



# D/2 NEWS



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

Volume 68

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## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Vincent J. Evans, AP

Greetings Fellow Squadron Members,

In addition to my Squadron duties, I have been involved with our District 2 for the last four years. Three years ago, I was nominated for the position of Admin Officer. I moved up to become the D/2 Commander at the Spring Conference/COW on 2 April. In the last four years, I have come to know many of the members that attend the Council and Conference meetings. They have welcomed me and have graciously offered assistance and guidance.



I want to thank my wife, Paulette for the many hours that she has put in reviewing my correspondence, running errands and attending National Meetings with me. I owe a lot to Martin and Alexandra Feldberg. They were able to go with Paulette and I on the initial meetings to obtain information from the Ramada. Martin negotiated favorable pricing for the facilities and menu choices. Alexandra and Martin have done this before and their experience was invaluable.

In planning for the Spring Conference, I learned that there is a lot of work that goes into the process. The District Council and Conference Committee is committed to the planning of our meetings. They have had to go through a similar process every six months. I have thanked them personally and would like to do so publicly. The newly appointed C&C committee is already hard at work as they plan for the Spring Council meeting and the Fall Conference.

Regarding the Summer Council meeting, it has been decided that we will have the meeting on 23 July, 2016. It will be at a Danbury (CT) park facility known as Tarrywile Park. The park was a former estate that encompasses 722 acres. Most of the land is open to the public for hiking, boating and fishing. There are a couple of ponds and a small lake. We will have access to the "Red Barn" which has been renovated for use as an educational facility. We will conduct the normal Council meeting in a two-hour time frame and the rest of the day will be for social activities. A clambake is being planned, games and a "blind dinghy race". It should be a great time for all who attend. The details will be announced soon along with the registration information.

I want to change the subject before I show signs of rambling on. I have a feeling that my year as D/2 Commander will go by too quickly. I have decided to keep my goals simple and hopefully attainable. I want to get to better know the D/2 Squadrons and their members. I feel that you serve people by knowing them and their needs. I had sent a letter a couple of weeks ago to all the Squadron Commanders. I told them of my intention to visit each Squadron at least twice before my term ends. I would like to see them for a regular meeting and maybe a social event. I told them that I like to take a hands-on approach or a face to face depending on the situation.

(Continued on P.2.)

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

Another thing I want to address is the District's budget and funding. I will be in contact with the Budget and Finance Committee in the next couple of weeks to see what can be done to review out-of-date line items in the budget before its presentation to the Summer Council.

I chose as my theme for the COW, "Throw me your line, make a friend and become a mentor". The analogy is whether you are in a marina, or in a parking lot take a few minutes to lend a hand to a fellow boater. Strike up a conversation with the person and let him/her know that you are a member of the US Power Squadron. The chances are that he/she may not know what our organization is all about. If you make a connection with a novice boater, there is a chance that he/she may be interested in learning more about boating education and the safety aspects. Most of us know that membership recruitment is an on-going problem.

This last statement is to the members that we rarely or never see. I would like to speak with you or at least hear from you. I would like to know if what enticed you into joining the organization is still meaningful to you. If you have been turned off by something, I would like to know about that too. Over the last few years, we have changed our structure somewhat to provide a variable meeting agenda and introduce the members to outside speakers. We want to continue to provide you with the latest in training regarding the updates and new course formats that USPS National is producing. The Bridge would like to hear from you to learn what you would be interested in. We have also kept in mind that there have been traditional values that we want to continue to uphold.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

Warm regards.

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### Some boating trivia submitted by P/D/C Susan Ryan, JN

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails. —William Arthur Ward

The cure for anything is saltwater—sweat, tears, or the sea. —Isak Dinesen

Wind is to us what money is to life on shore. —Sterling Hayden

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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## Educational Officer: D/Lt/C Karl M. Wagner, AP

I have to confess, I'm a little nervous about writing this since it's my first D/2 Newsletter article. First, I would like to thank everyone who works hard in our education efforts, including SEOs, ASEOs, Instructors, Squadron officers and members who handle the myriad of details and tasks it takes to put on an education program. Education is such an important part of our activities and it takes the involvement of the entire squadron to make it work. I was fortunate to attend the recent National USPS meeting in Orlando and the out going National Education Officer, Bob Brandenstein, SN, performed a very revealing exercise. First, Bob asked everyone who is a Rear Commander (R/C) of an Education Committee to stand up and about 12 to 15 stood. Then he asked all Staff Commanders on Education Committees to stand, and join them - even more people stood up. Bob then asked all National Education Committee members to stand and a whole bunch of people stood up (including me). Next he asked all DEOs and ADEOs to stand. Further he asked all SEOs and ASEOs present to stand. Finally all members who had taught a course were asked to stand. By this time, nearly everyone in the entire audience at the National USPS meeting was standing. He remarked: "Here is the Education Department of USPS, thank you." It is true, nearly every active member in USPS gets involved and contributes to our education program. And the responsibility of leading the education effort for USPS D/2 makes me a little nervous. But enough about the butterflies in my stomach..



We are entering the Spring busy season for Education in D/2 and we have three challenges:

**Class Promotion** - Make sure as many people in the boating community know about our courses and entice them to join one. As the first part of tagline says: "Come for the Education...". Getting new and experienced boaters into class is the first step towards fostering membership and creating active members.

**Student Involvement** - During the time we have with our students in class, we have a unique opportunity to engagement students in squadron and boating community activities and to develop the bond on friendship. This leads to longer membership and more importantly active members.

**Instructor Appreciation and Development** - Our USPS instructors are some of the most knowledgeable, experienced and hardest working members we have. We need to cherish them and ensure they know we appreciate all their efforts. We need to make sure they have the tools, resources and techniques to be successful in not only provide the best boating education, but also the support to lead students into membership and boating activities.

Education sounds so simple when I describe it as just three things - but it isn't simple. It takes a lot of hard work, cooperation and support from many people as well as an ability to find pragmatic, practical solutions to challenges. You don't have to tackle all of this by yourself. The District 2 Bridge Officers and Committee Members are here to help. For assistance with Class Promotion, P/D/C Susan Ryan, JN is our District 2 Public Relations Officer and a genius at getting students into class. She loves to help squadrons and provides excellent mentorship and assistance with Class Promotion. For Student Involvement, we have a new Education Committee head by P/D/Lt/C John Steger, JN who is tasked with providing assistance and techniques to get students involved in squadron activities. John is a long time champion of membership recruitment and retention techniques. For Instructor Appreciation and Development, we have P/R/C Anne S. Peskin, SN to help squadrons make sure their instructors are cherished and happy. Anne is a top notch professional educator and past DEO as well. Susan, John and Anne can use a helping hand, so please contact them if you are interested in volunteering. For squadrons that are interested in gaining the benefit of their experience and excelling in these three areas, invite Susan, John and Anne to assist you, treating them as trusted advisors and mentors.

I'm honored and pleased that D/2 had put its trust in me as your District Education Officer. Mine as well as D/1st/Lt Andrew E. Cumming's, JN, door (and mobile phone and e-mail) are open you to help solve your education challenges. Please don't hesitate to contact us when you have questions.



## D/ Lt/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, Secretary

First, thank you for electing me to serve as your District Secretary. The last time I held that position was sixteen years ago and I am truly honored to be asked again. I probably have forgotten all the tasks I have to do, but I know they will come back quickly.

Second, I promise you all, I will do everything I can to assist the Squadrons in any way I can, all you have to do is ask! It was funny sitting up on the dais even for the brief time after the oath of office. I felt a little "short" – in comparison to the guys, I'm going to need a cushion to see everyone!

You probably are saying why do we need to have a District Bridge anyway. I'm often asked that question and my answer is probably different than most. My answer is simple, the District is there to help Squadrons and members, to share information and to assist members be the best they can be in USPS®. Lots of time, information gets to the District quickly – sometimes we know things that are coming or where to find things that Squadrons or members need. None of us have lots of free time to go search for the data we need, so the District Bridge **can** and **will** help.

For example, there are lots of different types of seminars, not just educational ones. There are some interesting short seminars on the Leadership Development website (<http://www.usps.org/national/ot>). One seminar is named the "Secretary Seminar" which is just about all the material and items a Squadron Secretary needs. For me, I took the presentation and script and printed them out so I would have a hard copy to be used as a reference. Want a copy? Just ask and I'll email it to you.

Also available is the new "OT in 3" – (Operations Training in 3 hours) on the same website. If you received a CD at the Spring Conference, you'll find a copy of the presentation and script there. It's a great way to learn lots of USPS stuff and where to find it on the USPS member website.

The latest version of DB2000, 9.7.3, is also on the CD plus there are stationery and business card samples for all Squadron and District officers. Need the latest D/2 Directory? It's on there plus lots of other useful things (Job Descriptions, Best Practices, Logos, Awards and Contests, etc). If you can't find a CD in your Squadron, let me know and I'll send you one. Remember, I'm here to help – just ask!

Thanks again for your support!

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“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”<sup>SM</sup>





### It's Been an Interesting Six Years

Six years ago, I accepted the position of Assistant District Educational Officer. After serving three years as assistant to P/R/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP, three years ago, I became District Educational Officer. That term ends on the second of April of this year.. During those years, I've attended a lot of meetings, visited all the Squadrons at least once, and been a lot of places I would not have otherwise had the chance to visit. I believe I've brought back information and kept the D/2 membership informed of Educational developments in USPS

My focus will be shifting from District 2 to committees at the next level up. I'm active in not only the Instructor Development Committee and the Information Technology Committee, but will also be helping Denise out with her National Meetings Committee responsibilities as she plans activities for the upcoming National Meetings in Pittsburgh, Orlando, and Dallas. I will continue to offer recertification sessions for Instructor Development, and work on updating the recertification material.

I'm leaving behind an excellent team in the Educational area. Karl Wagner and Andy Cummings will serve D/2 in next few years, and should do it well. I will continue to assist when requested. The next few years will be challenging, as we begin a transition to electronic books, and try to retain relevance in our offerings. On the water activities are our best chance of distinguishing our programs from those of others who are active in the area of teaching boating classes.

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**Photos courtesy of P/D/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP, taken at the D/2 Spring Conference, Fishkill, NY.**



P/D/C Howard A. Sklar, AP



P/R/C Anne Peskin, SN



V/C Peter Mitchelson, SN, P/C Katherine Somogyi, AP and D/C Gino C. Bottino, AP



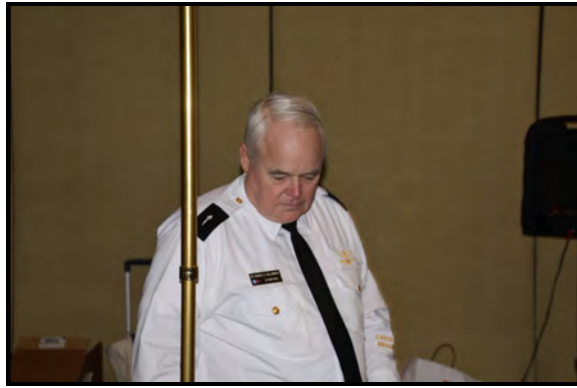
P/C Katherine Somogyi, AP, receiving her Life Membership Certificate

**“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”<sup>SM</sup>**



P/D/C Lacey M. Williams, Jr. AP

Lighting candles in memory of departed members



P/Stf/C George R. Hallenbeck, AP



P/D/C Harrison R. Valante, SN

Leading the Star Spangled Banner



Outgoing D/C Gino C. Bottino, AP, with Bridge



V/C Peter Mitchelson, SN, C/C's Rep.



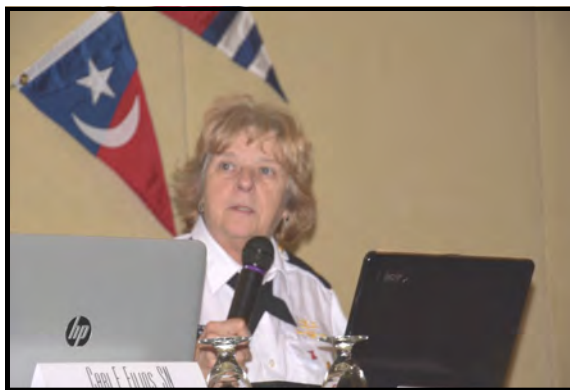
D/Lt/C Joseph A. Lynch, AP,  
outgoing Administrative Officer

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”<sup>SM</sup>

Still more photos from the D/2 Spring Conference.



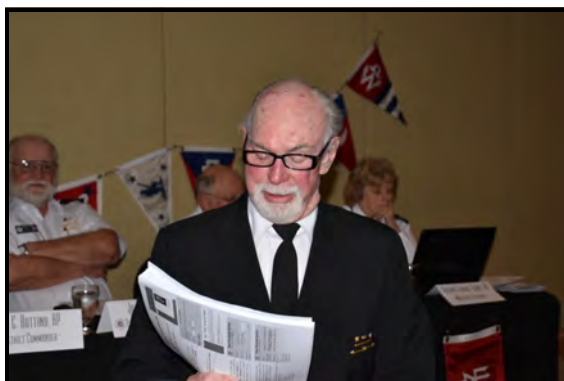
P/D/ C Susan L. Darcy, JN, P/D/C Wayne Garnsey, SN  
and P/D/C John H. Supple, AP



D/Lt/C Virginia Schmidt-Gedney, AP,  
Outgoing Secretary



D/Lt/C John P. Pedersen, JN, Treasurer



P/D/Lt/C John W. Steger, JN



Outgoing D/C Gino C. Bottino, AP



P/D/C Susan P. Ryan, JN

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”<sup>SM</sup>





## Sailing under the Soundwaters Pennant

“Listen up, Ladies and Gentlemen, on the count of three – SILENCE, ABSOLUTE SILENCE, AND I MEAN SILENCE – one. . . two . . . THREE!” The larger-than-life First Mate Josh Mayo spoke his stentorian tones from the center mast and there was immediate silence. All 32 children from the Greenwich Boys and Girls Club quieted in awe. Almost whispering now, the First Mate said, ‘But is there silence? Can you hear the swish of the water against the boat? Can you hear the seagulls mewing? Do you hear the rigging clicking against the masts?’ Captain Justin Cathcart had stopped the motor and at his crisp commands the crew had put up all three sails. The first lesson on board the Soundwaters schooner was to hear. During the cruise all senses were put to use with various activities led by the dockhands, who were all trained marine biologists.

As background, Young Mariners was founded in 1997 and since then more than 2,400 students have benefited from their programs. Programs are offered in seven Stamford public schools and the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich. The Greenwich Young Mariners is run by Tom O’Connell and Susan Ryan and takes children through a 6 month program. Squadron members teach basic boating safety and knots, and then the students learn first aid, basic marine biology from the Norwalk Maritime Museum, coastal ecology from the Bruce’s Seaside Museum and finally have three weeks on the water with Greenwich Community Sailing. In January 2016, SoundWaters and Young Mariners Foundation merged under the SoundWaters brand.

SoundWaters was founded in 1989 with the mission to protect Long Island Sound through education and action. They have engaged hundreds of thousands of students and adults to build a deeper interest in science for improved school achievement and to raise awareness about the small differences we all can make to protect the health of the Sound. The schooner SoundWater conducts 250 experiential education sails each season for school and community groups and public sails for everyone throughout the region.

In April the schooner came to Greenwich and gave the Squadron two cruises – the first for our members and students, the Shellfish Commission, the Bruce Museum, the Harbor Commission and other town VIPs and the second to our young mariners. Now back to the story . . .

Once out into Captain Harbor, four stations were set up on the schooner, the youngsters were divided into four groups and rotated round the stations examining the creatures that had been pulled out of the water, touching the spider crabs and lobster, and smelling everything. They were given boards with ropes attached and shown basic knots. Carlos got into the swing of things and created a real knot of a knot, so we joked about that.

The students were put to work, half lining up on port side and the other half on starboard to tail a sheet. They worked well – following the precise commands of the captain and always being addressed as ladies and gentlemen. At one point the First Mate Josh led everyone in sea shanties – that stentorian voice being put to good use again.

How lucky we are to be involved in such a worthwhile boating community activity! While it may seem we are contributing, in fact I know we all are benefitting. What could be better than sharing our time and boating knowledge and organizational skills with youngsters, and having time on the water with the magnificent *SoundWater* and her crew?

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

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”<sup>SM</sup>





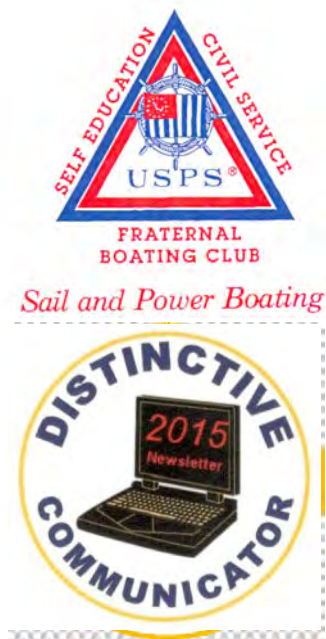
All photos are from the Soundwaters trip. Story on previous page.

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”<sup>SM</sup>

# **D/2 NEWS**

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**Address Correction Requested**



## ***D/2 Planning CALENDAR***

### **2016**

8 May, Mother's Day.  
30 May, Memorial Day.  
12-13 June, Shavuot.\*  
14 June, Flag Day.  
19 June, Father's Day.  
20 June, First day of Summer.  
4 July, Independence Day.  
5 September, Labor Day  
22 September, First day of Autumn.  
3-4 October, Rosh Hashanah\*  
10 October, Columbus Day.  
12 October, Yom Kippur\*  
31 October, Halloween.  
6 November, Daylight Savings Time Ends.  
8 November, Election Day.  
11 November, Veterans Day.  
24 November, Thanksgiving 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.)**