



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

<http://www.uticainfo.org>

October, 2009

District 6

HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN



# UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON - OFFICERS

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797-2009  
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NOTE: Utica Sail & Power Squadron Web Page

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# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr Richard R. Gassner, AP



Fall is here. Time to sadly take the boats out for the winter! We had a nice Haul-Out party at Gary's Restaurant at Verona Beach. The food was terrific as was the company.

After the boating season we all should have time for more boater education and participation in Power Squadron activities. Congratulations to Rob Walker and John Rettinger for volunteering to teach the Engine Maintained course. This is what we need more of – new teachers! I also can't forget Dean who has put much work into preparing for the upcoming basic boating course and all the support that he needs. We will need volunteers to help us for the graduation of the basic boating course.

In August, USPS began using the social networking site [SailAngle.com](http://SailAngle.com) to communicate with members through private groups at the national, district and squadron levels. But to make this feature work and to take advantage of the site's other interactive features, you have to join.

Joining takes less than a minute. To get started, go to the [USPS home page](http://USPS home page) and click the "Access ailAngle.com" button. From there, complete your [SailAngle.com](http://SailAngle.com) profile; register as a power boater, sailor, sport fishing enthusiast, recreational boater, or any combination of the above; and you're ready to explore all the site has to offer.

Called "Facebook for boaters" by creator and USPS member Randy White, [SailAngle.com](http://SailAngle.com) lets members join groups, build friendships, plan itineraries and menus, share local information with other

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cruisers, keep in touch with friends, and more.

Rob Walker and I have joined. Hope to get all the technically challenged members to join. It does have a lot of info. Many forums on any marine type subject! Try it and let me know if you like it.

**Rick**

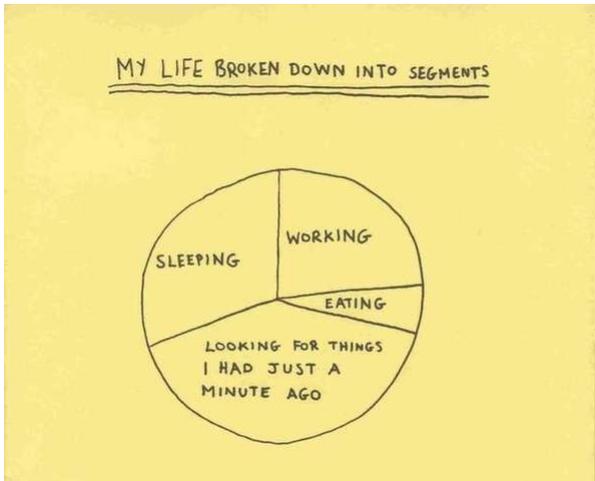
**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

The BILGEWATER is your newsletter. Each month we try to print things of interest to our squadron and our members. Each month we need your ideas about what to print.

Do you have questions? Have you discovered a better way to do things?

How about taking a little time and sending a note about what you would like to see in the BILGEWATER. Better yet, type out what you would like to see and we will do our best to get it in.

To the right of this page you will see the efforts of George Silverman, AP to get your input. Won't you help him out.  
*daw*



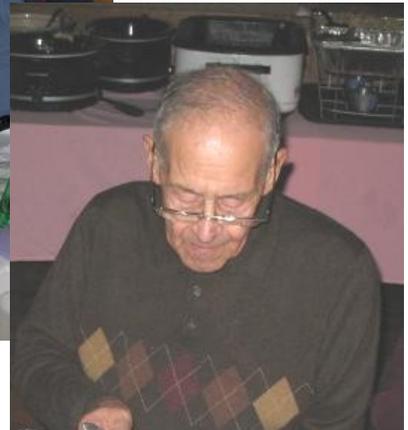
**LET GEORGE DO IT**

Soon to be Lt/C George Peckingham, P, has been working very hard to get the squadron records up to date. Please check out the information below and send any changes along to George at the address below and he will do it.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type ( ) Sail ( ) Power Style or brand \_\_\_\_\_  
Where to you keep your boat? \_\_\_\_\_

To George V. Peckingham 9240 Brown Tract Rd Remsen, NY 13438 e-mail duke\_peck@msn.com or just hand George this form at the COW or any Squadron function. Thanks for the help.

# HAUL OUT PARTY 2009



# SEO REPORT

*By Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN*



Fall courses are off and running with Engine Maintenance starting 8 October, ABC3 starting 15 October, and Seamanship starting 22 October. In addition P/C George Peckingham JN is working with a few members to finish up the JN course that started last spring.

Rob Walker, JN and Lt. John Reittinger, JN are working together to mentor the Engine Maintenance class. Both of these gentlemen have their Coast Guard captains license and have been going through our member courses lickety split. These men also have experience with engines that will support them in leading discussions of the content of the EM course. This is a nice way to participate in a class since no one claims to be an expert and therefore everyone can offer their ideas and interpretations for discussion. This should be a very productive learning experience for the six students.

This points out that you do not have to be an experienced teacher to volunteer to help your squadron in this educational program. All it takes is a willingness to study the course material before each class and lead a discussion of the major topics covered in the student manual. The Instructors Manual for each course gives many helpful tips. Adding your own anecdotes regarding your experiences with the subject matter spices up the presentation and encourages the students to talk about their relevant and sometimes not so relevant experiences. Leading these courses can be a lot of fun especially when you get to know the students. Please think about a course that you find interesting where you may want to volunteer some time to help future students.

P/C Dean Woodard, P is again leading the basic public boating safety class. Other members will assist him as needed, especially for the final examination. This new version of boating safety is called America's Boating Course version 3 hence the ABC3 acronym. Newly revised and modernized this course has been well accepted by students this past year. We have 5 students signed up as of the starting date of the class with more expected to just show up at the first class.

Another experienced teacher is P/D/C and P/C Dave Schulz, AP who will teach the Seamanship class. We only have 4 members signed up for that course which is an indication of our need to recruit more new members. The course was revised two years ago. Since I taught it in 2007, I know that it is a great course. Many of the topics are the same as the public boating safety course but they are covered in much more depth. A second book is part of the course material and a very handy book to carry on your boat. It is called the "One Minute Guide to Rules of the Road".

At this point I am going to repeat what I said in this report one year ago. It is time again for the Nominating Committee consisting of recent past commanders, to prepare a slate of bridge officers for next year. I must say again that we are always looking for members to express their interest in becoming an officer. Please see the list of officers in the front of the BILGEWATER and contact any one of them to ask about an officer's role in our club. You may even want to follow in the footsteps of many of our members by becoming active in the district level of the United States Power Squadrons. Four of our past commanders have gone on to become District Commanders like our current P/D/C Dave Schulz.

Enjoy the nice October weather while it lasts.



# CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard, P

**What is the difference between  
Bird Flu and Swine Flu?**

**For bird flu you need tweetment  
and for swine flu you need oinkment**



**A little different way of looking at things:**

I AM THANKFUL: FOR THE WIFE  
WHO SAYS IT'S HOT DOGS TONIGHT,  
BECAUSE SHE IS HOME WITH ME,  
AND NOT OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

FOR THE HUSBAND  
WHO IS ON THE SOFA  
BEING A COUCH POTATO,  
BECAUSE HE IS HOME WITH ME  
AND NOT OUT AT THE BARS.

FOR THE TAXES I PAY  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM EMPLOYED.

FOR THE CLOTHES THAT FIT A LIT-  
TLE TOO SNUG  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE ENOUGH  
TO EAT.

FOR MY SHADOW THAT WATCHES  
ME WORK  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I AM OUT IN THE  
SUNSHINE

FOR A LAWN THAT NEEDS MOWING,  
WINDOWS THAT NEED CLEANING,  
AND GUTTERS THAT NEED FIXING  
BECAUSE IT MEANS I HAVE A HOME.

FOR ALL THE COMPLAINING  
I HEAR ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT  
BECAUSE IT MEANS WE HAVE FREE-  
DOM OF SPEECH.



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't  
appear until the child reaches  
2 to 6 years of age.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds.  
Dogs only have about 10.

February, 1865, is the only month in recorded  
history not to have a full  
moon.

If you are an average American, in your  
whole life, you will spend an  
average of 6 months waiting at red lights.

No word in the English language rhymes with  
month, orange, silver, or  
purple.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dyna-  
mite.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed  
with only the left hand and  
"lollipop" with your right.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches  
for each gallon of diesel that  
it burns.

There are only four words in the English lan-  
guage which end in "dous":  
tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and  
hazardous

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room  
during a dance.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of  
mucous every two weeks; otherwise  
it will digest itself.

***Now you know everything***



## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

### PASS IT ALONG

*NASBLA warns against unattended children on personal watercraft*

*Would you leave a child behind the wheel of car with the engine running? Unfortunately some adults do something similar to this with personal watercraft.*

*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."*

*Statistics gathered through the U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Accident Report Database (BARD) show that during the past 10 years, 36 accidents involving young children on PWCs have occurred, causing more than 30 injuries and three fatalities.*

*Jendro added, "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."*

*NASBLA also recommends that no passenger should be permitted to ride aboard a PWC unless he or she is able to securely hold on to the person in front of them or to the handholds, and can also keep both feet on the deck so as to maintain balance during operation.*

*"Some awareness and common sense can go a long way to prevent turning an enjoyable day on the water with family and friends into a tragedy," Jendro said.*

*The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a non-profit organization comprised of state and territorial recreational boating authorities. NASBLA fosters partnerships among the states, the Coast Guard and others, crafts model boating laws, maintains national education and training standards, assists in the homeland security challenges on our waterways, and advocates the needs of the state boating programs before Congress and federal agencies.*

## EDUCATIONAL BENEFACTORS FUND

This Fund was established in memory of Lt./C Stephen E. Smith, S to encourage donations for the purchase of educational equipment and supplies to support our two-fold mission: boater safety education for the public as a public service, and Squadron member education. Contributors may donate in memory of loved ones, or to acknowledge special occasions such as weddings, birthdays, promotions, bar mitzvahs, get-well wishes, and special achievements.

**All donations are tax deductible.**

*(Suggested Format)*

**In Memory of John Doe** by: Mrs. John Doe

Congratulations to by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions should be sent to  
Squadron Treasurer Thomas A. Sears, AP**

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The BILGEWATER  
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