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## At the Helm



What can I say? We've cancelled lots of stuff (there's a list hidden somewhere in this issue of the Log).

We've also provided you with some interesting links to online courses you can take; information on benefits you have with your membership (the best for me so far is Office Depot/Office Max); and some other fun links.

As the media is saying more and more, Social Distancing. Someone sent me an interesting little cartoon

which says it all which I've included somewhere inside.

I know you want to know when this will end so we can get back to the enjoyable activities we have as a Squadron. All of us want this but as Commander, I want us all to be safe and well and we're watching the numbers and the plans - maybe late summer? But we will keep you posted.

Want to be a contributor to the Log? Doesn't have to be a lot, just something fun or interesting. If you are practicing safe distancing and boating let us know how that is working. Send some boating stories, hints, ideas or even some safe events for us to use and enjoy?

My eMail is: [sldarcy@roadrunner.com](mailto:sldarcy@roadrunner.com).

Stay Safe and Stay Well!

*Susan Darcy*

**Welcome Guest Contributors!**

**Got something to share? Just send it to Peter or Susan - Pictures are always welcome!**

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

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

**Our 2020-2021 Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron Bridge**

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**GENERAL COMMITTEES:**

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Rules	P/C Leo O. Robillard, SN (Chair) P/C Susan L. Darcy, JN (2 years) P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN (3 years)
Nominating Committee:	Kevin Dinan, AP (Chair) G. Richard Stidger, SN (2 years) David L. Trudeau, JN (3 years)

*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)



# CANCELLED

## BSPS & USPS CALENDARS

**April 4th - D2 Spring Conference - Fishkill, NY**

**April 19th - Bass Water Grill - Cheshire, MA (see flyer included)**

**May/June - Winter Blahs or Movie Night & Pizza.**

**Summer Rendezvous - To be determined**

**Sept 6th - 13th - Fall Governing Board - Raleigh, NC**

**Oct 17th - D2 Summer Council/D2 Fall Conference Fishkill, NY**

**Feb. 14th - 21st - 2020 - USPS Annual Meeting - Ponte Vedra, FL**

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**Courses being offered for Spring (starting late March 2021)**

**Weather Seminar — 2 hours**

**New Boat Handling Course (New & Improved Seamanship) — 6 weeks**

**ABC (Basic Boating) — April?**

**What courses are you interested in? Let either Leo Robillard or Tom Dailey know what courses you would like.**

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 Seven Years of Service to Boaters

1974 - 2020

***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.

## ***We have Rules and "THEY" have Rules!***

At the Annual Meeting, it was discussed that the Squadron By-Laws have changed so we will be asking for help to verify our Squadron By-Laws are in agreement with the model Squadron By-Laws.

We still have two openings for members to help for this electronic job? **Contact Leo Robillard (Rules Committee), 413-499-1625.**

*There is always something broken on a boat - you just don't know about it yet!*

## ***MAYBE WE CAN OFFER SEAMANSHIP IN THE FALL OR EARLY SPRING***

The new Boat Handling (replacing Seamanship) has the following sections:

- 0-Getting Started
- 1-Rules of the Road
- 2-Confidence in Docking and Undocking
- 3-Boating with Confidence
- 4-Anchoring with Assurance
- 5-Emergencies on Board
- 6-Knots and Line Handling
- Final Thoughts

**What do you want to learn? Please let us know. Leo, Tom or Susan**

## ***IDENTIFYING UNKNOWN PLANET***

I looked out the window and saw a very bright light in the sky. I knew it had to be a planet because it did not blink. Using a hand bearing compass, it gave an AZIMUTH of less than 225 degrees.

Using a protractor as a make shift sextant, the planet had an ALTITUDE of less than 45 degrees.

Checking with the 2020 edition of the NAUTICAL ALMANAC (N.A.) for the date of January 6 (page 12), the first thing I noticed was the BRIGHTNESS MAGNITUDE. Venus was -4 and all other planets were much less.

I looked down to the bottom of page 12 for the SHA of Venus and it was 37 degrees.

To double check, I went to the graph on page 9 of the N.A.

Upon inspection, I find only one planet is west of the sun meaning it occurs after noon and it is Venus.

There are several ways to find the exact values of ALTITUDE and AZIMUTH namely:

- \* Rude star finder
- \* Cosine formula
- \* Celestial Calculator from U.S.P.S.
- \* Google

I believe I have identified my UNKNOWN PLANET.

Answer: VENUS with the following information:

ALTITUDE 32 degrees AZIMUTH 205 degrees SSW.

*Leo Robillard*

**Let us know if you need a name tag with our own "Moby" on it (No Charge). Send an eMail with names needed to Cdr Susan at [sldarcy@roadrunner.com](mailto:sldarcy@roadrunner.com) with names needed**

***What happened to our Some Fun Events we listed?***

**Change of Watch - *CANCELLED***

**Winter Blahs or Movie & Pizza - *Cancelled***

**Summer Rendezvous - *Cancelled***

***Keep in touch - Share your eMail!***





During this time of Stay at Home, I do receive a lot of humorous cartoons and sayings. This struck my fancy and I wished I could put it up at work.



~~Nominating~~ **NEW** Officers

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Respectfully submitted by,  
Kevin Dinan, AP (Chair)  
G. Richard Stidger, SN  
David L. Trudeau, JN

**Moby's Helpful Hints**

Want to learn "STUFF" during Stay at Home?

At this location: <https://americasboatingclub.org/learn/online-boating-education/> there are lists of courses, seminars, online training.

What you'll need is your membership number and your pin (password). Both should be on the renewal notice. Can't find them? Let me know and I'll see what I can find.

eMail me at: [sldarcy@roadrunner.com](mailto:sldarcy@roadrunner.com)



# BENNIES or Benefits of Membership



Our benefit package is growing rapidly. The benefits are structured to the **USPS MEMBER**, and can only be obtained by a person with a current membership card. Below is a list of benefits, categorized and in alphabetical order. For more information on each benefit go to the link below and click on the benefit you want to know the details:

<https://www.usps.org/departments/14000/1450001/1450001-benefits-alphabetical>

## ***Advancing Education***

Great Lakes Cruising Club School  
Mariner's Learning Guide Captain's License Software

## ***Goods and Services***

11th Hour \_Printing Promotional Services  
Caskey Monogram & Embroidery  
Helms-Briscoe  
Life Lock  
Office Depot/Office Max  
SmartPlug  
Solude Coffee  
Vistaprint Corporate

## ***Health Benefits***

American Hearing Benefits  
HeartSine  
Life Line Screening  
USPS Prescription Savings Card

## ***Insurance Benefits***

BoatUS  
LTC Global, Long Term Care Insurance Program  
LTCR Long Term Care Insurance Program  
America's Boating Club Boat Insurance Program  
Travelers Auto and Home Ins. Program  
VPI Pet Insurance  
VSP Individual Vision Insurance

## ***Marine Benefits***

Autotether  
Boatfix  
Coastal Explorer from Rose Point.  
GPS for Mariners  
Hamilton Marine  
McGraw Hill  
Sea Tow  
Soundings  
Weems & Plath  
Wow Training Aids

## ***Travel Benefits***

Avis  
Budget  
Cruises Only  
**DAN** Boater  
Endless Vacation Rentals  
Motel 6  
On Call International Medical & Travel Assistance  
Orlando Vacation.com  
Red Roof Inn  
Road Scholar Program  
TNT Vacations  
Wyndham Hotels  
Wyndham Extra Holidays  
USPS Vacation Center

## ***USPS Benefits***

Highway Mariners  
The Compass \_Electronic Newsletter  
The Ensign® Magazine  
USPS Port Captains Program

Let us know if you need a name tag with our "Moby" on it (No Charge).  
Send an eMail to Cdr Susan at [sldarcy@roadrunner.com](mailto:sldarcy@roadrunner.com)





*Pontoosuc Lake last Fall*



*Motif No. 1 Rockport MA*



*Sign on the Hudson River  
(Near Erie Canal)*

*Dutch Apple Hudson  
River Cruise with  
Berkshire Sail & Power  
Members on board  
(Albany, NY)*

