



D/2 NEWS



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

Volume 63

Number 3

October 2011

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Lacey M, Williams Jr., AP

Merit Marks, merit marks, merit marks. As the USPS is a volunteer organization the only "pat on the back" we get for our volunteer service time is a *Merit Mark*. Very important to some members, not so much to others. Nevertheless, as a Squadron Commander it is your duty to handle the merit mark recommendations promptly and even more important properly.

Please give our area MM monitor a break and get the information submitted as soon as possible. You all know what it is like to receive important information at the last minute, absolutely no fun at all. Remember the monitor is another unpaid volunteer that deserves the best job that you can do, so don't delay.

Cdr's, do you want a merit mark for all the work you are doing in 2011? If so, please send a paragraph or two of your accomplishments to D/Lt/C Susan P. Ryan, JN. Do not assume she will know what you have done or are doing this year. I have suggested to Susan that she should not recommend a MM for any Commander that doesn't care enough to let her know what he or she has done or expects to do this year. Cdr's be sure to tell her when you send your Squadron Merit Marks to the Monitor. Remember, if the Squadron's Merit Marks aren't submitted to the Area Monitor, the Squadron Cdr will not receive a Merit Mark.

Bylaws:

In all of District 2, Storm King is the only Squadron with current Bylaws. We have two Squadrons with bylaws that haven't been updated in 19 years, one 18, one 15, two 12, two 7, one 5, two 4, one 2, and three 1 year.

All, except the Storm King Power Squadron, still list Family Members as a membership class although Active and Family Members were unified in the National bylaws on 4 September 2010.

You can find the new *Model Bylaws for Squadrons*, dated February 2011 on line at www.usps.org/national/rules. This model will make changing or updating your bylaws much easier than in the past.

It is well past time to get all of our Squadron bylaws up to date with current information. Please make the effort and get the job done.

(Continued on P. 2.)



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

Greensboro:

The Governing Board meeting was well attended by D/2 members. There are lots of interesting things in the works which should help gain and maintain membership. Take a look at Members Benefits on the USPS website.

Dues to National will increase next year by \$2.00 per Active Member. \$3.00 for Active Member with Family Unit.

Respectfully submitted.

**D/2 Booth
Norwalk, CT boat Show
23-25 September, 2011**



**Photo credit:
D/Lt/C Susan P. Ryan, JN**

(Refer to article on Page 3.)

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, JN
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, JN

Good Show!

The Norwalk Boat Show held in September combined all three elements of USPS – Education, Fraternity and Community Service. . . . and it was so much more; it also was a source of ideas.

Education:

District 2 collated a list of all courses from Squadrons manning the booth to hand out to visitors. District Educational Officer D/Lt/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP, brought in the Bullex laser fire extinguisher and was indefatigable in demonstrating it. The attraction pulled in countless passers-by – and even a few fire fighters had fun with it. Once at the booth, USPS members could then discuss our courses and membership.

Fraternity:

Headed by 1/Lt Michael A. Brown, SN, District's Boat Show Committee Chair, there were 35 people from eight Squadrons who pulled together for this effort. The Squadrons were Darien, Greenwich, Lake Candlewood, Norwalk, Penfield (including Housatonic), Saugatuck River, Stamford, Storm King, and Westchester (including Cross County). Norwalk's SEO Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, P, made sure the members were in the right place at the right time. During the show itself it was a treat to see so many USPS members helping, talking to each other, and enjoying the exhibition.

Community Service:

USPS members mingled with local boaters and boating organizations, offering tips on equipment and safety and making contacts such as those to help the Coast Guard with vessel safety checks.

Value added:

On a personal level, I came away with some great contacts. Among my 'to do' list are:

- Contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary www.uscga.edu and invite them to squadron events.
- Ask the National Weather Service to give us a presentation on weather at a monthly meeting okx.webmaster@noaa.gov
- Check out Ross Marine Ideas for personalized drinkware, apparel, custom fitted sheets, etc. They can put your boat onto stationery. www.Rossmarineideas.com 800 327 8927
- Think about getting several squadrons to have a Pirate Beach Club party on board the Island Belle www.theislandbelle.com 754 242 7837.
- Order a personal boat flag from The Sailbag Lady sailbaglady@sbcglobal.net 203 245 8238
- Check into possibility of advertising in Windcheck. Ads may be expensive but we can get information on our classes in the Calendar section for free (email by the 10th of the month contactus@windcheckmagazine.com. . . and maybe send them an article to publish. It will get us name recognition via a publication with increasing distribution.
- Ask the D/2 Safety Officer his view on Siren Marine's systems to monitor alerts for problems on board such as low fuel levels that text to your phone.

On a very, very sad note, this was the last time that we saw our Laura, wife of Greenwich's Safety Officer Lt Andrew M. Cummings, JN. They were at the Show Sunday afternoon and she passed away suddenly that evening, shortly before her 57th birthday. Our hearts go out to Andy. We will all miss her very much.

Respectfully submitted.

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

Greetings and Salutations.

As my report to the Summer Council 30 July 2011 was unfortunately lost in cyber space I have decided to begin this message with my report.

The goal of your Administrative Department, this bridge year, is to concentrate on three key committees within the department that make squadrons, district, and national a viable entity. These three keys are: Membership, Membership Involvement, and Membership Benefits. You are probably asking yourselves why Membership Benefits is a key. I look at Membership Benefits as more than a committee to create and/or inform members of discounts on commercial companies' products or wares. The Membership Benefit Committee at the squadron level should be concentrating their efforts along with the Membership Involvement Committee on a much wider scope. Their focus should be what benefits the squadron has to offer to its members. These benefits should include: Informative and interesting topics and speakers at general meetings; increased educational opportunities; community service projects; and most importantly fellowship and camaraderie.

With this in mind I have begun to contact all of the Administrative Officers within the District to find out how my department can continue the dialogue initiated by my predecessors to find out what is working for them and what is not working. While it is important that we share the good ideas and programs with each other, it is just as important to explore the problems that we all are facing especially in maintaining our current membership and getting new and senior members involved in Squadron activities and functions.

By sharing with each other and with the various District departments and officers, we can all come together to promote the good ideas that are working throughout the District. We also need to aid each other in finding solutions to what is not working or did not turn out as we hoped and planned. We have all spent a considerable amount of time and energy preparing and planning these events with the thought that they would be successful. The key is finding out why we failed.

As I have repeatedly stated, I intend on visiting and participating in many of the District's Squadron events. In my short time in office, I have attended seven Squadron events. These included a community service project, an informative General Meeting with a speaker, and a Change of Watch, just to name a few. I have learned in my brief time as your Administrative Officer that all of our Squadrons operate quite differently although their common goal is the same.

I believe it is important that we change the mentality of doing the same things the same way over and over year after year. The world is in constant change, and our thinking and ideas have to keep current with the changing times. This is the only way we will be able to improve upon and better our organization.

Please seek me out and express to me how we at the District level can be of service to you and your Squadron. So, this was the report I had intended being in your seat packets.

Since the Summer Council I attended my first Governing Board in many years on 14 thru 17 September in Greensboro, North Carolina along with my travelling companion and roommate P/D/C Jeff Gerwig, AP. Along with Jeff and I, thirteen other District 2 members attended.

At the Governing Board on Wednesday and Thursday I participated in two leadership training courses - SAO & SXO. The Squadron Administrative Officer course was taught by our very own talented P/D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, while the Squadron Executive Officer course was taught by District 8's Anita Walker.

Both classes were very informative, interesting and extremely worthwhile to any member of USPS and especially those of you who intend to be members of your Squadron's bridge or Executive Committee.

(Continued on P. 5.)

(DAO Message continued from P. 4.)

One of the many things that I took away from the courses is the fact that too many of our squadron officers throughout USPS take on their jobs (positions) without any formal training on how to perform the duties of their office or have the slightest notion of their job description.

It is my opinion these two courses are a must for incoming squadron officers as the management and people skills learned are invaluable and beneficial. That these skills when mastered can be used much more than just in USPS is a plus.

I would suggest to all that these two courses will make an extremely big difference in how successfully you will perform the duties of your office. Your squadron depends on you being the best that you can be.

Remember to bring the winners of your Youth Poster Contest to the Fall Conference for judging. The Youth Poster Contest Awards are given by Woody Boarman of Vero Beach Sail and Power Squadron in hopes that this poster contest will further youth appreciation of the water and how safe boating is fun boating.

The Youth Poster Contest is open to all children ages 6 to 14. The first place award is \$150, second place award is \$100 and the third place award is \$75. The contest has three age groups: 1) 6 - 8 years old, 2) 9 - 11 years old and 3) 12 - 14 years old. For more contest information check the CD's that were produced and distributed by P/D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, at the Summer Council or go to the USPS website <http://www.usps.org/national/membership/youth/poster.htm>.

I look forward to seeing and greeting all of you at the District's Fall Conference being held in Danbury, Connecticut on 28 thru 30 October.

Respectfully submitted.

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



Practical On The Water Training

On The Water Training has become the theme for our National organization in the past few months. At the Greensboro Governing Board meeting in September we were briefed on the many ways that this initiative is on the move.

One seminar that will be available for us in the 2012 boating season is **PRACTICAL ON THE WATER TRAINING**.

It will be in the course and seminar catalog listing shortly, but it is already being presented to the public this fall - in Annapolis and in Baltimore. By the time this note is published, the course

will have been presented over 10 times at these venues. Since this course is for Members and Non-Members alike - the Squadrons will be able to get a good deal of public notice for the events, since any on-the-water activity is a natural for publicity pictures and generous news coverage.

PRACTICAL ON WATER TRAINING is an eight hour seminar, offering a perfect and balanced combination of classroom training and hands on, On The Water Training.

The seminar provides explanation of how one's boat handles, and why.

(Continued on P. 6.)

(DEO Message continued from P. 5.)

In-class film clips let students visualize the maneuvers prior to their experiencing them on the water. The seminar covers:

- the use of lines
- departing the dock
- operating in a fairway
- pivoting
- mooring
- backing
- docking
- steering - slalom
- holding course - range, and
- a quick stop.

Included is a copy of Powerboat Handling Illustrated, the manual for the seminar, a course DVD, a Student manual, and a complimentary Tee Shirt for students to wear while being trained and to acknowledge that you took the training.

MSRP pricing for the course is \$200 and the cost to the Squadron is \$124. After Squadron expense it is anticipated to yield ~\$40 per student. Although the price will be significantly higher than the usual in-classroom courses that we are accustomed to, the price will be within the range of similar courses that are offered by commercial companies. In short - we should be "warned" that the price will not be cheap - because it will be set at a price-point to allow National to recover its development costs, and to fund future operations of a similar nature.

As further information becomes available, I will forward it to you. However, this is the time to begin planning to present this one day seminar in your community: line up the classroom and dock-space, along with a suitable craft for the on-the-water component. (Please note that concerns about insurance coverage for the individuals who volunteer their craft for use in this course have been well-addressed, and are available for review at your request. The coverage for this on-the-water seminar is virtually the same as offered for the Boat Operator Certification program - and it has been in effect for the past year. The program has been tested, via claims that have been presented, and paid off without difficulty on a timely basis. In short - the insurance program is in effect, and working well.)

So, now is the time to begin planning for the **PRACTICAL ON THE WATER TRAINING** to be presented by your Squadron next year - think: 6 months from now - is that time enough to organize your program?

The answer should be: "YES!"



Photo credit
D/Lt/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP

**Photos from Summer Council
30 July 2011, East End Yacht Club
Bridgeport, CT**



**D/Lt/C
Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP**



**Lt/C Frank Palmieri, JN
& Lt/C Paul Okura
Westchester S & PS**



D/Lt/C Howard Sklar, AP



D/Lt/C Susan Ryan, JN



D/C Lacey Williams, AP



**P/C Denise Terry, S
Sacandaga PS**



Some of the 'gang'

**Photo credits
P/D/C Martin Feldberg, AP**

P/R/C Anne S. Peskin, SN

I was a City girl brought up on the Upper Westside of Manhattan between 82nd and 100th Street where I attended public school, Hunter High, and Hunter College. I finally got away to Brown University for my masters and earned my doctorate from NYU nine years after I was married. My father had told me to take any major but that I had to take education courses. In my day the opportunities for women were nursing or teaching. He was right, for I went from teaching Junior High School to Assistant Principal to College Professor.



When Bernard and I decided to go into boating we were advised to take the Power Squadron Basic Boating course before we bought a boat. So in the fall of 1956 we took the course, joined the North River Power Squadron and in February bought our first boat - a 26-foot Richardson powerboat - having mentally gone from a 19-foot outboard. By spring we had finished Seamanship and started proctoring Basic Boating. That was the beginning of a love affair for we continued year by year to take all the remaining courses that lead to senior navigator. We started teaching Advanced Piloting in New York until 1970 and in 1969 we moved to Stamford and continued teaching there. It was only Bernard who got the merit marks. Women were not members; we got kisses as recognition!

I was presented with the title SN the year women were admitted (I had finished the courses years ago). The next year I became Treasurer and in 1989 became the first woman Commander of the Stamford Power Squadron. I was watched carefully by the Past Commanders each step of the way.

I think you know the rest. We continued to buy boats; first a 32-foot powerboat, then a 28-foot sailboat and finally a 32-foot sailboat Forever Annber. We sailed up as far as Maine and on a friend's boat as far as Trinidad. I became ADEO, DEO, AVC of Supplementary Materials for National and finally VC. I believe my greatest accomplishment has been to shepherd the children's program through National. I took the program and made it work in Stamford. Working with the Young Mariners' program for the past ten years, each year D/Lt/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP, and I go to eight schools and work with 4th and 5th grade children for two sessions on boating. This year I will be teaching Advanced Piloting for the Consortium. My teaching background and love of the sea have given me the opportunity to share my interests in pirates, lighthouses, and history of navigational instruments with a number of Squadrons over the years.

As I look back Bernie and I have learned, applied our learning, shared our knowledge, had a great social life, made lifelong friends and lived boating summer and winter. All I can say is: "Try it - you'll like it."





United States Power Squadrons®
DISTRICT 2 FALL CONFERENCE 2011
 Hosted by
Lake Candlewood Power Squadron
 Friday and Saturday, October 28-29, 2011



The Ethan Allen Inn
 21 Lake Avenue Extension
 Danbury, CT 06810
 203-744-1776

Friday: 3:00 pm Registration begins
 5:00 pm Social Gathering
 7:00 pm Dinner with the Chief Commander's Representative

Saturday: 8:00 am Registration/ Coffee
 9:00 am Morning Session begins
 12:00 Lunch Break
 1:30 pm Afternoon Session begins
 6:00 pm to 7:00 Cocktail hour
 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm Dinner and Dancing

Social Program Update

Dress: Fri. Dinner – Blazers, Sat. Meeting - Uniform G or appropriate attire, Sat Dinner – Uniform A or appropriate evening attire.

REGISTRATION FORM

1 st Registrant Name _____	Grade _____	Rank _____	Position _____
Address _____	Phone _____	Squadron _____	
City, State & Zip _____	Email: _____		
2 nd Registrant Name _____	Grade _____	Rank _____	Position _____
Room (double or single) with Full Buffet Breakfast	Fri _____ Sat _____	Total No. of Nights _____	@ \$ 114 = \$ _____
Friday Dinner	No. of Dinners _____	@ \$ 42 =	\$ _____
Sat. Coffee & Luncheon:	No. of Coffee/Lunch _____	@ \$ 23 =	\$ _____
Saturday hors d'oeuvres & Dinner Choices	No. of Dinners _____	@ \$ 70 =	\$ _____
Filet Mignon _____	Chicken Saltimbocca _____	Eggplant Rollatini (Vegetarian) _____	
Social Program & Lunch- Gardening with Colleen Plimpton		@ \$ 30 =	\$ _____
Social Program Only- Gardening with Colleen Plimpton		@ \$ 10 =	\$ _____
Late fee if postmarked after Oct 15 th for meals		\$ 10.00 =	\$ _____
First timer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE	\$ _____

Please note the introduction of the Social Program information

*Please make checks payable to Lake Candlewood Power Squadron and mail with this registration form to:
 Room Reservations must be made by: September 15, 2011
 Meal Reservations must be made by: October 4 15, 2011
 Marie Starnes Address: 1407 Eaton Ct, Danbury, CT 06811
 Phone: 203-730-0805 email: starnesm57@gmail.com*

Form Date 26 September 2011

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

- 10 October, Columbus Day.
- 6 November, Daylight Savings Time ends.
- 11 November, Veterans Day.
- 24 November, Thanksgiving Day.
- 7 December, Pearl Harbor Day.
- 20 December, Hanukkah begins*.
- 25 December, Christmas Day.
- 26 December, Kwanzaa begins.

2012

- 1 January, New Year's Day.
- 16 January, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- 20 February, Presidents' Day.
- 22 February, Ash Wednesday.
- 11 March, Daylight Savings Time begins.
- 17 March, St Patrick's Day.
- 1 April, Palm Sunday.
- 6 April, Good Friday.
- 7 April, First Day of Passover*.

*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.)