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At the Helm



I was first elected commander of Berkshire Power Squadron in 1989. I had been a member for barely three years and I had spent two of those years serving as Administrative Officer. I served as commander for two years and then again in 2001 for three more years. Finally last year I accepted the opportunity again. During these six years I have written over 25 commander messages.

This message is the hardest.

For many years the Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron (we changed our name in 2004 to clarify and include our members who are sail boaters) has struggled each year to find willing and qualified members to serve on our bridge and executive committee. While this has almost never been a slam-dunk task, it has become increasingly difficult and now impossible.

We are at a point with 64 members where there are less than ten members who are willing to take a leadership position or help teach our courses. Our class size is now typically 2-4 members. There are twenty or fewer members who attend our social events with their guests. I have written a couple messages and articles during this past year telling how difficult our leadership search is and asking for help. No help has been received.

Every group I know seems to have this same problem of acquiring members who are willing to lead and bring fresh ideas to their organization. New members join us each year, but our yearly membership losses exceed those gains. Very often a new member does not take advantage of our courses or attend social events. We do make a strong effort to reach out to all new members as well as our sustaining members to attend our events. Sometimes we are successful, but more often we are not.

You will be receiving a letter soon that will announce the proposed bridge and executive committee for next year with a plea for you to attend the Change of Watch on April 26th. **This will be a very important meeting.** If at that time we do not receive a commitment from the membership to replace the proposed slate of officers, we will propose a plan to dissolve this squadron and return our charter to National.

Please attend. This is the eleventh hour.

*G. Richard Stidger, SN
Commander*

BERKSHIRE SAIL and POWER SQUADRON
 172 Mountain Drive
 PITTSFIELD, MA 01201-7420

Website: <http://www.berkshiresailandpowersquadron.org>

OFFICERS:

Commander	G. Richard Stidger, SN 172 Mountain Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201 Email: rich.stidger@verizon.net	413-443-2858
Executive Officer	Open	
Educational Officer	John C. Holden, JN	413-458-5143
Administrative Officer	Susan L. Darcy, JN	413-637-2275
Ass't Admin Officer	Beverly Gilbert, S	413-637-8922
Secretary	Richard E. Gore, Jr., AP	413-243-2273
Treasurer	Frederick A. Mason, SN	413-499-1030

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ass't Educational Officer	Leo O. Robillard, SN	413-499-1625
Member at Large	Kevin J. Dinan, AP	
Paul L. Bouchard, S	Michael R. Jezak, P	
Janet C. Bryan, S	Bruce G. Rumph, AP	
Paula Dailey, P	Theresa Rumph	
Thomas A. Dailey, JN	David L. Trudeau, JN	
Thomas A. Gilbert, S		

GENERAL COMMITTEES:

Auditing	Robert D. Bardwell, III (Chair) Paula Dailey, P (2 yr) Open (3 yr)
Rules	Linda D. Caesar, P (Chair) Leo O. Robillard, SN (2 yr) Carl E. Filios, JN (3 yr)
Nominating Committee for 2015:	Kevin J. Dinan, AP (Chair) Richard E. Gore, Jr., AP (2 yr) Open (3 yr)

Berkshire Log

Editor Cdr G. Richard Stidger, SN 413-443-2858
 172 Mountain Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201
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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.



BSPS Info Line
413-266-1130

Do you know that we have an informational telephone line? Call to learn details of upcoming events. Refer your boating buddies for information on upcoming on Public Boating classes and VSC inspections.

View, Download, and Print this issue and all back issues of the *Berkshire Log* in LIVING COLOR at:

http://www.usps.org/d2/d2_squadron_news.html



BSPS & USPS CALENDARS

- February 25—Executive Meeting at Misty Moonlight Diner, Dinner 6pm, Meeting 7pm**
- February 28—Winter Blahs Auction, Zucco's Restaurant, Pittsfield, MA, 2pm**
- March 2—Advance Piloting Course Begins, First United Methodist Church, 6:45pm**
- March 14—D2 Winter Council Meeting, I-84 Diner, Fishkill, NY**
- March 25—Executive Meeting at Misty Moonlight Diner, Dinner 6pm, Meeting 7pm**
- April 17-19—D2 Spring Conference, Hilton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, CT, hosted by Stamford Sail & Power Squadron**
- April 26—BSPS Change of Watch, Greenock Country Club, Lee, MA, 2pm**

Like Us on Facebook



Read informative articles about boating
 See announcements for courses and social events

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Berkshire-Sail-and-Power-Squadron/528850690570303?ref=hl>

Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron

Forty One Years of Service to Boaters
 1974 - 2015

Please Remember...

All members are requested to notify our commander or editor of the death of any other member or a member's family as soon as possible. We want to express our condolences in a timely manner and we need the help of all our members to this end.

Winter Blahs Auction & Munchies

Date: 28 February 2015

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Zucco's Restaurant

451 Dalton Avenue Pittsfield, MA

Winter got you down? Too much Snow? Feeling the Winter Blahs? Come and have some boating fun. You can have some great food and a super opportunity to buy or sell some wonderful treasures both boat and land. Come to the Zucco's Restaurant private room for some fun of a real live auction of our unused stuff and lots of food.

Have some boating items or miscellaneous items you want to unclutter the cellar or garage? Going to miss the Auction but still want to get rid of some stuff? You can call Susan for a pickup of your unwanted items. No she doesn't have a truck!

Cost? *Free* -- Appetizers, Soda, Coffee, Tea provided.



***Reservations a MUST by 25 February
so we can order enough Appetizers!!
Contact Susan Darcy -- 413-637-2275***



Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following students on their educational achievement!

Seamanship (Chair Frederick A. Mason, SN):

Michael R. Jezak, AP
Lorri S. Steadman, S

Top Ten Things You Don't Want To Hear On A Boat

10. Shouldn't that lighthouse be over there?
9. Is there supposed to be that much water in here?
8. Well THAT doesn't seem right.
7. It will be fine, the chart isn't THAT old.
6. I know a short cut.
5. I don't remember that island being there last trip.
4. Hey Captain! Your toilet isn't working right.
3. Was this supposed to come off in my hand?
2. I meant to check that BEFORE we left the marina.

And the #1 Thing You Don't Want To Hear On A Boat....

1. Uh-Oh!

Welcome Aboard!

We are pleased to welcome the following new members into the Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron.

George and Karen Reynolds

We wish you success in your educational challenges and look forward to meeting you at our social events!

CELESTIAL NAVIGATION

Our resident JN and N course instructor, P/C Al Burbank, SN offered this explanation to his students many years ago. For those of you who have taken either of these two courses, this document needs no explanation. For those of you aspiring to become an accomplished Junior Navigator or Navigator, this information offers great insight.

This document contains a brief but comprehensive explanation of celestial navigation principles. It is written in simplified terms to provide clarity and reduce confusion.

A good navigator knows where he is at all times. He knows this because he knows where he was or where he was from where he is (whichever is greater) and he obtains a difference or deviation. The navigator then uses this deviation to plot a correction from a position where he was to a position where he isn't, thus arriving at a position or location where he wasn't, but now is.

Therefore, it becomes obvious to the most casual observer that since the position or location where he is now is the position or location where he wasn't, it then follows that the position or location where he was is the position or location where he now isn't. In the event that the position or location where he is now isn't the position where he wasn't, he now has acquired a variation (variations are caused by other factors which are not within the scope of this document).

A variation is the difference between where he is and where he wasn't, but should be. Variations can be corrected for by the navigator, provided he knows where he was in addition to knowing where he now is and wasn't. The thought process should proceed as follows: because a variation has modified some of the information which he has obtained, he is not sure where he is. He therefore, is sure of where he isn't (within reason) and he knows where he was. He then subtracts where he should be from where he wasn't and by differentiation he obtains the algebraic difference between where he shouldn't be and where he was; he is, therefore, able to obtain the difference between its deviation and its variation, which is the plot.

Good Luck.

BERKSHIRE SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

CHANGE OF WATCH



Meeting and Party!

WHEN: Sunday - 26 April 2015

TIME: 2:00 PM Appetizers & Cocktails
2:30 PM Buffet Dinner
3:30 PM Meeting

WHERE: Fiddleheads Grille
Greenock Country Club
220 West Park Street
Lee, MA

**There is no charge for the Buffet Dinner but Reservations are
Required by April 15th – *Just like the IRS.***

Need a Vegetarian Meal? Available on request.

Reservations by 15 APRIL 2015

to Susan Darcy

7 Hutchinson Lane Lenox, MA 01240-2217

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

Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron Three Year Course Plan

In order that members can plan on taking courses, the following plan is proposed. Courses are often offered for a just a few students, and this schedule may be adjusted to accommodate the availability of students and instructors. Courses generally run six weeks or more and seminars are typically 2 hours in one session. Please contact either John Holden (413-458-5143) or Carl Filios (413-442-8984) for more information or to sign up for a class. Descriptions of these courses and seminars were published in the last issue of The LOG. If you have misplaced your copy you can view and download a new copy on line at http://www.usps.org/d2/d2_squadron_news.html

	<u>Courses</u>	<u>Seminars</u>
Winter/Spring 2015	Advanced Piloting—Starting March 2 Weather	GPS
Summer 2015	ABC - 2 day	Mastering Rules of the Road
Fall 2015	Seamanship ABC Marine Electrical Systems	Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio
Winter/Spring 2016	Junior Navigation Piloting ABC	Paddle Smart
Summer 2016	ABC - 2 day	How to use a Chart
Fall 2016	Instructor Development ABC Sail	Emergencies on Board
Winter/Spring 2017	Marine Communication Sys. Seamanship ABC	Man Overboard
Summer 2017	ABC - 2 day	Partner in Command
Fall 2017	Electronic Navigation Piloting ABC	Fuel and Boating



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

D/2 Winter Council

Saturday, 14 March 2015

Held at the I84 Diner 853 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524-1561
PHONE – 845.896.6537



The cost for the day is \$25 - includes 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 **4 March 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 Winter Council

Due Date 4 March 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.

The “**Anchoring**” seminar will be presented by a member of Darien, at the conclusion of the Winter Council. Member cost for the seminar is \$40 – non-member cost is \$70. Register thru HQ800 and pay at the door to receive credit and seminar materials. Don’t want credit for the seminar? Just sit behind the registered attendees. For more information, please contact the DEO Carl Filios, JN at: cefiliios@verizon.net

Seminar Registration: <http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-5848>

LUNCH: \$25.00 PER PERSON

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: USPS DISTRICT 2 Amount Enclosed _____