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When the ice from last night's drink in the cockpit is still in the glass in the morning, the boating season is finished.

-Ed.

At the Helm



Well another boating season comes to an end. I hope you all had a great time out on your boat. Mother Nature sure tried to test our patience this summer with all of the rain and cold weather we had. This year I think Sue and I got out on our boat maybe 6 times. And that is probably a high number. Oh well, no sense in complaining about it as we all know New England weather is unpredictable.

The squadron kept busy through the summer. We started off with our Vessel Safety Checks on Onota and Pontoosuc Lakes on June 6th and the 20th. Next we had our annual June Rendezvous in Newport, RI. We all had a great time with 20 people coming on 7 boats. Four of these were trailerable boats. Next we had our annual summer picnic but this time at a new location. Susan Darcy arraigned for us to use the Controy Pavilion on Onota Lake. From the conversations I had that night, everyone liked the location as it was on the water and the food and weather was great. Well done Susan.

Our next event was to be a rendezvous on the Hudson River. Peter Charpentier and I had planned on rafting up behind Houghtalling Island on August 29th. This was going to be another trailer boat type of rendezvous and we had four boats signed up. But as this being a power squadron event, Mother Nature decided to have it rain heavily that day. We tried to schedule another day but this did not work out and the weather was getting cooler so we decided to do it next year instead.

Our Education program is off to a great start for the fall season. Our SEO (Squadron Education Officer), Carl Filios has put together 3 classes that are going on now. The first is our Basic Boating Course which is being held at Conte School on Monday nights. The next is Marine Electronics which is on Tuesday nights and we have Advanced Piloting on Thursday nights. Well done Carl.

As we head toward winter, our next squadron event will be our Holi-

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Robert D. Bardwell III	Don Rochelo, P
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Stephen D. Parker, AP	Open

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Auditing	John M. Garinther, S (Chair) Robert J. Flynn, AP (2 yr) Thomas A. Dailey, AP (3 yr)
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Berkshire Log

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The opinions expressed in "The Log" by the Editorial Staff or Contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron or those of the United States Power Squadron.

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to all the following students on their educational achievement!


Piloting (Chair Jack Clayton, SN):

Cynthia F. Dinan, P
Kevin J. Dinan, P
Scott R. Lauth, P
Brian O. Lock, P
G. Bruce Rumph, P



(Continued from page 1)

day Party on December 6th. We are going to have it in the afternoon this year. This is a great way to support your squadron and to meet new members and reconnect with older ones.

I hope to see you there. 

Cdr Rick Gore, AP



BSPS & USPS CALENDARS

**November 24 - Bridge & Executive Board Meeting,
Hold the Anchovies, Pittsfield, 7:00pm, Dinner
at 6:30pm**

**December 6—Holiday Party, 2:00pm, Mazzeo's Ris-
torante, Pittsfield**

**April 9-10, 2010 - D2 Spring Conference, Williams
Inn, Williamstown, MA**

VSCorner

2009 VSC RESULTS

Although BSPS did quite well this year, we did not do as well as last year. We conducted a total of 44 inspections compared to 53 in 2008.

Once again our top performers were Rick Gore with 16 inspections and Don Tinney with 8 inspections.

Last year we were third highest in District 2 but slipped to 5th place in 2009. Saugatuck River took over first from Lake Candlewood who slipped to second place. The two others who "beat us out" were Storm King with 45 and Sacandaga with 47.

It would be great if we could regain third place next year. We could do it if each examiner did just one more inspection.

Can we do it? 

*Robert Schuler, N
VSC Chairman*



**From the mouth of Moby Dick:
(The Squadron's Mascot)**

Miscellaneous Snips - Quotes overheard at the August Steak and Chicken Roast!

- What a beautiful spot and the lake looks fantastic!
- Now that is a GRILL!
- The Commander brought the beer, the wine and soda – NICE!
- Look at the appetizers – there's way too much food!
- What breeze – we may have to close the windows..
- Did you see the size of those steaks and chickens?
- "Could I have my steak rare?" "Make mine medium" "Mine HAS to be well done!"
- Look at this spread – where did all of this food come from?
- Absolutely wonderful corn!
- And it doesn't even include desserts.
- Okay how do we clean up?
- What do you mean there is food left – I did my part to eat it all!
- Frank is putting the grill on the truck – what did he do with the coals? Does he need some help?.
- What steaks – and yummy chicken – all cleaned up – time to leave!

If you didn't make our August Steak and Chicken Roast, put it on your calendar next year! Great food – Great friends – Great place – Great time!

See you at the next one?

USPS vs. CSX Railroad

I'm a carpenter and I like things to make sense, which is why carpenters should not have computers.

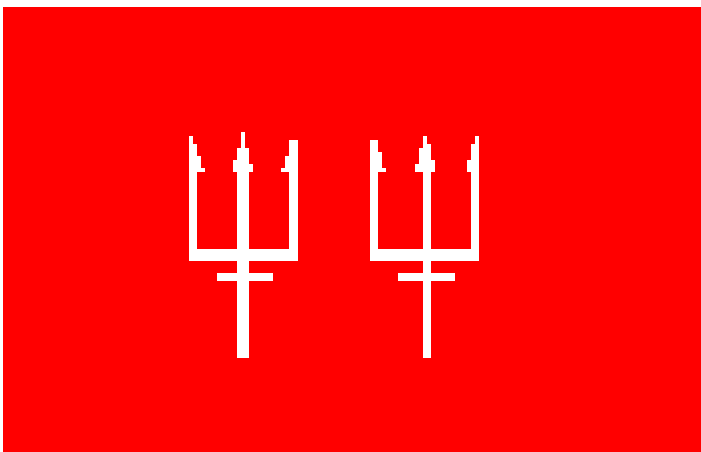
The first piece of information I tried to make sense out of was an advertisement I heard on the radio that said that one in eight Americans is battling hunger. I personally would not battle hunger. In my experience battles are energy depleting and I don't know what hunger would have to have to offer for food once I defeated it, but it intrigued me that one in eight Americans would choose to battle hunger so I Googled something like, "hunger, one in eight Americans", and it turns out that in 2009, one in eight Americans (45.2million), think battling hunger is a good enough idea to join the fight despite my perspective. The United States Department of Agriculture calls these people, "food insecure Americans". According to the USDA, "food insecure Americans" are people, "living in households in this country suffering from hunger without the resources to purchase an adequate diet". For the sake of keeping this article on task I won't go anywhere near a discussion of the word, "resources". "Resources", could mean anything from money to brains. So I Googled something like, "adequate diet", instead and found a New York Times article that said that poor people eat at fast food restaurants and that fast food restaurants do not provide an adequate diet. The clincher was that poor people, as a result, are fat. Until I was enlightened by the New York Times I had pictured a person battling hunger as someone with no bug spray trying to spear a fish with a sharpened stick, which was inaccurate. It turned out, according to the New York Times, that poor people are fat, hungry, and looking for a fast food restaurant.

Just an aside here: If I wrote a story that said that poor people are fat, hungry, and looking for a fast food restaurant, I guarantee that it would be unprintable from the perspective of the New York Times, which is why I'm very thankful for the D/2 News.

Another piece of information is that not only are we poor and fat but we are just fat. I heard this one on the news so I Googled, "overweight Americans". According to the Center for Disease Control, 67% of Americans are overweight (34% of Americans are "obese"). This gets into "body mass indexes", or for USPS members, BMI's, and can be dealt with in depth in future boating related articles. Also, the CDC has the average American male at 190 lbs. and the average American female at 163 lbs.

The second or third piece of material is that CSX can ship one ton of freight 423 miles on one gallon of diesel fuel. Diesel fuel costs about \$2.50/gal. I didn't Google this bit of information because I need this information to be true for my purposes and I didn't want to risk finding out it was false. Also, I owned a railroad once and a freight car car-

(Continued on page 4)



From the SEO

It's turning out to be a busy fall. Basic Boating is underway, taught by a number of squadron members. It's a group effort, as opposed to being taught by our famous "tag team" of Susan Darcy and Leo Robillard. All squadron members are encouraged to show up on a Monday night and meet the students, as well as lend your expertise. We also have Marine Electrical Systems running on Tuesday nights, chaired by Fred Mason. On Thursday nights, Advanced Piloting is underway, chaired by Frank DeBaggis.


As soon as these wind down, Susan Darcy will be beginning a combination of Instructor Development recertification and the complete Instructor Development course. Note that this course is a requirement for teaching Basic Boating, as well as good background material for learning how to stand in front of a group and make a presentation. It's another life skill offered by USPS. All of us that have taken Instructor Development in the past are due for recertification.

I've consulted our "three year plan" to see what's going to be offered in the first half of 2010. We will be offering Cruise Planning, ably taught by Susan, as well as the new Sail. I don't yet have a chair lined up, but am hoping that between Rich Stidger and Linda Caesar (or any other sailor out there who wants to teach) we can cover it.

The "crown jewel" of the spring offerings will be Junior Navigation. We ran it a few years ago, and none of the six of us in the class finished. Nobody did their sights. We now have to start over, as the new course is now in effect. I haven't yet located a chair, but will accept volunteers. This course runs a long time, so plan on spending most of a year on it. It will not run through the summer, but that will give you an opportunity to do the required sights. We have one squadron sextant available, and there are others people might be able to borrow.

Somewhere along the way, we still would like to run

some seminars. A couple of people have made suggestions, but I'd like to hear from more of you. Likely candidates are GPS, Weather, and Trailing. Others that might be of interest are: Marine Radar and Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio.

If there's enough interest, we may be able to get a seminar offered during the spring conference. 

*Lt/C Carl Filios, AP
Educational Officer*

(Continued from page 3)

ries an enormous amount of weight. Also the area of contact between a wheel and the rail is about the size of a dime, which further illustrates why you should not park your car on a railroad grade crossing.

Do you see where this is going?

The final two items, are that USPS National dues is going up \$1.80, (5%), to \$37.20 and USPS charges new members a \$25 one time fee for joining. I don't know exactly what this "fee" is for, but since it's a one time fee when someone joins it's either some sort of a disincentive to join in the first place because you're probably going to quit after the first year, or it's very expensive to type your vital statistics into the computer at National and mail out the empty certificate.

I did a very brief stint as our Squadron's Membership Chair so let me explain where we're going and my thinking on this:

If you're an American male, and you're poor, hungry, and overweight by ten pounds and you have the \$37.20 National dues, the Squadron dues, and the District assessment, plus you happen to have an additional \$25 burning a hole in your pocket, you have two excellent choices and a boat is entirely optional for either one:

You can either sign on the dotted line with USPS and spend the next year living in the land of milk and honey making smart meal choices at your Squadron's "pot lucks", or we can lock you in a freight car and ship you 42,300 miles with CSX. The math is solid. It would seem to me that put this way, the \$25 fee to join USPS was just one of the strokes of pure genius coming out of National.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to get back to the article I'm writing about sailing last Spring, from Charleston, SC to Groton, CT outside around Hatteras. You can look for that article in the, "Jenny Craig" Newsletter.

D/Lt/C Frank J. DeBaggis, AP

The preceding message is reprinted from the September-October D2 News—Ed.

Like the song, "I went to Kansas City, Kansas City" and I drove!

I know, I know - why would I drive to Kansas City (the Missouri part, not the Kansas part). As usual, I had way too much stuff to fly or ship so I just decided to drive. Actually it was a very pleasant drive, mostly interstates and I got to see parts of the country I usually just fly over.

Driving also allowed me to do some sightseeing both along the way and in KC. One of the best places I visited was the **Negro Leagues Baseball Museum**. It is a terrific place with movies, historic uniforms, shoes, early photos and a mock up of a baseball field with statues of players.



I stood next to Satchel Paige on the mound and could here the crowd and feel the excitement of the game. What fantastic athletes these players were playing 3 or 4 full games a day. The history of the leagues and the players is well documented and displayed in a truly engaging way.

The other half of the building holds the Jazz Museum - after all it is at 18th and Vine! You can pay one admission and see both venues. My education now includes the contributions to jazz that were made in KCMo.

And now about the city of KC - they call it the city of fountains and there are many. When I arrived, there was an Irish festival in the area and the fountains were filled with green water. I was told they change

the water colors many times during the year for different events. I don't know how they did it but the next day the fountain was clear.

With the Hallmark Corporation headquarters right near the hotel, I was able to see all the new holiday offerings from Hallmark. Hallmark even has an 'exclusive' department store. Like all the other "kids", I had to visit Hallmark's Crayola Café.

So if you get a chance to visit KC, MO, be sure to check out all the things to see - I know I probably missed lots but there were some USPS® meetings and presentations I had to attend! 🐟

Stf/C Susan L. Darcy, JN

Congratulations New Boat Owners!



Kevin and Cindy Dinan have just purchased a Hunter 44 this Fall. They are planning for a great sailing season in the Summer of 2010 in Narragansett Bay, RI.

Their new yacht, *Forever Young*, is wintering in Bristol, RI which is half-way between Providence and Newport.

I think it's going to be a long winter..... 🐟



HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday -- 6 December 2009 - 2:00 PM

Mazzeo's Ristorante

A Fabulous Buffet

Chicken Parmesan, Eggplant Parmesan

Sliced Roast Beef

Homemade Cavatelli Marinara

Caesar Salad

Italian Bread and Butter

Coffee, Tea

And Chocolate Bombé

\$25 per person

GIFT EXCHANGE -- BRING A GIFT -- GET A GIFT

\$10 LIMIT ON GIFTS

SANTA

PRIZES AND GIFT BASKET RAFFLE.

Reservations by 30 November 2009: Susan Darcy

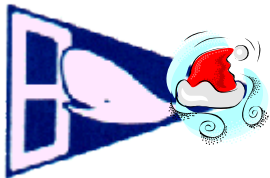
413-637-2275 or email susan@darcy-systems.com

Times: 02:00 PM (1400) Cocktails

02:30 PM (1430) Buffet

Meeting 04:00 PM (1600)

Vote on Possible By-Law and Dues Changes



**Proposed Change to the Dues Structure
for
Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron**

The following proposal may require a change to our Squadron By-Laws and if so it will be voted upon at the Holiday Party on December 5, 2009.

Proposal: It is proposed that Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron adopt the USPS National dues structure of one price for a single member and one price for all members at one mailing address.

Currently we have the following dues structure:

	Dues
Single Active	\$24
Additional Active	\$12
Family Member	\$6
Jr. Family Member	\$2
Apprentice/Sea Scout	\$2

The proposal is to simplify the dues structure by consolidating other membership types at the same address into one unit called Family. This is in line with the dues structure now used for USPS National dues.

	Dues
Single Active	\$24
Active with Family	\$36

What is the breakdown of our membership? As of 4 November 2009, we have 94 members with all kinds of membership.

Active members (no family)	44	\$1056
Additional Active (at the same address)	3	\$36
Active members (with families)	17	\$408
Family	16	\$96
Jr. Family	8	\$16
Life Members (Do not pay dues)	5	\$0
Women's Certificate Holder (Do not pay dues)	1	\$0
Total Membership	94	\$1612.00

With the proposed change, the breakdown of membership will be as follows:

Single Members	44	\$1056
Members in Family Units (Total before \$556)	17	\$612
Others included in Family Units	27	\$0
Life Members (Do not pay dues)	5	\$0
Women's Certificate Holder (Do not pay dues)	1	\$0
Total Membership	94	\$1668.00

Boating's Health Reform

By Barb Hansen

I didn't go to a town hall meeting but I would like to share a health reform idea with our elected representatives and the inside-the-beltway crowd.

What I will tell you has been pretty much boating's secret but it's time we told the rest of the world. Are you sitting down?

Boaters are healthier.

A lot of people will doubt that assertion, I know. We have all known individual boaters who were not careful, such as those who venture out into rough seas or manage to get their fingers smashed between the boat and the dock.

But the non-boating world has its reckless types, too. Vic and I keep wondering why we have to pay the doctors and hospitals who try to save the life of the motorcycle rider without insurance and without a helmet who crashes while weaving in and out of traffic.

But, as a group, boaters report they are healthier than other Americans. The online survey of 542 boat owners and 536 non-boat owners was conducted by Impulse Research Corporation for the boating industry.

It turns out that boat owners rated their overall well-being, health, work, leisure, sleep and finances as "very good" or "excellent." They also reported higher levels of satisfaction in marriage and romance than non-boaters. These are the kinds of people the insurance companies love.

Conversely, non-boaters told researchers they felt "useless, lonely, unhappy and fatigued." Oh my. They must have polled some congressmen who lost control of their own town hall meetings.

Studies suggest that children of boaters are healthier, too. Another boating industry survey showed that kids who boat were healthier physically and psychologically. They were more outgoing, more optimistic, more self-confident, more likely to be team players, more likely to be peer group leaders, and more likely to keep their pants hitched up.

Okay, I just made up the part about the pants.

Anyway, the research also showed that boating kids were more likely to do household chores and help with cooking. They have more interests. They regularly participate in eight activities while non-boating kids averaged only four. Another family bonus: boating children spent more quality time with parents, even in non-boating months.

So, to my point. I know how Congress can make Americans healthier. Give every person a boat.

Yes. In place of a health care bill that few have read and nobody can understand, how about a simple boat voucher program that puts Americans on the road (on the water!) to good health.

The program will probably save money, too, not that money is a consideration in DC. (Or, if it is, they could just call it a stimulus. I'm sure they will stipulate a new marina on the Potomac, just for the people's elected representatives, don't you know.)

Boat vouchers will be better than cash for clunkers, cash for appliances, cash for coiffures. Americans will feel great, there will be fewer cars on the road, boat dealers can stay in business, and there will be no need to pull the plug on grandma.

A whole country full of happy boating people is everything our congresspersons could hope for, particularly when they schedule town hall meetings.

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*Barb Hansen manages Southwest Florida Yachts, yacht charters, and Florida Sailing & Cruising School, a liveaboard yacht school. Contact her at [info@swfyachts.com](mailto:info@swfyachts.com), phone 1-800-262-7939 or visit <http://www.swfyachts.com/>*

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***D2 Spring Conference  
April 9-10, 2010***



***Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron  
Is pleased to host the upcoming  
**D2 Spring Conference**  
April 9-10, 2010***



***Our Conference Committee has again selected the  
Williams Inn in Historic Williamstown, MA as the  
location for our conference***

***Please Ink the Date on your Calendar and join us for a  
weekend of great company and fun as we install the  
2010 D2 Bridge***

***We will be enjoying the Fine Food and Hospitality for  
which the Williams Inn is Famous***

***“It’s Worth the Drive”***

***“It will be Another Whale of a Time”***

***The Registration Form will be available this Winter***

## Newport RI June Rendezvous

We traveled to Newport RI for our June Rendezvous. During our basic boating class this past Spring, Rich Stidger mentioned Narragansett Bay. So we looked more into it and thought Newport would be great. There's always lots to do in Newport.



Carl Moore and Linda Caesar

As we had trailer boats coming, we needed to find a marina to stay at. Leo Robillard had very good words to say about the Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina so we decided to have it there. For the trailer boaters, Rich mentioned using Colt State Park ramp in Bristol for our launching point. This had a large parking lot. The fixed dock was a little different as it was sloped. If you put in at low tide you had plenty of room, but at high tide it was more of a challenge as there wasn't much dock left. We all managed. From the ramp to Newport was 12 miles. Don and Chris Deno had the patience of Job on this trip. First they had a problem with a dead battery at the ramp but we got that fixed. On the way down to Newport their steering was acting up so they had to slow down. We stayed near by and enjoyed watching the jets from Quonset Naval Air Station practicing for the air show the following day. Once at the marina, Don took the bus to town and purchased a battery charger.



Don and Donna arriving in *Spit in the Ocean*

Twenty people on seven boats showed up in Newport. They are Don and Chris Deno on *Happy Days II*, Linda Caesar and Carl Moore on their new sailboat *God's Gift*, Frank, Tena and John DeBaggis and a friend of John's on *Carpe Diem*, Rich and Carol Stidger on *Sybaris*, Don and

Donna Rochelo on *Spit in the Ocean*, Phil and Lois Scalise along with their Daughter Tonia and granddaughter Cassie on *Santarella*. John and Jean Markunas also came with Phil and Lois. And finally Sue and I on *Revelation*. Some of us stayed right at the marina and some were on the hook in the harbor.



Sue and Rick Gore

On Friday night we all gathered at The Landing Restaurant & Bar which was just around the corner. We all enjoyed a great meal along with great company. The next day people broke up into groups and headed in every direction. Some decided to stay at the dock. At 6:30 on Saturday evening we had our Hors d'oeuvre party by the dock at the marina. It started off well and then Mother Nature just wanted to let us know she was present. We had a downpour and then the fog decided to come in. No boats could be seen in the harbor. A yacht was parked on the dock next to us with a party aboard her. In the thick fog, they pulled out to take a ride around the harbor. Now this boat must have been about 150' long, but the crew took her out and brought her back without any problems, even in the fog.



Lois and Phil Scalise, Don and Donna Rochelo, Carol Stidger, and Tonia Scalise

Sunday morning we all went our different ways, some of us back to reality and some to other points of interest. It's always a very relaxing and social weekend and nothing's better than some down time with people you really enjoy being with.

Thank you to Rich Stidger for his help with the Rendezvous and to everyone who came.

*Cdr Rick Gore AP*