



D/2 NEWS



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

Volume 67

Number 1 June 2015

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Gino C. Bottino, M.D.,AP

It is that busy time of year again, especially for us boaters. Since my appointment as District Commander, I have not had a day where USPS business was not conducted. Not only is it the time a year when everybody wants to have a meeting, get reports at work done, set goals for work, have the many events, but as boaters we need to get our crafts ready for the new season. Just this last week I have managed to get my boat in the water. Then I left for Block Island where I volunteered myself and my boat as race committee member, for Block Island Race Week. Daily wearing my USPS branding and (only when asked) told them all about USPS!



I went to Norwalk's Change of Watch, then a week later we had our own Squadron's COW with the new Squadron Commander, Alvin Hebert, AP, sworn in by Executive officer D/Lt/C Vincent J. Evans, P. Vince did a great job and had good words to say to the Squadron members. As out-going Commander, I talked (too much) about the future of USPS while Al talked about what was planned for Stamford.

Darien organized a District Commander's round table session for the Southern Squadrons which was held at P/C Frank Kemp's home in Noroton. The local turnout was good with great discussions about where USPS is going and how District can help. I think it may be worth while having the Power Point slides I used for the Commander's talk up on the web for people to view; and I will have it posted. The Memorial Day parade at the end of Safe Boating Week in Stamford was a big event with thousands of onlookers. Walking, waving, and towing a boat; we participated showing off the USPS colors. Things just could not be busier!

In early June we had Young Mariner's Day at Stamford Yacht Club and the next weekend I was chief judge for the Viper and Sonar North Americans at Noroton YC. I wore all USPS stuff over the weekend and worked with Frank Kemp again who is a member and on their Safety Committee. Then I left for Block Island.

One of my main goals is to spend more time visiting Squadrons in the District and listening to what members have to say. Especially what they feel is needed for their Squadron, or thoughts on the District, and if we can help. I hope to be seeing you soon and will be asking you for your advice and input.

As D/2 Commander, I am tasked to communicate often with Squadron Commanders, discussing their goals and what District and National can do for them. District is the conduit between National and the Squadrons, going in both directions of communications.

In conjunction with the Planning Committee, we will try to involve more of the Squadron Commanders and their SEO's in our Council meetings. We want it to be more of an open meeting where ideas can be shared and everybody gets a chance to speak and express their viewpoints. Stay tuned for detail on this.

I would also like Squadrons submitting more proposals at meetings. We all have ideas how to make things work better. The process in USPS, to bring forward ideas, is through the proposing of resolutions. While on the Bridge I have seen very few resolutions coming from the Squadrons. I am not sure why this is. Do we just think there is nothing that can be done to make changes that will matter? Or are we stagnant in our approach and afraid to make changes? In my Commander's Address I stated that if we do not change we will die as an organization. This concept is true in business, in academics, and in general life. It is up to us all to find ways to change the organization for the better and through this process is how to do it. Discuss this with your Bridges and Boards and see if you cannot think of things to propose.

(Continued on P. 2)

(Cdr's Message continued from P. 1)

On a National and District level we are having Legislative issues in education. NASBLA, through the states, has rescinded past approval of our boating course. Now each state is requiring re-submission for approval of the ABC class material. National is working on a nationwide solution; but in the mean time we have to go state by state. At the same time the states are seeing boating classes as a way to increase revenues; implementing their own classes ashore, on line on the web, and even "On the Water" training classes. I believe that this is a misguided view and will not achieve what is really needed; which is high level training to insure safe operation of boats. At the Norwalk Boat Show, Connecticut will roll out its own "On the Water" training classes. They are only scheduled for a few hours, and it is not clear if the certificate that goes with the class will have NASBLA validation or not.

Having competition is not new news to us at USPS. If anything more and more we are seeing different groups giving classes. How we compete is simply to continue to offer the best training available. The trend to provide quick and easy certifications and classes has to fail. Why? Because these quick and easy classes do not provide the necessary training to really make for a safe boater. This doesn't mean we cannot streamline our classes, and offer multi-modality learning by incorporating at home learning and Web based learning along with classroom and on the water training. We do need to modernize our teaching methods to provide for what the modern student wants. But that doesn't mean we need to dumb down the education. As for on the water training, it simply takes time to get a student comfortable at the helm; it will not meet the expectation of the Coast Guard to give a few hours on the water and certify the student as basically capable. A few hours gets you nothing!

Another important National issue are the new proposed membership categories. Family memberships will go away (if you have one they are grandfathered in), and there will just be one price. Other ideas may be proposed and nothing will happen until it is put to a vote. Tell me and the Bridge what you think so that we can bring this back to National this fall at the Governing Board in San Diego.

Before the next newsletter comes out I will be seeing you at the Summer Council. Rather, I hope I will be seeing you there. I would like you all to make an effort to come. We need your participation and ideas. We and the Planning Committee are working hard to make it a better experience while still fulfilling the requirements of the bylaws. Each one of us is important and has a contribution to make!

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

Photos from 2015 D/2 Spring Conference, Stamford, CT



**D/1st/Lt Karl M.
Wagner, AP**



**D/C Gino C. Bottino, M.D., AP
and
Jr. P/D/C Denise A. Terry, 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.

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Executive Officer: D/Lt/C Vincent J. Evans, P



It seems that I have been on the go since the beginning of March. We had our COW at Storm King Squadron on 11 March, 2015. Since it is my second term as Commander we kept it at low level. P/D/C Howard A. Sklar, AP, was kind enough to join us and officiate at the proceedings.

I attended the Winter Council meeting on 14 March. The following day I officiated at the COW for Sacandaga Power Squadron. A nice brunch was provided at the Fortune Restaurant, on the grounds of the Saratoga Harness Track. I installed Michael Van Buren, AP as Commander. My wife, Paulette, and I were introduced to some of the Sacandaga Squadron members that we had not yet met at previous affairs. This was my first installation as a D/2 Officer.

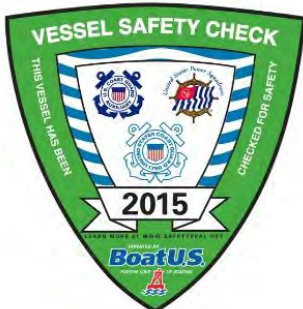
On 17 and 18 April, I participated in the D/2 COW at the Stamford Hilton. Commander Gino C. Bottino, AP was installed as D/C, by USPS National Representative, R/C Ben Coons, JN-CN. I became the Executive Officer.

I attended the Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron COW on 26 April, as a guest. P/R/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, was installed as the new Commander for 2015. I met quite a few of the members and was able to speak with them for quite a while. Some of the members had just returned from wintering in Florida, and were happy to see that most of the existing snow had melted the previous week.

In May, I was asked to officiate at the COW for Stamford Sail and Power Squadron. I installed Alvin Hebert, AP, as the new Commander. I first met Al at the Operations Training Class in December. Again I had the opportunity to meet some members that I had not previously met. The conversations are always enlightening. P/R/C Ann S. Peskin, SN, closed out the meeting with an excellent photo presentation on her recent cruise to South America, and the rounding of the Cape Horn.

I attended a meeting of the Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club Association on 26 May. The meeting was hosted by the Newburgh Yacht Club. HRBYCA is a member organization of over 35 Hudson River Marinas and Clubs who are located on the Hudson River. I had heard many good things about the association. I just received a membership application to join HRBYCA. I am planning on joining as a representative of District 2. Our interaction could be beneficial to both organizations.

Somehow during this time I was able to prepare my sailboat for launching, get her into the water, and tied to the dock. Paulette helped me get the sails on in 20 knot breezes; I have put some of my canvas on and replaced a few worn out zippers. I may get to sail her before the end of the month.



Educational Officer: Stf/C Carl E. Filios, JN

How Time Flies



As I begin my third year as DEO (after three years as ADEO), it's hard to believe that I started on this path a little over five years ago. During those five years, in addition to attending District 2 conferences and councils, I've been fortunate to attend events at District 1, District 3, District 4, and District 6, in addition to the National meetings. Networking is an important part of the job, because it gives you people you can ask for help or advice, as well as the ability to provide the same to others.

I believe that I have now attended an event at all of the Squadrons in District 2, although it took until recently to make it to Saugatuck River.

I'm looking forward to the Governing Board in San Diego, because I've never been there. By going out early, I will have the opportunity to do a little sightseeing, including a trip to the zoo. I'm also hoping to stick at least one foot into the Pacific Ocean. It's not all fun, because Thursday through Saturday are meetings, and the plane trip back gets in late on Sunday night. Right now, a lot of my time is spent on trying to get our National web site updated. If you have comments or suggestions about what you're seeing, please let me know. We have a long way to go

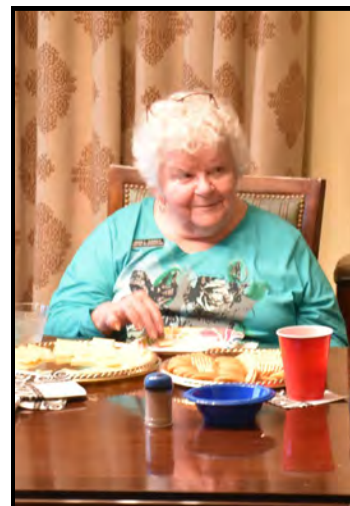
I'm hoping that this year we will get one or more Chapman Award submissions from our Squadrons, as well as another entry for the teaching aid competition in Orlando. If you've had an instructor recently that you thought was exceptional, ask your SEO to begin collecting the paperwork required to submit the instructor's name for the Chapman Award competition. It's one way we can recognize our top instructors.

Have a good summer, and I hope to see you at an upcoming District 2 or Squadron event.

More photos



P/R/C Nina Anastasio, SN, R/C Guy J. Anastasio, SN,
P/R/C Anne S. Peskin, SN and P/D/Lt/C Edward V. Weber, SN



P/R/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

Administrative Officer: D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch, AP



Hello everyone I'm back! I am not sure if that is a good thing or not. A lot of things have changed; all for the better I might add since I was last on the D/2 Bridge. We are using "Go to Meeting" as a method of having bridge meetings which I find to be informative and very helpful. I understand that this tool has been used to hold VSC and instructor classes as well. Soon we will be running an electronic meeting in that when the weather is bad a District meeting can still be held. All of this is just outstanding and it is great to see that USPS has moved from the 19th to the 21st century.

However with the new tools come the same age old problems: falling membership, aging membership and so on. The fortunate thing for me is that I have a team of very dedicated members who agreed to "ship over" to this administration and help me out as I take on the job as Admin Officer. For that I cannot thank all of these members enough. As we go through the year I will be calling on you to help me out.

As I was reading our Commander's list of items I am responsible for, I noticed that one of the responsibilities was with member benefits. The last time I was on the National web site I noticed that there are a quite a few listed. My first question to the membership is; Do they interest you? Are they something that a younger member would be interested in. I don't know many 40+ year olds people who are looking for Long Term care as a benefit. Maybe reduced cost to charter a boat in the Caribbean but not reduce or no insurance cost colonoscopies. But that is just me.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you all again at a meeting or picnic or raft up. Until then, stay safe when you are on the water have fun and enjoy the season.

Still more photos



**P/D/C Fred P. Mangelsdorf, SN and
P/C William F. Gratz, SN**



**R/C Ben Coons, JN-CN,
D/C Gino C. Bottino, MD, AP and
P/D/C Harrison R. Valante, SN**

"Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends"SM

Submitted by D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP

Dear Commander and Education Officer:

My name is Jay Jacobs. I have been a maritime lawyer for more than 35 years, and written a nonfiction book entitled *The Widow Wave*. It is the true story of the worst recreational fishing boat accident that ever happened in San Francisco's long maritime history.



Five men went in October through the Golden Gate for a day of salmon fishing. Their boat, *Aloha*, was never seen or heard from again. There were no survivors or witnesses to whatever happened. Subsequently, a lawsuit was filed by the widow of one of the passengers against the widow of the boat's owner, claiming that her husband negligently operated or maintained the boat. I was asked to defend her.

With no eyewitnesses, the three week jury trial centered on the testimony of both sides' expert witnesses on safe navigation and wave formation. The most likely explanation for the loss of the boat was that it was cap-sized and immediately sunk by a Coincident Wave. These waves differ from the deep ocean Rogue Waves that were so vividly portrayed in *The Perfect Storm*.

Coinciding Waves occur near to shore on the lee side of islets and submerged bars, typical to coastlines everywhere. These little known waves probably cost the five men onboard the *Aloha* their lives.

Where. When and Why these waves occur, and what boaters can do to avoid putting themselves in a position of danger. is explained in the book, not as a confusing 'lecture by a professor', but in the plain language the experts used in the trial. Reading about these waves in *The Widow Wave* will enable your members to educate boaters on how to avoid these deadly waves.

I have spoken about Coincident Waves at the annual meeting of the Bay Area Power Squadrons (District 25), the District 16 Educational Officer's Annual Meeting in Seattle, and the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco, amongst other venues.

A number of boating and sailing groups have selected *The Widow Wave* as a book club read, and are using it as a boating safety text book.

Please see the reference in the 2015 winter issue of *The Ensign*, about the book, and visit my website www.thewidowwave.com for the endorsements, bio, and some photographs.

While on book tour recently in San Francisco, another incident occurred just 15 miles from where the *Aloha* sank. Four more people died. I hope educating boaters and sailors about these dangerous waves will save lives.

The Widow Wave is available through Amazon and your local book stores.

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”SM

Legislative Officer, P/D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP.

Just one announcement:

New York State now will accept passing of an on-line boating course as meeting all requirements for a safe boating certificate. The question came up recently, whether a proctored exam was still required. On speaking to a representative from the New York State Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation, I was told that the on-line course includes an exam after each unit. Upon passing each unit exam, and completing the course, the student may pay on-line for a temporary certificate. A permanent certificate will be mailed.

The above capability will probably cut into our potential pool of students for our ABC classes. Considering that we have a hard enough time now in attracting students (and potential members), we will have to work harder. More and better advertising and publicity should help.



And Still More Photos



**P/C Sid Blum, AP and
P/D/C Jeffrey C. Gerwig, AP**



P/D/C Harrison R. Valante, SN



P/D/C Suzanne P. Nentwich, AP



Norma A. Gerwig

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”SM

Four Silver Bullets for Successful Public Boating Classes

I. RELATIONSHIPS

II. PRODUCT

III. VENUE

IV. MARKETING

I. RELATIONSHIPS

The more friends you have in the boating community, and the more you include them in your activities and attend theirs, the easier it is to hold good public boating courses. Some of ours in Greenwich have been the First Selectman, our State Senator, State Representatives, Chief of Police, head of Parks and Rec at Town Hall, the Harbormaster, commodores of yacht clubs, and the owner of a local marina. All open doors for us.

II. PRODUCT

The Educational Department has honed a great one-day ABC3 class which is very interactive and so engages the students while giving even the more tedious parts of the class. Giving the materials to students ahead of time (and collecting payment at the same time) means they are well prepared, and also reduces the 'no-shows'. Having a very knowledgeable and extremely dynamic lead instructor (SEO Andy Cummings) aided by expert 'table monitors' when we have more than 10 students, is paramount. And we always include good refreshments!

III. VENUE

We have three venues that give more than just somewhere to hold a class:

1. A town cottage on the beach means students can have their breaks outside by the water, and we can use the town's newsletter for our publicity.
2. The new training facility at Police Headquarters has state of the art audio visual equipment, room for 60 students, and means we can use the police publicity. Having permission from the Chief of Police to put on publicity that the class is 'endorsed by the marine police' is priceless.
3. The boat showroom of a local marina. Three boats made a great backdrop to our class, and in the breaks students climbed into them. Chapter One was made all the more interesting when we could point to the gunwale and explain the freeboard, etc. on an actual boat.

IV. MARKETING

We collect contact information of everyone we encounter from the boating community on our 'Marketing List' kept on Constant Contact. These receive three notices of our ABC3 classes.

Two big banners are put on a local railroad bridge that leads to a big boating area.

We ask key people in yacht clubs, parks and rec, marine police, marinas to send our e-flyer to THEIR lists. Flyers are distributed to boating areas — but we rely less on these as we increase the distribution of e-flyers.

Greenwich's June ABC3 class contributed to all three aspects of the United States Power Squadrons®.

Education: Teaching ABC3 was the reason we were there.

Community: The class was instigated at the request of the High School Boating Safety Club formed after the tragic tubing accident last year; it included Young Mariners (YMF) — underprivileged teenagers who had gone through the YMF program and needed their safe boating certificate before working there for the summer. High school students enjoyed the fast pace that Andy set.

Fellowship: With the Marina's staff and members dropping by, a few guest speakers, and a definite upbeat atmosphere, and with boats all around us, friendships were renewed and friendships were made.

Photos Submitted by P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN



**Lt/C Andrew M. Cummings, JN
Teaching an ABC3 Class**



**Greg Goldstein, president of
high school safe boating club,
teaching trailering.**



Part of the ABC3 class.

**And Still More Photos
From 2015 Spring Conference**



**Stf/C Carl E. Filios, JN,
Jr. P/D/C Denise A. Perry, AP
and R/C Ben Cooms, JN-CN**



D/Lt/C Vincent J. Evans, P



**Lt Robert D. Nelson, JN
And P/C Leonore W. Nelson, JN**



**Merle LeBlanc and
Lt George Friend, P**



D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP



**Just sitting around the table
meal time.**



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

D/2 Summer Council

Saturday, 01 August 2015

Held at the I84 Diner 853 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524-1561

PHONE – 845.896.6537



The cost for the day is \$27 - includes continental breakfast, full Lunch and breaks. The room is located on the left side of the I84 Diner, park on the left and use either the side entrance or the front.

General Directions:

- **From: South.** Take the NY State Thruway (Interstate 87) North to Exit 17 (Route 17K) - follow the directions from the West below.

or

Take the Taconic State Parkway to Interstate 84 W - follow the directions from the East below.

- **From: North.** Take the New York Thruway (Interstate 87) South. Take the Route 17K exit, Exit 17 toward Newburgh/Stewart Airport. Merge onto Interstate 84 East. Take Exit 12 (Route 52 - Fishkill). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right and right again into the I84 Diner parking lot.
- **From: East.** Take Interstate 84 West. Take Exit 12 (Route 52 - Fishkill). At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Route 52 South. After the underpass, turn right into the I84 Diner parking lot.
- **From: West.** Take Interstate 84 East. Take Exit 12 (Route 52 - Fishkill). At the end of the ramp, turn right and right again into the I84 Diner parking lot.

Registration will begin at 0830

Reservations must be received by **21 July 2015** - Late Registration fee: **\$5.00**

Mail reservations and payment to:

P/D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

7 Hutchinson Lane

Lenox, MA 01240-2217

Questions? Call (413) 637-2275 or susan@darcy-systems.com

CUT & MAIL

District 2 Summer Council

Due Date 21 July 2015

First Registrant Name _____ Grade _____ Rank/Position _____

Second Registrant Name _____ Grade _____ Rank/Position _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Squadron: _____

Email: _____ Confirmation of reservations will be sent via Email.

LUNCH: \$27.00 PER PERSON

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: USPS District 2 Amount Enclosed _____

Please note *ALL* checks should be made out to *USPS District 2*.

And still more photos



2014-2015 Bridge



D/C Gino C. Bottino, M.D., AP



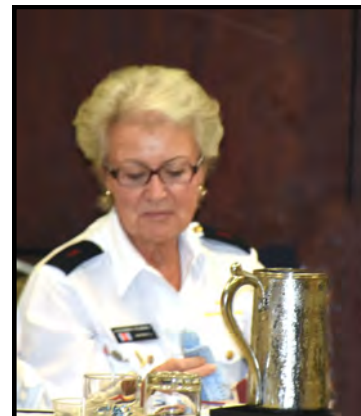
Jr. P/D/C Denise A. Terry, AP



P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN



**R/C George R.
Hallenbeck, AP**



**P/Lt/C Alexandra D.
Digilio-Feldberg, P**

D/2 NEWS

**c/o Lt Melvin Goldstein, AP
64 Cherrywood Road
Yonkers, NY 10710-1102**

Address Correction Requested



Sail and Power Boating



D/2 Planning CALENDAR

2015

- 14 June, Flag Day.
- 18 June, Ramadan Begins.
- 21 June, Father's Day.
- 21 June, First day of Summer.
- 04 July, Independence Day.
- 18 July, End of Ramadan.
- 26 July, Parents' Day.
- 25-30 August, USPS Governing Board, San Diego, CA.
- 7 September, Labor Day.
- 11 September, Patriot Day.
- 13 September, Grandparents Day.
- 14-15 September, Rosh Hashanah.*
- 23 September, Yom Kippur *
- 23 September, First Day of Autumn.
- 25 September, Native American Day.
- 12 October, Columbus Day.
- 31 October, Halloween.
- 1 November, Daylight Savings Time ends.

***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.)