



THE BILGEWATER

UTICA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON, INC
Sail and Power Boating - America's Boating Club ®

Utica, New York
<http://www.uticainfo.org>
District 6

May, 2008

Get Well Dean!



**Good Luck on your “Husband
Retraining Program” Kathy**

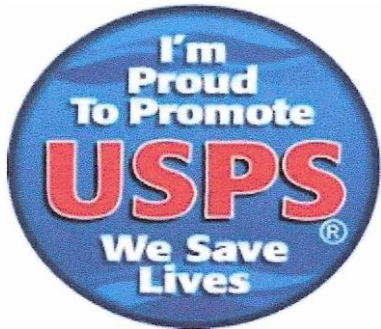
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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



by Cdr George Peckingham, AP

Hi, Folks.

Spring has sprung the grass is riz I wonder where the boaters is. Utica Squadron members are probably working on polishing boats, repairing docks and getting ready for the short Upstate New York season. Please note there are a few other spring chores to attend to such as: Send Dean Woodard a get well card, make plans to attend the Launch Party at Lock 20 on Friday June 6 at 1700, submit a Chapman Award Letter for Gerry Fry or Harry Winberg or write an article for the *Bilgewater*.

Sorry to report Dean suffered a heart attack on 3 May and is undergoing treatment at Saint Elizabeth's in Utica. The Bridge sent a joint card to cheer him up but I'm sure he would appreciate cards from his other long time friends. If this *Bilgewater* seems different blame it on the temporary staff. Get well soon Dean!

The modest Gerry Fry has submitted a nice description in the SEO's report of the requirements for the letters of recommendation for the Chapman's Award. At the April Squadron meeting those present felt that both Harry and he are deserving of the award and that both should be nominated. I, for one, intend to submit separate letters for each of them. The teaching styles are quite different but I feel both are very effective and provided me with a fun and educational learning experience. Please submit your letters of recommendation to me by 10 June by either email or snail mail.

The Launch Party will be enhanced this year by the musical talents of "Alexis" compliments of 50 Merit Mark Award winner Frank Gruenewald. Alexis will be doing a solo act for her second appearance at the Launch Party. Frank tells me that Alexis has a very large repertoire and that she will entertain requests. Maybe we can get Chuck Harter and Dave Schulz to join her for some three part harmony.

George Silverman and Colleen Welch are my nominees for volunteer of the month. George volunteered to join with Rick Gassner and Gerry Fry to work on increasing the number of advertisers for the Bilgewater. He also distributed membership brochures to a number of Sylvan Beach establishments in an attempt to increase our exposure to boaters looking for boating courses and wishing to join our fine organization. Colleen volunteered to chair a task force with Gerry Fry, Rick Gassner and Bryan Walrath to increase the Squadron's visibility by posting information on the Squadron at local marinas and boat launches.

Dave Schulz has secured this years Vessel Safety Check material for us. If anyone needs their boat inspected please call Dave or me and we will arrange it.

SEO Report

By Lt/C Gerry Fry, JN

Greetings to all. Congratulations to those hard working students who are finishing the Piloting and Marine Electronics courses. Special thanks to Ellen Webster and Rick Gassner for teaching these member courses. Also thanks to Dean Woodard and Randy Webster and George Peckingham who assisted Dean with the public boating safety course.

A large effort on the part of a few individuals is required to make our member courses available to all. One way that we show our appreciation for the efforts of these qualified and dedicated instructors is "The Chapman Award" for excellence in teaching. A person may be nominated at the squadron level and then be recognized as a winner at the district level which leads to nomination at the national level. National USPS awards five Chapman awards at the annual meeting. This is an especially prestigious award not only because it is a national competition but because the award is named after Howard Chapman who is the author of the boaters' bible titled "Piloting, Seamanship and Small Boat Handling". First published in the early 1900's this excellent reference work is updated annually by Elbert Maloney who is a current USPS member. Being nominated for this award at the squadron level is a great honour. Winning at the district and national levels confirms the good judgment and enthusiasm of the squadron members who have experienced the fine teaching of the nominee.

At our squadron meeting on 7 May, Harry Winberg and I were nominated. Other nominees are welcome. I appreciate the nomination very much but I will support Harry. As a Utica Sail and Power Squadron member, Harry represents the ideal model to me. He has worked up through the ranks and served his squadron as Commander. He has taken all of the member courses and earned the grade of Senior Navigator. He has faithfully attended squadron and District 6 meetings, parties, and educational events for a quarter of a century. He has made significant contributions on many committees. However and most important, he has passed on his vast knowledge to new members. We all take advantage of the many opportunities available in our member courses, and a few volunteer instructors pass on that knowledge.

Harry has been teaching the Weather and Sail courses for many years. We can now thank him by insuring his nomination to the national level with letters of support. I am sure that you all have many ideas and anecdotes about how Harry demonstrated what a great teacher and gentleman he is. To help you organize your remembrances, please allow me to suggest some focus

questions. One, write about how he organized his classes and materials. Two, write about how he demonstrated his vast knowledge of sailing and weather. Three, write about how he presented the facts, concepts and skills in his lessons. Four, write about how he created interest and fun in the classes. Five, write about the memorable ideas that he presented such as "the lesson I'll never forget". Six, write about his manner and charisma as a person.

My suggestions are not intended to lock you into some concrete structure. Write about Harry in the way that you feel most comfortable. Send your letters of support to Commander George Peckingham so he can include them with the application forms that we have to submit for each nominee. George is at 9240 Brown Tract Road, Remsen, NY 13438 or send an email to him at duke_peck@msn.com. Everyone who has ever taken a course from Harry should be happy to write some form of testimonial to support his nomination for the Chapman Award. In my short ten years with the Utica Sail and Power Squadron I have not seen anyone who deserves this recognition more than Harry(or Gerry *editorial note by Cdr. George*).

2008 Cross-Border Travel Tips Now Online

To facilitate cross-border travel, Seaway Trail, Inc. and New York Sea Grant have worked in partnership with U.S. and Canadian border officials to issue the 2008 edition of Cross-Border Travel Tips for Recreational Boaters, RV Owners and Motorists. The tips include the acceptable single and combined forms of IDs and resources for such travel documents as enhanced driver's licenses. Contact resources are listed for the seven international bridges, Ports of Entry, and Horne's International Ferry. Pleasure boaters and frequent travelers between Canada and the U.S. will find basic info and resources in the brochure, including resources for checking auto crossing wait times. The Tips identify the 20 of 23 Seaway Trail ports in NY and PA equipped with videophones for reporting boat arrivals.

More info: <http://www.nysgmarina.org>

Suggested articles for *Bilgewater*

By George Silverman

In the Squadron's monthly meeting we have had numerous discussions on putting more useful and/or interesting information into the *Bilgewater*. It would be helpful if we could poll the general membership in a casual way, such as at the Launch Party, by presenting some of the ideas that have occurred to me. Where a Bridge position or committee precedes the thought, I

would anticipate the officer or committee chair would prepare the article. Would anyone like to contribute an article on some boating or travel experience? I'm sure the piece would be appreciated by the editorial staff.

Commander: Utica Jr. NROTC "Cadet of the Month," bi-monthly article from the Jr. NROTC program in Utica,

AO: Awards and commendations (as they occur), Boater Discounts (bi-monthly), "Port of Call"-- a travel Odyssey on the waterways, e.g., inland lakes, intracoastal, Caribbean, etc. (bi-monthly or quarterly).

Bilgewater: "Trade and Sell" want ad page for boats, parts, lubricants, boat charters, recreational supplies, waterfront properties.

Membership: "In Memoriam", Sunshine Committee Corner (Sickness and Distress Column), "Member of the Month" column, list of renewals as they occur, special acknowledgements section (birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, etc.), and puzzle page for children and crossword puzzle for adults.

Public Relations: highlight a "Life Member" (bi-monthly or quarterly), "News Makers" corner (squadron participation in community affairs, outstanding individual accomplishments in the community, or a personal story of helping others selflessly as a compelling reason to join the USPS), and a monthly corner article highlighting a Bilgewater advertiser ("good will" can take us far and help to ensure repeat ads).

Radio Technology: tips and tricks (bi-monthly), wireless vs. wired microphones, EPIRB column (bi-monthly), GPS updates on operational changes/requirements.

Safety: Seaworthy tips, pest removal, and how-to (hands on) column for such items as winterizing checklists, diesel engine maintenance, cabin heating; gear lube oil change, troubleshooting engine wiring, hull blisters, general maintenance tips, gelcoat restoration, engine servicing, haul-out guidelines, how to handle and not handle spilled gasoline, wrong types of fire extinguishers, do's and don'ts of towing.

SEO: Boater education (monthly), "Test Your Knowledge" corner (bi-monthly), canal lock education (bi-monthly), marine weather knowledge (monthly), communications knowledge (monthly), celestial tidbits, galvanic corrosion, Boat Smart, Seminar availability.

XO: Changing organizational rules and requirements (bi-monthly)

Miscellaneous Corners: recipes (onboard, international, commercial cruises, ancient family, etc.), "how to" achieve affordable boating, "how to" test-drive a new boat, trailer maintenance, or launch and haul out checklists..

Selection of a current member as identified and deemed worthy by the Bridge an "**Outstanding Member of the Month**" page in the Bilgewater and entitle it the "**Page of Honour**."

Planned Activities List

For 2008

June

4 June	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
6 June	Launch Party	1700	Lock 20 Marcy
7 June	Basic Boating Course	1200	Lock 20 Marcy

September

3 September	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
3-7 September	USPS Governing Board		Detroit Marriot Renaissance

October

1 October	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
	Haul Out Party		To be Determined

November

5 November	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
7-9 November	Fall Conference		Comfort Inn Syracuse

December

3 December	Squadron Meeting	1930	Sears Oil Co. – Rome
	Christmas Party		To be Determined

Launch Party

This years Launch Party will be on Friday, 6 June from 1700 to 2000 at Lock 20 in Marcy. It will follow the usual format of bringing a dish to share with the squadron supplying hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Admission is \$5 per person - free if you come by boat. Guests are welcome and encouraged. Vessel inspections will be available that night or the following morning after 1130. Our National Boating Week Boat Course starts Saturday 7 June at 1200. Commander's awards for best pot luck dish will be for best entrée, best dessert and best canapé.

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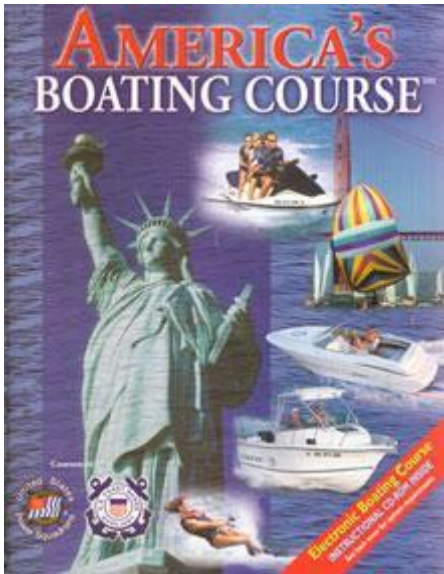
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America's Boating Course is a self study course that has a textbook and a CD for your computer. We will also supply NY State specific information and study questions. When you have finished the course, we will provide a proctored exam and a certificate 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 Gerry Fry a call.

The BILGEWATER
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