



In This Issue

- At the Helm
- BSPS & USPS Calendars
- Like Us on Facebook
- From the Mouth of Moby Dick
- CPR / First Aid Course
- Live on the Lake
- Dock Party
- News from the SEO
- Vessel Inspection Stickers
- Sunrise, Sunset, Twilight
- Vessel Safety Check
- Chasing the Little Round Discs
- Congratulations Graduates
- New Life Member
- Change of Watch Awards
- Ask Mr. Melville
- Spring Rendezvous
- In Memoriam



At the Helm



First, the good news! We're still in business as Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron! More good news – we have a full leadership team!

Now for the bad news! I'm the new commander! I'm the one you can take your questions and problems to. And I really want you to!

We're all in the Squadron together. We owe Rich Stidger, Rick Gore, and Kevin Dinan BIG THANK YOUs for keeping us on track. THANK YOU, you've heard of the three Musketeers? Well these three are the **Bridgerteers!**

What do we have planned? We've got some of the old successful events and some new ones in the planning stage. Mike Jezak, our new Admin Officer (Party Hardy) is working on the calendar of events. I think the first one will be a car/boat rendezvous the end of June with our usual Pig Out on Saturday night and a restaurant meal for Friday arrivals.

Carl Filios (our Educational Officer) has presented his Educational plan thru 2017. Want to read the plan? Go to <http://www.berkshiresailandpowersquadron.org>. John Holden (Assistant Educational Officer), Leo Robillard, and I are working on a two morning ABC (Basic Boating Class) during the summer. If you know people who are interested, please let John, Leo or me know.

Our new Secretary/Editor, Pete Samsel is working on a new issue of the Berkshire Log and if you're reading this, Pete has PUBLISHED. We want to keep you informed and interested in what the Squadron is doing as soon as we can. It might be just a quick flyer or an email.

Speaking of emails (I know they can be a pain), we don't want to abuse your email but it is so quick to let you know about some event, class or seminar. If you do have an email and don't mind us sending you some quick notices, please send us your email – we promise to try not to abuse it. We're on Facebook too and we will post news both on the website and on Facebook.

What can I say about our Treasurer, Fred Mason? Nothing except he is terrific and will keep the Bridge fiscally responsible – and that is a definite requirement!

And to keep me in check, the Bridgerteers have Dave Trudeau as Executive Officer and Dave can be tough! Of course the Bridgerteers will also make sure I don't mess up.

Now you know the lineup and here's the mission: **"Keep Berkshire Alive and Have Lots of Laughs and Fun Doing It!"**. Join in the mission – as the commercial says **"Try it, You'll Like It!"**

Susan Darcy, JN

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

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

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Paul L. Bouchard, S
 Thomas A. Dailey, JN
 Kevin J. Dinan, AP
 Richard E. Gore, Jr., AP
 George Reynolds
 G. Richard Stidger, SN

GENERAL COMMITTEES:

Auditing	Paula Dailey, P (Chair) Cindy Dinan AP (2 yr) Peter Charpentier, S (3 yr)
Rules	Leo O. Robillard, SN (Chair) David L. Trudeau, JN (2 yr) Cindy Dinan AP (3 yr)
Nominating Committee:	Richard E. Gore, Jr., AP (Chair) Kevin J. Dinan, AP (2 yr) G. Richard Stidger, SN (3 yr)

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.



BSPS & USPS CALENDARS

- June 9 - Executive Meeting at Zucco's Restaurant, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM**
- June 26-28 - Summer Rendezvous at Brewer's Yacht Yard in Cowesett, Rhode Island.**
- July 8 (rain date 15th) - Live on the Lake**
- July - ABC Course - location and date to be announced**
- Aug 1 - D2 Summer Council Meeting, Fishkill, NY**
- Aug 8 - Dock party at Onota Boat Livery**
- Aug 18 - Executive Meeting at Zucco's Restaurant, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM**
- September 24 - Seamanship Class begins, First United Methodist Church, Pittsfield, 6:45 PM**
- September - Fall Rendezvous, details TBA**
- September - Bus trip to Newport boat show**
- October 17 - D2 Fall Conference, Fishkill, NY**
- October - Fun night out, no boat, just fun, TBA**
- February 2016 - Bus trip to New England boat show**

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>



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

Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron

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In LIVINGCOLOR at:

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

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.

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



Miscellaneous Snips - Quotes overheard at the Change of Watch and the last meeting of the Berkshire Leadership Team (BLT)

- Look at the decorations – nicely done – Sue Gore definitely has an eye for decorating.
- Notice all the candy and candle lights that Lois Scalise and Bruna Tinney are putting on the tables? Nice touch! We get to take them home?
- The hors d'oeuvres are excellent – those hot mushroom puffs and meatballs are fantastic – can't wait for dinner!
- Did you taste the chicken? Wow – hope we can meet here again!
- What is **SHE** going to do with all those **MEN**? That's quite a line up!
- Zuccos has a nice room – and Tuesdays is really quiet. Look what they have for specials.
- Okay there is an agenda and lots of items to talk about – hopefully it will not be a LONG meeting!
- The food is great – how many handouts do we have to have? Job descriptions? A novel idea – why would anyone want to know what they were expected to do?
- **SHE** talked too much and has to take her dinner home!
- What is this BLT? Bacon lettuce and tomato? Nah it's the Berkshire Leadership Team!
- Interested – you can be the voice of Moby – come to the meeting Tuesday June 9th at Zuccos. Dinner 6 PM (1800) – meeting at 7 PM (1900).

Get Involved – Just Jump In!



CPR/First Aid Class

Any member interested in a CPR/first aid class can contact Mike Jezak (mikejezak@gmail.com). A time a place can be arranged depending upon interest.

Live on the Lake

Live on the lake is slated for July 8 with a rain date for the 15th. Onota boat livery will provide a few pontoon boats to members for our enjoyment. The bands playing are:

- 7/8 - Who Are You
- 7/15 - Arthur Holmes Blues Band

Dock Party - Saturday, Aug 8

The dock party will be at Onota boat livery. There will be burgers, dogs and members can bring a dish of their choice to share.

News From the SEO

An ABC class is being planned for July. Dates and location have not yet been determined. Susan Darcy, Leo Robillard, and John Holden are leading that effort.

A GPS seminar was held. It was attended by one person from the Albany area and David Trudeau. An additional GPS seminar will be held in the fall in conjunction with the Geodetic Mark part of the Cooperative Charting program (see article). We can also use the GPS training to hold a geocaching event. I know where most of the caches are on the campus of Berkshire Community College, and would like another shot at finding the one I couldn't locate recently. The exact date will be announced later.

A Seamanship class is scheduled to begin on Thursday September 24. The course is presently in HQ800, and you can sign up on-line. <http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/cfind.cgi?C>

The Boating on Rivers, Locks, and Lakes seminar is planned for the fall, probably as a joint event with the Sacandaga Power Squadron. It will likely be held in the Albany/Schenectady area, and may include the possibility of actually going through a lock.

The Electronic Navigation course is planned to begin sometime after Seamanship ends – likely after the first of next year, since the holiday season doesn't usually work well for courses.

A new version of ABC should be released shortly, but likely won't be available until after the current stock of ABC books is exhausted.

If you want a course or seminar, and it hasn't been offered recently, let me know so I can schedule it.

Carl Filios, SEO

Vessel Identification Stickers

Carl Filios has lots of Vessel Identification Stickers, and will provide them to any of you who would like them. These are appropriate for small unregistered boats for identification in case the boat is lost or stolen.

Sunrise, Sunset, and Twilight

– Defining when Daylight and Darkness Occur

By Tom Dailey, JN

When traveling by boat around the clock offshore, and out of sight of land with an unobstructed horizon, you get to observe (in clear weather) the true rising and setting of the sun. This leads to defining the time of sunrise and sunset which is commonly tabulated in almanacs and weather forecasts. Sunrise and sunset are defined as the time when the upper edge of the sun's disc lies on the unobstructed horizon. The exact time at which you observe this phenomenon depends on many factors including atmospheric conditions, your elevation, sea conditions, and on land, the terrain of landscape which you look over.

In observing sunrise and sunset at sea you notice, however, that the sky has already brightened before the sun rises and continues in brightness after the sun sets. This brings up the subject of twilight, which is the period between sunset and darkness and darkness and sunrise during which some outdoor activities can continue without artificial light, for some limited time. In marine navigation and Power Squadron courses we utilize two periods of twilight: civil twilight and nautical twilight. Civil twilight begins in the morning and ends in the evening when the center of the sun lies 6 degrees below the horizon. During this period ordinary outdoor activities can be performed without artificial illumination. Nautical twilight begins in the morning and ends in the evening when the center of the sun lies 12 degrees below the horizon. During this time (and in the absence of other illumination) general outlines of objects may be distinguishable, but detailed outdoor operations are not possible. A third defined period of twilight (not generally discussed or used in the Power Squadron) is astronomical twilight. Astronomical twilight is defined as the period beginning in the morning and ending in the evening when the center of the sun lies 18 degrees below the horizon. Before astronomical twilight begins in the morning and ends in the evening there is no sky illumination from the sun, making objects practically imperceptible.

To learn more about the sun and stars and how they can be used in marine navigation consider taking the Power Squadron's Junior Navigation and Navigation courses.

Vessel Safety Check

Has your boat (power, sail, paddle craft) had a 2015 Vessel Safety Check? If not, are you sure your boat has the required safety equipment for the state or states in which you plan to operate? Please contact John Holden or myself to schedule your 2015 Vessel Safety Check.

Carl Filios, Vessel safety Check Chair

Chasing the Little Round Discs

The Cooperative Charting program used to consist of two parts. One is what we think of in relation to navigational aids found in the water. US Power Squadrons® members participate in the program by reporting the location of the aids. This data is used to assist in keeping charts up to date, as occasionally the aids disappear or are moved during a storm. The second part of the program was locating discs that were embedded in things such as rocks as part of the US Coast and Geodetic Survey. You may have seen some of these markers if you've been hiking to the top of mountains or even around town.

The land-based part of the program was more suited to



those of us here, who are more likely to find the markers than to find navigational aids. Some of us from Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron participated in the program at one time, and I wrote a previous Log article (same title) a few years back. The land-based part of the program was discontinued for a while, but has now returned, effective immediately. The description can be found on the Cooperative Charting pages of the USPS web site. <http://www.usps.org/index.html/index.php/committees/2015-02-19-19-05-44/2015-02-19-19-11-16>

Program participation consists of looking up the location of geodetic marks in the area, and then setting out with a GPS and the location and description of the markers. The results of the search are then reported. Only markers that haven't been reported in the last two years are reported. Some of the markers no longer exist, and that should also be reported. Have you ever seen the east end of the Hoosac Tunnel? I'd never seen it until we went looking for a marker there.

This coming October or November, we will offer the GPS seminar to familiarize people with a GPS as used on land. Upon completion of the seminar, we will organize into teams, divide up the available marks by area, and see what we can find. I have six GPS units that we can use. We will offer the training on one evening, and then set out on a Saturday to search. Check for more information in the next Log.

Carl Filios, SEO



Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following students on their educational achievement!

Navigator: John Holden, Carl Filios
Senior Navigator: Carl Filios

Congratulations New Life Member!

Congratulations to Susan Darcy for becoming a new Life Member.

Change of Watch Awards!

Commander Stidger presented Lt/C Frederick Mason, SN a 40 Year USPS Member Award.

Paula Dailey, P received the Senior USPS Member Award.

New members George & Karen Reynolds were given their new members Certificates.

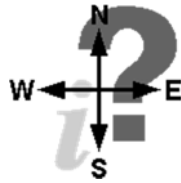
Susan Darcy was presented her Life Member Award
 Carl Filios, SN was given the Education Achievement Award.

P/D/C Denise Terry presented a Certificate of Appreciation to P/D/C Howard Sklar.

At the 2014 Fall Conference, Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron won the Carl Plock Award for the Squadron having the greatest percentage of members who have completed all courses. A Sextant is given for this award.

At the 2015 Spring Conference, Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron won the USPS Educational Fund Certificate of Merit (21st Year) and also the 2014 Distinctive Communicator Award for our website. Special thanks to P/R/S Susan Darcy, SN for all of the work she does on this.

Commander Stidger also gave out Certificates of Appreciation to the following people: Hillary Filios, Sally Holden, Mary Mason, Maria Robillard and Carol Stidger.



Ask Mr. Melville

Got a question about BSPS or USPS? Not certain what to do? Send a note to Mr. Melville.

Dear Mr. Melville. I'm new to the Squadron, and am not certain what courses I should take.

Signed: *Going the Course*

Dear "Going": That's an easy one -- you can take Piloting or Seamanship in any order as soon as these courses are offered. And sign up for an elective like Cruise Planning, Sail, Marine Electronics or any of the others that are offered. Check out the Educational Plan for courses being offered.

Mr. M.

Dear Mr. Melville, I'd love to attend an event but I don't know anyone very well, have dietary restrictions and am not always certain whether "newcomers" are welcome.

Signed: *Insecure & Shy*

Dear "I.S.":

I know I can tell you not to feel that way -- newcomers are always welcome. Everyone feels that way to begin with but try to attend something and see how welcome you are made to feel.

Corner the new Commander and she'll make sure you meet people - check out her pink pig - you'll see why! As for dietary restrictions, they are usually covered at our potlucks, because someone always brings a low carb dish, or veggie plate or diabetic items. For a restaurant event, we always can order special meals. See you at the next EVENT? Find Mr. M. and introduce yourself!





Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron

Spring Rendezvous 2015

June 26 – 28 in Greenwich Bay, Rhode Island

Mark your calendars now and plan to join fellow Berkshire Sail and Power Squad Members and friends the last weekend in June for our annual spring rendezvous. The rendezvous will be held at **Goddard Memorial State Park** in Warwick, Rhode Island.



Come by sail, power, land yacht, or any kind of vehicle to enjoy a weekend of fun, friends and relaxation in and around Greenwich Bay. We will get together Friday evening for dinner at Finn's Harborside Restaurant around the corner in East Greenwich.

On Saturday explore the Bay or head to the beach at Goddard Park and kick back. We are planning a Pot Luck Party on Saturday for hors d'oeuvres.

Sunday will draw an end to this round of fun with folks departing at various times for home or the next leg of their trips.

For information contact Kevin or Cindy Dinan (441-3613 or 637-4595)



Information link to Goddard Memorial State Park, 1095 Ives Road
Warwick, Rhode Island 02818: <http://riparks.com/>

Hotel Information link: <http://www.maps.google.com/maps?q=hotels+around+Cowesett+RI&hl=en&ll=41.698295>

Information link for Finn's Harborside Restaurant: <http://finnsharborside.com/>



In Memoriam



Joseph G. Stitt, Jr., JN

Joe Gracey Stitt, Jr., JN, age 84 of Clarksville, TN passed away Friday, May 22, 2015 at Spring Meadows Healthcare Center.

Joe was born February 4, 1931 in Hattiesburg, MS to the late Joe G. Stitt and Elizabeth Gracey Stitt.

He was also preceded in death by his step-grandson, Christopher Boone; and his first wife, Carol.

Joe was a 40-year member of Berkshire Sail & Power squadron, joining us in 1975. He taught classes and achieved his personal educational level of Junior Navigator while earning 6 merit marks.

Mr. Stitt was a retired engineer at General Electric and a member of Forest Street United Methodist Church.

Joe is survived by his wife, Eva Jean Speight Stitt; son, David A. (Debra) Stitt of New Hampshire; stepson, Lawrence M. Kremer of Clarksville; stepdaughter, Linda J. Boone of Nashville; brother, John "Jack" (Linda) Stitt of North Carolina; two grandchildren, Tyler Stitt and Daniel Stitt; three step-grandchildren, Jason (Connie) Kremer, Gina (Billy) Jones, and Angela (Eric) Storeli; and twelve step-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Forest Street United Methodist Church, 416 Church Street, Clarksville, TN 37040.



P/Lt/C Clive R. (Dick) Davis, SN

Clive Richard Davis, SN, age 86 of Pittsfield, MA passed away on June 13, 2015.

Dick was a 26 year member of Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron joining in 1978. He was very active in many squadron activities.

He taught Public Boating, and many advanced courses such as Junior Navigation and Navigation. Dick earned the grade of Senior Navigator in 1991 having completed all of the USPS courses that were offered.

He built a 30 foot wooden sailboat, *Windrose*, beginning in 1978 and completing it in 1982. It was his pride and joy, and he sailed her for many years.

He was an accomplished navigator and completed three cruises to Bermuda between 1980 and 1991, both as a navigator and as a helmsman. Two of those cruises were yacht races from Marion, MA to Bermuda.

He served BPS as secretary and was instrumental in the hosting of district conferences and council meetings. He earned 17 merit marks for his efforts.

He helped to organize and participate in our Hands-on-Cruises where our squadron's students were given a weekend opportunity to board member's boats and practice their learned classroom skills.

He was very supportive of women's membership in the squadron and took particular attention to the success of women completing our classes.

He was a great friend to many of us. He will be missed.



Welcome Captain JP Aboard! Cruise!



When: 11 September 2015
 Where: Corner of Front & State Streets in Troy, NY
 What: A fun night of dinner and dancing on the water with friends
 Cost: Dinner plus 3-hour cruise on the Hudson River- \$41; 3-hour Cruise and dancing only- \$20

Come and celebrate great friendships on the water with Sacandaga Power Squadron aboard the Captain JP Cruise Line with dinner and dancing to the music of the popular Refrigerators on Friday, 11 September 2015. This is a 3 hour fun filled cruise leaving the Troy dock at 8:30pm. Boarding is at 8:00pm. Join us for a scrumptious dinner at 7:00pm. Cost for the entire event is \$41 per person but if you don't wish to join us for dinner, the dance cruise is \$20 per person. This cruise sells out fast so if you wish to attend, please get your reservation in **BEFORE 24 JULY!!!!** No reservations can be accepted after this date as we have to submit them by 1 August to guarantee space. Please make your check payable to Sacandaga Power Squadron.

Name(s) _____ Email _____
 Address _____ City, St, Zip _____
 Phone _____ Squadron _____ or Guest _____

Cruise with dinner \$41pp # _____ x \$44 = \$ _____ **Cruise only** \$20pp # _____ x \$22 = \$ _____
 Mail reservation and payment to P/D/C Denise Terry, AP, 217 Calderwood Rd, Amsterdam, NY 12010
 Any questions, please email celticfun2@gmail.com or call 518.649.6303.