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Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron

November 2020

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**It's all about Bridges &
Taylor Swift**



At the Helm



I'm trying to get into the Fall season and that awful four letter word, S-N-O-W. We've had a little taste of it already but then the dreaded bounce back but now the leaves are all wet.

I know this sounds strange but I would like Mother Nature to make up her mind - which season should we be in?

For those of you who may still be boating (moving south as they say), there is an interesting article from Marine Safety about radio checks

and how to make them now that Sea Tow is no longer doing radio checks. We should ALL save the article for Spring too!

We kept the "tongue in cheek" cartoon since it says a little humorously what we all should be doing. One of the good things about masks and my limited shopping, I'm always incognito! No one stops me to chat although someone recently recognized my hair - forgot my cap!

Wait until you see what we've got planned for our Holiday Party - this is different, almost unique, with prizes, and although maybe kind of strangely done, give it a try and revel in some good natured fun.

We still could use more contributors to the Log - we all have some great boating stories - some we might be embarrassed about (no, I'm not telling anything about my wayward boom). But others might want to tell about sinking of dinghies. Anyway since most boats are on the hard, take some time and think about writing a boating story, or hints, or ideas or even some safe events for us to use and enjoy to fill our lack of boating time.

We've got two VERY interesting contributions in this Log along with the Marine Safety Bulletin BUT we look forward to some submittals from YOU too! Send any articles to my eMail at:

sldarcy@roadrunner.com.

Stay Safe and Well!!

Susan Darcy

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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



BSPS & USPS CALENDARS

Nov. 12, 2020 - Re-Convene of the Fall Conference 8 PM - 9 PM - Virtual via Zoom

Dec. 6 2020 - Our Unique Holiday Party 3PM to ?? - Details on other pages.

Feb. 14th - 21st - 2021 - USPS Annual Meeting - Ponte Vedra, FL

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 you are interested in taking.

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.

HELP! HELP! WE NEED YOU!

We need to verify and maybe update our Squadron By-Laws to make sure they are in agreement with the model Squadron By-Laws.

It will all be done remotely and at your own pace. We still have two openings for members to help for this pure electronic job? **Contact Leo Robillard (Rules Committee), 413-499-1625.**

Some years ago—never mind how long precisely— having little of no money in my purse and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part of the world.

From Herman Melville's "Moby Dick"

MAYBE WE CAN OFFER SEAMANSHIP ELECTRONICALLY 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

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 with names needed.



Virtual Holiday Party

Date: Sunday, 6 December 2020
Time: 3 PM to ????
Where: Your Address
What to Need? Your Own Munchies & Your Own Drinks

Search for more details on other pages!

Easy Holiday Fare **Honey Holiday Mix**

- 2 Cans Honey Roasted Almonds**
- 6 Cups unsalted popcorn**
- 2 Cups - 10 Oz Chow Mein noodles**
- 5 Tablespoons margarine**
- 3 Tablespoons sugar**
- 1 teaspoon vanilla**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon**
- 1 Cup golden raisins**

1. Preheat oven to 250 degrees and combine in large, shallow roasting pan, popcorn and chow mein noodles.
2. Melt margarine and sugar. Stir in vanilla and cinnamon.
3. Pour over popcorn and toss to coat.
4. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minute.
5. Stir in almonds and raisins.
6. Spread on paper towels to cool.
7. Makes 11 Cups

Blue Cheese or Deviled Ham Biscuit Bites

- 1 can of baking powder biscuits (10 per can)**
- 4 oz. of Blue Cheese (or more)**
- 1 stick of butter melted**

Preheat oven to temperature on the biscuit package.

Using a greased round pan, cut each biscuit into quarters and place in pan. Melt butter and stir in blue cheese. Pour over the biscuits. Bake as biscuit package says. Want bigger bites? Use two pans (20 per pan). Dump on a serving plate to get ALL the good stuff.

Substitute small can of deviled ham for blue cheese - when done, sprinkle these bites with parmesan cheese.



Okay now a FUN Celebration!

A Spectacular Unique Holiday Event

Look for the Details!

See what is planned with Prizes. Make sure to put this event on your Calendar!

Two of Our Favorite Authors: George Reynolds and Tom Gilbert

***It's all about the Bridges and Taylor Swift (and the Statute of Liberty)
or
Sakonnet River to Coeymans Landing Marina***

Yes, you can cruise 270 miles in 2 days from Portsmouth RI on the Sakonnet River via Narragansett Bay to Newport RI, then Block Island Sound to Watch Hill, Fishers Island Sound past Mystic, Long Island Sound past the entire Connecticut coast line to East River, around the Battery in New York City and finally 115 nautical miles up the Hudson River to Coeymans Landing Marina IN 2 DAYS
JUST NOT IN A SAILBOAT!

We passed by Taylor Swift's mansion at the entrance of Watch Hill. And we passed under lots of bridges (we cleared all 17 of them), starting with the Mount Hope and Jamestown bridges in Narragansett Bay, many bridges in the East River and Hudson River with the last one being the Rip Van Winkle, and we arrived at our final destination at Coeymans, south of Albany and just before the Castleton Bridge.

But we know that all good cruising articles include drama, close calls, and pirates, so here goes:

We thought we were approaching a whale, capable of overturning small boats like ours, but it turned out to be an oyster stick in Norwalk Harbor.

While in the commercially congested area near the Statute of Liberty, we remained on high alert when we heard an alarming sound, but it was just our engines idling smoothly at 750 rpms.

While passing under the Brooklyn Bridge, we were prepared for pirates attempting to sell us that bridge, but we saw none.

Good cruise - Great company!

Putting this up at work now. 🤔🤔



**BROOKLYN
BRIDGE**

**NORWALK
OYSTER
BEDS**



Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron

Invites you to a Virtual Holiday Party
(YES, a Virtual Holiday Party via Zoom!! - NO CHARGE!!)

Date: Sunday, 6 December 2020

Time: 3 PM to ????

Where: Your Place

What to Bring? Your Own Munchies & Drinks

Sorry No Gift Exchange but Contests Galore with Prizes!!

Everyone Must Play Entry Contest: Best Face Mask

Rules: Can be a purchased mask or a personally and creatively decorated mask. After Judging, Mask removal celebration!

Possible Ideas: Boats, USPS, the Berkshires, Holidays, Seasons

Other Contests: Most Scrumptious Appetizer; Best Looking Drink; Best Holiday Outfit, Boating Quizzes; Holiday Quiz; Best Boating Story!

RSVP by Dec. 3rd to Cdr Susan (sldarcy@roadrunner.com) or 413-637-2275. WHY do you have to let us know you'll attend? So we'll have enough **PRIZES** and **quizzes** for **EVERYONE** to enjoy!! We also have to send you the ZOOM information and instructions.



Don't forget to let us know if you need a name tag with our "Moby" on it.
(There is absolutely No Charge).

Send an eMail to Cdr Susan at sldarcy@roadrunner.com



Don't forget our List of Benefits with Our Membership in the last Issue of the Log



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. 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>



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant (CG-5PC)

Attn: Inspections and Compliance Directorate

U.S. Coast Guard

2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, Stop 7501

Washington, DC 20020

MSIB Number: 20-20

Date: October 13, 2020

E-Mail: HQS-SMB-CG-672@uscg.mil

Performing a VHF Marine Radio Check

Sea Tow Automated Radio Check System no longer available:

For several years, Sea Tow operated an Automated Radio Check System, which was available on VHF Channels 24 to 28 for the benefit of mariners in over 130 locations. However, on October 2nd, 2020 that service was discontinued.

How to test a VHF Radio using Rescue 21:

The U.S. Coast Guard continues to offer an automated Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Test Call capability from each of its Rescue 21 coastal stations. All fixed mount marine radios certified by the Federal Communications Commission since 1999 are required to have a DSC capability. All such radios sold since 2011 must also have a DSC test call capability. Marine radios transmitting and successfully receiving a response from a DSC test call can be expected to operate acceptably in the voice mode as well.

To perform a DSC Test Call, enter the U.S. Coast Guard's coast station group identity "003669999" into the radio's DSC memory. Once entered and stored, a DSC test call can be made by executing the following three steps:

- (1) Select "Test Call" from the radio's DSC menu,
- (2) Select the USCG number entered into memory, and
- (3) Transmit the call.

The radio display should indicate when that test call is acknowledged and display the acknowledging station's nine-digit identity. That identity may be different than the group identity previously entered into memory.

Please use VHF Channel 09 and do not use VHF Channel 16:

VHF Channel 16 is not for the purpose of radio checks. Please use VHF Channel 09, which has been designated by the FCC as a boater's calling channel.

Questions concerning this notice may be forwarded to Coast Guard Spectrum Management and Communications Policy Division (CG-672) at HQS-SMB-CG-672@USCG.MIL or to the **Coast Guard Navigation Center's "Contact Us" page** by selecting "Maritime Telecommunications" as subject.

-uscg-

FUNDAMENTALS of CELESTIAL NAVIGATION

$$GP = 90^\circ - Ho \times 60 \text{ nm.}$$

Leo Robillard, SN

The basis of Celestial Navigation is that when we want to get to our destination out of sight of land, the only signposts we have are the overhead objects in the sky.

By knowing the positions of the heavenly objects, we can find our position from unknown to known.

Centuries of record keeping gives us a good catalog (Ephemeris) of positions of the sun, moon, planets, stars and Aries. The modern Ephemeris is the Nautical Almanac. In theory, when two lines cross, then x marks the spot. Also when two circles cross we can get a position.

Imagine yourself standing with the sun directly overhead. Your feet are at the geographic position (GP) of the sun. A sextant reading would give us a reading of 90° . Let's move 60 nautical miles away, our sextant would read 89° . The further we move from the GP, the lower the reading of the sextant. The greater the distance the further away.

The formula is : $GP = 90 - Ho \times 60$

$1^\circ \times 60 \text{ nm}$ gives us a radius of 60 nm. Ho stands for the refined reading of the sextant.

Which is the radius of a circle we are standing on. We don't know where we are on the circle, however if we waited for the sun to move further west we could repeat the procedure and create another circle. Where the circles cross is where we are. We cross at two places, but one place is too far away to be our position.

Only problem with circles of position, is the size of the chart required for plotting them. The chart would be as large as wallpaper.

The method we use today was discovered by a Frenchman named Captain St. Hilaire in 1875. It's called the altitude-intercept method. What it ends up doing is just using the points where the circles cross. Like an X marks the spot.

This reduces the distance to be able to use small scale charts or large scale charts .

Using the sextant reading, the location of the celestial object from the Nautical Almanac and the time measured.

When plotted on a chart, you get a line of position (LOP).

