

CHAMPLAIN SKIPPER



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Treasurer	Hugh Connors	563-2711	lonesail@charter.net

Commander's Message

The next meeting will be Tuesday 8 April, 2008 starting at 19:00 at the American Legion in Plattsburgh. We have a lot to cover and plans to be made. Please plan on attending.

Cdr. Mike Stephenson.

Educational Report

It is hard to remember, but I believe that I have been SEO for the Champlain Power Squadron for five years. During that time and the five years before, when I was just a member, the organization has seen many changes. In general USPS National organization, and the Champlain Power squadron have lost membership. There were about sixty members in our squadron in 1998, and now we are in our thirties. This loss is a dilemma for most all American organizations, Rotary, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, etc.. There are challenges to our prime product **EDUCATION!** The USPS Basic Boating Course is the best there is bar none! It is difficult to ask students to set aside one night a week for 7-8 weeks, 2-3 hours a night for \$50-75 when they have other attractive alternatives. There are one day courses given by many different organizations. There are online courses and Government sponsored PWC courses.

The National USPS has responded by changing tract. America's Bating Course, a one day course is available. There are seminar series open to members and non members, covering a variety of subjects. Our courses have been augmented by professional Power Point Presentations, for greater clarity and detail.

National USPS is cooperating with other boating organizations, such as Coast Guard Auxiliary to promote boating safety. This year a new Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla has formed in Plattsburgh, with some of our members belong to both the CG. Aux. And Champlain Power Squadron. The members of the Flotilla could join with our members

and enjoy our fine courses along with the activities of th Aux. This could be a win win situation for both groups, and a giant stride for local boating.

Mike Stephenson, our present commander, will be the Squadron's Educational officer. He has some new directions and courses in mind, Let's give our support!

Many thanks for the opportunity to be your SEO..

John Boule drboule@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAMPLAIN SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON CHANGE OF WATCH!!

The Annual Change of Watch Dinner will be on Sunday 16 March at Anthony's Restaurant in Platsburgh NY There will be a cocktails beginning at 18:00 with dinner to follow at 19:00. You will be able to order off a selected menu for the dinner of your choice. The swearing in of the new squadron officers will be following dinner at approximately at 20:00 . District Lt. Commander Jim Silver from Mid Hudson Power Squadron and his lovely wife Jan will be our guest of honor. Jim is District 2 Secretary and will be swearing in the new Bridge Officers. Please make plans now to attend this dinner and than our out going officers for their fine work and to welcome your new officers and give them your support as they take on the challenges for the upcoming year!

BASIC BOATING CLASS SET TO BEGIN!!

The Squadron's Basic Boating Class will begin on Tuesday 25 at Clinton Community College. Classes begin at 6:30. Remember what it was like when you too the course?? Do you remember everything?? Why not help out with the class? Become a proctor, help new boaters feel welcome and at ease!. Do you want to help teach a lesson? Contact Bob Shivokevich head instructor to find out more information. He can always use a helping hand even if just for moral support, teaching knots, or helping the new students understand chart reading. Don't forget to tell your friends about the course. Don't forget this course satisfies the PWC requirements for NYS. All operators of a personal water craft must have a safety course!!SPREAD THE WORD!!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

There has been a new report from the nominating committee. Hugh Connors has stepped up and volunteered to be your commander again!. We would like to than Hugh for doing so. The Bridge nominees are as follows;

Commander	Hugh Connors	AP
Executive Officer	Ray Dahle	AP
Education Officer	Mike Stephenson	JN
Administrative Officer	John Kitchen	P
Secretary	Gil Murray	S
Treasurer	John Boule	AP

all members are in good standing and are qualified to hold assigned positions. Form ED 80 for Educational officer has been sent to headquarters, and approved.

Respectfully Submitted

Mike Stephenson JN

Robert Shivokevich SN

Hugh Connors AP

DAVE ROBERTSON'S DID YOU KNOW??

DID YOU KNOW? A British sailor celebrated the New Year by becoming the first European to have both flown solo and sailed single-handed across the Atlantic. Tristan Gooley, 34, arrived at Marigot Bay, St. Lucia, on the afternoon of the 1st of January in a 32 ft. yacht called Golden Eye after 26 days at sea alone. In May 2007 he flew from Goose Bay, Canada to Oxford, England in a single-engine Cessna Caravan, refueling in Greenland, Iceland and Scotland during the epic two day flight. The only other person to have achieved both is the legendary American navigator, Steve Fossett, who is still missing after a flight in Nevada in September, 2007.

An Antarctica Odyssey

About a year ago, a friend and I were travel on our next vacation trip, preferably some where few people go. We had read about Antarctica and decided that would be the place, cost.

We made our reservations through a friend in travel bureau. A Norwegian shipping company sailings along the Norwegian coast sends two of Antarctic area during the European winter

We departed on 13 November by air to connections to Punta Arena on the southern tip boarded our ship, the M/V *Nordnorge*, together additional passengers from many nations. The Germans followed by people from the US.



discussing where to out-of-the-way place explorer trips to in spite of the high

Montreal who runs a that runs scheduled their ships to the months.

Santiago, Chile, with of Chile. There we with some 200 largest group were



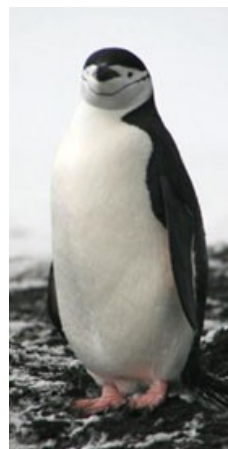
From Punta Arena we sailed along the Chilean coast and through the fjord country known as Patagonia. Some very impressive scenery included a visit to the Garibaldi glacier. The ship sailed very close to the ice and we could see how the glacier calved, i.e. shed hunks of ice into the sea.

After an overnight stop at a Chilean navy base called Puerto Williams, we sailed towards Cape Horn. Our schedule called for us to go ashore there, the southernmost land of South America, actually an island. The seas were too rough and the landing was canceled so we proceeded south across the Drake Passage, some 700 NM, a 36-winds, common in that area.

Shetland Island chain, we started to see large icebergs. The land in glaciers and snow.

We then entered the Bransfield Strait, between the Antarctic mainland landing was on an island called Half Moon Island where we met our They have no fear of humans and walk right up to people.

The landing was by use of inflatable boats powered by 80 hp Honda 8 passengers. Under international agreements, only 100 persons can be at each location. No smoking was permitted on shore and no



hour trip with gale force As we neared the South masses were all covered

and the islands. Our first first colony of penguins.

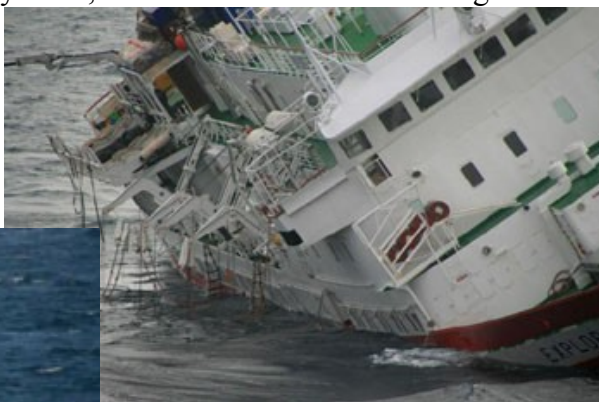
outboards, each carrying ashore at any given time interference with the

animals.



As we sailed south along the ice-covered coast, a message came over the intercom about 0630 that we had changed course in order to assist another ship which was in trouble. As we arrived on the scene, we observed another, smaller ship, the *Endeavour*, as well as several lifeboats and inflatables filled with people. Since our ship had space to take on the *Endeavour*'s passengers, we lowered a couple of our lifeboats, took the people off the open lifeboats and hoisted them onboard our vessel. This operation took over two hours. This ship in trouble had struck ice and was taking on water. It was lying on its starboard side at a 45-degree angle. All passengers and crew, said to be 154, had been evacuated and were on our ship. Since they had brought only what they wore, we collected items of clothing from our passengers

Another vessel, said to be a Brazilian the scene and we departed. The stricken reportedly sank 2 hours later. The next people ashore at two land bases. One had people were subsequently flown out.



navy vessel, arrived on ship, the *MV Explorer*, day we put the rescued an air strip and the



The crew of our vessel did a very professional job, and as luck would have it, the sea was calm, unusual for that area. The air temperature

was around the freezing point and the sea was also very cold.

A day later, one of our passengers became ill and had to be taken ashore at the Chilean base for air evacuation, reportedly costing some \$80,000. I hope he had good insurance. We did four more landings in Antarctica, got our passports stamped there, and returned to South America, to the town of Ushuaia in Argentina. From there we flew to Buenos Aires where we spent two days plus taking a side trip to the great water falls at Iguacu, on the border between Brazil and Argentina. The last leg of the trip was from Buenos Aires to Montreal via Toronto.

This is one of the most enjoyable travels one can have. The service and food on the ship were superb. This was something different.

Ray Dahle, AP

With regret we report the death of Earle Roger Thomas on February 19. Roger was a member of CHAMPLAIN POWER SQUADRON from 1989 until his death. After graduating from UVM in 1940, Roger entered the Army Air Corps. He served as a pilot until 1946, becoming an instructor, and later a staff officer at the Pentagon. Leaving active service as a Lieutenant Colonel, Roger served in the Air Force Reserve until 1979, retiring with the rank of Colonel. Active in civic organizations, he was a valued member of both the Champlain Power Squadron and the Auxiliary. Single handing his 27-foot Carver *At Ease* until a few years ago, Roger enjoyed his time on the lake, whether fishing, rafting up with friends and family. Roger was 88. A true gentleman, he will be missed by those who knew him.