

Champlain Skipper

Champlain Sail & Power News Letter

December 2007

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*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!!!!*

May your next boating season be one of great voyages around our beautiful lake and Santa always bring wind to your sails and never leave you with an empty fuel tank! Have a wonderful and prosperous New Year and remember to always boat safe and increase your knowledge by taking a squadron course!

*Looking forward to serving District 2 as your Executive Officer
Robert Shivokevich SN
District 2 Admin. Officer*

Commander's Message

Next meeting 12/11/07

What has happened locally in education in the Champlain Power Squadron? We had a stimulating lecture on the weather and the weather history of our area. The Burlington Weather service presented a comprehensive program on November 8. Some spirited discussion arose about the wind damage at Treadwell Bay Marina. Did the damage result from a straight line wind or a small tornado? The Weather Service decided that it was a straight line wind storm. But there might be evidence (photos) of a small tornado. The attendance was good, (could have been more squadron members present) but we were not able to sign any up for the Boat smart class due to the fact that most were established boaters already. We rescheduled the class for a later date. USPS Chief Commander Earnest Marshburn SN has written an excellent letter depicting some changes in the modern Power Squadron The letter follows for you information,

USPS UNIVERSITY

USPS University continues to expand the range of courses on topics of interest to USPS members as well as the recreational boating public. New courses from traditional to modern navigation techniques, from sextants to GPS, from VHF to ham Radio, and beyond, highlight a diversified curriculum in boating education that is tailored to meet the needs of the basic boater, while building advanced skill levels for experience boaters.

Modeled on the principle similar to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain's license, the credit for courses. Mini lectures, and short seminars have enabled a boat operator certificate program, with four levels of competency: Inland, Coastal, Advance Coastal, and Offshore Navigation. this program is recognized by an increasing number of recreational boating partners. Our certification is laying the foundation for documented USPS credentials that will be nationally recognized. There are six new seminars currently available: GPS, VHF Marine Radio, Boat Handling, On-Board Weather Forecasting, reading your Chart, and marine Knots. Six more will be available soon. USPS is and continues to be "RELEVANT". Conversely, our challenge is to find new ways to excel and appeal to a broader range of recreational boaters through new educational programs, and services that they consider relevant. The USPS dream of a strong National leadership position within the recreational

boating community gets brighter every day. Let's join together in celebration of our rich boating heritage and resolve that we will do whatever it takes to achieve the success and prosperity that has always been our destiny.
C/C EARNEST MARSHBURN, SN

Get involve contact me !!

SEO John Boule AP

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date now January 27, 2008. That is the tentative date for the Annual Pool Party to be held at the Inn at Smithfield. Look for details in next month's skipper!!!

District 2 Winter Council will be on February 2, 2008, in Poughkeepsie NY. Contact D/2 Admin Officer Robert Shivokevich for more details at shivokevich@hotmail.com.

Dave Robertson's Did You Know??

You may have mastered the art of tying a square knot, or a bowline years ago, but can you tie a prusik, or an Alpine Butterfly? At animatedknots.com you can easily learn how to tie these and many other knots, thanks to the detailed slide shows provided. For each knot the site offers a step-by-step series of photographs that can easily be scrolled over with your mouse or viewed like a video. In addition, descriptions, uses, history, and safety issues associated with the knots are provided. Before you know it, you'll be tying a one handed bowline behind your back!! CHECK IT OUT!!!

EDITOR'S NOTE.

In a little over a year I will become District 2 Commander, and this will involve more of my time, SO!!!

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

Frank's Safety Corner

HELP PREVENT DROWNING

Thanks to Dave Smith, PhD Commander USCG (Ret)

Here are a few basic anti drowning tips:

A: most people who die in aquatic accidents boating/swimming succumb to drowning. Most drownings result from 3 major factors, inability to swim, effects of relatively cold water, and alcohol.

B: most drownings occur 10 feet or less from safety, and roughly 60% of the time another person witnesses and was in a position to help, but were unaware of the signs of a drowning victim.

C: the signs are

- 1; Head back
- 2; mouth open but not vocalizing
- 3; arms doing an involuntary, above the water breast stroke
- 4; head bobbing up and down, above and below the water surface

Drowning occurs rapidly and soundlessly, averaging 20 seconds in small children to up to a minute in adults. To the uninitiated a drowning person's surface struggle may appear to be playing ,clowning or splashing accompanied by the lack of requests for help. Simply observing and reacting to the signs of drowning by basic, shore-based reaching or throwing rescues may cancel a needless tragedy.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Doctor Smith is an aquatic safety consultant you can find him at the following website. [Http://aquaticsafety.com](http://aquaticsafety.com)

Capt. Matt *So if you see someone splashing and goofing off but unable to make noises he may be drowning, REACT AND SAVE A LIFE!!*