



# D/2 NEWS



Volume 58

Number 3

January 2007

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Suzanne P. Nentwich, AP



Greetings from the Bridge:

I do hope each and everyone had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy 2007. If I thought the beginning of this year was moving fast, these last few months are flying. I need to remind each of you that the D/2 Winter Council is less than two weeks away and attached to this newsletter is yet another copy of the registration form. Please make every effort to attend and bring at least one other Squadron member along with you. This is one of the few opportunities we can bring to you all the important information you need and you in turn can give us the information we need from you. I have included a short "TO DO LIST" as well, so I don't forget. I hope with this New Year you can take a minute to reflect on your involvement with your Squadron. Perhaps this is the year to take a job on the Bridge, or become a committee member, teach a course, share your experiences with a newer member and attend a social event. USPS is a wonderful organization with fantastic people working hard to keep an upward trend toward increasing membership. At the next Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida we may be voting on some very important issues on membership. I would love to hear your opinions on these issues and we will be discussing them at the Winter Council. The Education Department has been extremely busy this year, with the new USPS University and many changes in the courses. Come and hear our own DEO, D/Lt/C Robert P. Kelly, JN, talk about all the changes during his "break out session" at this Winter Council. There will also be the presentation of the Nominating Committee's report—of interest to all. (just to mention a few highlights). Please come, it's not too late to register, in fact you are welcome to show up on Saturday morning, but since we need to give the hotel a head count for lunch--it would be a big help to us to know a little in advance. Make this a New Year's resolution you can keep--get Re- involved in USPS.

I was able to attend a few holiday parties and would like to thank those Squadrons for their hospitality, especially Stamford and Tappan Zee. Between a very successful Fall Conference, a special thank you again to Mohawk Hudson Sail & Power Squadron for all their hard work and the Christmas turkey. I was able to sneak off to Aruba and work on my holiday tan (seems like eons ago). I'd also like to thank the members of my Bridge for stepping in for me and "making the rounds" and visiting Squadrons as well. Now we are in the process of preparing a Change of Watch calendar, so please get the information to me as soon as possible and if you have a particular District Officer you'd like to attend, we will try to accommodate. A special thank you to our D/2 Editor, who I never give the proper time he really needs to get the paper out, but manages somehow—thank you Mel and a big thank you to my Flag Lt. Virginia Moore for accompanying me to many a party and for keeping my social calendar up to date. We will also give you the latest news on the upcoming D/2 Change of Watch in March and so much more. Thank you all for making this an unforgettable year for me, one that I'm really enjoying.

So for now enjoy this mild winter weather, before too long the boating season begins and the real work starts. Thank you all for your continued support and cooperation, I do appreciate it.



**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®**

**D/2 Winter Council**

*Saturday 27 January 2007*



Held at the **Best Western**

**2170 South Road, Poughkeepsie, New York**

**The cost for the day is \$ 28 - includes Continental Breakfast and complete Buffet Lunch.**

**General Directions**

**From: South.** Take the NY State Thruway (Interstate 87) North. Take Exit 17 (Stewart Airport, Route 300, Route 17K, Interstate 84 Newburgh). Take Route 300 North to Interstate 84 East. Take Interstate 84 East to Exit 13 (Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, Route 9, Peekskill). At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Route 9 North. The Best Western Inn & Conference Center is approximately 9 miles on the right just past the Olive Garden.

**From: North.** Take the New York Thruway (Interstate 87) South, Exit 18 (New Paltz, Route 299, Poughkeepsie). At end of ramp, turn right onto Route 299 East, to end turn right onto Route 9W South. Take 9W South about 2 miles, follow Route 44/55 East to Mid Hudson Bridge (toll). After crossing the bridge, take first exit on right to Route 9 South. The Best Western Inn & Conference Center is approximately 4 miles on the left.

**From: East.** Take Interstate 84 West. Take Exit 13 (Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, Route 9, Peekskill). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Route 9 North. The Best Western Inn & Conference Center is approximately 9 miles on the right just past the Olive Garden.

**From: West.** Take Interstate 84 East. Take Exit 13 (Fishkill, Poughkeepsie, Route 9, Peekskill). At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Route 9 North. The Best Western Inn & Conference Center is approximately 9 miles on the right just past the Olive Garden.

Registration will begin at 0900

Reservations must be received by 12 January 2007 - Late Registration fee: \$5.00

Mail reservations to:

D/Lt Alexandra Digilio  
25 Thomas Ave  
Fishkill, New York 12524  
Questions? Call (845) 896-6644

**CUT & MAIL**

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District 2 Winter Council

27 JAN. 2007

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

RANK/GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

RANK/GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

BREAKFAST/LUNCH \$28.00 PER PERSON

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **USPS DISTRICT 2**

**Educational Department — D/Lt/C Robert P. Kelly, JN**

*The following are comments received on the Power Squadron Mailing List, discussing the proposed three-year waiver of the exam requirement for membership in USPS. I offer the comments as a point of discussion within Squadrons because, as the Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida draws nearer, the District MUST know the mind of its Squadrons and, in turn, the Squadrons MUST know the mind of its members. If your Squadron Commander is not expected to attend the Annual Meeting, the Commander MUST give a proxy to our District Commander, Suzanne P. Nentwich, AP, so that she can properly vote in your stead at the meeting.*

Educational Waiver "Spare the rod, Spoil the child" or the "Dumming down of a nation". There seems to be a lowering of the level of mentality of our nation. Kids running around with pants low on the hip, bare midribs with cuffs dragging on the floor. A resentment of authority. The lack of patriotism. The hatred of a uniform, Students not passing the Wassail test by 50%, store managers who don't know the formula for marking up the cost of an item.

In our Squadron this form of behavior is noticeable. Maybe not the baggy pants but in such things such as not flying the flag, not having the flag salute, not wearing a uniform or flying a burgee. Not using the prefix of rank or the proficiency or the suffix of educational grade.

Last weekend our Squadron had a rendezvous. I had trouble finding the group by looking for a burgee, only found one. I don't wear a uniform to meetings, not because I am not proud but because I am afraid we will lose membership because of my wearing it.

Modern electronics are fine, let Microsoft do the spelling for you. But what if the power goes out? Where would you be if you don't know the basics? Where would you be in the fog if your radar goes out? What is the red light for and where is it? What does it mean?

The reputation of Power Squadrons is at stake if we allow people into the membership and they have an accident because they don't know. I am proud to be a member. I don't know it all but respect the water and all the dumb nuts in it and around it.

I feel the urgency to complete my studies of navigation and get a full certificate before some nut decides to discontinue it because it is too hard.

**DON'T SELL US OUT!**

The following was from our ANEO, Bob Sweet.

We currently have an "exam" requirement that is approved by the Operating Committee. There are no course requirements although completion of any NASBLA approved course is currently considered to be tacit completion of an acceptable exam.

We are introducing a series of Seminars under the USPS University. These Seminars are open to the public, and we see them as a great way to introduce USPS to non-members. By and large, those who attend these Seminars will come with specific needs relating to boating, so we will be able to tap into a vast base of experienced boaters that we otherwise may not attract.

(Continued on P. 4)

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(DEO Message continued from P. 3)

It is our desire to "allow" Squadrons to recruit these experienced boaters into membership without the requirement that they must first take an exam - most experienced boaters will decline to do so. The waiver does not remove the Squadron's right and obligation to make sure anyone invited to membership, "is able and willing to contribute time, energy and skills to the objectives of USPS" and to set whatever criteria it needs to assure this including an exam if they so choose.

The waiver is for a period of three years, after which it expires returning to the exam requirement. We are rapidly approaching a point within the next few years that most states will require a basic boating course, at least for younger boaters. So, in three years, the exam requirement may be a moot point - but not today.

In the meantime, we are dealing with declining membership. Since we get almost all of our members from public boating classes, and we now face major competition - many free - a smaller base of people are available to us for recruiting. While we are further improving our boating safety courses, we decided to add more public courses (Seminars) on topics that would attract boaters who truly are interested in learning.

I, for one, would like to see many of those who come to our Seminars join our ranks as members. That is why we support the waiver. Quoting many an SEO, "If we can get them in, we'll train them." Let's tap into the large pool of experienced boaters who would help improve our organization.

Two cents worth, from an old boater (51 years) but new USPS member (3 years):

I don't think an entrance exam is an obstacle to recruiting experienced boaters. Conversely, waiving the exam won't help much. If old boaters want to join USPS, and a basic exam is the ticket in, they will take the exam.

But very few experienced boaters want to join. I see several reasons for that:

- USPS has stressed the "America's Boating Club" image, to its detriment;
- our educational program needs improvement (I found 17 errors in Seamanship and two in Piloting);
- for those who want training, competing programs are available with less structure and baggage;
- most boaters in their 30s to 50s cannot devote the time that full participation in USPS requires; and
- rightly or wrongly, experienced boaters and professional mariners tend to see USPS as a social club of amateurs not very serious about on-water skills.

Obviously USPS is better than that, but our reputation among old salts needs work. We need to stress skill, expertise, quality, and the benefits of membership.

The USPS University concept should be a terrific boon for recruitment of new and old boaters alike, if the quality of the courses is first-rate and if they are administered efficiently. America's Boating College is a better long-range model than America's Boating Club. I look forward to working with the new program in the DC area over the winter.

- (1) It is an obstacle to recruiting to insist that new members must either pass an examination or take a course to join USPS. One can join USCGAux without doing so. We are not competitive! Years ago, we did not have this requirement and our membership grew to its highest level.
- (2) Yes, USPS is not America's Boating Club. We should not position ourselves as: "Another Yacht Club type organization". My Squadron is not near water, and has no boating activities whatsoever - none, not even an on the water rendezvous!, so how can we say we are a boating club.
- (3) Yes, our courses need help. Many complain but few offer to help!
- (4) Boaters in their 30's to 50's today can devote time if they really want to do so. Most do not because they are simply are not motivated to do so. It takes leadership from the older members to mentor and help them, not dump the responsibility on them.
- (5) The benefits of membership are the best kept secrets in USPS. They are talked about, but ask the question: How do I obtain that benefit and no one can tell you how! (The W's: Who, What, When, Where, Why are never spelled out).
- (6) The concept of the USPS University is not a bad one. It is a great advertising position statement. Now all we have to do is deliver on the advertising promise or be guilty of "false and deceptive advertising".

# CDRS' TO DO LIST

1. Attend Winter Council – 27 Jan 2007

2. Jacksonville Meeting – (a) If you haven't sent me a check for the Dinner Dance on Sat. night ---please call me and I will count you in to sit at the D/2 tables I am reserving...(b) If you or your representative are NOT attending this meeting, make sure you get me your form for a Proxy vote and I will take it to the meeting and vote for you.

3. Send your Squadron's COW information to P/D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, so that she can put it on the Web—also if you have a District Officer you'd like to request to attend, let me know. Thank you so much.

## PHOTOS FROM D/2 FALL CONFERENCE 2006



Photos Courtesy of  
D/Lt/C Martin E. Feldberg,

# *D/2 Planning CALENDAR*

**2007**

**27 January D/2 Winter Council**

19 February Presidents Day

**20-25 February Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL**

11 March Daylight Savings Time begins

**30 March-1 April D/2 Spring Conference—Storm King Power Squadron**

1 April Palm Sunday

3-10 April Passover\*

8 April Easter Sunday

**18-20 May Northern Trek Rendezvous**

23-24 May Shavuot\*

28 May Memorial Day

**TBD D/2 Summer Council & Rendezvous**

3 September Labor Day

**4-9 September Fall Governing Board, Norfolk, VA**

**10/12-10/14/07 D/2 Fall Conference--Hosted by Norwalk, Penfield, Rowayton, Saugatuck River**

\*Note: All Jewish holidays begin the evening before the date given.

**(NOTE: PLEASE ADVISE THE EDITOR IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF THE D/2 NEWS.)**

## ***D/2 NEWS***

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**Address Correction Requested**



*Sail and Power Boating*

