



D/2 NEWS



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

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Vincent J. Evans, AP



Greetings to everyone, I hope that you have enjoyed this holiday season. Where has all of the time gone too? It seems like last week, when we were together for the Fall Conference in September. I have been busy doing what many of you do or would like to do. Sailing!!! I wrote a separate article for the Editor to include in the D/2 News.

In November you know that we begin to put together information towards a Merit Mark for the members who are inclined to acknowledge this form of recognition. Unfortunately, not all of the members care to follow this regiment. This makes it difficult for the people who are compiling the information and the reviewers. Of course, it is each individual's choice to participate or not. My recommendation is to advise your squadron officer that you are not interested with a simple no thank you message.

Because of my sailing endeavor I was unable to commit to attending several Squadron Holiday parties. I was able to attend Westchester's party. My wife and I had a great time, and our host, Cdr. Andy Papademetriou, N, and his gracious wife made us feel at home. There were many members and guests in attendance, the food was very good, and the merriment made for a perfect evening amongst friends. Storm King's Holiday party was the following week and we had a very good time too.

I am now in my last quarter as your commanding officer. It seems so short of a time, but I have learned that it is a valuable experience. I have just completed my arrangements to attend the National Meeting in Orlando which is the last week of February. On the home front, the dates and locations for the Winter Council and Spring Conference have been finalized. A letter will be going out this week to all of the Squadron Commanders. The information is included below.

Gaining new membership and retaining our current members still is a primary goal for my administration. P/D/Lt/C John Steger, JN, has done continues to do an excellent job of advising the Commanders and Bridge of membership stats on a monthly basis. Fortunately as a District, we are gaining members. Some of the Squadrons are in better shape than others. I applaud all of you for the work that you continue to do for the benefit of USPS and the boating public.

The District Winter Council will be held on Saturday, 4 February, 2017, at the I-84 Diner, in Fishkill, NY. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM. Additional information will be forthcoming.

The District Spring Conference will be held at the Williams Inn, Williamstown, MA, on Friday, 31 March, 2017 and Saturday, 1 April, 2017. Registration and Agenda information will be posted shortly.

Submitted by Cdr Vincent J. Evans, AP

I had the opportunity to crew with a fellow Storm King Squadron member. Tony DiStefano, AP, has a 34 ft Gemini catamaran that he keeps in Rhode Island. He retired this year and decided that he wanted to take his boat to the Florida Keys for the winter months. He was looking for someone to make the trip with him for at least part of the distance. I was talking with Tony at the Norwalk Boat Show. My schedule was mostly free in October, so I committed to go with him. His plan was to leave on October 15th and sail as far as we could until the beginning of November.

We motor sailed along the coastline of Connecticut to the Long Island Sound, through Hell's Gate and then along the Jersey shore line. We were able to sail on, until we reached Atlantic City. Tony was having a problem with the throttle/shifter lever. He had a local marine mechanic look at it. He determined that it was to wear out and needed to be replaced. A new one was ordered and installed within a week.

We sailed along the Jersey coast, and put in at Cape May. From there we sailed into the Delaware Bay, through the D & C canal and into the Chesapeake. We spent two days making our way south, where we left the Bay and sailed into the mouth of the James River. Tony and I continued into the Norfolk Naval harbor, on our way to the Intracoastal Waterway. Our next stop was the Atlantic Yacht Marina which was about 15 miles into the Intracoastal.

I was unable to continue on with Tony, but I had a great time while we were together. I learned many things from our trip. I learned how to hail a bridge operator and navigate a lock for the first time. We relied on the GPS, although he had all of the charts for the Atlantic coast. He had other publications that were used to reference anchorages and marinas along our route. On average we were able to make fifty miles a day under 6 knots of speed. One day we hit 12 knots with a following wind. It has been an experience I will never forget and that I hope to repeat again some time.

Submitted by District Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Leslie G. White, AP

“...In river travel today, perhaps nothing is finer than arrival in the center of a town without having to undergo those purgatorial miles of vile sprawl, hideous billboards, and reiterated franchises where we become fugitives of the ganged chains in an endless surround of no-placeness, where the shabbiest of architectural detritus washes up against the center of town. To come by canal or river is to see a genuine demarcation between country and city, and to fetch up in the historic heart of things the way travelers once did when towns had discernable limits, actual edges, and voyagers knew when they had entered or departed a place...”

From the book “River Horse”, by William Least Heat-Moon

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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Martin E. Feldberg, AP, Executive Officer



(The following article was inadvertently omitted from the previous issue—The Editor)

I was honored when the Nominating Committee asked me to serve as the Executive Officer for this year. I know I was the only one running but I thank all of you who voted for me. I consider it a great honor and I will do all that I can do to help any Squadron that asks for help.

As most of you know I have had a life changing experience. I retired after working fifty years and Alexandra and I have relocated to the west coast of Florida in a town called Hernando. We bought a house in a gated community and bought a platform boat that we keep on the Homosassa River. We are quite happy there but enjoy returning periodically to NY and our Silverton on the Hudson River. If any of you get to Florida and want to take a ride on the river, please give us a call and we will gladly take you if the weather permits.

Recently your Liaison Officer, P/C Anne Mahoney contacted each Squadron to find out what activities they had recently done. I want to commend both Anne and all the Commanders that sent her the information. There are a lot of projects that other Squadrons might find interesting and helpful. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact me and I will forward it to you.

I recently returned from the Governing Board that was held in Pittsburgh. National is making many changes and improvements in order to help increase our membership and also to make life easier for those Squadron Officers that give so much of their time. This is one of a few organizations where you have to pay to work.

On 1 October, the USPS Digital Media Library (DML) will make its debut. The USPS DML will be a website and mobile app showing videos created by USPS members and also made by them and will feature USPS members as the cast. Some of the videos were made in our own District 2 and featured members that you will know. These videos are both educational, entertaining and only are a few minutes long. I suggest that Squadrons start some of their meetings with one of these videos. There initially will be 20 videos and can be viewed at <http://uspsdml.org> on or about 1 October.

Two new seminars (AIS-Automatic Identification System and Propane Systems and Safety) will be available by the end of the year.

National is experimenting with combining Districts. It is now voluntary and only applicable to Districts of less than 200 members. Stay tuned for further developments.

The Squadron Development/Revitalization Committee has been hard at work and has created a Squadron Self Evaluation form which when completed will help the Committee and your Squadron see your strengths and weaknesses. **Squadron Commanders**, if you have not received the form, please let me know and I will get you a copy.

A new brand ad is in the work and should be available soon. There is a diverse difference of opinion about the Ad. Both Vince and I would like to hear from you when it becomes public. You can find the work in progress ad in the previous issue of the D/2 news.

(continued on P. 4.)

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

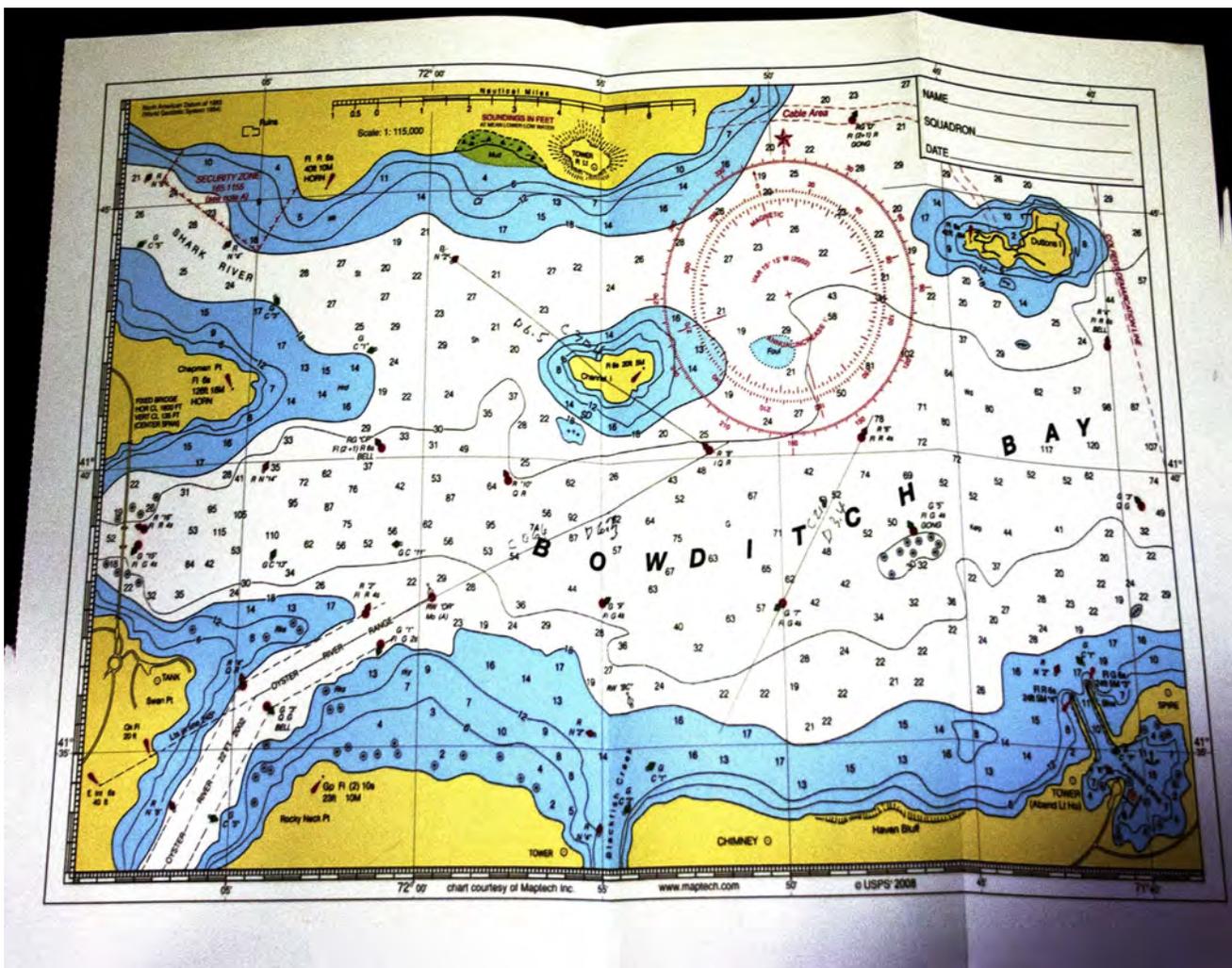
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As a reminder, if you would like to participate on a National Committee, please complete the online resume form. It can be located at <http://www.usps.org/national/comnom/> after you login.



The Membership Benefits Committee is continually adding vendors that provide discount to USPS members. If you take advantage of some of the benefits, you will save way more than the cost of dues.

Open source navigation software named Open CPN will be introduced into all the navigation related topics in all courses in the future. It is a free program used to create a concise chart plotter and navigation software for use underway or as a planning tool. It is available for both your computer and cell phone and can be downloaded at <http://opencpn.org/ocpn/download>. Give it a try.



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



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

Well it is that time of year again when good USPS members go over their lists and check whose (Pick one or if you're lucky two) *been naughty; want to take a course; or want to get involved.*

For those on your list who want to take a course, does everyone know what courses and seminars are being offered? If they don't how about doing a quick mailing using both email and surface mail? Then you'll probably need to make a phone call – pull the data from DB2000 to find out who to call for any course or seminar being offered. And as an added hint, don't leave a message – talk directly to the possible student.

For those on your list who want to be involved? What a wonderful gift you have for your squadron. Let's face it – people do want to get involved but sometimes we get them so involved that they're swamped. And when that happens, we know the boat will either sink or we've got to get some really good bailers or pumps. So start them off small – maybe collect at an event or pass out name tags or even proctor at a class.

For the naughty ones – (don't want a course or seminar or even to help) why not try a movie night for the squadron and invite them personally. There are super movies about boating and someone must have an air popper for the smell of popcorn along with a stash of candy bars. *The Finest Hours* about the Coast Guard rescue or Robert Redford in *All is Lost* are good movies to show. The best part of a movie night is being able to find all the mistakes they made in the movie – after all we're all 'experts' on the water!

So what's behind all of this? Just some quick thoughts on not only getting people involved but also retaining them as members. With our busy lives we still have to connect with each other to make the tag line *“stay for the friends”* true for us and your Squadron!

May the New Year bring all of us, health, joy, lots of fun times boating with our friends and lots of new members!

Be the Best in USPS!

The following is reproduced with permission from BoatUS.
Submitted by P/D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP, Legislative Officer.

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act was recently signed by President Obama.

This Act will provide critical funds for water resource infrastructure projects at emerging harbors, channels, locks and dams. This Act, known as WINN and the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA), authorizes needed investment in the maritime and waterways transportation system and provides flood protection for communities.

According to BoatUS, these Acts will also benefit boat owners.

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

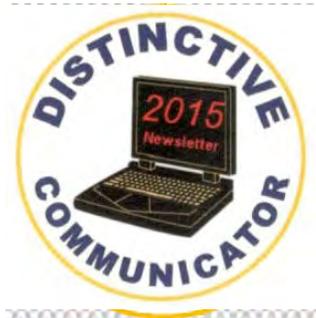
D/2 NEWS

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Address Correction Requested



Sail and Power Boating



D/2 Planning CALENDAR

2017

16 January, Martin Luther King Jr., Day
04 February, D2 Winter Council
12 February, Lincoln's Birthday.
14 February, Valentine's Day.
20 February, Presidents' Day.
22 February, Washington's Birthday.
1 March, Ash Wednesday.
12 March, Daylight Savings Time begins.
17 March St. Patrick's Day.
20 March, First day of Spring
31 March - 1 April D2 Spring Conference.
9 April, Palm Sunday.
11-18 April, Passover.*
16 April, Easter Sunday.
14 May, Mother's Day.
20 May, Armed Forces Day.
29 May, Memorial Day.
31 May-1 June, Shavuot*

***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.)