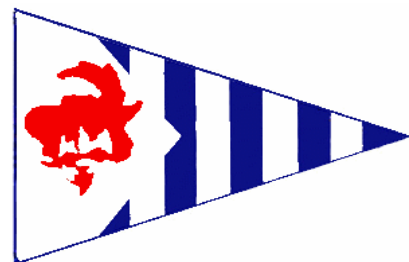


CHAMPLAIN SKIPPER



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Commander's Message

Members,

The past month has passed way too fast and summer is always too short for us lucky boaters that live in this beautiful North country. We had our annual Squadron picnic at Treadwell Bay Marina with a well attended safety seminar with hands-on demonstrations of fire extinguishers , hand held flares and pistol launched flares. Afterwards we enjoyed Tom's always the best Barbequed chicken and all the other treats that were available. A good time was had by all.

We will be having a Raft up next month in Pelots Bay VT across from Treadwell Bay , details to follow in this newsletter. This bay is well protected from all sides and should be a good place to enjoy a summer outing.

Cdr. Hugh

Educational Report

What courses would you like? Go to www.usps.org and click on the Education page for a listing of the courses and seminars.

We are getting ready to offer Piloting, which involves chart reading and plotting. Piloting takes what we learned in Basic Boating to the next level. As soon as we have secured a place to teach and a time we will let you know. Are you interested in taking Piloting? Contact either Hugh Conners 563-2711, lonesail@charter.net, Dave Robertson 562-3186, tropicstar82@hotmail.com, or Bob Shivokevich 493-7251, shivokevich@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAMPLAIN SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON RENDEZVOUS

The Squadron is sponsoring an on the water rendezvous at Pelot's Bay, on the North est shore of Grand Isle VT. The bay is very well protected, and offers good anchorage. We we meet there on Saturday and stay overnite. We will be monitoring channel 69 on the VHF radio. Use the call name of "Sammy D" the hailing name for the Champlain Power Squadron. Remember it goes like this "SAMMY D-SAMMY D- SAMMY D" this (your boat name) OVER. Give the people time to respond, (2-3 minutes) then try again. If no answer the second time try channel 9. don't forget you might be the first on there. EVERYONE!! PLEASE ANSWER WHEN YOU HEAR THE SAMMY D CALL. This will be a good time to meet up with your members and catch up on what has been happening this summer! Believe it or not summer is flying by!

DISTRICT 2 FALL CONFERENCE AT FISHKILL NY

The District 2 Fall Conference will be held October 24-25, in Fishkill, NY. Peekskill will be celebrating their 50th Annivesary of their Charter. This would be a good time for members who never attended a USPS District Conference to attend. If you do not want to stay over night, it can be done in a day trip. Plan some car pools and plan to attend. This would be a good opportunity to see what goes on at a Conference, and a learning experience that many can benefit from. (Our Conference will be in the spring). The cost is very reasonable. The Continental breakfast and lunch for around \$20.00. if you stay over night plan to join in the fun of the dinner dance. Contact Bob Shivokevich at 493-7251, shivokevich@hotmail.com, for more information

DISTRICT 2 SPRING CONFERENCE

The District 2 Spring Conference will be held right here in Plattsburgh, NY. Did you know that at that time our squadron will be celebrating 60 years of existence? That the area will be celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain?? Did you know that our Squadron will be celebrating the first time ever, that one of our own members will be the Commander of all District 2?? Robert Shivokevich S will become District 2 Commander on March 28, 2009?? Scary, isn't it?? you bet!! The squadron has formed a committee to organize and plan the event. But will need more help in the future. So when they ask, please say yes and help make this a tremendous event. Committee members are

Dave Robertson, 562-3186 tropicstar82@hotmail.com, Bob Shivokevich 493-7251 shivokevich@hotmail.com.
Ray Dahle 561-7625, raybj2933@aol.com, Gil Murray 563-435 gilmur@westelcom.com
John Kitchen 834-9702 kitchenj@aol.com.

DAVE ROBERTSON'S DID YOU KNOW??

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Lake Champlain is one of the few bodies of water that flows to the North? So when you are traveling South on the lake you are returning from the sea and should keep the red buoys on your right

EXTRAORINARY MEASURES

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their fellow boaters.

In the last issue of the *Champlain Skipper* I wrote about the possibility that you would need a permit to operate your outboard, to wash your dishies, to clean your deck, and I advised you that if Congress did not get their act together, and pass bill 2766 the Clean Water Act of 2008 you would pay the price!! I told you to contact your senators and congressman and tell them to pass bill 2766 exempting recreational boats from the gray water discharge. WELL DID YOU ?? DID YOU KNOW THAT ON August 1st .

and that Congress will be on vacation and it will be too late!!!! DID YOU REALLY CARE ENOUGH TO TAKE ACTION!!!!!!!!!!!!. Well if you did not don't blame anyone. But if you did then we all can thank you because on July

22 Congress passed the bill 2766 exempting recreational boaters from the gray water restrictions. Thanks to all those who took action. The bill is sitting on President Bush's desk for his signature, which must be done by September 30th.

FRANK'S SAFETY CORNER

Navigation Lights - Sidelights

Is your boat legal? Of course, you say...it is a brand new boat. Well you might want to think again after reading the following article. And remember, it is your responsibility, not the manufacturer's, to make sure your boat is in compliance with state and federal regulations.

During factory and boat show inspections we have observed that many manufacturers of recreational boats do not have a good understanding of the navigation rules governing proper installation of navigation lights. The requirements are found in the Navigation Rules, International-Inland, and in Parts 81, 84 and 89 of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations. The problem appears to be particularly prevalent for manufacturers located in the western States. Since most manufacturers routinely equip the boats they produce with navigation lights, navigation light installations are routinely inspected and discussed during factory visits and boat shows.

One problem which has increased recently is the installation of flush mounted sidelights in the boat hulls, usually below the rub rail. Many manufacturers build boats using similar sidelight fixture installations. This is a dangerous trend which is likely to end up costing somebody a pile of money when a plaintiff's attorneys go after everyone who might have been liable for a serious collision.

Sidelights which meet the rules are designed to cover an arc of the horizon, or sector, of 112.5 degrees. Intensities are required to attain a visible range of 1 mile for vessels less than 12 meters (39.4 ft.) and 2 miles for vessels 12 meters or longer. These fixtures are designed for intensities to decrease and reach practical cutoff between 1 and 3 degrees outside their prescribed sector. Sidelight fixtures must be installed parallel with the fore and aft centerline of the vessel and arranged to show an unbroken light from right ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam, a total sector arc of 112.5 degrees.

Sidelights that are installed in the contour of the bow without providing a mounting surface tooled to be parallel with the fore and aft centerline of the vessel are not in compliance with the Inland or International Navigation Rules. Depending on the breadth of the vessel near the bow and how far aft from the vessel's stem the lights are mounted, this shift can be more than 20 degrees in some cases. Installing the fixtures too far aft of the vessel's stem may result in the sidelights not being visible from a position dead ahead.

Another factor in proper installation of sidelights is that they must maintain their required minimum intensity in a vertical sector from 5 degrees above to 5 degrees below the horizontal. They must also maintain at least 60 percent of their minimum required intensity from 7.5 degrees above to 7.5 degrees below the horizontal. Installing flush mounted sidelights, designed to be mounted to a vertical surface in the hull contour, without providing a mounting surface tooled to be vertical, shifts the vertical coverage sector. This also results in a noncompliance with the Inland or International Navigation Rules.

Additionally, most of these flush mounted sidelights are installed below the vessel's rub rail. International Navigation Rules require that sidelights be installed above the uppermost continuous deck. Therefore this configuration would not be in compliance with International Navigation Rules.

When separate red and green sidelight fixtures are used, the masthead or all-round white light, whichever configuration is installed, must be located as close as practical to the vessel's fore and aft centerline. For vessels less than 12 meters in length, the masthead or all-round light may be displaced from the fore and aft centerline providing that the sidelights are contained within a common fixture and mounted on the vessel's fore and aft centerline. The masthead or all-round light must be installed at least one meter (3.3 ft.) above the sidelights.

This article was written by the Coast Guard Short Range Aids to Navigation Division (G-NSR)

EDITOR'S NOTE. Frank has provided us with a good article about your Navigation Lights. When was the last time you checked them to make sure they work? How about doing it the next time on your boat. After all they are for your safety, so the other boaters can see you! While we are on the subject of nav lights, did you know that PWCs are not allowed navigational lights, and that the hours of operation is sunrise to sunset? Not until

dark!! remember that sunset is before darkness!

WERE YOU THERE?!?!?!?

THE ANNUAL CHAMPLAIN SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON CLAM BAKE AND CHICKEN BARBEQUE WAS HELD ON JULY 20 AT TREADWELL BAY MARINA. THE WEATHER WAS GREAT THIS YEAR AND WE HAD A NAUTICAL KNOT TYING CONTEST, AND A TRIVIA QUIZ ABOUT LAKE CHAMPLAIN AND USPS. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE HAD A GREAT TIME AND YOU COULD HAVE TOO!!. THE KNOT TYING CONTEST RESULTS ARE. 3rd PLACE BOB SHIVOKEVICH (HE IS GETTING OLDER AND SLOWER) 2ND PLACE WAS JOANNE KREIG, AND THE WINNER WAS NEW MEMBER JOE DUMAR, AT 35 SECONDS BUT WAIT !!! A LATE ENTRY COLLIN POPE WITH A TIME OF 30 SECONDS GOOD JOB TO ALL WHO TRIED. THE NAUTICAL QUIZ WAS MADE UP BY BOB SHIVOKEVICH (GIVE MARGARET A REST) AND CONTAINED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR BEAUTIFUL LAKE AND ABOUT OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION USPS. THE WINNER WAS MARGARET MALONE. FOLLOWED BY JOHN BOULE, AND THRID WAS A TIE BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM OF PETER AND CLAUDIA HORNBY. IF YOU MISSED OUT I AM SORRY, THIS IS AN EVENT FOR OUR MEMBERS, YOU!!! PLAN TO BE THERE NEXT YEAR!



Illustration 1: SETTING UP



Commander Hugh



ARE THE CLAMS READY YET?