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At the Helm



I did it!! I drove round trip to Florida and only hit bad weather in North Carolina and Florida. The Weather Course really is helpful – maybe even better than the Weather Channel! The rain, hail and snow flurries coming back that started in Maryland all the way home were our usual weather. Why did I go to Florida?

That's an easy question but with many answers. One answer is to see my godchild. Another to see my transplanted Florida friends. A more complete answer is to attend my new USPS® committee meetings and the USPS Annual Meeting with the added benefit of seeing more friends.

My new committee is the National Committee on Nominations and like all Nominating Committees, we work very hard to get the best people for each job. Interestingly at the local and district level, we don't have a lot of meetings but do phone and emails. At National, we are secluded for at least four days from 8 AM to 5 PM. We also have lots of emails and phone calls during the months between National meetings.

But I digress – the Annual Meeting had some interesting news for us, the members. As I mentioned before, USPS is in financial trouble for all the obvious and subtle reasons that we know. They are trying to get corporate sponsors and researching other means of income. One way is to institute a fee for people attending the National meetings.

Now before you say that these meetings are supposed to be free – the National meetings will continue to be free. For members who register, they will be assessed a small fee which will give them goodie meeting bags with "Stuff". All the other conferences I attend do the exact same thing.

There are a lot of changes ongoing and proposed in the Education Department which I know that SEO, Carl will explain – ask him especially about eBooks. Sounds like a great way for all of us to cut down on paper.

Of course the members attending voted for the new National Bridge and watched their installation. There also was a roast of outgoing Chief, Robert Baldrige. Lots of cheers and applause for the outgoing and incoming officers. Then the Saturday night dinner dance and packing (how do I have more to take back than I brought). And Sunday "On the Road Again".

** Continued on Page 3 **

BERKSHIRE SAIL and POWER SQUADRON
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 Lenox, MA 01240
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 Educational Officer Carl E. Filios, SN
 Administrative Officer Michael R. Jezak, AP
 Secretary Peter Samsel, AP 413-655-2416
 Treasurer Frederick A. Mason, SN 413-499-1030
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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, S
 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: G. Richard Stidger, SN (Chair)
 Richard E. Gore, Jr., AP (2 yr)
 Leo O. Robillard, SN (2 yr)
 Kevin J. Dinan, AP (3 yr)

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BSPS & USPS CALENDARS

- March 7 and future Mondays - ABC Course
- March 20 - CPR Course
- April 1-3 - D2 Spring Conference at Ramada Inn in Fishkill, NY
- April 10 - Change of Watch Event (see details in this LOG)
- April 12 - Executive Meeting at Zucco's Restaurant, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
- May 3 - Basic Weather and Boating Seminar
- May 10 - Executive Meeting at Zucco's Restaurant, Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
- May 15 - Rivers, Locks, and Lakes seminar
- June 24-26 - Spring Rendezvous at Block Island (see details in this LOG)
- D2 Summer Council -- ?????
- USPS Fall Governing Board – 21 August to 28 August 2016 – Pittsburgh Sheraton, Pittsburgh, PA
- D2 Fall Conference -- ?????

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

Forty Two Years of Service to Boaters
 1974 - 2016

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

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.

At the Helm (continued)

When I got back, I had to get ready for the Winter Council where I was honored to be asked to make a presentation on Squadron Rejuvenation (more on that later). Still spinning, I'm now in the process of getting ready for our Basic Boating Course, starting 7 March. Please come to the class at Conte, Monday nights at 7, you can simply sit with the students – show them that there are more members than just their instructors.

Again Pete Samsel is reminding us to write our articles for the Berkshire Log (He's keeping me on track). Anyone can send an article so hop on the train. Come to a meeting. We meet the 2nd Tuesday at Zucco's at 6 PM for dinner and 7 PM for the meeting – everyone is invited – open to all. Be informed, come join us!

As I said before, we want to keep you informed and **"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

Teaching Aid

Each year, District 2 holds a teaching aid competition at the Fall Conference. Last fall, Berkshire entered an aid in the competition. It won the competition and represented District 2 at the competition at the Annual Meeting, where each district is invited to submit the aid that took first place at their competition. The criteria consist of relevance to core objectives, effectiveness, ease of use, cost of replication. Our entry took first place in the national competition. It's a simple aid, but fared well in all of the criteria categories. Judging is done by the heads of the various educational committees.

Carl Filios, SN



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



Miscellaneous Snips - Quotes overheard at the Holiday Party and Miscellaneous Meetings of the Berkshire Squadron Members.

- Wow, what time were we supposed to be here? Look how pretty everything is.
- How do the gifts work? Oops, I didn't mark mine.
- With all this food, am I able to have seconds?
- Who are those people? District Officers? Berkshire rates!
- Did you see that flash? That's thunder!
- Here comes the rain. Have you ever seen horizontal rain?
- Watch the wind whip those trees?
- This is winter – not thunderstorm weather.
- Oh look at that gift – can I trade?
- And she got wine too? Not fair!
- Wow Mike throws a great party – when's the next one? Put our reservations in now!
- Don't forget, **BLT** stands for the Berkshire Leadership Team not Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato!
- Interested – you can be the voice of Moby – come to the next meeting April 10 at the Change of Watch, check the flyer for place and time or the following Tuesday, April 12th at Zuccos. Dinner 6 PM (1800) – meeting at 7 PM (1900).

Get Involved – Just Jump In!



Boating Simulator

Scott Morris from District 22 has developed a boating simulator that was on display at the Annual Meeting in Orlando. It's a much more compact unit than the large simulator developed for USPS using a Coast Guard grant. This simulator consists of a laptop, wheel, control unit (for throttle), monitor, and a software package. The cost is much more reasonable than the \$17,000 cost of the larger simulator.

The software package is actually a game that provides a number of realistic scenarios, using a variety of boats and locations. It is not intended to give the user training in the Boat Operator Certification skills like the larger simulator does. I've assembled one of these, and it will be available for use. We will likely use it in ABC class and at other events where we might have had the larger simulator. Plan on seeing it at the Change of Watch on April 10.

Carl Filios, SN



Geodetic Marks

Last fall we "restarted" searching for geodetic marks. Dave Trudeau and I went out looking for some (and found some of them). I've got a list left over from last fall that we will be going looking for this spring. All it takes is a GPS and some sharp eyes. A history of the area is also helpful, since some things have been changed in the last 30-40 years.

Join Dave and I as we begin looking for more marks during April and May. The lack of snow is going to enable us to start earlier than we might have been able to if marks were buried under snow. Contact me if you're interested in participating. My email address is cefilios@verizon.net.

Carl Filios, SN

Class Status

ABC got under way on March 7. Ten students were present, and at least one more is expected to appear for the second class. It's the largest class we've had in a while, and that's a good sign. The students seem to have varied boating experience.

Volunteers are needed to teach various sessions. If you're interested, contact Susan Darcy. You can pick a topic that suits you, based on the schedule. We need to show the students that we have a variety of squadron members – not just one or two.

Electronic Navigation is down to one more class on March 15, and the final exam on March 22. We have seven students enrolled in the class, which is being "team taught" by some of the students, including the Dinans and Tom Dailey.

Don't forget about the Rivers, Locks, and Lakes seminar on May 15th. The course has a capacity of 20 students, with a possibility of a second boat with a capacity of five additional students. Spots are filling up. There are currently eight people enrolled – four of which are not USPS members. The remaining four include two from Berkshire and one each from Sacandaga and Mohawk Hudson. Note that there figure to be quite a few from Sacandaga, so sign up now to reserve your spot.

The link to register is:

<http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-6446>

Don't miss out. Register now. We will begin at the Schenectady Yacht Club, and go through the locks on the Mohawk River to the Hudson and down the Hudson to the yacht club where the boat spends the summer. Transportation will be provided back to the starting point. Lunch is a cookout along the way. Get hands-on experience guiding the boat through the locks.

We will offer the Basic Weather and Forecasting seminar (not the full course) on Tuesday, May 3 at the First United Methodist Church from 7-9 pm. To register:

<http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/nat/eddept/800/getregform.cgi?S-6520>

Please register early so course materials can be ordered.

Carl Filios, SN

Squadron Educational Officer SEO

2016-2017 Nomination Committee Report

In accordance with Section 6:13 of the Squadron By-Laws, the Nominating Committee herewith submits the following list of Squadron officers and members to be elected by the membership, Sunday, 10 April.

BRIDGE OFFICERS:

Commander Susan L. Darcy, JN
Executive Officer David L. Trudeau, JN
Education Officer Carl E. Filios, SN
Administrative Officer Michael R. Jezak, AP
Secretary Peter W. Samsel, AP
Treasurer Frederick A. Mason, SN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ass't Education Officer John C. Holden, SN
Thomas A. Dailey, JN
P/C Kevin Dinan, AP
P/C Rick Gore, AP
George Reynolds, S
P/C Leo O. Robillard, SN
P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN

GENERAL COMMITTEES:

AUDITING

Cindy Dinan, AP (Chair)
Peter Charpentier, S (2 years)
Paula Dailey, P (3 years)

RULES

Cdr Susan L. Darcy, JN (Chair)
P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN (2 years)
P/C Leo O. Robillard, SN (3 years)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2016-2017:

P/C Rick Gore, AP (Chair)
P/C Leo Robillard, SN (2 years)
P/C Kevin Dinan, AP (3 years)

Respectfully Submitted,

P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN (Chair)
P/C Rick Gore, AP (2 years)
P/C Leo Robillard, SN (2 years)
P/C Kevin Dinan, AP (3 years)



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 a newby and have just seen an ad for a COW - just what is a COW in this boating organization?

Signed: *Out in the Field*

Dear "Field": Like a lot of other organization we do love our mnemonics (sometimes I think it is because we cannot spell!) But a COW is the Squadron's Change of Watch, the ending of one watch year and the beginning of the next watch year. The term has a very nautical heritage. Sailors stood watches and still do. When the ship's captain turned the ship over to another captain, the ceremony was called a Change of Watch. Try and attend the upcoming Change of Watch April 10th and see the ceremony and meet the new officers.

Mr. M.

A Follow up for "At Sea"! (see last LOG issue)

Dear "At Sea":

Okay, last issue, you told us you bought a boat but you didn't come to the next meeting to tell us all about it. All of us have absolutely the best ideas for you to outfit the boat - someone even said if you get all the things we talked about, you'll need another boat to hold it all. Please come to next meeting or the Change of Watch so we can see pictures and tell you all the things we think you need. Remember, you need to take some more courses too especially Cruise Planning - even if you are only going to spend the day on Onota Lake.

Mr. M.

CPR / First Aid Course

We're planning a CPR / First Aid Course on March 20. If interested, call Mike Jezak at 413-212-2193 or email him at mikejezak@gmail.com. Then he will set up a time that works for people interested.

Come One, Come All

FREE FREE FREE

***It is that time of year for the Change of Watch.
Join us at***

FRANKIE'S RISTORANTE ITALIANO

On April 10, 2016 at 5:00 PM

First course:

House Salad

Entrée Choices

~

Chicken Piccata

Sautéed with white wine, capers and lemon butter
Served with green beans and ricotta potato gratin

~

Penne Pesto

Penne Pasta tossed in
our House Made Pesto Sauce

~

Franco's Famosa Lasagna

Original house made lasagna with spinach dough, parmigiano, Bolognese and béchamel sauce

~

Spaghetti Bolognese

Spaghetti Pasta served with Franco's
Grandma's Original Bolognese Sauce

~

Eggplant Parmigiana

Lightly Breaded Eggplant topped
with Mozzarella cheese and Marinara

Dessert

Homemade Tiramisu

There is no charge for this event for members and their guest.

Please RSVP by April 1, 2016 to Mike Jezak at Mikejezak@gmail.com or
by phone 413-212-2193 (please leave a message). Please indicate which menu item you would like
for an entrée so that they can prepare sufficient quantities.

Frankie's Ristorante Italiano is located at 80 Main Street Lenox, MA 01240

Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron SPRING RENDEZVOUS June 24 - 26, 2016 Block Island RI - New Harbor (Great Salt Pond)

Mark your calendars now and plan to join fellow Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron Members and friends the last weekend in June for our annual spring rendezvous. This year the rendezvous will be held at Block Island.



Come by sail, power, or ferry and enjoy a weekend of fun, friends and relaxation in and around Great Salt Pond. We will get together Friday evening for dinner at The Oar. The Oar is a casual spot located in the south corner of New Harbor.

Saturday explore the island and hike into town for lunch, libations, and ice cream or head to the beach and kick back. Saturday night details will be forth coming depending on members attending. We will go out again or have a Pot Luck Party aboard or shore side, depending on the number of squadron members in attendance.

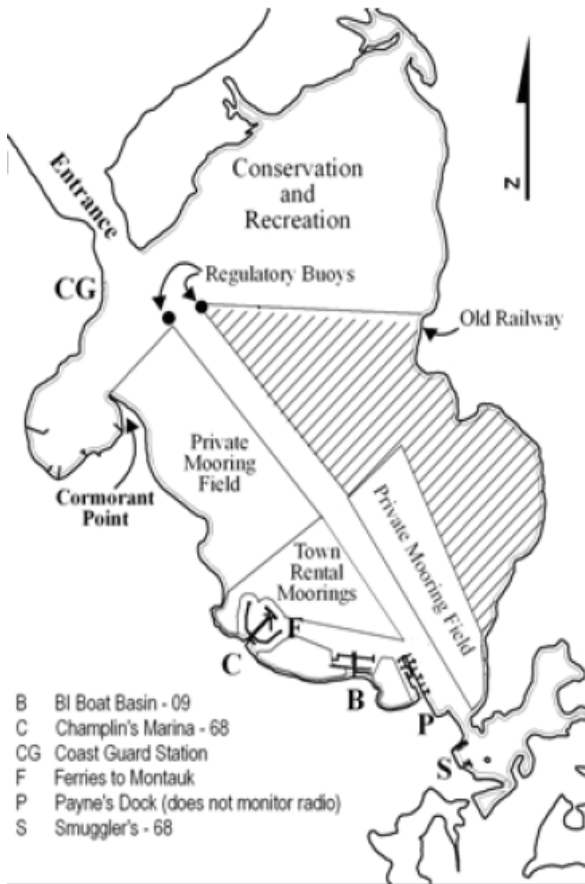
Sunday will draw an end to this round of fun with folks departing at various times for home or the next leg of their trips.

Get Ready to Start the Season!



2015 BSPS Spring Rendezvous at Goddard Park, Greenwich Bay, Rhode Island

New Harbor



Anchorage and Mooring Information

Town Rental Moorings:

- There are 90 Town owned rental moorings available on a first come, first served basis and cannot be reserved.
- Moorings are \$40 per night per boat.
- The town rental moorings are light green colored center pipe mooring buoys with black numbers. Orange moorings are for vessels over 50' in length and cannot be used without permission from the Harbormaster.

Marina Information



Block Island Boat Basin
West Side Road
(401) 466-2631 ~ Marine Channel 9



Champlin's Resort and Marina
www.ChamplinsMarina.com
(401) 466-7777 ~ (800) 762-4541
Marine Channel 68

If you are interested or planning on attending the Spring Rendezvous, please contact Cindy or Kevin Dinan for more information at 637- 4595. You can also email Cindy at cfdinan@gmail.com or Kevin at kjdinan@aol.com .

Respectfully Submitted
Cindy Dinan