



D/2 NEWS



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

Volume 61

Number 4

March 2010

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Robert Shivokevich, SN

Wow! Where did the year go? As I sit down and write my last D/2 Commander's message for the D/2 News, I have to wonder how the time passed me by. Being your Commander of one of the Best Districts in USPS has been a very rewarding experience. I have made many new friends, and strengthen the existing friendships of the past. I am happy to report that I was able to attend all of the District's functions along with many Squadron functions as well. I would like to thank all those who made my experience as District Commander a real pleasure, YOU the members of D/2!



My theme this year was "DISCOVER /REDISCOVER USPS" I would like to think that this was a success. I know that many of you have been the staple of your Squadron, giving guidance and pitching in where ever possible to keep your Squadron afloat, and for that I thank you very much. When you attend the District and National Meetings, you see many "Senior" members, who care and participate! Now we have to get another Generation involved! We have built a great foundation to build upon, and it is up to the "Younger" members to start getting involved. Sometimes all it takes is a little encouragement and being asked. It is time for the Younger Generation to step forward and implement their ideas, and for the membership to embrace those ideas! We must change to survive. We must realize that the life styles of the young are not the same as the ones we grew up with. With some Squadrons having a hard time recruiting a Squadron Bridge, we must find ways to endorse the younger ways of thinking!

I do hope that the Enthusiasm of our Members spreads to our new members and we can turn around the downward spiral of USPS membership. I agreed to become your Commander, because I truly believe that USPS is the Finest Boating organizations around. If my Enthusiasm for USPS has spread to at least one member, and that member spreads their enthusiasm to another, then I will perceive my term as Commander a success. You have a very good Bridge that will follow this Bridge; Frank DeBaggis will be a fine Commander. Frank's sense of humor will be a delight to witness. I hope you give him all the support that you gave me.

The Annual National Meeting in Orlando was a success by many standards. The meetings were very useful and informative. Again I made many new friends. The District Commander's meeting was a chance for the District Commanders to air their concerns and listen to the National Bridge give their answers. The Co-op advertising money is now based on the amount of Educational material the Squadron purchases from Headquarters, so the more course materials you buy and sell, the more money you get from Headquarters towards advertising. You must fill out form NPR 102 to be reimbursed. Headquarters will cut a check four times a year. The Educational Department has been busy promoting the 'On the Water' training, and has certified over 400 members. There was a motion to let the general public take Advance Grades, and Elective Courses. After much discussion from the floor that motion was approved. The recommendation from NEO Robert Sweet, SN, was to charge non members 2-3 times the regular price, with hopes that they would join and then be able to have the course at a reduced price. Opening up these courses to the public can be a great tool for your Squadrons. We have always said that our courses were the Best, second to none! Now we can reach out to other experienced boaters who did not want to take a Basic Course!. Let's take this tool and run with it! This is a change that we all should embrace.

(continued on P. 2.)

(Commander's Message continued from P. 1.)

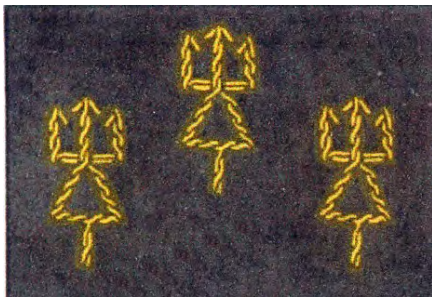
National has a new tool for communicating with the membership, called "SailAngle". This is a secure website where you can have open discussions, post questions, and communicate with other boaters. This system will only work if we get our membership involved and signed up. Many of you have already registered, and I thank you. The goal for District 2 is to get everyone signed up. We already have two Squadrons with full membership participating. We have developed an "OPT OUT" method for registering. In the near future you will be receiving a letter from me requesting that you join **SailAngle**. We will register you automatically, and if you wish not to participate, all you have to do is "Opt Out" and you will not be registered. This tool will allow the National Officer, District Officer, Squadron Officer to contact the membership with important messages, or Notices. It is our goal to get everyone on board. Together we can make this work! "Discover" how the new technology can work for you and USPS! Embrace this change and please say yes when asked to join.

One of the most enjoyable jobs of being a District Commander, is watching your members being recognized for their achievements. On Friday afternoon Virginia Gedney was honored as a "Life Member". She earned her 25th merit mark, and is now is one of the "Elite Members" of USPS! Congratulations Ginny!! Also on Friday afternoon I received some awards that belong to the Squadrons in District 2; these awards will be presented at the Spring Conference, on 10 April, 2010.

On Saturday, during the General Meeting, I was again honored to watch as John Giddings SN, from Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron received the prestigious "Chapman Award" for Excellence in Teaching. There were only five of these awards given out at this meeting. So John is a very special teacher! So the next time you see Ginny Gedney or John Giddings please make sure you congratulate them on their Achievements. Their Enthusiasm for USPS is one that we all can learn from!

As I wind down the final days of my term as District 2 Commander, making the final preparations for the Spring Conference, when Frank will become our new Commander, I continue to reflect on this past year. It is my hope that the membership will be kind to me in their judgment of my leadership. My experience as your commander, is one that I will never forget; it was enjoyable, and enlightening. Remember that you are USPS and if asked to serve on the D/2 Bridge, give it considerable thought, it really is a great experience.

If nothing else keep your 'ENTHUSIASM' for USPS alive!



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**



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

I just returned from the 96th Annual Meeting in Florida where I learned that this is no longer your father's power squadron. Two of the seminars that I attended were professionally done and so far above and beyond anything I have seen to date that I am still a little overwhelmed.

The first was listed as DAO & SAO training which ran from 0900 to 1650. A long meeting which I feared would end up being just another boring waste of time. Man, was I ever surprised. The time flew by and I actually learned how I should have been handling my job as DAO for the last ten months. D/Lt/C Anita F. Walker, JN was the main moderator and Leadership Development was the theme. There were eighty people in attendance and she managed to get all of us involved, which isn't an easy task.

Anita announced that this Leadership Development seminar is going on the road and will be put on all around the country in some of the larger cities such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, etc. I urge all Commanders, SEO's and any interested members to participate when they get to a city near your location.

Next year they will be doing the same event for DXO's & SXO's and I will have a great motivation to attend the next Annual Meeting.

Tom Kemp, National's Manager of Marketing & Development Services put on a superb seminar on Selling Public Courses. He first broke up the group into teams of four each and got everyone's attention by announcing three cash prizes; \$400.00 for first place, \$300.00 for second place and \$200.00 for third place. Each team had to pick a spokesperson to try to sell a membership to their Squadron. It turned out to be a lot of fun and very enlightening as we all learned some new techniques. If given the opportunity to attend, this is another seminar that I would highly recommend.

I do have the power point presentation on Selling Public Courses which I would be happy to supply to any Squadron electronically or in a CD. You can reach me at [laceym@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lacey@nycap.rr.com) or 518-373-9890.

We also learned about a Squadron that has **attracted 193 new members** to the USPS in the last 6 months. The new "**Cyber Squadron**" allows you to take the ABC 3 course on line. The material cost is \$49.95 and you get to become a member with your dues paid for 6 months. The enrollees contact information is then sent to all Squadrons in a 100 mile radius using zip codes for boundaries. To date 40% of these people have joined traditional Squadrons. The biggest age group that has joined is in the 50 - 59 year range. Note: You cannot take the exam for this course on line as it must be proctored.

Last, but not least, a motion was made at the Annual Meeting to remove all of the current restrictions for anyone taking an advanced grade or elective course or instruction and examination in any USPS course from National and giving the choice of restricting or not restricting to the individual Squadrons.

The discussion was heated, long and in many cases outright ridiculous. The motion was approved by approximately 95 % of the voting members.

Squadrons that have been giving advanced courses to non-members have been growing. It seems that when given a choice of taking a course at double the cost a member would pay, most join to get the members discount.

One very interesting piece of information that I learned from a talk given by a NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) member was the fact that the Coast Guard did not do a roll test on the Ethan Allan with any kind of canopy when it was built. Testing its sister vessel after the disaster on Lake George, the NTSB recommended that the capacity be changed from 48 passengers at an average 145 pounds each to 14 passengers at an average weight of 185 pounds each. Quite a difference a correct rating could have made in that incident.

Again, this is not your father's power squadron or even the one that you joined. We are at a point in life where we change or expire. It brings to mind Teddy Roosevelt who famously lauded "the man who is actually in the arena," who "if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

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

Congratulations

Or

What's in a Name?

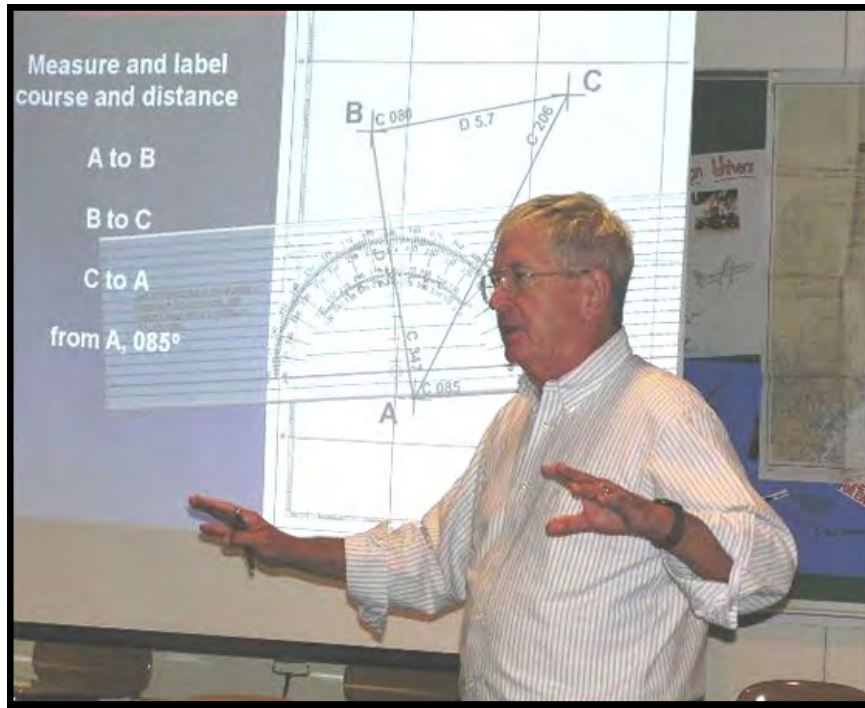
Kind of a strange title wouldn't you say? However, it is a really interesting question. If I was to say Michael Jordan, I imagine everyone who follows basketball would respond "One of the finest players of the game." How about John Paul Jones or Admiral William Halsey? Patriot, hero, a seafaring legend. I am sure everyone could come up with numerous names of people who are famous for something. Let's try one more "Charles Chapman" Now that is a name that every member of the US Power Squadrons knows, as well as a vast majority of modern day sailors and power boaters.

Charles Chapman as we know was one of the original USPS members, membership number A1. He was also editor of Motor Boating magazine. As a member, he was influential in establishing the finest boating and seamanship educational program ever developed for recreational boaters. Charles Chapman's life and that of the US Power Squadrons is intimately intertwined.

Over the years Charles Chapman and many more members developed, expanded, and improved the education experiences that are second to none. Along with the effort came members who followed with the same zeal and dedication to teaching as Mr. Chapman did. USPS looked at all of these remarkable instructors and decided to give the "best of the best" an award named after, who else but Charles Chapman.

Every year DEO's across the country are sent a packet. The instructions are simple enough; solicit from your SEO's throughout the District a member who epitomizes the teaching values and the same zeal and dedication that Charles Chapman did. This packet arrives around July, which coincides with the end of the education year. Now the hard part goes to nineteen overworked members. "SEO's nominate someone in your Squadron; provide a history and a resume of this member's teaching skills and accomplishments. Make sure your nominee is a well-rounded, dedicated instructor who has taught most if not all available courses. Get five members to write letters of recommendation for this member and oh, yes send two picture of the person teaching in action". Not a big chore; oh, did I mentioned that the DEO needs it back by the end of August so that the nominations can be reviewed; a selection made and then all sent into National so they can have by October 1st?

(Continued on P. 5.)



P/C John Giddings, SN, Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron
Recipient of the prestigious Chapman Award

(Congratulations continued from P. 4.)

This year I had the rewarding experience to review submitted packets of members who were nominated. A selection was made and submitted to National. After the submittal was made, everything went very quiet for a time. Then on 8 December 2009, I opened up my email and there was a message from Robert Sweet the National Education Officer. Now anyone who knows me will tell you that when the NEO writes me, it is usually to tell me what I did wrong... again! Not so this time. The message was short and rather simple as all awards of this magnitude are. It simply said;

“Hi Joe,

I am pleased to inform you that John Giddings was selected as a Chapman Award winner. This award will be presented in person on Saturday, February 6th in Orlando. A letter was sent to him yesterday and we will follow up with details of other events. We certainly hope John can make it to Orlando and look forward to handing him the award.”

This is an excerpt of the letter that was sent to John, I don't think John would mind if I share this with everyone.

“This is USPS’ most prestigious award, presented to those who have demonstrated the best of skills and effectiveness in instructing boaters. This is the core of USPS ninety-five year tradition. You are considered to be among the best of the best in boating education and join a select list of fellow Chapman Award recipients.”

For those who do not know John - and until recently I was one of them - John is exactly what the Chapman committee had in mind when making their selection. A past Commander and SEO for Greenwich (Captain Harbor) Sail & Power Squadron, he is also the Squadron historian. John is an unassuming individual who enjoys teaching Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses. He feels that these are the two courses that set a seaman apart from just a boater. He also enjoys a tremendous following amongst the Squadron members. When asked, these members did not hesitate to write incredible heartfelt letters on John's behalf. It was obvious from the start that John has and enjoys the respect of the membership of Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron.

So in closing I to wish to add my congratulations to John Giddings. John's award is a true indication that the USPS education program is alive and well in Greenwich Sail & Power as well as District 2 and all of USPS.

See you in Class!



Treasurer: D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP

I am happy to report that we are still solvent. However, the figures presented below do not include a number of outstanding expenses, for which I have not received bills. We also have some outstanding income. (I just billed nine Squadrons for new member dues - a total of 23 members at \$6.00 a head.)

Checking Account:

Balance on hand 10/08/09	\$25,428.35	(Revised amount. Used account balance not bank's balance.)
Receipts	1,088.72	
Disbursements	2,778.60	
Balance on hand 2/17/10	\$23,738.47	
CD Balance	\$10,917.13	
Money Market Balance	\$10,005.58	
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>\$44,661.18</u></u>	

Executive Officer: D/Lt/C Frank J. DeBaggis, AP

God Bless Us, Everyone

Have you ever said something stupid, and anything you said after that only made it worse but you kept talking anyway? I have. In fact, I'm very good at that.

In my defense, my assumption is that the woman's dentures were stuck on her gums and God sent me over to her table to free them up because, when I said what I said, her monocle fell out of her eye into her lap and her teeth shot out and landed in her water glass with a plunk. The monocle fell out and the teeth flew after I answered a question she asked; correctly I might add. What I said to explain the answer didn't work. It made it worse. But I babbled on anyway for a minute or so trying to explain my answer while the whole table looked on in horror.

I know you guys are always thinking, and because of the monocle and false teeth clues, which I have willingly provided, you now know that I was at a USPS function. I'll even go so far as to add that it was a Saturday Night Dinner Dance at a National Meeting, but that's all you're getting because I don't need a bunch of amateur sleuths trying to track down this woman for her side of the story. I'll tell you exactly what happened instead, and you can just trust me.

Here's what happened:

I walked into the banquet hall and sat down. The woman with the stuck dentures was seated to my left. We spoke briefly. She did most of the talking. Then she leaned in and asked me a question and I answered it. Her monocle then fell into her lap and her teeth shot out into her water glass. I said a few more things in a genuine attempt to put my answer in the proper perspective, and looked around the table at a very shocked group of people. Their mouths were all wide open in horror and I realized thankfully that I didn't recognize a single soul. This was not the D/2 table. I had sat at the wrong table. Things were looking up. Things were going so well for me at that point that I was able to stand; so I did. I stood up, and in an attempt to save District 2 some embarrassment, I said graciously, "And now, if you will please excuse me, I need to freshen up a bit and find my good friends at the District 28 table; you know, Southern California; Balboa Squadron. That whole bunch." I bowed slightly, straightened up and walked out the door.

I went to the men's room. I washed my face to cool down a bit and realized that automatic hand dryers were now going to be an awkward way to dry my face. Since there were very few people in the men's room at the time, and since it was unlikely that any of them could remember what they had for breakfast, I gave it a shot. Except for some very dry eyeballs it worked perfectly.

I returned a few minutes later to the banquet hall through a different door, and found the D/2 table. I looked at everyone very carefully before I sat down to be certain it was in fact the D/2 table this time. I went so far as to lean over and read several name tags to be certain I had the correct table. You were the right people this time, and you were all there, smiling away. I was wearing my uniform with a black bow tie, per dress code, but I realized I had no name tag. I said to myself, *No name tag now, means no name tag when I spoke to that woman. Perhaps I am smarter than I think? I feel like Bond. James Bond. A bit shaken perhaps, but not stirred.* I then grabbed the proper napkin, shook it open gently and laid it on my lap. I turned very slightly. My peripheral vision showed a round table of people, off to my right, much more animated than other people at other tables. *Well goodness, hadn't that just caused quite a stir?*

This is the time now where, if I were telling the police this story, I would, "lawyer up." In an interrogation room situation, with the hidden microphones, the tape recorders, and the one way mirrors, all three of which I am now on to, I wouldn't say anything more until I found out that the woman had no lasting ill effects like death, heart trouble, or psychological scars, to name three biggies. I will add in my defense that the woman asked the question all on her own. I know I had nothing to do with the question because, prior to the question, with all the background noise in the room, I could only tell her lips were moving. I couldn't hear a thing she was saying until she leaned in close and spoke succinctly into my left ear, my better of the two. Before that I was simply looking into her eyes nodding and smiling. If her face clouded over a bit, I frowned. If she brightened up, I nodded and raised my eyebrows and brightened up too. But all the while her lips were moving I was thinking: *What on EARTH could she be talking about? Gosh, she's old. She's good with the makeup 'though, I'll give her that; very good; although she could be talking about Southern Plantation Living for heaven's sake, or the Civil War. How old IS she? No, it wouldn't be the Civil War, it would be, "The War Between the States." This woman could have torn off a piece of her petticoat to stop some confederate bleeding!* I had absolutely no clue what this woman could be saying, until she leaned over and whispered into my left ear, and unless she didn't want her false teeth in her water glass she should have been ready for a frank answer.

TO BE CONTINUED....

Spring Conference 9-11 April 2010
Williams Inn 1090 Main Street, Route 7 Williamstown, MA 01267-2620
413-458-9371

From the South or West:

Mass Turnpike (Rte 90) -Take Exit 2 (Lee) on the Mass Turnpike — after the toll booth, turn right and follow Rte 20 West. Approximately 4 miles Rte 7 North merges with Rte 20. Continue on Rte 7 North about 28 miles to Williamstown. The Williams Inn is on the left of the Village Green at the Northerly Junction of Rtes 7 & 2. Go around the traffic circle about 270 degrees — The Williams Inn is located on the north side of the circle.

Or:

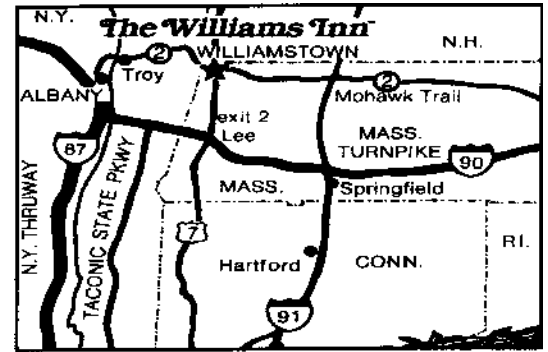
Rte 7 North from Danbury to Williamstown.

Or:

Taconic State Parkway North towards Albany. Take last exit before the toll - Rte 295 East (Chatham & East Chatham), to Rte 22 North to Rte 2 East to Rte 7 North to Williamstown.

From the North:

Route 87 South to Exit 6 (Rte 2 East into Latham). Take Route 2 East through Troy and over the mountain and down to Williamstown. Turn left at the junction of Routes 2 & 7. Continue 2 miles North on Rte 7 to Williamstown.



It is with deep regret that we note the passing of P/D/C Robert E. Beardsley, SN, member of the Cross County Power Squadron.

Bob was a member for 35 years, a Life Member with 34 Merit Marks. He served as Commander for the Bridge Year 1983 - 1984. Ten years later for the Bridge Year 1993 - 1994, Bob became District Commander. After his term of office, he continued to be active in the Squadron, the District and National activities. He taught the Operations Training class and annually was the key member who helped prepare the recommendations for Merit Marks. He also served as Squadron Treasurer in more recent years.

Our deepest condolences to his wife, children and other family members.

Bob will be missed by all who knew him.



Photos from the National Meeting



Photos courtesy of D/Lt/C Lacey M. Williams Jr., AP

D/2 NEWS

**c/o Lt/Cdr Virginia P. Moore, P
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Address Correction Requested



Sail and Power Boating



D/2 Planning CALENDAR

2010

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
14-16 May, Northern Trek, Melody Manor, Bolton Landing, NY
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.)

PLEASE NOTE: We have received the Distinction in Journalism Award for 2009.

The Editor wishes to thank all who have contributed to the D/2 News last year.