject and her attention to the details of course plotting. Great job Ellen!

Now we can't forget the students in these classes. Thanks to their attendance and studying, our educational program is strengthened as is their competence in safe and pleasurable boating. We know that our courses are packed with useful information. The USPS courses are also noted for an in-depth quality that prepares the students to confidently enjoy their boating experiences. Good job students, so enjoy your new skills and boating knowledge. If asked some of our members are likely to state that they enjoy the courses just for the sake of continued learning and enjoyment. We would like to hear about your motivations and desires for continued learning in our nautical subjects.

Many members helped with the Boat Smart graduation ceremony at the end of the March course. We will again need help on 25 May for the ceremony ending the next class that starts on 20 May and continues on 23 May and 25 May. Running from noon to 1600 on 20 May at Lock 20 in Marcy, the next Boat Smart course will continue from 1900 to 2100 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at Whitesboro High School. This should be a large class so anyone who can help on these dates is encouraged to attend, especially the graduation on 25 May.

Planning for next fall courses is progressing nicely. We will offer Seamanship for the new members followed by Piloting in the spring. Engine Maintenance and Junior Navigation will be offered for the first time in three or four years. Please check the squadron web page ([www.usps.org/localusps/utica/](http://www.usps.org/localusps/utica/)) for a full three year schedule of member courses. Just in case you didn't know, Junior Navigation is the first course in celestial navigation. It builds on the plotting skills learned in Piloting and Advanced Piloting so that you are prepared to “fall back” to this older method of

fixing your position during offshore voyages. I will never forget P/C David Ellison SN talking about his position fixes based on sextant sights when his electronics failed during his voyage to the Virgin Islands. Such pride, joy and enthusiasm!

You too can enjoy learning for greater boating competence or perhaps just for the fun of learning.

## *Commander from page 2*

that is scheduled for 19 May at Lock 20. This is always a nice family style picnic dinner but this year we will also have musical entertainment thanks to Frank Grunewald.

We will swear in some new members and present an award or two. Please come.

New members include Debbie Greer Gassner, Susan and John Mercurio, and Peggy and George Silverman. Three other men have contacted me about joining and I expect their applications in the near future. These new members reflect our D/6 Commander's motto for the year which is “Family and Friends”. By this D/C William Warren, P means that we are all family and friends. He also suggests that we should look at other family and friends as potential new members. You know that we must continually strengthen our club with new members or else it will decline. Who do you know that would enjoy our boating club and benefit from our member courses and our social events?

Our ongoing efforts to serve the public and place the Utica Sail and Power Squadron in the public eye are highlighted by two other events scheduled for the near future. On 20 May at Lock 20 we will be doing Vessel Safety Checks at 1000 and start another Boat Smart course at 1200. Then on 10 June, Ellen and Randy Webster are organizing a Vessel Safety Check at the boat launch at Lake Delta. This will be followed by a picnic lunch and a short program on Cooperative Charting.

Your Utica Sail and Power Squadron is moving full ahead. Jump aboard for a great ride!

## BoatU.S.

Because of the special arrangement made with BoatU.S. our members are able to pay only one-half of the regular dues of \$19.00 - only \$9.50 per year for our members.

# UTICA SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON PLANNED ACTIVITIES LIST

For 2006 - 2007 21 April 2006

## April 2006

5 April	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
1, 2 April	D/6 Spring Conference		Grand Island Holiday Inn

## May

3 May	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
19 May	Launch Party	1730	Lock 20 - Marcy
20 – 26 May	Safe Boating Week		
20 May	Vessel Safety Checks	1000	Lock 20
20 May	Boat Smart Class		1200 Lock 20
23 May	Boat Smart Class		1900 Whitesboro High School
25 May	Boat Smart Final Exam	1900	Whitesboro High School

## June

7 June	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. Rome
	Enjoy Your Boating Season		

## July

8 July	Squadron Bar-B-Q	1200	Fry Cottage, Hammond, NY
24 – 27 July	D/6 Rendezvous		Port Credit Yacht Club Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

## August

12 August	Bus to Antique Boat Museum, Clayton, NY	0800	Sears Oil Parking Lot – Rome
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## September

6 September	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
12 September	Engine Maintenance starts	1900	Whitesboro High School
13 September	Seamanship Course starts	1900	Whitesboro High School
14 September	Junior Navigation starts	1900	Whitesboro High School
16 September	D/6 Fall Council	0800	Holiday Inn, Batavia, NY
22 September	Haul Out Party	1730	Sea Shell Inn, Verona Beach

## October

4 October	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
27 – 29 Oct.	D/6 Fall Conference		Holiday Valley Resort Ellicottville, NY

## November

1 November	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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## December

6 December	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
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## January 2007

3 January	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
14 January	12 <sup>th</sup> . Night Party	1230	Ramada Inn, New Hartford
11 January	Junior Navigation	1900	Whitesboro High School
17 January	Piloting starts	1900	Whitesboro High School
16 January	Cruise Planning starts	1900	Whitesboro High School

## February

7 February	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
4 February	D/6 Spring Council	0800	To Be Determined
16 February	Founders' Day Party	1730	Verona Legion Hall

## March

7 March	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
15 March	Boating Course Starts	1900	Whitesboro High School
18 March	Change of Watch Dinner	1230	To Be Determined



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

Analysis by the National Association of State Boating Law

Administrators (NASBLA) reveals that over the past 10 years a number of adults have carelessly left children unattended on personal watercraft (PWCs). This act of carelessness has often resulted in the child starting the engine and taking off, leading to injury or even death.

Ron Jendro, boating law administrator for Montana and Chair of NASBLA's Boats & Associated Equipment Committee said, "Apparently parents and guardians do not realize the risks involved with leaving a very young child on an unattended PWC. This is especially hazardous because the lanyard for the engine cut-off switch is generally left attached to the vessel, making it easy for the child to push the start button and take off on the PWC."

"Besides to not leaving a young child on an unattended PWC, adults should remove the lanyard from the engine cut-off switch when the PWC is docked, beached or otherwise unattended."

We know you know all of this, but please try to pass the word this summer and protect the kids.

☺ ☺ ☺

While looking at a house, my friend asked the real estate agent which direction was north because, he explained, he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning.

She asked, "Does the sun rise in the north?"

When my friend explained that the sun rises in the East, (and has for some time), she shook her head and said, "Oh, I don't keep up with that stuff."

*Anyone for JN?*

☺ ☺ ☺



## LIFE IN THE 1500'S

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until ,when you opened the door ,it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway.

And you think you have problems.

*The 1500's thanks to Dave Schulz*

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## **GREAT NEW ACTIVITY**

Lt/C Colleen A. Welch, P has donated this beautifully framed nautical print for our

## ***SUMMER NAUTICAL ART RAFFLE***

Tickets will be available at all Squadron events this spring / summer with the final drawing at the Haul out Party in the Fall.

This is a very nice, professionally framed work of art that will grace the wall of the winner. Tickets are just \$5.00 each with the proceeds going to the Educational Fund of the Utica Sail and Power Squadron.

If you can't make an event this summer to buy your tickets, please contact the Commander, Colleen or check on the Utica Squadron web page at [www.usps.org/localusps/utica](http://www.usps.org/localusps/utica) for information.

***I.K. Brunel's iron screw steamship Great Britain, 3448 tons, passes Lundy Island on her maiden voyage. Launched at Bristol in 1843, she is now being restored there. From an aquatint by H. Papprell after a painting by J. Walter. Printed in England for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by the Soman-Wherry Press Ltd. Norwich From the National Maritime Museum.***

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