



D/2 NEWS



<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d2/>

Volume 61

Number 2

September-October 2009

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN

Fellow members,

Now that summer is over and we are thinking about where the summer went, I hope you had the opportunity to Rediscover your Enthusiasm for USPS. As your District Commander I had a very busy and short summer. I just got back from the Governing Board, in Kansas City, and I would like to thank the District 2 members who made the trip. The eleven of us had a good time, and took in many informational meetings as possible. In the Commander's and Executive Officer's meeting, Frank (Exec, D/L/C Frank J. DeBaggis, AP) and I were brought up to speed on some of the changes that Headquarters is making. I will have a full report for you at the Fall Conference, to be held in Lake George, NY on 23-25 October, 2009.



At our Summer Council this year, Captain Harbor Power Squadron, presented a motion for a name change, back to their original name of Greenwich. At the Governing Board Meeting that resolution passed with no discussion. So I would like to congratulate Commander Susan Ryan and her members for their hard work. WELCOME Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron!

As you should know our District Fall Conference will be here shortly. The deadline for registration is fast approaching, make sure you do not miss it! Our very special guest, the National Chief's Representative will be the National Educational Officer, Robert Sweet SN, and his lovely wife Judy. This will be a good opportunity to DISCOVER all about the USPS Educational Department. I plan to allow a little extra time for Robert Sweet to talk and take questions.

Since the last issue of the D/2 News, I am glad to report that some of the struggling Squadrons have in fact put together a Bridge. I commend you for the persistence. The membership is down for National, not just in District 2. At the Governing Board, we had the sad function of voting to accept the disbandment of 7 Squadrons, BUT we also had the opportunity to give charters to two brand new Squadrons! So let's help celebrate by doing something special in your Squadron and keep that special interest in USPS alive!

As the cold weather approaches, this is a good time to take or teach a course or seminar.. Help your Squadron out! Plan a dinner, find an interesting guest speaker and REDISCOVER why you joined USPS! It is still the reason we are one of the finest Boating Organizations around!! Spread the word! Let's show others our Enthusiasm, so they too will want to be part! Remember YOU ARE USPS!

Photos from Spring Conference, Bridgeport, CT.

All photos courtesy of P/D/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP



USPS
District 2



Commander

D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN
7625 State Route 22
West Chazy, NY 12992-3304
e-mail: rshivokevich@yahoo.com
518-493-7251

Executive Officer

D/Lt/C Frank J. DeBaggis, AP
248 Bradford Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
e-mail: fdebaggis@aol.com
413-443-3570

Educational Officer

D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch, JN
78 Topstone Drive
Danbury, CT 06810-7040
e-mail: jalynch22@aol.com
203-792-9304

Administrative Officer

D/Lt/C Lacey M. Williams, Jr., AP
16 Mayfield Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065-1685
e-mail: laceym@nycap.rr.com
518-373-9890

Secretary

D/Lt/C George P. Ghirlando, AP
9 Leonard Street
Beacon, NY 12508
e-mail: broadwayg@aol.com
845-838-1559

Treasurer

D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP
64 Cherrywood Road
Yonkers, NY 10710-1102
e-mail: iluvtouche@aol.com
914-337-4026

Asst. Educational Officer

D/1st/Lt George R. Hallenbeck, AP
22 Van Rensselaer Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902-8020
e-mail: gwlk@aol.com
203-348-7121

Editor

D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP
64 Cherrywood Road
Yonkers, NY 10710-1102
e-mail: iluvtouche@aol.com
914-337-4026

USPS vs. CSX

I'm a carpenter and I like things to make sense, which is why carpenters should not have computers.

The first piece of information I tried to make sense out of was an advertisement I heard on the radio that said that one in eight Americans is battling hunger. I personally would not battle hunger. In my experience battles are energy depleting and I don't know what hunger would have to have to offer for food once I defeated it, but it intrigued me that one in eight Americans would choose to battle hunger so I Googled something like, "hunger, one in eight Americans," and it turns out that in 2009, one in eight Americans, (45.2million), think battling hunger is a good enough idea to join the fight despite my perspective. The United States Department of Agriculture calls these people, "food insecure Americans." According to the USDA, "food insecure Americans," are people, "living in households in this country suffering from hunger without the resources to purchase an adequate diet." For the sake of keeping this article on task I won't go anywhere near a discussion of the word, "resources." "Resources," could mean anything from money to brains. So I Googled something like, "adequate diet," instead and found a New York Times article that said that poor people eat at fast food restaurants and that fast food restaurants do not provide an adequate diet. The clincher was that poor people, as a result, are fat. Until I was enlightened by the New York Times I had pictured a person battling hunger as someone with no bug spray trying to spear a fish with a sharpened stick, which was inaccurate. It turned out, according to the New York Times, that poor people are fat, hungry, and looking for a fast food restaurant.

Just an aside here: If I wrote a story that said that poor people are fat, hungry, and looking for a fast food restaurant, I guarantee that it would be unprintable from the perspective of the New York Times, which is why I'm very thankful for the D/2 News.

Another piece of information is that not only are we poor and fat but we are just fat. I heard this one on the news so I Googled, "overweight Americans." According to the Center for Disease Control, 67% of Americans are overweight. (34% of Americans are "obese". This gets into "body mass indexes," or for USPS members, BMI's, and can be dealt with in depth in future boating related articles.) Also, the CDC has the average American male at 190 lbs. and the average American female at 163 lbs.

The second or third piece of material is that CSX can ship one ton of freight 423 miles on one gallon of diesel fuel. Diesel fuel costs about \$2.50/gal. I didn't Google this bit of information because I need this information to be true for my purposes and I didn't want to risk finding out it was false. Also, I owned a railroad once and a freight car carries an enormous amount of weight. Also the area of contact between a wheel and the rail is about the size of a dime, which further illustrates why you should not park your car on a railroad grade crossing.

Do you see where this is going?

The final two items, are that USPS National dues is going up \$1.80, (5%), to \$37.20 and USPS charges new members a \$25 one time fee for joining. I don't know exactly what this "fee" is for, but since it's a one time fee when someone joins it's either some sort of a disincentive to join in the first place because you're probably going to quit after the first year, or it's very expensive to type your vital statistics into the computer at National and mail out the empty certificate.

I did a very brief stint as our Squadron's Membership Chair so let me explain where we're going and my thinking on this:

If you're an American male, and you're poor, hungry, and overweight by ten pounds and you have the \$37.20 National dues, the Squadron dues, and the District assessment, plus you happen to have an additional \$25 burning a hole in your pocket, you have two excellent choices and a boat is entirely optional for either one:

You can either sign on the dotted line with USPS and spend the next year living in the land of milk and honey making smart meal choices at your Squadron's "pot lucks," or we can lock you in a freight car and ship you 42,300 miles with CSX. The math is solid. It would seem to me that put this way, the \$25 fee to join USPS was just one of the strokes of pure genius coming out of National.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to get back to the article I'm writing about sailing, last spring, from Charleston, SC to Groton, CT outside around Hatteras. You can look for that article in the, "Jenny Craig" Newsletter.

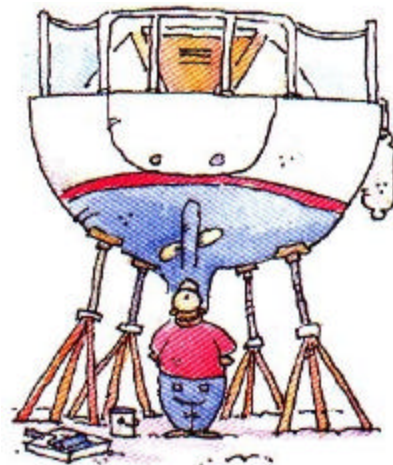


Administrative Officer: D/Lt/C Lacey M. Williams, AP

BOO HOO

It's that time of year that brings tears to the eyes of most boaters in the north and relief on the faces of their spouses that are able to return to a "normal life" of living at home and not spending all of their free time on the water. Please note that I said most, as there are many couples that want to spend as much time on the water as possible. The more fortunate of those people are able to boat in the northern part of the country in the summer months and move their boats to the south during the winter months.

Moving south for the winter is not for all of us as some just can't afford to and then others wouldn't go if it didn't cost anything. The part of human nature that makes us interesting is that we are all different in so many ways.



All of that aside, it is now time to winterize your pride and joy. Please do not skimp to save a few dollars as that practice could end up costing you a lot of dollars in the future. Note the following from BoatUS:

BoatUS Reports Recreational Boating Traffic Flat, But More Boaters Using On-The-Water Towing

ALEXANDRIA, Va., August 24, 2009 - The summer of the great economic downturn continues to have an effect on recreational boating, says the nation's largest recreational boat owners group. On-the-water boat towing and un-grounding services provided to members (of BoatUS) were up 8% at the midsummer mark, when compared to 2008. "Boaters have less money in their wallets this year, which translates to fewer outings, less maintenance, and an increase in calls for on-the-water assistance," said BoatUS Towing Service Vice President Jerry Cardarelli.

Perform your normal yearly take out, winterize and button up procedure so you are not one of the ones calling for on-the-water assistance next summer; an embarrassing and expensive experience.

When the job is completed sit down with a libation of choice and toast the fun times of past seasons and look forward to a new and enjoyable boating season in 2010. Here is hoping we all have a healthy and happy winter wherever we are and what ever we are doing.



MATAGORDA ISLAND, TEXAS



SABINE PASS, LOUISIANA



BELOXI, MISSISSIPPI



SAND ISLAND, ALABAMA

GULF COAST LIGHT HOUSES

View from the Marina
Boating's Health Reform

By Barb Hansen
September 2009

I didn't go to a town hall meeting but I would like to share a health reform idea with our elected representatives and the inside-the-beltway crowd.

What I will tell you has been pretty much boating's secret but it's time we told the rest of the world. Are you sitting down?

Boaters are healthier.

A lot of people will doubt that assertion, I know. We have all known individual boaters who were not careful, such as those who venture out into rough seas or manage to get their fingers smashed between the boat and the dock.

But the non-boating world has its reckless types, too. Vic and I keep wondering why we have to pay the doctors and hospitals who try to save the life of the motorcycle rider without insurance and without a helmet who crashes while weaving in and out of traffic.

But, as a group, boaters report they are healthier than other Americans. The online survey of 542 boat owners and 536 non-boat owners was conducted by Impulse Research Corporation for the boating industry.

It turns out that boat owners rated their overall well-being, health, work, leisure, sleep and finances as "very good" or "excellent." They also reported higher levels of satisfaction in marriage and romance than non-boaters. These are the kinds of people the insurance companies love.

Conversely, non-boaters told researchers they felt "useless, lonely, unhappy and fatigued." Oh my. They must have polled some congressmen who lost control of their own town hall meetings.

Studies suggest that children of boaters are healthier, too. Another boating industry survey showed that kids who boat were healthier physically and psychologically. They were more outgoing, more optimistic, more self-confident, more likely to be team players, more likely to be peer group leaders, and more likely to keep their pants hitched up.

Okay, I just made up the part about the pants.

Anyway, the research also showed that boating kids were more likely to do household chores and help with cooking. They have more interests. They regularly participate in eight activities while non-boating kids averaged only four. Another family bonus: boating children spent more quality time with parents, even in non-boating months.

So, to my point. I know how Congress can make Americans healthier. Give every person a boat.

Yes. In place of a health care bill that few have read and nobody can understand, how about a simple boat voucher program that puts Americans on the road (on the water!) to good health.

The program will probably save money, too, not that money is a consideration in DC. (Or, if it is, they could just call it a stimulus. I'm sure they will stipulate a new marina on the Potomac, just for the people's elected representatives, don't you know.)

Boat vouchers will be better than cash for clunkers, cash for appliances, cash for coiffures. Americans will feel great, there will be fewer cars on the road, boat dealers can stay in business, and there will be no need to pull the plug on grandma.

A whole country full of happy boating people is everything our congresspersons could hope for, particularly when they schedule town hall meetings.

Barb Hansen manages Southwest Florida Yachts, yacht charters, and Florida Sailing & Cruising School, a liveaboard yacht school. Contact her at info@swfyachts.com, phone 1-800-262-7939 or visit <http://www.swfyachts.com/>

###

[PERMISSION TO PUBLISH: Editors. Free use. Please include Barb Hansen's contact information above. Comments, acknowledgements and/or tearsheets are welcome. Coastal Public Relations Group, Inc., 5253 Dover St. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703. To unsubscribe or to request previous columns please contact Bill AuCoin, wmaucoin@verizon.net

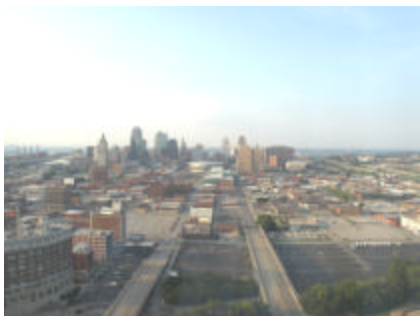
© 2001-2009. Southwest Florida Yachts. All rights reserved.

(Ed: Above article taken from *The Cruising Compass*, submitted by D/Lt/C, DEO Joseph A. Lynch, AP)

Photos from Summer Council, Bridgeport, CT.



Photos from Governing Board, Kansas City, KS.



D/2 NEWS

**c/o Lt/Cdr Virginia P. Moore, P
3 Undercliff Street
Yonkers, NY 10705-1354**

Address Correction Requested



Sail and Power Boating



D/2 Planning CALENDAR

2009

19-20 September, Rosh Hashana*
28 September, Yom Kippur*
3-4 October, Sukkot*
10-11 October, Simhat Torah*
12 October, columbus Day
23-25 October, Fall Conference, Lake George, NY
1 November, DaylightSavings Time ends
3 November, Election Day
11 November, Veterans' Day
26 November, Thanksgiving Day
12-18 December, Hanukkah*
25 December, Christmas Day
26 December, Kwanzaa begins

*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.)