



D/2 NEWS



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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP

What a great way to start the year, Storm King's 30 year anniversary, welcoming their new members from Tappan Zee and an excellent demonstration of the use of different fire extinguishers in putting out a fire and the precautions you must take in doing so. Thirty years ago, as Commander of Rowayton, I remember Storm King's Local Squadron Charter. This fall we will be celebrating Peekskill's 50 years (no I don't go back that far as a member) at the Fall Conference. It is pretty remarkable the number of years our Squadrons have been in existence, all volunteers.

The District Bridge had a meeting on the Sunday following the District Change of Watch. From that meeting came a motion to assist the host Squadrons for the next 3 Conferences by contributing \$1,000.00 from the District Treasury for each Conference to help reduce the continental breakfast-luncheon prices. The object is to encourage more of the District membership to attend and participate in the Conferences. The reduction will either come as a rebate or a reduction in the price paid by each individual for the day's activities. In the call to the Summer Council, you will receive the official motion and we will be voting on it at the Council.

At the same meeting it was brought to my attention that there are several Squadrons who do not have projectors to use with the PowerPoint presentations that are part of the Educational Courses. With the help and some guidance at the Northern Trek, we are going to apply for a grant from the National Educational Fund and if that is not successful, the District will purchase the projectors for use by the Squadrons. In addition, P/D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, has been supplying her projector for use by the District at meetings and whenever needed. It is time for the District to purchase its own projector, including a "spare bulb".

The Northern Trek was a delight! It was sunny for the whole weekend; everyone enjoyed themselves. "Thank You" to Susan Darcy for putting the weekend together, to the Bridge Wives and to our Flag Lieutenant, for the wonderful Cocktail Party Friday afternoon. To the Zimmerman's and Cdr. George P. Ghirlando, AP, thank you for the lively auction and entertainment on Saturday night. The Saturday morning meeting had excellent participation, as well as the participation of the four Northern Squadrons. Make sure you sign up for next year's Northern Trek.

The Summer Council and Rendezvous is just around the corner on Friday 25 July and Saturday the 26th. If you are not coming by boat, or are coming a long distance and want to stay overnight, the Ramada Inn is at exit 30, one exit away from the festivities at Dolphin Cove. The Summer Council is important because this is the meeting where we set the agenda for the Fall Conference.

The Fall Conference, as with the Spring Conference, has breakout sessions where we can explore different areas in depth with more time than in the spring.

(Continued on P. 2)

Executive Officer: D/Lt/C Robert Shivokevich, SN

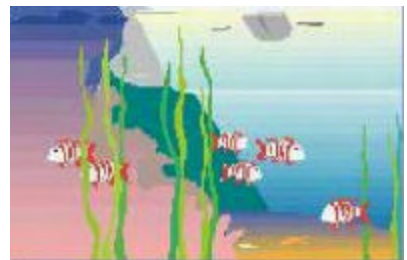
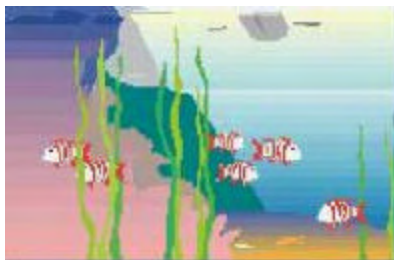
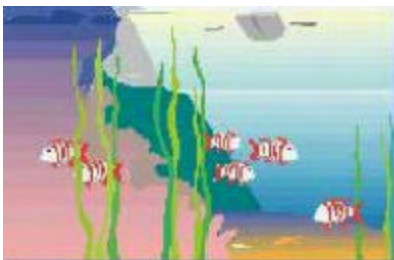
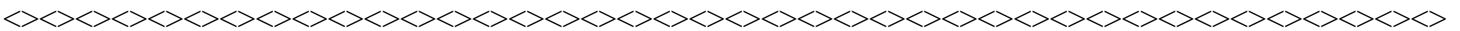
Now that summer is upon us, and we are getting our boats ready for the water, what better time is there than now for a Vessel Safety Check! Contact your Squadron's Vessel Examiner and schedule an inspection now. Don't forget to tell your neighbor about the service and have them schedule an inspection also. They might be your next new Squadron member!

At the Northern Trek, held at Lake George, N.Y., Commander Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP, brought up the idea of having the District pitch in \$1,000.00 toward the District's Conferences. The idea behind this was to increase the attendance at these functions. The attendance has been down the last few years and we are trying to raise the number attending. The \$1,000.00 would go towards offsetting the price that is charged for the continental breakfast and lunch. Usually the host Squadron has to include the room rental fees in the price. By lowering the lunch price, it is hoped that more will attend and reap the benefits of the Conferences. I would like to commend Commander Gerwig for his incite to this problem of decreasing attendance. In this time of high fuel prices and budget crunches for each of us, I believe it is time for the District and the local Squadrons to give some thing back to it's members.

Many of the Squadrons have good size bank accounts, money put away for a rainy day, or for a special purchase, but what have you given back to your members? I am challenging you to do something special for your Squadron members, something that all members can enjoy and participate in. Plan a special dinner or cook out, and keep the price way down by sponsoring the event with some Squadron money. My squadron (Champlain) puts on a clam bake and chicken barbecue, with hot dogs, hamburgers and soda. The Squadron buys the food, the Bridge cooks it, and the cost is \$5.00 per person with a side dish. With around \$1,000.00 in our account we manage it to thank the members for their support. There are other ideas; sponsor a course, reduce the price, don't make money on that course! There are many other ways to show your appreciation.

Now I am NOT trying to tell you how to spend your money or run your Squadron. I am just trying to give ideas on how to show appreciation to your Squadron members, and maybe retain more of them. By having an event that would attract all members, and be affordable, might be the first step in retaining more members.

I would like to hear how your Squadron is making an effort to retain your members. Please contact me at shivokevich@hotmail.com. Here is to a great new year under a great commander with a vision. Don't forget to let me know when your Squadron is planning an event so I can inform the District 2 Bridge and other Squadrons. Have a great summer and may there always be fuel in your tanks and wind in your sails.



(Extra Care.... continued from P. 4)

Arguably, boating presents at least as many hazards as driving does on shore. At the same time, boaters planning to have a fun time paddling, sailing or motoring shove off every day with far less experience and knowledge than they have about the operation of their cars. A couple years back, the Coast Guard noted that boaters averaged only 110 hours on the water per year - far less time than some people may spend driving in a month. At the same time, "rules of the road" on the water are a bit different and less ingrained, boats certainly don't maneuver like cars, and wind and weather can have more serious effects. That can make for unexpected hazardous situations.

Then add to those concerns the potential for attention to wander for those piloting watercraft as they enjoy the environment and the company of family or friends, perhaps while being involved with activities such as fishing, water-skiing or just keeping the sails filled.

All that makes it important at minimum for boat operators to have completed a course that earns them a safe boating certificate. The state requires that people planning to operate recreational vessels registered in Connecticut obtain one and keep it onboard with them.

But the source of that quote above - Susan Ryan, commander of the Captain Harbor Sail & Power Squadron based in Greenwich - stresses that there is a more comprehensive approach to becoming an educated boater.

Members of her group, affiliated with the national United States Power Squadrons organization, voluntarily teach such courses as seamanship, piloting, navigation, cruise planning and engine maintenance through Greenwich Continuing Education. For those planning to spend time operating a boat on Long Island Sound, especially, most of those sound pretty important. Programs are offered by hundreds of squadrons across the country, and Coast Guard auxiliaries provide education as well.

Also important is compliance with laws against operating boats while under the influence of alcohol. Exacerbating the hazards of drinking onboard is the fact that the motion, vibration, engine noise, sun, wind and spray can accelerate impairment and cause fatigue that hampers coordination, judgment and reaction time.

It was reported that during a recent 10-year period, alcohol was a factor in 38 percent of the fatal boating accidents statewide. In fact, four of the eight boating fatalities in Connecticut last year were alcohol-related.

Boaters also should be aware that the state several years ago toughened laws to include strict blood-alcohol standards and penalties for "boating under the influence" that only begin with heavy fines and possible jail time.

At the height of the season, the open water and every harbor and river in this end of the Sound are teeming with boats engaged in every pursuit - a leisurely sail, a race, water-skiing, fishing. There are tiny dinghies, kayaks and shells, Jet Skis, sailboats of every size, speedy power boats and monster cabin cruisers, as well as commercial craft.

That's plenty of reason to know your stuff when on the water and be careful out there.



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

DISTRICT 2 SECRETARY

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Date: 21 June 2008
To: District Bridge, Chairperson Rules Committee, Immediate P/D/C, Immediate P/D/E/O,
Squadron Commanders, Squadron Educational Officers
From: D/Lt/C James M. Silver, P - District 2 Secretary
Subject: "Call to the Meeting" – Notice of 2008 District 2 Summer Council

The 2008 District 2 Summer Council will be held this year on 26 July 2008 at the *Dolphin Cove* Marina & Restaurant, Exit 29, Seaview Avenue (right ½ mile), Bridgeport, CT, in conjunction with the Annual D/2 Rendezvous. It is not necessary to attend the *rendezvous* in order to attend the Council Meeting; the Council is open to all members. The meeting will be held in an upper private room. Uniform Of The Day: Team Casual (e.g. USPS polo shirt, khaki slacks/skirts or similar attire). If there are any changes or modifications, you will be notified.

0800 - Registration
0945 - Council Meeting Convenes
1200 (est.) Council Meeting Concludes

If you have not done so please register for the rendezvous now using the *D/2 Rendezvous Registration Form*. The deadline for registration is 19 July 2008. Send your reservations to **P/C Eugene R. Boone, Jr., AP**, 498-B Niantic Lane, Stratford, CT 06614. For questions, contact Gene at 203-380-9964 or email; bgstep@sbcglobal.net.

We will be voting on the following resolution proposed by the District Bridge, and presented to the members at the Northern Trek Rendezvous:

In an effort to encourage more District membership to attend and participate in the conferences, the District Bridge proposes for the next three conferences, the District Treasury contribute \$1,000.00, to each conference to help reduce the Continental Breakfast-Luncheon prices. The reduction will either come as a rebate or reduction in the price paid by each individual for the day's activities.

If you have a resolution or motion to be put on the agenda, it must be filed in writing with the D/2 Secretary before the Council Meeting is called to order. Under the provisions of the D/2 Bylaws, Section 5.7.3: if the Squadron Commander is unable to attend the Council in person he/she may be represented by the Squadron Executive or Administrative Officer.

Please pass this information on to your Bridge, Committees and Members.

D/Lt/C James M. Silver, Sr. P
District 2 Secretary

D/2 Planning CALENDAR

2008

4 July Independence Day
25-27 July D/2 Summer Council and Rendezvous
1 September Labor Day
3-7 September Governing board, Detroit, MI
30 Sep-1 Oct Rosh Hashanah*
9 October Yom Kippur*
13 October Columbus Day
24-26 October D/2 Fall Conference, Fishkill, NY
2 November Daylight Savings ends
11 November Veterans Day
27 November Thanksgiving Day
21-29 December Chanukah*
25 December Christmas Day

*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

***c/o Cdr Virginia P. Moore, P
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Yonkers, NY 10705-1354***

Address Correction Requested



Sail and Power Boating

