

Champlain Skipper

Champlain Sail & Power News Letter

February 2008

Commander	Mike Stephenson	563-7973	stephensonm@westelcom.com
Executive Officer	Tom Malone	561-0561	Tomaggi@charter.net
Educational Officer	John Boule	561-4980	drboule@aol.com
Administrative Officer	John Kitchen	834-9702	kitchenj@aol.com
Secretary	Gil Murray	563-4353	Gilmur@westelcom.com
Treasurer	Hugh Conners	563-2711	Lonesail@charter.net

Here we are getting ready to start the month of February. , Before you know it's spring will be here and we will be working on our boats. So what have you done to keep busy this past winter? Did you know that Champlain Sail & Power Squadron is holding a Seamanship course that starts on Monday January 28, at Hawkins Hall? Even if you missed the first class, there is still time to join in. So you already took Seamanship, when was that? How many years ago? Stop in and refresh your memory and add to the conversation. For details see the Educational report in this issue. Did you know that Champlain sail and Power Squadron will be celebrating it's 60th Anniversary, next year, 2009? Did you also know that will also the 400th Anniversary of Samuel D. Champlain discovery of Lake Champlain? And finally next year will be the first time a member of our Power Squadron will be elected to serve as District 2 Commander! So what does all this mean? Well! We will be hosting the District 2 Spring Conference in March 2009, and there is a lot to do to get ready and we need your help and expertise! We have formed a conference committee, with members Ray Dahle, Dave Robertson, John Kitchen and Bob Shivokevich. They have been meeting monthly, but will soon be calling on you for help. Please do what you can to help out. There is a lot of exciting things happening at the District level. If you want to join in come to a District function. The next will be the Spring Conference, on April 4th,5th,6th. In Rowayton Ct. This is the District Change of Watch, the swearing in of new Bridge Officers. For details see the flyer attached in this month's "Skipper". Looking forward to seeing you soon!

District 2 Administrative Officer
Robert Shivokevich SN

Commander's Message

Next meeting , Tuesday February 12th at 7:00 pm at the American Legion on the Quarry Road, Plattsburgh.

Cdr. Mike Stephenson

Educational News

Mike Stephenson is all ready to begin teaching the Seamanship course. The class will meet Monday night for eight weeks beginning on January 28. It will be held in room 141 at Hawkins Hall. The class will start at 19:00 and finish at 21:00. At the present time we have 5 or six students. A new power point presentation will be used. This should make it interesting and informative to all who attend.

The following month Bob Shivokevich will begin teaching the Squadron Basic Boating Course at Clinton Community College. His course will start on March 25. It will be eight, two hour sessions beginning at 19:00 . Encourage all your friends who are interested in boating to attend. It is the finest course available. Once you have successfully completed the course you will receive certification to drive personal watercraft.

Both Mike and Bob could use some help. Please contact them to see what you can do.

The Seamanship course is for members of the United states Power Squadron while the Squadron Basic Boating Course is for the general public. Beside these two types of courses there are other courses which are open to the general public. There are Squadron Seminars which are short two hours courses on things like Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio, Using GPS, How to Use a Chart, Onboard Weather Forecasting, Boat Handling Under Power and Sail Trim and Rig Tuning.

Want to pick up some short books on boating? The United States Power Squadron has some for sail to members and non members. The newest one is on Boat Insurance. Some of the others are Calculators for Navigation, Compass Adjusting, Global Positioning System (GPS), GMDSS AND Marine Radio, The Boatowners Guide to, How to Fly Flags, Knots, Bends and Hitches for Mariners, Knot Tying: the Basic Knots CD, Marine Amateur Radio. Navigational Astronomy, Piloting and Labeling Standards, Predicted Log Contest, Sailing, Introduction to, Sight Reduction Methods, Skipper Saver. USPS Nautical Glossary, and Water Sports.

John Boule', SEO 561-4980 or drboule@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

SQUADRON CHANGE OF WATCH

The annual Swearing in of the new Squadron Officers will occur on Sunday March 16,2008 at Anthony's Restaurant in Plattsburgh. Cocktails at 18:00 and Dinner at 19:00 watch for more details in the next issue of the skipper.

District 2 Spring Conference!!

The Spring Conference will be held in Rowayton, Ct. On April 4, 5, 6. The new Chief Commander is scheduled to be in attendance and swearing in your new D/2 Officers. See the attached flyer for all the details or contact District Admin. Officer Bob Shivokevich (493-7251, or E-Mail shivokevich@hotmail.com) for details.

Dave Robertson's Did You Know??

DID YOU KNOW? More than 2000 people have climbed Mount Everest. More than 200 people have rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, but only 9 people have rowed across the Pacific Ocean. But no one has ever done that without any support at all. Source: All At Sea, the Caribbean's Waterfront Magazine.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

It is with some regret that the following report has some positions that are not filled mainly Squadron Commander. The nominating committee reports that the other Squadron Bridge positions have nominations. We present to the general membership the following nominations

Commander	_____
Executive Officer	Tom Malone AP
Administrative Officer	John Kitchen P
Educational Officer	Mike Stephenson JN
Secretary	Gil Murray S
Treasurer	Hugh Connors AP
Asst. Education Officer	Dave Robertson P

The above members are in good standings and we believe will serve the squadron well. If any one would like to run for any of the above positions please contact one of the nominating committee members.

Respectfully submitted
Mike Stephenson JN
Hugh Connors Ap
Robert Shivokevich SN

Frank's Safety Corner

BY: CWO2 JIM KRZENSKI, COMMANDING OFFICER, USCG STA FORT PIERCE

The most common method that a mariner uses to notify the Coast Guard that they are in distress is via their marine VHF-FM radio. I strongly encourage all boaters to have a radio on board their vessel, especially if their boating activities take them offshore. The Coast Guard requires that recreational vessels carry three day and three night visual distress signals. The exceptions to this regulation are powered vessels under 16 feet and open sailing vessels under 26 feet without motors. These two exceptions are required to carry them if operated at night on coastal waters. Coastal waters are defined as:

The territorial sea (ocean)

Great Lakes

Bays, or Sounds which empty into (1) and (2) above

Rivers over two miles across at their mouths and upstream to where the river narrows to two miles

The Coast Guard requires that the three required day night signals be Coast Guard Approved. Table (1) below, provides a list of the required signals, and describes whether they are a pyrotechnic signal and whether they are approved as day, or a day and night signal. The electric distress light must be able to automatically flash the signal SOS, three short, three long, three short.

At the present time the serviceable life of a pyrotechnic device is rated at 42 months from its date of manufacture. Pyrotechnics beyond this 42 month date should be replaced with new devices. I strongly encourage that you carefully check the expiration date before purchasing pyrotechnics. The disposal of expired pyrotechnic devices should be done in accordance with local county and state hazardous waste regulations, Please check with these local authorities to obtain the correct disposal procedures.

Extreme care should be exercised when using pyrotechnic devices. They burn with an intense heat which can cause severe burns if they are improperly used. Before using be sure to read all manufacturers instructions.

If you are in the unfortunate situation of being in distress it would not usually be wise to fire off all of your flares at once and then be left with no means of signaling an approaching search vessel. If no one is in sight, fire off one in an attempt to draw attention from someone beyond your line of sight over the horizon. Await a visual response of some kind i.e., an approaching vessels lights. As the vessel approaches your vicinity fire off another signal, thereby, assisting

the vessel to zero in on your position. It is not uncommon for the Coast Guard search vessel to energize the law enforcement blue light in an attempt to draw a flare from the vessel or people that are in distress. Therefore, if you are in distress and see the flashing blue light in the distance you may want to signal the Coast Guard search vessel with a flare. If you are a boater who observes a flare, your knowledge of specific information that the Coast Guard needs to respond may save a life. The first thing we need to know is your position. Latitude and longitude is preferred, but we can work with a geographic position if that is all that is available. Next we would like to obtain a magnetic bearing from your vessel. You can obtain this by looking over the top of your vessels compass toward the direction of the flare. You may be able to just point your vessel in that direction and read the compass. With your information and that of another reporting source we will be able to cross the bearings and obtain an estimated position in which to center our search efforts

Often there is only one reporting source with a position and magnetic bearing, in this case we need to obtain the angle which the flare rose above the horizon from your position. The simplest way for you to determine this is by stretching your hand out in front of you and making a fist. Line the bottom of your fist up with the horizon. Each finger in your fist is equal to about two degrees when compared with the horizon. All we need to know is how many fingers the flare rose above the horizon. We will also request to know if the flare rose and fell at an equal speed (meteor flare) or rose quickly and descended slowly (parachute flare). This description will help us determine the elevation that the flare rose. With all of this information we can now estimate how far the flare was fired from your position and support our efforts to narrow down the ocean to a more manageable search area so that we can quickly locate those in distress,

To learn more complete a Seamanship Course. Also, I encourage that you have your local Power Squadron conduct a free courtesy marine examination of your vessel.

The pool was this past Saturday and those who attended had a good time as usual. WHAT!!! you did not go even for just a little while??

WHY NOT?!?!?!?! This is the kind of information that we need to plan events that you would like to attend. We cannot do so without some input!!! Contact me Bob Shivokevich, phone 493-7251 or E-Mail shivokevich@hotmail.com Please let me know what you want. I will soon be sworn in as your District 2 Executive Officer. And would like to better serve all of us better. Please contact me with any concerns and ideas to better improve USPS>

NOW THE RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL POOL PARTY NAUTICAL COMPETITION!!!!!!!

In the Nautical Trivia Quiz (Margaret Malone did a great job on this one SOME TOUGH questions)

1st place Robert Ward (But of course!)
2nd Jean Ward
3rd John Boule

LINE TOSS We have a new champion this year

1st place Frank Williams (He beat out the champion by 3 point)
2nd Bob Shivokevich (yes he actually lost)
3rd Priscilla Shivokevich

PFD swim Race

1st place Priscilla Shivokevich
2nd Philip Shivokevich
3rd Frank Williams

Marlinspike (timed tying 5 knots Bowline, Round turn 2 half hitches, clove hitch, square knot, and the figure eight)

1st place Margaret Malone (26.7 sec)
2nd Tom Malone (27.2sec.)
3rd Bob Shivokevich (28.9 sec)

Thanks to Margaret for making up the trivia quiz, to Bob ward for finding a lifeguard for us and to Tom and Margaret for bringing the lines for the line toss and especially to all those who came. See you again next year????????????????