



D/2 NEWS



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

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Lacey M, Williams Jr., AP

This being my first message as D/C I want you all to know that I am very proud and pleased to be elected to this position. I look forward to this year as D/C and I want to thank all of you for your trust in my abilities to handle the job.

My main goal will be **Growth Through Communication and Cooperation**. With communication we can uncover and understand the source of short comings between District and our Squadrons. With cooperation we can take action to correct these short comings.

This District Bridge is going to go above & beyond to work with all the Squadrons. If you have a problem using the DB2000, or getting instructors certified to teach the ABC 3 course, or getting a qualified instructor to teach any course, let me know and our Bridge will get you help. Please ask about anything, not just what I have listed.

We all have had problems that have been frustrating. We are here to help solve those problems. We can't help if we don't know. **Communicate and we will Cooperate.**

We have a real need to promote District and get more members involved. Let me know your likes and dislikes along with your suggestions on how we can make D/2 a more workable organization. I will discuss these suggestions and/or complaints with our Bridge and see what can be changed, or not changed, and get back to all with our answer.

I want everyone to know that there will be no hidden agendas or secrets. Your ideas, suggestions and complaints will be passed along to the entire Bridge.

This 2011 Bridge is dedicated to helping the Squadrons grow which should help District grow. We will be pushing On The Water Training as we see this as the savior of the USPS.

On a lighter note the Spring Conference was a huge success for Mohawk-Hudson. This is the first time in a couple of years that our Treasurer has had a smile on his face when talking about money in the bank.

The facility was good and the location better. Everyone seemed to have a good time which is what really matters.

A very large thank you to each and everyone that attended.

A special thank you to P/C/C Creighton C. Jr., SN and Glenda Maynard for helping to make this C O W a success. A super couple with a good sense of humor.



NOTICE TO D/2 BOAT OWNERS

Please bring your boat to the D/2 Summer Council 29-30 July and make this a real District Rendezvous. All sailboats, powerboats, kayaks and dinghies are welcome and will be asked to take attendees on the water between 2 – 4 pm. Skippers will decide what their boat will do - a gentle sail, trawling, some power boat maneuvers, fishing at anchor, or just sunbathing and swimming. We expect a flotilla of kayaks to be available.

On 30 July there will be a sign up board for attendees to choose which boat to go on.

As soon as you know your plans, boat owners please tell Susan Ryan how many people you can take on board and whether you would like refreshments to be supplied. Email: susanpryan@sbcglobal.net Telephone: 203 698 0441. Display your burgees!

Photos from the 2011 D/2 Winter Council

D/C Lacey, AP and Janet Williams



D/Lt/C Howard, AP and Marcia Sklar

P/D/Lt/C Robert , SN and Pam Kelly

Photo credits D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP



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

Executive Officer

D/Lt/C Susan P. Ryan, AP
76 Tomac Avenue
Old Greenwich, CT 06870-1812
e-mail: susanpryan@sbcglobal.net
203-698-0441

Educational Officer

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

Administrative Officer

D/Lt/C Howard A. Sklar, AP
372 Kneeland Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10704-2713
e-mail: hasklar@gmail.com
914-965-4684

Secretary

D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP
11 Birch Street
Danbury, CT 06810-5721
e-mail: vevedney@aol.com
203-743-9046

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 Carl E. Filios, AP
75 Glory Drive
Pittsfield, MA 01201
e-mail: cefilios@verizon.net
413-442-8984

Editor

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

Executive Officer: D/Lt/C Susan P. Ryan, AP

The Rime of the Young Mariners

The story begins just over a year ago. A local Greenwich resident, Tom O'Connell, had come to sailing only at the age of 53, and after ten of the best years of his life on the water, decided to try to give back. Greenwich had over 240 families listed as under-served by the Town's Department of Social Services: was there a way to help a few of these? Stamford had a Young Mariners Foundation – let's establish one in Greenwich. How to fund? How to organize? Who will help? Tom contacted the Boys and Girls Club, The Red Cross, Landfall Navigation, Shellfish Commission, SoundWaters, local yacht clubs etc. and produced a plan for the year. He would take twelve fifth graders from the Boys and Girls Club through the program that included three weeks of sailing instruction on the water and as many 'big boat' sails as we could organize. Members of Greenwich Sail & Power Squadron had been talking about bringing children onto the water, so the timing was perfect. I invited key people from our Squadron and from the boating community to brainstorm over a glass of wine – and this resulted in a huge event at the Boys and Girls Club raising \$13,000. As well as raising funds, it was a terrific community effort enjoyed by all. Everyone loves a story about the water, and everyone loves a story about kids, and the Young Mariners involves both. The press has covered their progress and with GSPS figuring so prominently, it's given us good publicity also.

But regardless of all the above – the most important aspect was the impact on our twelve kids. Look at the indoor photo with Safety Officer Andy Cummings – taken when we introduced them to our two-day instruction on safe boating last March . . . showing some apprehension and insecurity – and look at the outside group photo and the self-confidence and pride on their faces having just been given their USPS hats as graduates of our ABC3 course! Over the year they had matured and grown, and their families and teachers have appreciated the difference. While it's been important to give them good instruction, this has always been done so that they have enjoyed it.

Here are some quotations from the kids at the beginning of the year:

- 'The jib is the smaller flag on the front of the boat'
- 'The keel is the thing in the water'
- 'Port is right and starboard is left – why don't boats use words we know?'
- 'The buoy is something that marks the water'
- 'Hypothermia is very, very, very cold water when you swim 50 yards'
- 'Will I get stuck if the boat goes over and I'm underneath it?'
- 'Why does the bathroom have two doors?' 'Why is it called a head?'
- 'Have you seen any sharks here?'

They came a long way from their first days to now taking the USPS ABC3 course. But the story isn't over . . . we will continue giving these graduates opportunities, and we have just begun with the second year. I encourage all Squadrons to do what they can to get kids involved.



Administrative Officer: D/Lt/C Howard A. Sklar, AP

From The Desk of the District Administrative Officer.

Greetings and Salutations,

As the new Administrative Officer I intend to write a column for each edition of the D/2 News. Having written a Commander's message for my Squadron (Cross County) for the past three plus years I have developed a very informal manner of communicating with my membership and see no reason to change that now. I feel that this form of communication (a periodic newsletter) between a Squadron Commander or officer and his or her members is one of the single most important things that a Bridge officer can do to keep their Squadron informed of what's happening. With this thought in mind, here goes.

I along with my lovely wife Marcia attended the D/2 Spring Conference on 1-3 April 2011 at the Holiday Inn Express in Saratoga Springs, NY. This hotel definitely went above and beyond. The hotel was a nice place to stay as it is close to the center of downtown Saratoga. The food was ample, the accommodations were nice, the staff was accommodating and cordial and the meetings and meals ran smoothly. Hats off to Susan Spring, her committee and the members of Mohawk Hudson for a job well done. As for the Conference itself, the Chiefs Rep., Past Chief Commander Creighton C. Maynard Jr., SN, had a very interesting and informative take on things happening within USPS, especially the BOC program. The breakout sessions in the morning were worthy and thoughtfully planned. Lunch had a different feel to it as the tables were arranged by officer positions. I sat at the Treasurers table with D/Lt/C Mel Goldstein, AP. A few of the District's Squadron Treasurers were also present. A very good discussion ensued and I think the Treasurers at this table walked away from lunch with some new ideas on Squadron bookkeeping. The afternoon portion of the meeting had its usual presentations of awards and acknowledgements and if I may, I received a beautiful plaque commemorating my 25 years with 25 merit marks. So now I am a Life Member.

As for the business portion of the meeting, rather than detail it for you, you can read District Secretary D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney's Conference minutes and learn all about the good stuff that went on. The Dinner Dance was lively and a lot of fun. Newly P/D/C Frank (Moammar Gadhafi) DeBaggis, AP, was roasted appropriately by P/D/C Bob Shivokevich, SN, with a montage complete with witty quips. So all in all the Conference from my point of view was a success.

As for me and my District Administrative Department, I intend on making Membership, Membership Involvement, Member Benefits and Operations Training the key focal point of this year. I believe that these four committees go hand in hand and need to work together to ensure that as new members are brought into the fold, they continue to grow with and contribute to their respective Squadrons. With these four committees in mind, I welcome all members of the District to pass on to me all of the programs and ideas that are working for them as well as what is not working, so that we can as a group share the good with the bad and solve the problems together. My email is hasklar@gmail.com and I welcome all to write as often as you like. I also intend on visiting as many of the Squadrons this year as I can. In addition to attending a picnic or outing I would like to be invited to attend one of your General or Excomm meetings and/or an ABC course. I look forward to meeting you; see how your Squadron does things and hearing the good along with problems that are facing you that fall within the scope of the District's Administrative Department. I don't want to be just a name and title that you see on a roster of officers. So feel free to write me and let me know about your events and let's get together.

Respectfully submitted.



Educational Officer: D/Lt/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP

(Although the following is directed to Connecticut boaters, much of the information also holds true for other state boaters as well. - Ed.)

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) concerning the Connecticut Coastal Boater Endorsement Program, which is implemented through a decal to be placed on the Safe Boating Certificate or Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation.

1. THIS IS A MANDATORY PROGRAM, AND THERE IS A CHARGE FOR IT, RIGHT?

No, this is not a mandatory program, and it is free. It is a voluntary effort to recognize and thank those who have taken the extra time to learn more about boating safely in our coastal waters, primarily Long Island Sound.

2. SO THIS ISN'T A LICENSE TO GO OFFSHORE?

No, this is not a license, or even a certificate – it is recognition that a boater has taken an additional course, or an enhanced course, that includes topics important to coastal, or offshore boating.

3. WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PRIOR CERTIFICATE HOLDERS – ARE THEIR CERTIFICATES OUT OF DATE?

No, this is a program that is being implemented beginning with boaters that have taken the more extensive classes after January 1, 2006. It has nothing at all to do with the validity of Safe Boating Certificates or Certificates of Personal Watercraft Operation that are issued by the State before or after that date.

4. WHAT ABOUT RECIPROCITY WITH OTHER STATES?

Right now, this isn't an issue, since no other State has introduced this program, Connecticut is the leader in this area of support for safe boating in coastal, or offshore waters.

5. I BOAT ON A LAKE, AND SOMETIMES A RIVER – AM I PROHIBITED FROM GETTING THIS ENDORSEMENT?

No, you certainly aren't prohibited from taking the more advanced classes that will enable you to get this endorsement; indeed it will surely increase your skills and your competence on the water. On the other hand, this endorsement is intended for people who will be boating on large expanses of open water, such as Long Island Sound.

6. OK THEN WHY IS THE STATE INVOLVED IN ALL THIS – AFTER ALL, WHAT I DO ON MY BOAT IS MY BUSINESS!

You are perfectly correct – it is your business, and boating safety is everyone's business. By encouraging boaters to consider this endorsement, and to get the additional training to secure it, the State is continuing its efforts to encourage safe boating at all levels of involvement, especially on the open waters of Long Island Sound.

(Continued on P. 6.)

(DEO Message continued from P. 5.)

7. BUT THIS ONLY APPLIES TO BOATERS ON LONG ISLAND SOUND – ISN'T THIS SPECIAL LEGISLATION THAT WILL AFFECT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE?

First of all, it's not 'legislation,' or a 'law,' like the CT law that implements the Safe Boating Certificate. This program is an endorsement of more boating education for coastal or offshore boating. It is estimated that there are over 50,000 small craft that operate out of the harbors on the Connecticut shore of Long Island Sound.

8. OK HOW DO I GET THE COASTAL BOATER ENDORSEMENT DECAL FOR MY CERTIFICATE?

All graduates of the boating courses that meet the criteria defined by the State will receive a Coastal Boater Endorsement Decal when they complete their course work and exam. The administrator of the course will let you know if their course meets the State standard for the decal. Typically these will be the multi-session boating 'courses' that include information on charts, weather/marine radio, elements of coastal piloting and electronic navigation.

9. HOW IS THE COASTAL BOATER ENDORSEMENT DECAL AWARDED?

It is issued to the student upon successful completion of the course, by the administrator of the course, so that the decal may be applied to the Safe Boating Certificate or Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation when it is received from the State.

10. WHEN DOES THIS PROGRAM GO INTO EFFECT?

The program is now in effect. It is described in the 2011 Boaters Guide that is prepared by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Boating Division. The program applies to all graduates of qualifying boating courses as of 1/1/2006.

11. BUT WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPERIENCED BOATERS WHO REQUEST AN EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY?

Exceptions to the policy are difficult to administer and apply on an equitable basis. However, procedures may be established by organizations that are conducting the courses that qualify for a Coastal Boater Endorsement Program that meet the overall goal of this program. For example, for the Power Squadron, a person who completed the Boating Course prior to 1/1/2006 may be issued a Coastal Boater Endorsement decal if one of the two conditions below are met:

- they have taken either Seamanship or Piloting after 1/1/2000, the date of the latest course upgrade
- they have taken the Marine Electronics Course at any point.

Other organizations, such as the Coast Guard Auxiliary, may establish criteria for award of the Coastal Boater Endorsement Decal.

(Continued on P. 7.)

(DEO Message continued from P. 6.)

12. DO THE AUXILIARY'S BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE, AND THE SQUARON'S BASIC BOATING (ABC3) COURSE QUALIFY?

Yes they do, since the content has been recognized by the State as meeting the criteria for issuance of the Coastal Boater Endorsement decal. Shorter courses such as the 8-hour, America's Boating Course (ABC) or BoatSmart do not qualify, as they do not include all the required topics, such as marine charts, marine radio, plotting a course, or basic coastal piloting. Other organizations in addition to the Auxiliary and the Squadron may also develop and offer programs that qualify for the Coastal Boater Endorsement.

13. WHAT DO I DO IF I LOOSE THE COASTAL BOATER ENDORSEMENT DECAL?

If you loose your decal you must contact the organization or school that issued the decal for a replacement. You may be required to provide proof of attendance at the course. You should maintain your course completion information in a safe place.

PHOTOS FROM THE 2011 USPS NATIONAL MEETING 1-6 February Lake Buena Vista, FL



Photo credits:
P/D/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
SAIL AND POWER BOATING



District 2

D/C Lacey M. Williams , AP

16 Mayfield Drive
Phone Number 518 373-9890

Clifton Park, NY 12065-1685
Email laceym1936@yahoo.com

17 April 2011

District 2 Membership,

This message is to let each and everyone know that I spoke in error at the Winter Council 26 February 2011.

From the Draft Minutes of that meeting:

The Executive Officer spoke on his attendance to the National Meeting. He attended a luncheon for Commander, Executive Officer's at which the members Coast Guard stated that this year they were giving more money to USPS and that the CGAUX would no longer be teaching boating courses. They are being directed to spend their time on Homeland Security and that USPS should but out their hand to the CGAUX and should treat the CGAUX members as USPS members except with they must become members on-water-courses where they must become members.

The part about no longer teaching boating courses is in error. The error was not intentional and I am sorry for any inconvenience it might have caused.

Respectfully,

D/C Lacey M. Williams, AP

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

2011

22 April, Good Friday.

24 April, Easter Sunday.

8 May, Mother's Day.

20-22 May, D/2 Northern Trek, Lake George, NY.

21 May, Armed Forces Day.

21-27 May, National Safe Boating Week.

30 May, Memorial Day.

8-9 June, Shavuot*.

14 June, Flag Day.

19 June, Father's Day.

4 July, Independence Day.

29-30 July, D/2 Summer Council and Rendezvous, East End Yacht Club, Bridgeport, CT.

5 September, Labor Day.

11-18 September, USPS Governing Board, Greensboro, NC.

29-30 September, Rosh Hashanah*

*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.)