



# THE **BILGEWATER**

**UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC**  
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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons  
Utica, New York

November, 2012

District 6

## **SQUADRON CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**(Bring a \$5.00 gift to exchange if you want)**

**Wednesday December 12, 6:00 PM.**

**\$25 per person**

Aquino's Family Restaurant  
910 Floyd Ave,  
Rome, NY 13440

Salads

Garden Salad

Broccoli Salad

Entrees

Lemon Chicken Bianco with greens (mild)

Roast Pork with Honey Citrus Sauce

Pasta

Ziti with Marinara Sauce

Sides

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Garlic Bread

Dessert

Mini Puffs and Cannolies

Coffee/Tea

Bryan Walrath 337 6051

[bwalrath@tweny.rr.com](mailto:bwalrath@tweny.rr.com)

**Please call when you know you are coming.**

# UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

Commander..... Linda S. LaDuc AP  
839-5522

Executive Officer.....Robert Walker, JN

SEO..... David W. Schultz, AP  
266-0511

Administrative Officer..... Colleen A. Welch, AP  
797-2009

Secretary.....John J. Reittinger, JN  
868-8585

Treasurer..... Gerald R. Fry, JN  
824-0978

Assistant SEO.....Linda S. LaDuc, AP  
839-5522

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NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page  
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# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

*Commander Linda S. LaDuc, AP*



Hi Everyone

It really wasn't necessary to hear repeatedly from other District members that the recently completed Fall Conference hosted by our Squadron at the Beeches was a resounding success—but it sure was nice! After several anxious months and four meetings, we managed to pull things together and the result was outstanding.

An equally resounding well done needs to go out to all that made the Conference such a great event, namely, our Conference Committee. For a few highlights:

Committee Chair, AO Colleen Welch, AP made up the trifold, pictures/framing for auction, provided refreshments for the Hospitality Room and procured Saturday evening's entertainment, Firestorm (many thanks to them as well).

Reservations/Registration, P/C Rick Gassner, SN, handled task like an "old pro", also provided refreshments for the Hospitality Room. Ship's Store, Secretary John Reittinger, JN, placed Store order and along with his wife Kathi, ran a very smooth operation.

Treasurer Gerry Fry, JN, created separate account and will handle all deposits and pay all of our conference related debts.

Others who were indispensable: PRO Bryan Walrath, N, for publicity, providing Hospitality Room refreshments and levity to whatever situation he was faced with!

*See Commander page 3*

*From Commander page 2*

P/DC Dagne Strothers, SN, for providing refreshments and volunteering to keep our Hospitality Room in order.

Last, but certainly not least, P/D/C Dave Schulz, AP, for his guidance, keeping us on track and giving us ideas during our planning meetings. Also provided refreshments for our Hospitality Room.

Some credit also has to go to the District Committee, led by Chair, P/D/C Mike Kelly, AP, and to the Beeches, whose warm hospitality, graciousness and delicious food drew rave reviews.

As far as the business side of the conference is concerned, the new By-Laws were approved, and member retention was a primary focus at both the Town Hall Meeting on Friday night and during Saturday's Operations Training Seminar. Also in the works is the push to create on-line versions of some USPS courses. However, it may be a year or two before that comes to fruition.

Another equally successful event was the Haul-Out Party held October 14. Unfortunately, I had to leave before things got underway due to a family emergency, but reports were that the boat ride on the Lil Diamond and the food at the Canalside Grille were both very well received. Again, thanks to Colleen Welch for putting this wonderful gathering together.

In case you were not able to attend either of these functions, don't despair! Up next on the schedule is our annual Holiday Party arranged by Bryan Walrath. You won't want to miss out on the fun and scrumptious food offered by Aquino's. A notice with details should be found in this Newsletter.

We hope to see you at one of our future activities; or take in one of our monthly meetings. Remember, they are open to all and your input is welcome. Our next meeting is 5 December 2012.

Hope to see you soon.

Linda



# SEO REPORT

*By P/DC David Schulz, AP*

Happy Thanksgiving from your Squadron's Education Department. We hope your holiday is blessed with family and friends. As a nation, we do have so much to be thankful for but at the same time we need to be informed and engaged with the needs of our society so that we continue to enjoy what has been so gallantly and painfully fought for.

We have not called anyone about the start of our Piloting class – but then we have not received any calls either. That shall be corrected soon. We have been somewhat distracted with many things and are now back to focusing on the needs of our Squadron. Expect a call soon or beat us to the task by calling us (315 266-0511). Our Operations Training class is still in planning and will be started after the holidays are over. All of our Squadron should take that class – Bridge Officers especially - but all of us should know how USPS operates and more specifically how your Squadron and District operates.

District 6 Fall Conference, hosted by our own Squadron, was very successfully conducted at The Beeches in Rome, NY. It concluded with rave reviews from all who attended with requests to return in spite of distance most had to travel. One of the seminars offered was an overview of Operations Training and corresponding systems that function in USPS such as DB2000 and HQ800. We were also enlightened with how all the systems are undergoing vast improvements all the time. What is most significant is that it is all done with volunteer members just like you and me – yes that means all of us members.



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

A man walks into the lingerie department of Macy's in New York City . He tells the sales lady, 'I would like a Southern Baptist bra for my wife, size--34B.'

With a quizzical look the sales lady asks, 'What kind of bra?' He repeats, 'A Southern Baptist bra. My wife said to tell you that she wanted a Southern Baptist bra, and that you would know what she wanted.'

'Oh, yes, now I understand,' says the sales lady. 'We don't get as many requests for them as we used to. Most of our customers lately want the Catholic bra, the Salvation Army bra, or the Presbyterian bra.' Confused, and a little flustered, the man asks, 'So, what are the differences?'

The sales lady responds. 'It's really quite simple. The Catholic bra supports the masses, the Salvation Army bra lifts up the fallen, and the Presbyterian bra keeps them staunch and upright.'

He muses on that information for a minute and says, 'Hmm. I know I'll regret asking, but what does the Southern Baptist bra do?'

'Ah,' she replied, 'the Southern Baptist bra makes mountains out of molehills!!!'

☺ ☺ ☺

Groups of Americans were traveling by tour bus through Holland. As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing. 'These' she explained, 'are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce.' She then asked, 'What do you do in America with your old goats?' A spry old gentleman answered, "They send us on bus tours."

### *Seo from page 3*

Our Chief Commander John Alter, SN was represented by our National Education Officer, Robert Brandenstein, SN. Bob told us how many courses are undergoing change in order to keep up with changing technology, boating laws and habits. What was shocking (at least to the writer) is that USPS is composed of mostly costal residing large craft boaters. A map revealed that the interior of our country is mainly void of members. It is shocking because there are many inland lakes, rivers, streams and canals that are boated by folks with smaller boats. Humm?? – We think there is vast opportunity to educated smaller boat folks like fishermen (and women) in safe boating practices that are specific to that very large group of people many with human powered boats. We suggested that perhaps USPS strategy explore the resources for courses designed specifically to attract smaller craft boaters. OK – go devour that bird and shop Black Friday for that new boat and newest technology.

☺ ☺ ☺

A man went to church one day. Afterwards he stopped to shake the preacher's hand. He said, 'Preacher, I'll tell you, that was a damned fine sermon. Damned good!'

The preacher said, 'Thank you sir, but I'd rather you didn't use profanity.'

The man said, 'I was so damned impressed with that sermon I put five thousand dollars in the offering plate!'

The preacher said, 'No shit?'

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Our Squadron now has a Facebook Page!! Please visit: [www.facebook.com/UticaSailAndPowerSquadron](http://www.facebook.com/UticaSailAndPowerSquadron) and select “Like”. Facebook's mission is to give us the power to share and make us more open and connected. Millions of people use Facebook everyday to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet. Become a friend and join us in disseminating information concerning our squadron. It is set up so anyone can upload pictures or videos of our events, so it will be fun to keep up with our activities.

The BILGEWATER  
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