



Volume 70

Number 1 June 2018

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

From the desk of the D/2 Commander,

I cannot believe I said yes to a second year as District Commander. In looking back over the past year, I tried to decide what was accomplished during that time. There were some high points for me and some really low parts. Looking at the **Retention** theme for my note last May, I tried to determine how well the District had done in retaining its members.

Looking over the Fall 2017 Shipping Over Awards which really measure retention, I found a common thread. The Squadrons that did really well retaining most of their members were ones that had about 50 members in total.

I began thinking about what a smaller Squadron may do that a larger Squadron may not. Is it the personal touch? Does the smaller size mean they have the ability to personally contact all their members? The programs they each have seem to be about the same – speakers, rendezvous, picnics, movie nights, theme nights, seminars and classes. Their rendezvous, although some on ocean, lake or river, allow driving and/or cruising to the destinations.

The larger Squadrons have another big draw (in my opinion), with their sail-ins once a week. Looking at their attendance, they seem to be able to attract more of the public than their own membership. Wish I lived closer – I would be on a boat EVERY time it was offered.

But I digress from my previous thought train (sometimes the train derails), could the larger Squadrons somehow adapt the personal touch? Maybe setup the old phone tree or the mentor program. Again, since this is May, this is the important time for most of our members who renew on June 1st. Just random thoughts.

One thing the District did try, was the combination of the Summer Council/Fall Conference. Was it a little hectic? I know it was for me – my guesstimate on how long it would take to set up the room and the equipment was way off. Having the Marketing Committee Chair talk about the new logo and the advertising program was a real bonus for our members. Is the new logo **USPS**? Looking at it objectively, if we are boaters of any kind, it sure looks like us. And I know we **REALLY ARE "America's Boating Club!"**

What are we going to do this year? We're working on an idea for the Summer Council which will include some interesting training and seminars followed by a possible boat trip. Of course, if that falls through, we're discussing whether we combine the Summer Council and Fall Conference together – we think having the Council on Friday night and the Conference on Saturday may work better than one crammed day with two meetings. We're also looking at some different and hopefully less expensive venues.

At the Spring Conference, we did some fun boating testing of our attendees – some had arguments with the questions and answers, but it was a little bit of humor and a lot of different opinions all rolled together. A prize was awarded, and everyone got candy or lollipops.

Don't forget if you're going to attend the Fall Governing Board in Minneapolis, MN – 12 August thru 19 August, please let me know so I can include everyone in any District plans – maybe a Meet and Greet or dinner. Come join us – Seminars on Friday (17th), Governing Board Meeting (18th). For shoppers, there is the Mall of America and for fun there'll be theater and a boat ride!

Remember my theme for my years is: **Be YOUR Best and Have Whales of Fun in USPS!!**



Legislative Officer: D/Lt Melvin Goldstein, AP

A few months ago, it was announced by the U.S. Coast Guard, that It was planning to permit a number of anchorages for oil barges to be set up on the Hudson River between Yonkers and Kingston. Many municipalities including elected officials and recreation boating organizations came out strongly against this proposal.

Because of a united effort by all concerned, the U.S. Coast Guard Has now cancelled that idea (at least for now).

This is a victory for Hudson River boaters and Hudson shore communities. And a victory for the environmental groups as well.

One would not want to think about an anchored tanker, leaking fuel oil or some other hazardous material.

In another environmental matter, the government is trying to increase the percentage of alcohol in recreational boating use, from 10% (E10) to 15% (E15). Some boaters have reported that even E10 does damage to marine engines, but E15 definitely does and if used in many marine engines, will void any warranty. BoatU,S. reported that in Iowa, the largest ethanol producing state , boaters opted primarily to use E0 (no alcohol)



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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Safe Boating Campaign 2018

The 2018 Safe Boating Campaign kicked off with National Safe Boating Week, held 19-25 May, and continues throughout the year with fun events like Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day and Ready, Set, Wear It.

- Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day: 18 May •
- National Safe Boating Week: 19-25 May •
- Ready, Set, Wear It events: 19 May, 9 June, 7 July, 11 August.
- Safety on the water is everyone's responsibility and USPS as a partner aims to spread this message within our communities and beyond. We just hope that all our Squadrons will be involved again this year and explore ways to further their involvement, with the Safe Boating Campaign. Safety starts with all of us. Wearing life jackets, avoiding alcohol and operating safe vessels takes very little effort but the rewards last a lifetime.

Starting this year, 2018, the safe boating awareness activities have been renamed the Safe Boating Campaign. The campaign has been picked up by at least 10 countries around the world in their efforts to promote safe boating. It will continue to use the tagline, "*Wear It*" which has been effective in conveying the safety inherent in being prepared for emergencies on the water by wearing a life jacket, operating a safe vessel and never boating under the influence.

The Safe Boating Campaign was known as The North American Boating Campaign from 2000, the year Canada joined the campaign until 2017. It was started in 1952 and until 1995 it was known as "Safe Boating Week," changing to National Safe Boating Week in 1995. The Safe Boating Week serves as the annual kick off for the season long North American Safe Boating Campaign.

From 1971 to 2016, the estimated number of recreational boats has more than doubled, while the number of reported boating casualties (the sum of deaths and injuries) has decreased by more than 50%. While this trend is impressive, we believe that more can be done. By increasing boaters' preparedness, safety education, and awareness, we can further decrease risks and move to a culture of safety.

Two items stand out in the 2016 Recreational Boating Safety Statistics report. Drowning was reported as the cause of death in 80% of all fatalities. Approximately 83 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets. Over the years, the following causes have emerged as the culprits.

1. Wear a life jacket.

No matter what activity you have planned on the water, always remember to wear a life jacket every time you are on the water. Make sure your life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for your water activity and fits properly.

2. Make sure your boat is prepared and Safe.

There are many items that need to be checked and rechecked on any boat. Schedule a Vessel Safety Check with your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons before you hit the water. Every Vessel Safety Check is free of charge. Know your boat's capacity. If you have too much on your boat, the boat may become unstable and capsize.

3. Don't drink while you boat.

Where the primary cause was known, alcohol was listed as the leading factor in 15 percent of deaths in 2016.

4. Always file a float plan.

File a float plan with someone you trust that includes details about the trip, boat, persons, towing or trailer vehicle, communication equipment and emergency contacts.

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We are America's Boating Club®



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5. Check the weather, including the water temperature.

Know the latest marine weather forecast prior to going out and keep a regular check for changing conditions.

6. Keep in touch. A working VHF radio should be on your vessel as a minimum

Communication devices can be the most important piece of emergency equipment on board a vessel. Be sure to have at least two communication devices that work when wet, such as VHF radios, emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRB), personal locator beacons (PLB) and Satellite phones. Cell phones are handy but not reliable in the water or offshore.

The Safe Boating Campaign focuses primarily on wearing a jacket. It has consistently been the number one cause of death. A new logo was introduced for the 2018 campaign. The previous logo, introduced in 2008, is being retired even though some participating countries are still using it.

Treasurer: D/Lt/C John Petersen, JN

Treasurer's Role

This is an enhanced presentation I made at the Winter Council, March 7, 2018.

The role of the District Treasurer can be divided into four equally important functions.

The first is structuring a budget. This needs to be performed prior to the Summer Council and requires some research and creativity. The best place to start for the income side is to look at the current year's budget and make some adjustments based on the increase or decrease in membership, presuming District dues remain unchanged (a popular position). On the expense side one needs to look at current and prior year's "actuals" in order to make an informed decision. Often it is helpful to consult with the finance committee members and others, including, but not limited to, the executive committee. The final budget "draft" needs to be ready for presentation at the Summer Council with the intent of having the budget appear as an agenda item to be voted on and approved at the Fall Conference.

The second role of the Treasurer would be what one might call *financial maintenance*. This entails the more "nuts and bolts" routine of doing the bank deposits whenever necessary, writing checks to pay the bills, examining and reconciling bank statements and maintaining the financial records.

Thirdly, and very importantly, one needs to prepare and distribute the financial statements at the quadrennial meetings.

Finally, one must do some compliance reporting. The District needs to submit, on an annual basis, the form 990-N (the postcard) to the IRS. This ensures the District does not lose its "not for profit" (501.C3) status.

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Administrative Officer: D/Lt/C Robert J. Terry, P

& D/2 VSC Chair



The 2018 VSC program for squadrons in the North East part of the US are just getting started. All participating squadrons should have received their shipment of 2018 decals. On the VSC page of the USPS website there is a note next to the picture of the VSC decal that states that **"All 2018 VSC Decals have been distributed"**. I read this and did not first notice the spelling errors, but contacted USPS HQ. We have been working under a policy for a few years now, that your squadron needs to show verified use of 60% of the decals issued to them in order to order more. I verified that indeed this policy is still in effect for 2018. They still have 2018 VSC decals to cover this policy at USPS HQ. If your squadron still has current year VSC decals when you finish your yearly inspections, please return unused decals to HQ. Those squadrons with a full year boating season may still be able to use them. There are several extra items to discuss this year while completing your VSC inspections. You have both Kiddie fire extinguishers and Kiddie smoke alarms that have been recalled. Specifics of what years and models are being recalled can be found on the USPS website. When inspecting personal flotation devices, now all on board the vessel need to be inspected for strap operation and condition. The object is not to leave an unsafe PFD on the vessel. Even if the fire extinguisher is part of the recall, it's still a CG approved extinguisher and counts towards any CG carriage requirement. Assuming the fire extinguisher criteria (see VSC Manual, chapter 3, para B5) is met, continue to issue a decal even if the VE finds a recalled extinguisher filling a carriage requirement. In the event that a VE encounters a recalled extinguisher, it is recommended annotating the VSC form with an asterisk next to item 5, Fire Extinguishers and writing the word RECALL in the space to the right. The VE should also discuss the implications of the recall and issue a paper copy of the recall with the completed VSC form."

Examiners Test Your Mustang Life Jacket

We are always told as a Vessel Examiner to wear our life jackets to project the idea of safety to the boating public. Most VEs probably have done so over the past 8 years that we have had them.

Now as we head into the boating season and all of the associated activities, it is suggested that the first thing a VE should do is examine and test his/her Mustang Inflatable life jacket, by orally inflating it. This is suggested because a few jackets were found that won't hold air. If one of these are found it should be destroyed and disposed of because the total life expectancy is only 10 years. Keep the jacket inflated overnight. If it fails to hold air all night it is defective. .

SIRIUS SIGNAL LIGHT

Vessel Examiners should be aware of the capabilities and approvals of the SIRIUS SOS C-1001 electronic distress light. This light is acceptable as a nighttime visual distress signal.

SIRIUS has included a daytime distress flag in the SOS C-1001 packaging so that it can market the package as a solution for a combined day/night signal, and as a replacement for flares. As long as the SIRIUS Signal Model SOS C-1001 is carried in conjunction with an acceptable daytime distress signal, this satisfies the daytime/nighttime signaling requirement.

D/2 NEWS

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Address Correction Requested



Sail and Power Boating



D/2 Planning CALENDAR

2018

14 June, Flag Day.
17 June Father's Day.
4 July, Independence Day.
3 September, Labor Day.
10-11 September, Rosh Hashanah*/
19 September, Yom Kippur*.
8 October, Columbus Day.
4 November, Daylight Savings Time Ends.
6 November, Election Day.
11 November, Veterans Day.
22 November, Thanksgiving Day.
3-10 December, Hanukkah.
25 December, Christmas 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.)