

Champlain Skipper

Champlain Sail & Power News Letter

October 2007

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Commander's Message

Next meeting 10/09/07

Educational News

Quite a bit of Squadron Educational information came out of our last meeting.

If you have been attempting to interest a friend into becoming a member, but the person has not been able to take the USPS Basic Boating , Boat Smart, or America's Boating Course, that friend can become a member NOW! He or she has three years to join and take courses and improve their boating experiences with the Squadron's fellowship, and help.

We are planning to operate two courses this fall: Seamanship and Marine Electronics. Seamanship is the primary step in the Advance Courses after Basic Boating. In this brand new edition, you review things from basic Boating and take them a step further! . This will hopefully result in you becoming a safer and happier boater. Marine Electronics Course has three modules *Boat Electrical Systems, Marine Radio communications, and Marine Electronics for Navigation*. Our Commander Mike Stephenson, has agreed to teach it, any extra help would be appreciated. We have secured rooms at PSUC for the courses, on Monday and Wednesday. I will be calling the members once the particulars are in place.

Engine maintenance is another new course quite different from the one taught in the past by Frank Williams. The new course stresses the diagnosis of modern systems, while also teaching the basics of engine layout and design..

National is considering offering certificates in Inland, Coastal, and Offshore Navigation. These certificates will be given after written testing and on water testing. More on this later.

The Educational Seminars Series has expanded. There are now one day courses that anyone can take, not just members. New ones include, *Onboard Weather Forecasting, Boat Handling under Power, and Sail and Trim, Sea Kayaks Off Shore is almost ready*. If you have any questions or comments concerning Boating Education please feel free to contact me.

SEO John Boule
drboule@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE!! MEETING DAY CHANGED!! FROM THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH TO THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH!!!!

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING!! TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION ON THE QUARRY ROAD!! STARTING AT 7:00 pm!!!! PLAN TO BE THERE!

DISTRICT 2 FALL CONFERENCE MEETING

Time is running out to register for the District 2 Fall Conference, to be held in Danbury Conn. To be held on October 12-13, 2007. The National Chief Commander himself, Ernest Marshburn SN will be attending!! So if you have any questions or suggestions about USPS this is the man to talk to!! There will be an open forum where he will take questions from the membership. So plan to attend and meet so of the nicest people in boating out side of our great squadron! For details, contact D/Lt/ Cdr. Robert Shivokevich E-Mail shivokevich@hotmail.com Or phone 493-7251.

PLAN NOW!!!!

Set aside Sunday October 28th for the Annual Squadron Hauling Out Party. We will have Mr. Eric Sorensen author of Sorensen Guide to Power Boating as a guest speaker!! So mark your Calenders now and save that date!!

SKYWARN GUEST SPEAKER!

At our monthly meeting in November we will be featuring a speaker from NOAA. He will be talking about weather patterns on Lake Champlain. He will even discuss the weather event that happened at Treadwell bay Marina. Bring your weather questions and a guest, for this event is open to the public. Watch for next month's "*Skipper*" for more details.

Dave Robertson's Did You Know??

Did you know that the amount of water in Lake Champlain, is estimated to be 6.4 trillion gallons!! That is enough water for each of the 296 million people in the United states to come to the lake and leave with 2,000 one gallons jugs of water each!!! Now that is a lot of water!!!

HAULING OUT DINNER

Come and join us for our Annual Hauling Out Dinner, on Sunday October 28 at the Hong Kong Jade in Plattsburgh. Limited Cocktails will start at 18:00 with dinner scheduled to start at 19:00. This is a great time to share your summer boating experiences with your fellow squadron members and even make plans for next year. As an added bonus we will have a guest speaker. Mr. Eric Sorensen, author of 'Sorensen's Guide to Power Boating' Mr Sorensen has kindly offered to share his expertise in boating. So plan to attend this annual event and welcome Eric and his wife Sarah. Cost is still just \$10.00 per person. See you there!!

EDITOR'S NOTE.

I AM LOOKING FOR SOME ONE TO TAKE OVER BEING THE SKIPPER'S EDITOR. I HAVE BEEN EDITOR FOR THE LAST 4-5 YEARS AND WOULD LIKE SOME ELSE TO TAKE OVER. I BELIEVE THAT THE SKIPPER IS A VERY IMPORTANT TOOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS TO SQUADRON MEMBERS. INTERESTED? CONTACT ME ROBERT SHIVOKEVICH, 493-7251 OR E-MAIL SHIVOKEVICH@HOTMAIL.COM.

SIXTH SAFETY TIP OF THE SEASON!!

The following was taken from the USCG,
written by Chief Warrant Officer Jim Krzenski.

FLOAT PLANS SAVES LIVES

You have decided to go Offshore for a day of fishing in your 25 foot boat. The wind and seas are calm. It is an absolutely gorgeous day with temperatures reaching 70 degrees. The day just keeps getting better. The fishing is great. The sun is starting to get low in the western sky, and you decide to call it a day. You go to start your engine before retrieving your anchor, but as you turn the key NOTHING!!, not even a click, your battery is dead. There is not even enough juice to send a message out on your VHF radio. The sun is quickly setting and the temperatures are dropping fast. The winds are starting to pick up and your boat begins to bounce around, as darkness surrounds you. You have enough sense to put on your PFD.

Meanwhile, back on shore your family has just pulled into the driveway after sending the day shopping at the Mall. They were expecting to see you home washing your boat. Some concern sets in. Within an hour they make a call to the Coast Guard. The officer on duty begins asking a series of questions hoping to help find the overdue boater.

–“Where did he leave from?” -----“I don't know”

–“Where does he usually fish?”-----“ I don't know”

–“What is the description of the vessel?”

–“What kind of rescue equipment is on board?”

–“What time was he expected to return?”

–“Does he have any medical conditions?”

The reporting source's anxiety begins to rise with each passing minute and is compounded by the inability to answer all the questions. With minimum amount of information the Coast Guard begins its search, contacting local marinas and checking local boat launch sites.. They finally find a vehicle matching the description of the overdue boater's. the Coast guard begins broadcasting a marine information broadcast, notifying all boaters that you are overdue. A search aircraft is dispatched and the search continues into the night.

Mean while the sun has set several hours earlier and the seas are now 4-5 feet. You are scared, cold and hungry! You have a brain storm and decide to set off some flares. After opening your flare kit you discovered that the flares are out of date and you can't get them to work. Your spirits rise when you see lights from the aircraft going back and forth as if conducting a grid search pattern.

The CG boat crew has been underway in 5 foot waves for over 4 hours with negative sightings. The continuous pounding of the boat is increasingly fatiguing the crew, as they strain looking through the dark for signs of your boat. The first search area has been completed with no sightings so the search area is expanded.

You survive a long night sleepless night on your 25 foot boat in 5 foot waves. The warmth of the morning sun lifts your spirits Not 20 minutes later a Coast Guard spots you, confirms your position and radio's the good news to the Coast Guard Station, who in turns notifies your family of the good news..Not all searches end with happy endings.

The one thing you could have done was to file a float plan, with a friend or relative.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

It is a good idea to get in the habit of letting someone know where you are going, the expected time of arrival and the time you expect to be back. Give them a description of your boat including emergency equipment on board. **DO NOT FILE THIS WITH THE COAST GUARD!** They have enough paper work without having to deal with every ones' float plan. If you want a sample of a float plan that you can copy and fill in check out your Basic Boating Course book. Make extra copies and give them to your friends. For more on this and other Safe Boating information take the '**Seamanship**' course that will be offered soon.