



Vol. 49 No. 4

Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron

March 2024

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At the Helm

March 2024

Commanders Message

50 years of service 1974-2024



It is an honor to serve as squadron commander in this 50th anniversary year. We have a legacy of many boaters who can thank the United States Power Squadrons and Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron for their

various certificates and accreditations. I personally would like to thank the many teachers from BSPS who have widened my knowledge of boating and the water.

We recognize that the landscape of boater education has changed dramatically in the last decades with the advent of many online platforms that make learning boating skills seem easy without mentor teaching. It is a challenge I hope we can face. As USPS also provides online courses as well as in house teaching, we will strive to carry on and dedicate our events this year to that anniversary and legacy.

Yes, Spring: 23:06:03 hours, Eastern Daylight Savings Time, March 19, 2024.

The point of Aries, the geographical spot where the direct ray of the sun crosses the Equator, marks the time of year when we put our winter thoughts of boats and water into action. It can be as simple as sitting beside the water in the spring sunshine. This message is to wish you all are well and have a safe boating season.

David Trudeau

BERKSHIRE SAIL and POWER SQUADRON

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Our 2023-2024 Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron Bridge**OFFICERS:**

Commander	David L. Trudeau, JN	413-717-4012
Executive Officer	Susan Darcy, JN	413-637-2275
Education Officer	Thomas Dailey, JN	413-344-6895
Co-Administrative Officer	Thomas Gilbert, P	413-637-8922
Co-Administrative Officer	Beverly Gilbert, P	413-637-8922
Secretary	Peter Samsel, AP	413-441-5934
Treasurer	Frederick A. Mason, SN	413-499-1030

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Susan L. Darcy, JN, Asst. Education Officer	413-637-2275
Kevin J. Dinan, AP	Robert Brodeur, III
Cynthia F. Dinan, AP	Donald Rochelo, P
G. Richard Stidger, SN	

GENERAL COMMITTEES:

Auditing	Cindy Dinan AP (Chair)
Rules	Susan L. Darcy, JN (Chair) P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN (3 years)
Nominating Committee:	Kevin Dinan, AP (Chair) G. Richard Stidger, SN (2 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 & USPS CALENDARS****April 21 - 50th Celebration & Change of Watch**

ABC (Basic Boating) — two Saturday Mornings in Now Late Spring 2024

Possible Courses being offered soon!

Vessel Safety Examiner Course — ?? hours

Weather Seminar — 2 hours

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

Webinar on Hurricanes and Tornados

What courses are *YOU* interested in? Let either Tom Dailey or Susan Darcy know what you would like to take.



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 Nine Years of Service to Boaters

1974 - 2023



Need information?

Call Dave - 413-717-4012
or Susan - 413-637-2275
or Tom D. - 413-344-6895
or Tom or Bev - 413-637-8922
or Peter - 413-441-5934
or Fred - 413-499-1030

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.



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

SAIL AND POWER BOATING



Berkshire Sail and Power Squadron

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7 March 2024

Lt/C Peter W. Samsel, AP
 45 Flintstone Drive
 Pittsfield, MA 01201

Subject: 2024-2025 Nomination Committee Report

Peter,

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, 21 April 2024.

BRIDGE OFFICERS:

Commander David L. Trudeau, JN
 Executive Officer Susan L. Darcy, JN
 Education Officer Thomas A. Dailey, JN
 Administrative Officers Beverly Gilbert, P and Thomas A. Gilbert, P
 Secretary Peter W. Samsel, AP
 Treasurer Frederick A. Mason, SN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ass't Education Officer	P/C Susan L. Darcy, JN
P/C Kevin J. Dinan, AP	Robert C. Brodeur III
Cynthia F. Dinan, AP	George E. Reynolds, S
P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN	James P. Scalise, SN
Kevin C. McGinnis	

GENERAL COMMITTEES:

AUDITING

Cynthia F. Dinan, AP (Chair)

RULES

P/C Susan L. Darcy, JN (Chair)
 P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN (2 yr)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2023-2024:

OPEN (Chair)
 OPEN (2 yr)

Respectfully Submitted,

P/C Kevin J. Dinan, AP

P/C Kevin J. Dinan, AP (Chair)
 P/C G. Richard Stidger, SN

Why? or Why Not?

Sometimes I ask myself WHY? It's not what you think – the WHY is why am I involved in America's Boating Club. I do wonder if it is because of not knowing the consonant and vowel (NO). But realistically, I think I really owe it to my parents. Their mottos, their values were probably forged in their own childhoods. And of course, like all of my generation, their mottos and values were probably just pounded and repeated into our heads!

It wasn't only the "wear clean underwear" or "you had it easy so help others" or "you're one of the lucky ones, so pay it back". Sound familiar? Well, if it does, think about this and USPS. I bought a boat, and even though as a teen, I took some boating courses with my folks, my plan was to eventually sail around the world.

I knew that to realize my goal I needed more knowledge, so back to the basic Public Boating course. During the refresher, I learned how little I remembered or even knew! My mind said take more courses. And the ubiquitous THEY sold me that courses were cheaper if you were a member, so I joined! It wasn't long into the courses when someone asked me to help and as you can guess, memories of my upbringing popped into my mind. Afterall, WHY NOT?

Yes, I believe in making safer boaters and all of what USPS stands for. More importantly, I had made BOATER friends and was having a lot of FUN! Yes, that's right, I've had lots of FUN! I've gone to rendezvous both by boat and car. I've de-masted my boat and benefited from members who showed me how to safely take down my mast! These are my true BOATER friends – I didn't ask, they just offered.

If you are missing out on the BOATER friends and the benefits, take a big leap and say YES! What are you saying YES to? Well, how about coming to a meeting or an event? Or offering to be a proctor (helper) at the next Public Boating course? It is that time of year when we are looking for help – not tons of help that will tie you up for your entire life but rather the little things. Like maybe write an article for the newsletter. What could it be about? How about a recommended trip? Like going on a boat ride or towing your boat to Champlain. Or a hint for making boating easier, like a great recipe or in my case a way to lower my mast without wiping out the tabernacle!

Why now? Well, this is our 50th year of being Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron or America's Boating Club of the Berkshires! We plan on celebrating all year long starting with our Change of Watch on April 21st Check out the flyer for the event in this newsletter. But let's face it, we need some other ideas so we can make this year really special. We know you had some wonderful trips or experiences – could you share some?

We know you've also got some great ideas for different events – we're even talking now about bringing back the Devious Dingy Dog races but locally at one of the Berkshire lakes. Yes, we plan to have the Lobstah Fest but what do you think about a Fall motor trip to Mt. Greylock? There is so much we can do even during the boating off season – tour makers of wine, cider and liquor (Sheffield) plus DOUGH-NUTS! We would love to have your ideas for events – so PLEASE SHARE!

Don't just think about stepping up to help, JUST DO IT and be part of making this year very, very special for all. Think about what you'll get from it – not only BOATER Friends but the FUN! That's the best part, where else can you talk with people who understand fathoms, or weather fronts or what brand of paint is the boater's best or where to launch a trailer boat. Come to the Change of Watch April 21st and meet both boaters of local and distant waters. We would **LOVE** to see you!

Want to volunteer right now? Call me, PLEASE! H: 413-637-2275 or C: 413-281-4169
eMail sldarcy@roadrunner.com - Susan Darcy



Berkshire Sail & Power Squadron

Established January 1974

Change of Watch 2024

Let's Celebrate our 50th
Anniversary.

2:00pm, Sunday, April 21st

Morgan House Inn, 33 Main Street, Lee

Sumptuous Buffet: Yankee Pot Roast, Chicken Piccata, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Pasta Marinara, Green Salad, Rolls & Butter, Soft Drinks, Coffee & Tea & Chocolate Cake **Cash Bar**

Cost: \$40.00 per person. Check payable to BSPS
Mail to: Beverly Gilbert, 32 Bentrup Ct., Lenox, MA 01240

Reservations Required - RSVP by April 10th

Beverly Gilbert bevkat426@gmail.com

or 413.822.4306 (mobile/text)



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CAPE MAY, N.J. — Coast Guard crews rescued an overdue mariner 270 miles off Hatteras, North Carolina, Wednesday.

Coast Guard Sector New York watchstanders received a report of lost communications from the family of the mariner who departed Jersey City, New Jersey, en route to Bermuda, stating that they lost contact on Nov. 6, and that as of Tuesday, he was considered overdue.

Watchstanders from the Coast Guard Atlantic Area command center assumed responsibility of search and rescue efforts, coordinating the launch of assets from the Coast Guard's First and Fifth districts and issuing an urgent marine information broadcast (UMIB).

The sailing vessel Time Bandit heard the UMIB and happened upon an adrift sailing vessel with tattered sails and a missing boom, matching the description of the overdue mariner's boat. The good Samaritan made contact with the overdue mariner. Due to on scene conditions, the Coast Guard advised against an at-sea transfer.



The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Lawrence Lawson (WPC 1120), based in Cape May, New Jersey, arrived on scene Wednesday and safely transferred him aboard the cutter. The mariner was transported in stable condition and reunited with family Thursday at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May.

"We are pleased that this case resulted in a family reunion," said Cmdr. Wes Geyer, search and rescue mission coordinator, Coast Guard Atlantic Area. "The search area for this case was nearly twice the size of Texas and the seas are very unforgiving. We urge all mariners venturing offshore to carry a properly registered Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). This device can

help pinpoint your exact location should the unthinkable ever happen."

The Coast Guard dispatched additional assets to assist in the search and rescue case, including:

- An HC-130 Hercules crew from Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C.
- An MH-60 helicopter crew from Air Station Elizabeth City
- An HC-144 crew from Air Station Cape Cod, Mass.

To register your EPIRB, please go to [Register your Beacon | SARSAT \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.noaa.gov/eprb).

The Coast Guard Atlantic Area located in Portsmouth, Virginia, is responsible for overseeing all Coast Guard operations from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf.