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## At the Helm



Well it happened – the snow came! Did it put me in the winter or Holiday mood? Probably a little bit but the Holiday mood comes more with the abundance of Holiday catalogues that have been pouring into my mailbox.

I often wonder how much money is wasted with all these mailings but I'm reminded that if only one person ... sort of like the squadron. We offer lots of courses and fun events but unless we actually get to talk together about it, a lot of people just won't sign up for it. (They don't know what fun people we are!).

Now you have a great opportunity to prove me wrong. Since we know your time, before the Holidays, is just too hectic, we're going to hold OUR Holiday party **AFTER** the first of the year! (See the flyer later in the issue). That way, you have plenty of time to re-arrange your schedule so you can attend. And the best part – it is **FREE** to all or at least to BSPS and their guests! And believe me, the food is **OUTSTANDING!**

Now that it is almost winter and the days are shorter, we've got a lot planned. We are figuring out what courses we should offer to prepare all of us to be safer boaters for the next boating season. I'm looking over the list of seminars, guides and courses. I think with all the other things we're involved in, some of the seminars and short courses would be ideal. (See the list later in the issue.)

But what do you want to take? Let me know your ideas. Just send an email to me to my email address: [sldarcy@roadrunner.com](mailto:sldarcy@roadrunner.com) with your suggestions. After all, we all are a team. I hope we can do the Locks seminar later – would be a great spring short course. Maybe we can even do the on the water part similar to what Carl Filios did with Sacandaga last spring.

Speaking of Carl, he is moving south after the first of the year. Carl has been a major asset to Berkshire for many years and we will definitely miss his help. Like everything else, things change and people move on. We wish him the best in his travels.

So now it is up to you to let us know you'll attend the After Holiday party and let me know what courses, seminars or guides you're interested in. Until then, have a wonderful season of joy, health, safety and happiness with your family and friends. See you at the **P-A-R-T-Y!!**

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**

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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.*



**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

**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](http://www.usps.org/d2/d2_squadron_news.html)



**BSPS & USPS CALENDARS**

**December 10 -- Sacandaga Holiday Party, noon**

**January 8, 5 PM -- BSPS After the Holiday Party, Frankies, Lenox**

**January 10 -- Berkshire Leadership Team Meeting, 7 PM, Zucco's Restaurant**

**February 14 -- Berkshire Leadership Team Meeting, 7 PM, Zucco's Restaurant**

**February 14 -- Articles due for the next edition of the BSPS LOG**

**February 19 -26 -- USPS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL**

**March, Date to be determined -- CPR/First Aid Course**

**Late April or early May 2017 -- BSPS Change of Watch**

**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 Three Years of Service to Boaters**  
 1974 - 2016

***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.



## Summer Boating Wrap Up

The season started with a run to Block Island. Our weather was delightful although winds were light; the stage was set for an annual spring challenge. S/V Sybaris, leaving from Newport and S/V Shenanigans, leaving from Bristol were off for bragging rights. Who could enter Great Salt Pond first? Shenanigans was forced to yield to better skills and equipment by turning on the motor resulting in automatic 2<sup>nd</sup> place (again).



Frank and Tena DeBaggis had arrived in New England about a week earlier. Deciding to enjoy a little down time after a delightful winter in Florida, they anchored in Block and waited for the rest of the group to join them. Tom and Bev Gilbert raced across the sound under sail only and were happy to be our fourth boat rafting up. Rick Miller and Brad Felix from the Berkshires balanced the load on a very sturdy anchor set from S/V Mistress.

Unable to secure a room on the Island, Susan, Maria and Leo arrived by ferry for a Friday night dinner out. Margaret and Wayne Joseph having traveled over aboard S/V Sybaris enjoyed cocktails with the group but were shocked to learn that Cdr. Darcy was almost successful in convincing the ferry captain to raft up with all of us.

Caitlyn Dinan, Jason Mitchell & Danielle Cartier enjoyed a peaceful passage aboard Shenanigans but became a bit distressed when we found the head was 100 percent inoperable. Fear was palpable when the captain announced that they should just hold it!

Saturday was a total pleasure filled with relaxing walks, swimming and unproductive clamming. One of the highlights of our afternoon was the return of the Gilberts from town complete with a half-gallon of rapidly melting ice cream. This sprang the Hors d'oeuvre Party into immediate action and the night came to a close with everyone enjoying the most excellent Mudslides made with the Gilbert's ice cream!



Live on the Lake was fun as usual. Thanks to Onota Boat Livery we were provided with two pontoon boats. Tom and Paula always try and arrange for good weather and right on que a delightful day arrived. Administrative Officer Michael Jezak coordinated a delightful event with a tasty and overflowing pot-luck snack fest. The music was enjoyed by all but there were so many conversations to join in on I can't remember who was playing!



Fall arrived much too early catching many of us by surprise. We tried to arrange an informal raft up at the Newport Boat Show, but the only boat to anchor out was S/V Mistress with Frank and Tena aboard. Shenanigans was in the middle of an electronics upgrade, Rich and Carol Stidger were off traveling, Tom and Paula Dailey could not get free until Sunday. Thank you to Frank & Tena for meeting with Cindy and I for Lunch on Friday. We enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Adquidneck Company Lobster Restaurant on Bowen's Warf.

Our 100 days of summer have flown by in such a flash we may need to get out our 2017 calendar and start preparing!  
Cindy and Kevin Dinan

## Knowing Your Member Benefits

One of the reasons for being a member of USPS is that a number of benefits come with your membership. Most people may know about some of the benefits, but it can be difficult to keep up with all the benefits available. One way to do that is to go to the Member Benefits page (after logging in), scroll through the benefits, and look at the details for those that interest you.

Today we are going to look at one of the newer benefits – Vision Service Plan (VSP). If you don't have vision insurance, exams and contacts or glasses can be expensive. Even with insurance these items are not cheap, but VSP coverage will help hold down the costs. VSP coverage can be for one, two, or a family. The payments can be paid once for the year or by monthly payment.

To see the details, log in to the usps.org site. The top entry in the left menu is Member Benefits. Select that and you will be taken to the member benefits main page. VSP is the center entry in the top row. Select "Click here for details" to be taken to the VSP page. After reading the page content, select "CLICK HERE" at the end of the article. That will take you to another page with tabs that describe the program. From there you can enroll on line or by phone.

**Carl Filios, SN**  
**Squadron Educational Officer SEO**

## Cartoons

These cartoons are included with credit to the United Marine Underwriters.



## SEO Report

We've had a quiet season as far as courses go (none). A couple were offered, but no one responded. I did not get to making calls to see about getting students. Unfortunately, I've been a bit busy preparing for my upcoming move, and haven't spent as much time on this as I should have.

One of the planned developments in the educational area is breaking up some of the 8 week courses into individual 1 week segments, so that people can pick and choose what specific topics are of interest to them. Another development is the plan to offer course manuals in pdf, rather than hard copy. Seamanship will be the first – probably early next year. Non-members taking courses other than ABC3 will be charged a \$20 exam fee to reflect the cost of maintaining records for non-members. There's a new Digital Media Library (uspsdml.org). It has videos on selected topics that you may find useful to use in a particular course or for advertising.

I attended the District 2 Fall Conference in early October. For the first time in a while, Berkshire didn't win any of the awards related to education. We have a couple of people currently taking the Navigation course; if they complete it successfully, we might get an award next year.

I guess it's time for another mailing to try to see if there are any courses that would be of interest to people. There are a large number of seminars available which only run two hours. Those can be done in one night, rather than 8 or more weeks. Included in this edition of the Berkshire Log is a card you can return to indicate interest.

Elsewhere in this LOG is a list of the offerings available. For details on these courses and seminars, see the USPS web site and look under the Boating Courses tab.

**Carl Filios, SN**  
**Squadron Educational Officer SEO**





## Exploring Sebago Lake

On the first Sunday in August my Mom, wife, and I headed for "the West Coast of Maine" for our annual week of exploring new flat waters. Our antique 1936 Old Town 18' Sea Model powered by a 1957 Evinrude Lark 35 has not been back to Maine since leaving the factory June 11, 1936. 7 hours later after several wrong turns we checked in at The Augustus Bove House in Naples. The former Naples Hotel is now a charming Bed & Breakfast hosted by Arlene Stetson with 19th century charm, linen napkins and china place settings. We launched our boat at the Naples Marina to explore Brandy Pond. Before we had a chance to pull out of our slip a man paddled up in his kayak and introduced himself as Rick. He had seen us from across the lake and invited us to join his group The Mountainview Woodies and tour the lakes with them.

If you're not familiar with the area, Brandy Pond is connected to Long Lake to the north and Sebago lake via the Songo River to the south. There's nearly 50 miles of boating available. The dam and lock on the river constructed in 1830 is the oldest non-powered manually operated lock in the country, and maintains the 5 foot elevation difference between the lakes to allow boat traffic. This lock is bordered by an old swing bridge, hand operated with a large "key". Enough geography.

On Monday after a short tour boat ride on the Songo River Queen we explored Brandy pond and Long Lake on our own, with lunch at the Village Dock in Harrison; then down to the Songo Lock before heading back to the Marina for dinner. Tuesday Rick led a group of 3 Lymans, a Chris-craft, a Penn Yan, a Correct Craft, and our Old Town through the lock and into Sebago Lake. After crossing the lake we arrived at Camp Sunshine, a camp for seriously ill children, where we were treated to a wonderful lunch with the campers. Following lunch we reciprocated by taking the kids and councilors for boat rides around the lake. What a thrill for both the campers and us. As the afternoon drew to a close and we began our trip back across the lake a storm blew in from the south soaking us as the occasional wave broke over our bow and the spray constantly came over our windshield. Wednesday the weather was still unsettled so we visited the bridge and lock by land and in the evening we ventured up to Harrison by boat for an ice cream dessert. On Thursday Rick again led us through the lock and across Sebago Lake to Mijis Resort for a steak bake and afternoon of swimming. On Friday we said our goodbyes as more boat and car owners began to arrive for the Annual Naples Antique & Classic Boat Show.

There's much great boating within a days drive of home; the Power Squadron courses and seminars have given me the confidence to explore these waters. So far we've trailered our boat for vacations on the New York Finger Lakes, Lake Champlain, Indian Lake, and have camped on the Connecticut River and Lake George. On Sundays we day-trip to Harriman Reservoir and Lake Bomoseen in Vermont, Saratoga Lake, Great Sacandaga Lake, and the Hudson River in New York. George Reynolds

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



### *Miscellaneous Snips - Quotes overheard at many meetings and events.*

- Okay so Rick and she bought a bag – why can't they pack it with the stuff?
- Does Mike really do all those things?
- Kev needs to meet with the Cdr?
- Okay, fill me in – are we talking about M&M peanuts or something else?
- Wait until you see the next Moby Dick!

### **Get Involved – Just Jump In!**



## CPR Class in March

Mike Jezak is planning to hold another CPR class in March, but the dates have not yet been finalized. He is looking at the 12th or 19th of March. The class will be from 8:30AM - 12:30PM, with cost of \$25 for members wishing to obtain a card in CPR/First aid. The cost is \$10 if some one just wants a refresher with no cards. Call Mike if you're interested.

## USPS Digital Media Library

USPS announces the launch of its new Digital Media Library, focused on boating safety and safe boating education. You can visit the site at [www.uspsdml.org](http://www.uspsdml.org) and also as a free mobile app.

## Other Stories to be Told!

Rumor has it that you have other stories to tell! Someone can report on all the things that go wrong on your boating excursions, and we hear there is a perpetually full glass of wine. And maybe a safety article?

## List of Seminars, Advanced Courses and Electives

### Seminars

- Advanced Powerboat Handling
- Anchoring
- Basic Coastal Navigation
- Basic Weather and Forecasting
- Boat Handling under Power
- Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes
- Crossing Borders
- Emergencies on Board
- Fuel and Boating
- How to Use a Chart
- Hurricane Preparation for Boaters
- Knots, Bends and Hitches
- Man Overboard
- Marine RADAR
- Mariner's Compass
- Mastering the Rules of the Road
- Operations Training in "3"
- Paddle Smart
- Partner in Command
- Practical On The Water Training
- Sail Trim and Rig Tuning
- Tides and Currents
- Trailering Your Boat
- Using GPS
- Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio

### Advanced Courses

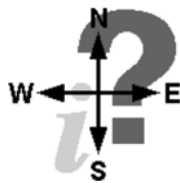
- Seamanship (S)
- Piloting (P)
- Advanced Piloting (AP)
- Junior Navigation (JN)
- Navigation (N)
- Supplemental Items For Advanced Grades

### Elective Courses

- Cruising and Cruise Planning (C and CP)
- Engine Maintenance (EM)
- Instructor Development (ID)
- Instructor Recertification
- Certified Instructor Accessories
- Marine Electrical Systems (MES)
- Marine Communication Systems (MCS)
- Electronic Navigation (ENCE)
- Sail (Sa) 2009
- Weather (Wx) 2012

## Cartoons

The cartoon to the right is included with credit to the United Marine Underwriters.



*Ask Mr. Melville*

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

**Dear Mr. Melville.** This is more of a personal question. "Why are there baseball players on the front lawn in front of your house? And like wise, why were there like boys playing baseball in the field? Or at least until they mowed the field."

Signed: *A Whaler*

*Dear "I am Ahab!"*

I'm glad you asked that - Pittsfield is famous for the start of baseball and this year is an anniversary year. What made Massachusetts baseball better (in my opinion) was that "In the Massachusetts game you did not have to stay on the base path while you were running. So you could lead your opponents on a merry chase into the outfields and beyond." Doesn't that sound like a great game? I've gone to some really very young baseball players' games and they seem to like that method a lot!

*Mr. M.*

*Author's Note: The definition of "In the Massachusetts baseball game" came from the official baseball historian, John Thorn.*





# Come celebrate the Holidays with friends, family and boaters!

Saturday, 10 December 2016

1200—1500 (Noon—3:00pm)

The Saratoga Casino Hotel  
(New hotel at the Harness track)

Hot and Cold Luncheon Buffet  
\$26 per person  
Cash bar

Please join us in celebrating the Holidays in the Riley's meeting room and enjoy a delicious buffet luncheon while making new friends and reconnecting with those you may not have seen in a while.

This will also be an opportunity to bid a fond farewell to Sacandaga's Denise Terry and Berkshire's Carl Filios as they will be moving to South Carolina in early January 2017.

.....  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$26 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary Restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Sacandaga Power Squadron and mail to:

Robert Terry, 217 Calderwood Rd, Amsterdam, NY 12010-6103

Please R.S.V.P. on or before December 1, 2016



# Come one, Come All



*Join us in a celebration of the holidays at*

**FRANKIE'S**  
RISTORANTE ITALIANO

*On Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 5:00 PM*

*We will be having a multicourse dinner of home style Italian food. There will be multiple choices for entrée and desserts.*

*We will be having a Yankee gift swap, so bring a gift of \$20 or less to participate.*

*This event is FREE to members of Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron and a guest.*

Please RSVP by January 2, 2017 to Mike Jezak at [Mikejezak@gmail.com](mailto:Mikejezak@gmail.com) or by phone 413-212-2193 (please leave a message).

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

