



THE BILGEWATER



UTICA POWER SQUADRON, INC
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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons
Utica, New York
usps.org/localusps/utica

October 2005

District 6

AFTER THE BOAT IS WINTERIZED THE PUMPKIN IS NEXT



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UTICA POWER SQUADRON OFFICERS



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Gerald R. Fry, JN

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usps.org/localusps/utica

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DATES TO REMEMBER

SQUADRON MEETING 2 NOVEMBER 05
D/6 FALL CONFERENCE 4 – 6 NOVEMBER
HOTEL UTICA, UTICA, NY

Well, our beautiful summer has turned into a wet fall but our spirits remain on the sunny side. As boaters we have many things to occupy our minds during the boating season, especially the weather. How nice it is during this season when our boats are safely tucked away to just take the weather as it comes and enjoy it. We can also look forward to fall and winter activities.

Being in a party mood after our Haul-Out Party, we can look forward to the District 6 Fall Conference and the associated Friday night hospitality room party. It would be nice in my opinion if you could attend the conference at the Hotel Utica on both Friday night and Saturday to learn more about the workings of your United States Power Squadrons. D/Lt./C Dave Schulz has included a schedule and other information in this BILGEWATER. However, if you can only attend one event, don't miss the 4 November 2005 round of hospitality room parties. Just come to Hotel Utica about 1900 and ask our registration desk helpers where the parties are located. You don't have to register for the Conference if you are only attending on Friday evening.

Our Squadron's room will be decorated to feature several lighthouses that are the theme of the conference. We will have a video tape playing to display lovely pictures of several North American lighthouses. Perhaps we will see some of the old Utica Club advertising videos of Schultz and Dooley. Commandorable Vicky Fry is in charge of the hors d'oeuvres and other edibles. She is planning quite a variety of goodies. We will have adult libations of various mixtures. But best of all the tales of "Stink Potters" and "Rag

Continued Commander page 4

UTICA SQUADRON TO HOST DISTRICT 6 FALL CONFERENCE

- 6 NOVEMBER, 2005 AT HOTEL UTICA.

by P/C David Schulz, AP

Most arrangements have been made. Now we need the support of our Squadron members in the form of volunteering some time during the weekend to help things move along smoothly.

First we need your attendance at the Conference Dinner where there will be really good food along with some nice live music to dance to and just have fun.

If you have not yet registered please do so with P/C Rick Gassner, AP. The registration form was in the Fall issue of The Deep 6. Rick needs your registration/reservations by 11 October, 2005.

Next, we need you to volunteer some time for the following tasks;

Registration Desk - Rick Gassner (to hand out registration material along with lunch and dinner tickets and goody bags)

Friday evening, 1600 - 2000 Saturday morning 0800 - 1200

Ships Store - Lt/C George Peckingham, P (to sell USPS goods - clothing, jewelry, luggage, books, etc. All proceeds will enhance Utica Squadron treasury)

Friday evening, 1600 - 2000 Saturday, 0800 - 1200 and 1300 - 1600

Banquet Table Decorations - Lt/C Vicky Fry, JN (help with table decorations) Saturday, 1600 - 1730

Hospitality Room - CDR Gerry Fry, JN (provide the usual Utica hospitality)

Friday, 1700 - 2400 (call Vicky to offer any hors-d'oeuvre you might like to share - the hospitality room is shared with 2 or 3 other Squadrons).

We really need you to volunteer for short periods of time on Friday evening and Saturday so that you can also enjoy the festivities and Conference offerings. As a general note - Friday night is a real fun time where you can share friendships and boating stories with other Squadron's members. There are, usually, lots to drink and eat in the various hospitality rooms.

Saturday is more formal with official meetings and education department demonstrations for most of the morning and afternoon. The evening brings a wine and cheese party then a wonderful banquet with dancing following the meal. Sunday will mean meetings for the Commanders, Executive Officers, District Bridge Officers and District Past Commanders. For Utica Squadron just clean - up and storage of Squadron property used in the hospitality room.

Please call either CDR Gerry Fry (824-0978) or P/C and D/Lt/C Dave Schulz (266-0511) to offer your help. We are also looking for items to place in goody bags. If you have any sources, we need about 75 of each item. We would particularly like items pertaining to Utica, Rome and/or the Central NY area.

Call either Gerry or Dave. We will pick up.

DELIGHTFUL HAUL-OUT PARTY

by Cdr Gerry Fry, JN

On Friday evening, 23 September 2005, Utica Power Squadron members and guests enjoyed the start of a new tradition for the squadron. They enjoyed a very nice dinner in a very nice setting to celebrate the end of another great boating season. The following three paragraphs are excerpted from a letter written by Commander Gerry Fry to the manager of the Sea Shell Inn in Verona Beach.

“The members of the Utica Power Squadron in attendance at your restaurant on Friday evening were very positively impressed by their dining experience. We thank you for providing the perfect setting for our fall Haul-Out Party.

Many comments made at the party reflect the quality of your restaurant. Beautiful building, lovely location, excellent food, warm atmosphere and excellent service, are a few of the comments that I heard. Several folks commented on the excellent service provided by your most polite and efficient waitresses. I was most impressed by the fine bar beverage and delicious pork chops that I enjoyed very much. Everybody loved the fish dinners. And the cake was beautifully decorated and tasted even better than it looked. My only regret was that I hadn't been to eat at your restaurant since the early 70's when I moved from North Bay to Hamilton.”

One of the highlights of the evening was the raffle of a beautiful watercolor donated by TJ Hyde in Bob Hyde's memory. The watercolor was matted and reframed in a most professional manner by squadron member Colleen Welch. Many thanks to Colleen. And to express our gratitude to TJ Hyde, the following three paragraph letter was sent to her shortly after the dinner.

“Dear Mrs. Hyde,

Greetings from your friends of the Utica Power Squadron. We are most grateful for your generous donation of Bob's two paintings. They are very beautiful and we all wanted them for our own homes.

One of our new members, Colleen Welch took the larger watercolor and put on a new mat and frame. She did a beautiful job. Then we raffled it off at the Haul Out Party at the Sea Shell Inn in Verona Beach. Hester Jager of Rome won the picture and she was thrilled.

Purchase of the raffle tickets was vigorous resulting in a sizeable gain for the Squadron. We will put the money in the Educational Benefactors Fund in Bob's name. The money will be spent in the future to support boating safety education and member courses. Thank you very much.”

Commander from page 2

“Baggers” will be flowing in great quantities; perhaps even to outdo those tales fabricated by fishermen and other yarn spinners.

As we think ahead to December, your squadron is planning a Saturday morning event that will be fun for the whole family. Plans are not firm yet but we are looking into visiting the Canal Museum at Chittenango. This event will start with our group enjoying breakfast together at a Chittenango diner. We will give everyone time to visit for a while and then move on to the old Erie Canal site just north of the village. This museum has been under development for about 25 years and features a restored dry dock where canal boats were built and repaired. I risk embarrassment if these plans fail to fully develop but I want you to have a heads up for this event on our calendar for 10 December.

Also keep 15 January in mind for our annual 12th. Night Party at the Ramada Inn in New Hartford. This afternoon party is always a fun time. P/C Harry Winberg has already booked the dining room and we are working on a great program.

I hope to see you at the Hotel Utica on 4 November.

From The SEO

Lt/C Victoria Fry, JN



We educate ourselves in boating subjects so we can preserve that smile even in stressful on the water situations. Fourteen squadron members are now participating in the Piloting class to insure their enjoyment while cruising. Working with instructors Cdr Gerry Fry, JN and P//C Rick Gassner, AP, these folks are learning to plot courses on paper charts to back up their GPS units. Later in the course they will learn about using the GPS and computerized chartplotters to plan and navigate while underway. This course maintains the traditional piloting skills of “dead reckoning” and plotting on paper while exploring several new electronic navigation tools.

Next spring the same textbook (The Weekend Navigator by Robert Sweet) will be used to cover additional coastal piloting skills in the Advanced Piloting course. AP is also recently revised to cover more use of the electronic navigation equipment available today. It will certainly pay big dividends for serious boaters to join this Spring class even if they have had AP in the past. You may not be planning to boat in coastal waters where tides are a major factor. However you may just be lucky enough to be invited to accompany other boaters on a private yacht or bareboat charter in coastal waters or even the Virgin Islands. Oh boy!

On a less exciting note, we also have five members studying the Instructor Development course materials. This course prepares our members to teach the public boating and member courses that we all enjoy. We always need new instructors to help in this most important mission of the USPS. If you have experience in teaching or special expertise in the boating world and would like to help, please contact me. More important than teaching experience is the desire to help other boaters. You can develop the teaching skills and the boating skills, if you just have the desire to really learn in depth as you teach. No one learns any subject better than the person who has to make it understandable and memorable to others.

We recently sent the application for teaching certification for eight of our members to the national USPS. This certification is required for teaching the public boating safety courses. It is required by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators that oversees boating safety training in most states. In New York State, we also need to have our public boating teachers certified by the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation. This application is being prepared for submission in the near future.

Red tape makes it even more difficult to keep that smile than the weather. Think sunny days and keep your mind active through learning. About what? Remember what the Owl said to the Pussycat: “There is nothing half so much fun as messing about in boats”.

*Pythagorean theorem: 24 words, The Lord's Prayer: 66 words, Archimedes' Principle: 67 words, The 10 Commandments: 179 words, The Gettysburg Address: 286 words
The Declaration of Independence: 1,300 words, and the U.S. Government regulations on the sale of cabbage: 26911 words. Just thought you'd like to know.*



CHECKING THE BILGE

P/C Dean A. Woodard

Too much or too little. Seems always to be the problem with material for your **BILGEWATER**. This month we have lots to write and very little space. Look to our web page at usps.org/localusps/utica and see if Captain Rick has time to post some photos from the Haul-Out party. We hope he does.



Checking in to the Haul-Out Party with Lt/C Victoryy Fry, JN is Vivian Selover. Kathy Woodard is in the background.

DAILY BRIEFING

Contributed by Gerry Fry

Donald Rumsfeld is giving the president his daily briefing. He concludes by saying: "Yesterday, 3 Brazilian soldiers were killed."

"OH NO!" the President exclaims. "That's terrible!"

His staff sits stunned at this display of emotion, nervously watching as the President sits, head in hands.

Finally, the President looks up and asks, "How many is a brazillion?"

☺ ☺ ☺



"Lighthouses" has been selected as the theme for the Fall Conferences. The lighthouse at Sylvan Beach has been suggested as an example that serves the area served by the Utica Squadron. You may have your own suggestion as to what lighthouse we should depict as our own. Send your suggestions on to Cdr Fry. We are sure he would like to hear from you.

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