



# THE BILGEWATER

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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons  
Utica, New York  
[usps.org/localusps/utica](http://usps.org/localusps/utica)

May 2007

District 6

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## LAUNCH PARTY AND AUCTION. LOCK 20 18 MAY 2007

The launch party has been expanded this year to include the auction normally held at the Founders Day Party. The event will again held at Lock #20 on 18 May at 1730. The cost is \$5.00. Admission is free to anyone coming by boat. Please bring a dish to pass. As has become tradition, the dish will be judged by the Commander and the his selection will be printed in the Bilgewater. (It will help if you bring the recipe with you.) The Squadron will provide the meat and liquid refreshments.

The auction will be run by P/C Ellen Webster, SN and P/C Dean Woodard, P. Proceeds will benefit the Squadron. Donations can be anything you wish, nautical or not.

## Kickoff and Boating Course National Safe Boating Week 2 June 2007 at Lock 20 See page 4 for details.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER IN '06**  
**SQUADRON MEETING 6 JUNE**  
**LAUNCH PARTY AND AUCTION 18 MAY**  
**3 JUNE LOCK 20 BOAT SMART**  
**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK EVENTS**

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr George Peckingham, AP



Hi Folks. As the start of boating season approaches, your squadron continues to have a full slate of activities. First, the expanded Launch Party and auction at Lock #20 in Marcy on May 18. The Launch Party will be followed by the Boating Class conducted P/C Dean Woodard, P, with a little help from his friends, starting on June 2 at 1200 at Lock #20, followed by 4 to 6 evening classes at Whitesboro High School. Vessel Safety Checks will also be conducted on June 2 at the Lock.

P/C Gerry Fry, JN, Vicki Fry, JN, DL/C Dave Schulz, AP, Ann Schulz and I attended the Spring Conference in Niagara Falls the second weekend in April. The main issues presented were the changes to the national dues structure to include all family members for the price of a family of two; changes to the Co-op Charting Program deleting the reporting of geodetic markers and, the expansion of the number of seminar topics presentable to members and non-members of the Power Squadron. Membership decline continues to be a major concern. There was no new information about the Boater Certification Program being developed in conjunction with the Coast Guard.

At the May 2 squadron meeting three actionable resolutions were passed. The first two were to send thank you letters to the Superintendent of Schools of Whitesboro and to our own Lt/C Tom Sears, AP for their gracious allowance of the use of their facilities for classes and meetings. This has been done. The third resolution is to submit a new set of Squadron bylaws for approval to the USPS which conforms to the model bylaws of USPS.

Esteemed Past Commanders Gerry Fry

*See page 3 Commander*

*Commander from page 2*

and Rick Gassner, AP, conducted a well-received Seminar on GPS use at Gander Mountain in New Hartford on May 4. Six non-members were present and a couple expressed an interest in joining the squadron.

We note with sorrow the unexpected passing of P/C Lou and Michelle Spiridigliozzi's son Matthew on March 19. The squadron wishes to express its heartfelt condolences to Lou and Michelle.

**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.

GA81671P is our membership number.

Contact Cdr Peckingham with any questions.

**SOME VIEWS OF PAST HAUL OUT AND CLASS**



# NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK AND BOATING SAFETY CLASS

**Welcome to the 2007 North American Safe Boating Campaign!** As boating season approaches we are beginning to prepare for another campaign to spread the message of safe and responsible boating. This year we are hoping to educate the boating community about life jacket wear and the options that are available when it comes to comfortable and lightweight jackets. We are also working closely with our partner organizations to create a larger grassroots network and create a more consistent campaign message. We are hoping these collaborative efforts will increase awareness about the importance of wearing life jackets while on the water.

The United States Power Squadrons, America's largest boating educational organization, has announced that virtually all of its' 450 squadrons will be offering a boating safety demonstration and boating safety course during National Safe Boating Week, May 19 to 25, 2007. This voluntary organization of boaters has more than 50,000 members throughout the nation, in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and even in Tokyo, Japan. Utica Sail and Power Squadron, a unit of the US Power Squadrons, serves the local area and will be sponsoring events starting on June 2, 2007 in support of these national efforts. They will be offering USPS Boating Course starting on Saturday at noon at Lock 20 Park in Marcy. All students who pass the course receive a US Power Squadrons Boating Course Graduate certificate that meets all New York State boating and personal watercraft requirements.

Commander George Peckingham, announced that the Utica Sail and Power Squadron will have fire safety and flare demonstrations at the Lock 20 Park, Marcy NY, on Saturday, 2 June 2007. The Saturday activities will start at 12:00 noon and run until 4:00 PM. A boating safety class will be started as well at this time. The class will continue at Whitesboro Senior High school on Tuesday June 5th and Thursday June 7th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM each night.. At the conclusion of this class an opportunity to learn about chart reading and piloting will be offered. The course is open to all adults and youngsters at least 10-years of age when accompanied by an adult enrolled in the class. The cost for a course text book is \$25.00. All instruction is free and students may share text books. Additional details can be obtained by calling Gerry Fry at 315-824-0978.

Utica Sail and Power Squadron was chartered in 1941, has 85 members, and offers a wide variety of public boating courses including Boat Smart, the USPS Boating Course, and a Skipper Saver course designed for the spouse of the captain of the vessel. "If the skipper is incapacitated in any way," said Cdr. Peckingham, "the spouse should know how to bring the vessel home and how to use the marine radio to call for help for the skipper. The Skipper Saver course will provide this information. A series of seminars will also be announced as they become available." In addition to public boating classes, Utica Sail and Power Squadron offers a large variety of additional courses for its members, including Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting and Celestial Navigation 1 and 2. The voluntary USPS instructors also provide courses in Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Cruise Planning, Sail and Weather.

Members of the Utica Sail and Power Squadron provide vessel safety examinations of recreational vessels, along with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, as part of a U.S. Coast Guard initiative. Those boats that pass the examination receive a decal. Those that do not pass are given a listing of items that should be corrected, such as outdated flares.

"National Safe Boating Week was created to make boaters more aware of safety on the water," Cdr. Peckingham continued, "and we hope that everyone who goes boating will take in our safe boating activities. We hope moving our events to June from May will provide better weather for our outside events."

# From The SEO

by P/C Gerald R. Fry, JN



May is the time when we all hurry to get our boats ready for launching. As we look forward to our time on the water we must think safety and fun. Safe Boating Week is appropriately placed during the third week in May to remind us of the importance of safe boating through proper prior planning. However the weather does not always cooperate with us when we schedule our Safe Boating Week activities. In view of the fickle May weather we are offering our public safe boating course this year in early June. The “Squadron Boating Course” will replace the discontinued “Boat Smart” course as our public safe boating course.

The difference between the Boat Smart and Squadron Boating course is primarily the length of the course. The Squadron Boating Course includes four extra hours of instruction in chart use and course plotting. Students will still be able to sit for the examination at the end of 8 hours and earn their “Safe Boating Certificate” to meet New York requirements for personal watercraft operation. Students have the option of walking away with the certificate or staying for the added instruction. We hope that the more serious boaters stay for the full 12 hours and join our squadron. I am now receiving on-line registrations for the course and hope that you will advise your friends to join us on June 2.

June 2 at Noon at Lock 20 Park in Marcy will be the kickoff for the Squadron Boating Course. It will run to 4:00PM that day and continue on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30PM at Whitesboro High School. On Saturday June 2, the Maynard Fire Department will again demonstrate fighting petroleum fires. We will also have a demonstration of the use of flares. These demonstrations are open to the public as well as squadron members and safe boating course members. Safe Boating Week is a reminder of many safe boating practices. Probably the most urgent practice is to wear your “personal flotation device”.

Last Friday night, 4 May we held a GPS Seminar at Gander Mountain store in Utica. We had a good turnout with enthusiastic positive responses as we wound down at 9:00PM. Rick Gassner, George Peckingham and I delivered the instruction with the use of Power Point slides provided by national USPS. It was fun and a nice review of the application and operation of GPS units. Other seminars now available include “VHS/DSC Radio Operation”, “Onboard Weather Forecasting”, and “Chart Reading”. If you are interested in a repeat of the GPS seminar or any of the above listed seminars, please let me know.

Your squadron stands ready to assist all members and new members to develop boating skills to meet your needs and desires. Since we can’t always anticipate your needs, please speak up and make yourself heard. Reach me at (315)824-0978 or [gerryfry1@verizon.net](mailto:gerryfry1@verizon.net).

***Seen outside a secondhand shop:***

**WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?**



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard

### VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS



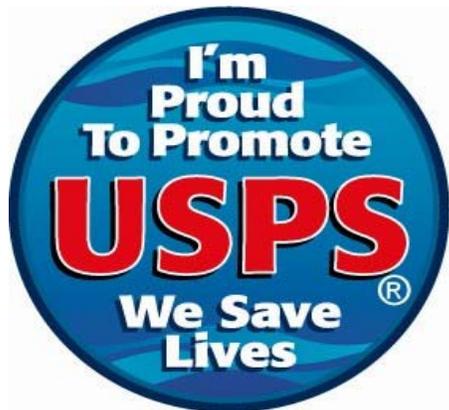
Do you have one of these VSC Decals on your boat? If so it is time to replace it with a 2007 model. If you want one, and we hope you do,

contact P/C Woodard or Schultz and we will set about getting you one.

By the way, you are welcome to join us, with your boat at Lock 20 on 2 June from noon on. We will be doing safety checks there as well.

The process to become a Vessel Safety Examiner is not hard—why not join us?

□ □ □



A blonde calls her boyfriend and says, "Please come over here and help me, I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get it started".

Her boyfriend asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The blonde says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a tiger."

Her boyfriend decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

"First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a tiger."

Then he takes her hand and says, "Second, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then..." He sighed..... "Let's put all the Frosted Flakes back in the box."

□ □ □

A 2006 study found that the average American walks about 900 miles per year.

Another study found that Americans drink an average of 22 gallons of beer per year.

That means, on average, Americans get approximately 41 miles per gallon.

*We know this is old but we just had to print it. DAW*

□ □ □



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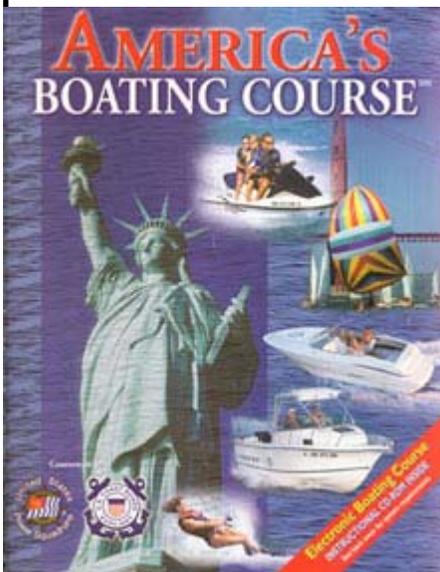
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## **NEED A BOATING COURSE?**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE THAT WANTS A BOATING CLASS THAT MEETS ALL NY STATE REQUIREMENTS - AND THEY WANT IT NOW?**

**IF SO, YOU MAY WANT TO SUGGEST THAT THEY CALL ELLEN WEBSTER AT 336-3444 AND BUY A COPY OF AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE.**

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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