



# D/2 NEWS



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

Volume 61

Number 3

January 2010

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN

Fellow members,

With the Holiday Season upon us, this can be a very hectic time of year for many. It is hard to believe that 2009 is almost over and I am 2/3 the way through my year as your Commander. I hope that you take the time to take a moment and reflect on the year that has just passed. I hope that you had a chance to Rediscover USPS, America's Boating Club, and share your Enthusiasm with others. This has been a bitter-sweet year, mostly sweet. I had the chance to enjoy the companionship of many members outside of my own Squadron, I have many sweet memories that I will cherish for ever. On the bitter side, a close friend, Ray Dahle AP just passed away. I was able to award a Certificate to Ray for his 25<sup>th</sup> year as a USPS member. I am happy to report that all 19 Squadron Commanders completed their Merit Mark recommendations, with a little push, but we got it done. Thank you all!



As I reported in my last message there were, and still are Squadrons struggling to put together a Bridge. This is not an easy task, but please keep trying and your Enthusiasm will pay off. As you know that we are now down to 19 Squadrons and are in danger of maybe losing another Squadron. During this time of downward membership we all must try harder to recruit new members. National is going to renew the waiver of not having to take the Boating Course as a requirement to join USPS, so if you know an experienced boater, or new boater, invite them to join and show them that there is always something they can learn or maybe even teach. With the new shorter version of the Basic Course or ABC course, not much time is spent on chart work. How about teaching the seminar on charting!! It worked for other Squadrons! There are Squadrons that are thriving, increasing membership, enjoying the fraternity of the organization, why don't you share you secrets so we all can enjoy your success and Enthusiasm! Remember the Squadron is the grassroots of the organization. We all need each other to survive. District needs you, National needs you, and you need them, Together we all thrive.

As District Commander, it is a delightful feeling to see and hear that some are being recognized by National. I was informed very recently that we have a Chapman Award winner. P/C John Giddings SN from Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron will receive the Chapman Award at the National Annual Meeting in Orlando Florida on 6 February 2010. Congratulations John!!

As you know we all have web pages for our Squadrons. In this day of electronic communication it is a must to spread information. The younger generation live by their little electronic devices, so we must reach out to them in their forum. Web pages must grab their attention and give them the information they are looking for instantly, and link them to other pages for further information. Web pages are evaluated every year, and there is a large check list used in awarding points. I know because this year I had the chance to be an evaluator. There are many interesting sites out there and I challenge you to check them out. District 2 had two Squadrons that were awarded a Web Page Excellence Award, having had to achieve a score of 85 or better. One Squadron had a 96 and the other had 97!!! SOOO!!!!!! just who are these Squadrons that have a great Enthusiasm?? Congratulations to Norwalk and Mid Hudson. Check out their website and get some ideas!

As we close out this year and look forward to 2010, I hope that we all can reflect on 2009 and see all the good that we accomplished in USPS, both on the Squadron level, and District level. There is always room for improvement, otherwise we become complacent. In 2010 let's remember to Rediscover USPS for the Great Organization that it is. Let's work to be the best District that we can be!

# Happy Holidays

**Educational Officer: D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch, JN**

A Memorandum of Understanding between NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and United States Power Squadrons was signed by Chief Commander Creighton Maynard, SN and Commissioner NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Carol Ash, late this past fall.

In part, the MOU provides for cooperation and coordination in the teaching of boating safety courses by USPS in accordance with NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) guidelines and course requirements. USPS is encouraged to teach to persons under 18 years of age.

Utilize State pamphlets covering New York boating laws in the conduct of USPS NASBLA-approved courses.

When appropriate, provide the USPS District Education Officer periodic updates concerning changes in state boating laws and regulations.

Invite USPS participation in State boating safety discussions through participation in the State Boating Advisory Council.

The effective date of this MOU is 1 January 2010.

**Treasurer: D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP**

Financially, there is not too much to report. We are still strongly in the black. As of the end of December we had over \$24,000 in our checking account; approximately \$11,000 in our CD and a little over \$10,000 in our money market account. Interest rates for our checking and money market accounts are very very low, but it's extra money, how little it is.

Budget wise, our receipts exceed our disbursements by approximately \$2,000, for the period 1 April—31 December 2009.

Still on the subject of money, I don't wish to mention names, but a number of Squadrons have been billed for new member District dues, but at this writing, have not sent me a check for the amount due. Squadron Treasurers, (you know who you are) please take care of this matter. Thank you.

\$

The Editor reserves the right to edit articles as needed. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of District 2, The United States Power Squadrons or its editor.

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

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

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times or we got trouble, big trouble right here in River City. It doesn't matter how it is phrased, what matters is the fact that we, like all fraternal organizations, are in deep doo doo. Changes in life style have made it harder and harder to recruit and retain members in organizations such as ours. We need to work smarter, not harder. We need to take advantage of the help being provided by National. We need get our Executive Committees turned on to the USPS web site where they will find all kinds of new, valuable help. We have to stop doing things the same old way or we will be the forgotten boating club. The following list of new tools copied from the web site should be perused by all Membership Committees:

### New Tools for Squadron Membership

To assist all squadrons in growing their membership the National Membership Committee has prepared a variety of new tools for squadrons that are posted at

[www.usps.org/national/membership/tools.html](http://www.usps.org/national/membership/tools.html) . Check them out!

1) *New Recruiting at Seminars* PowerPoint called "Have Fun!" - Download at

<http://www.usps.org/national/membership/tools.html>

2) *Online Resource Directory for Squadrons* -

[http://www.usps.org/national/membership/Resources for Squadron Commanders.pdf](http://www.usps.org/national/membership/Resources%20for%20Squadron%20Commanders.pdf).

*Easily downloaded for ready reference to the correct webpage.*

3) *Online New Member Processing Website* - *Need squadron account number and password* - Access at:

<http://www.usps.org/php/membership/>

4) *Generic Brochure for Squadrons* - Access at:

<http://www.usps.org/national/membership/tools.html> . *Can be "squadronized" and reproduced for local distribution.*

5) *Membership Statistics (10 Year Trends, Monthly Reports, Awards)* at:

[http://www.usps.org/x/x.pl/x/x.cgi?/membership/Member/members\\_only\\_page.htm](http://www.usps.org/x/x.pl/x/x.cgi?/membership/Member/members_only_page.htm)

6) *Lots of different presentations are available with ideas about membership and other new tools are posted at*  
<http://www.usps.org/national/membership/presentations.html> .

*It is easy to download and share with fellow members at district and squadron meetings.*

---

**Remember, work smarter, not harder.**

Note for Connecticut Boaters:

Effective October 1, 2009 the cost of getting a CT Safe Boating Certificate or Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation, jumped from \$25.00 to \$50.00 The annual Registration or Certificate of Decal (documented vessel ) fees have not been changed.

Submitted by ADEO D/1st/Lt George R. Hallenbeck, AP.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The following was submitted by ADEO D/1st/Lt George R. Hallenbeck, AP

With permission from BoatU.S. , December 3, 2009 Press Release.

Press Contact: D. Scott Croft, 703-461-2864, [SCroft@BoatUS.com](mailto:SCroft@BoatUS.com)

### EPA Delays Decision on More Ethanol in Gas: Is This Just About Cars?

*Boating Group Says EPA Should Include Testing on All Gas-powered Engines*

ALEXANDRIA, Va., December 3, 2009 – More ethanol in the nation's gasoline supply? Not just yet, said the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday when it announced it will delay making a decision on a waiver requested by the pro-ethanol lobbying group Growth Energy to increase the amount of ethanol in gas beyond the current 10% level. However, the country's largest recreational boating organization says it remains concerned that the EPA said that it will review initial findings on testing of mid-level ethanol blends in newer automobiles before revisiting the waiver possibility in mid-2010.

Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatU.S.) says that the harm already inflicted on boat owners when ethanol in gasoline was increased to 10% (E10) several years ago should be a concern for regulators as they debate the effect of higher ethanol blends in all gas-powered vehicles and equipment – not just automobiles.

"Waiting for the data is a step in the right direction," said BoatU.S. Vice President of Government Affairs Margaret Podlich. "However, focusing on automobiles leaves out millions of other gas-powered engines. If you own a lawn mower, chain saw, all-terrain vehicle, generator, or boat, I would be very concerned over the costs to repair or replace those items after using higher levels of ethanol gas. Additionally, the possibility of selling gas with different amounts of ethanol content at the pump raises significant infrastructure and consumer education concerns," she added.

Ethanol came into widespread use as a "oxygenate" or combustion enhancer after a previous additive, MTBE, was identified as a carcinogen. However, many boaters were caught off guard as the level of ethanol, also an effective solvent, was increased in the nationwide fuel supply to 10%, or E10, with little notice. This introduction of E10 damaged boat fuel system components such as gas tanks, fuel lines and seals, and caused some catastrophic engine failures while boaters were forced to pick up the tab for expensive repairs.

When ethanol fuel is stored for several months, it can attract moisture and "phase separate" into different solutions of low octane gas and water that will not burn properly, if at all. "Storage is not an issue with cars as most Americans regularly fill their tanks. However, would your emergency generator start when you need it?" asks Podlich.

The US Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety has also raised concerns about higher levels of ethanol and the lack of independent testing. The accelerated deterioration and failure of fuel system components, ethanol's affect on clean air devices, and level of risk for fire and explosion in the recreational boat fleet are cited.

"We strongly encourage the EPA to use the next six months to consider the effects of higher ethanol blends on all gas powered engines, and not on just new products. Americans deserve to know if all of their gas-powered engines will run reliably and safely on this proposed new fuel," said Podlich.

#### ***An Ethanol Lobby Solution?***

One solution proposed by Growth Energy — that seems to acknowledge that not all gas engines may be suitable for higher blends of ethanol gas — is to make available two different blends of ethanol fuel at the fuel pump. BoatUS believes that offering two blends of ethanol gas is neither practical nor realistic.

Having an additional type of higher ethanol fuel available would require new gas pumps and possibly storage tanks, and would cause significant customer confusion and misfueling. There is no federal requirement to label gas pumps — consumers in some states don't know what they are buying now, so how are they expected to make the right choice if there are even more options available in the future?" questions Podlich.

BoatU.S. supports a common-sense approach to the use of alternative fuels as a way for the nation to diversify its sources of energy. The Association is part of a coalition of 46 motor sports, environmental, food and citizen advocate groups under the banner [followthescience.org](http://followthescience.org). BoatU.S. is also member of [AISAFE](http://AISAFE), the Alliance for a Safe Alternative Fuels Environment.

The association urges anyone concerned about a higher percentage of ethanol in gasoline and the lack of testing to contact their members of Congress.



# United States Power Squadrons District 2



## D/2 WINTER COUNCIL

*Saturday, February 27, 2010*  
*Mercury Grand Hotel*

*Formerly the Best Western*  
2170 South Road, Poughkeepsie, New York

**The cost for the day is \$ 29 - 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 Mercury Grand Hotel 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 Mercury Grand Hotel 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 Mercury Grand Hotel 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 Mercury Grand Hotel is approximately 9 miles on the right just past the Olive Garden.

**Registration will begin at 0830**

Reservations **MUST** be received by 12 February, 2010 - Late Registration fee \$5.00

Mail reservations to

D/Lt Alexandra Digilio  
25 Thomas Ave.  
Fishkill, NY 12524

Questions - call (845) 896-6644

### Cut & Mail

\*\*\*\*\*

**District 2 Winter Council**

**Due 12 Feb. 2010**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>RANK/GRADE</b>
<b>SQUADRON</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
<b>eMail</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> NAME</b>	<b>RANK/GRADE</b>
<b>SQUADRON</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
<b>eMail</b>	

BREAKFAST/LUNCH **\$29.00** PER PERSON TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Form Date 11 November 2009

# **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***

**2010**

1 January, New Year's Day  
18 January, Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
**2-7 February, Annual Meeting, Lake Buena Vista, FL**  
15 February, Presidents' Day  
17 February, Ash Wednesday  
**27 February, D/2 Winter Council, Poughkeepsie, NY**  
14 March, Daylight Savings Time Begins  
28 March, Palm Sunday  
30 March- 6 April, Passover\*  
2 April Good Friday  
4 April Easter  
**9-11 April, D/2 Spring Conference, Williamstown, MA**  
9 May, Mother's Day  
15 May, Armed Forces Day  
**22-28 May, National Safe Boating Week**  
31 May, Memorial Day  
14 June, Flag Day  
20 June, Father's 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.)**