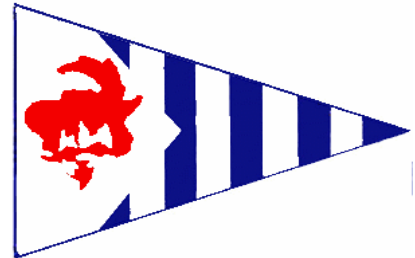


CHAMPLAIN SKIPPER



Commander	Hugh Conners	563-2711	lonerail@charter.net
Executive Officer	Ray Dahle	561-7625	raybj2933@aol.com
Educational Officer	Dave Robertson		tropicstar82@hotmail.com
Administrative Office	Joe Dumar		dumarj@twcny.rr.com
Secretary	Gil Murray	563-4353	gilmur@westelcom.com
Treasurer	John Boule	561-4980	drboule@aol.com

Commander's Message

Members,

As the year is finally come upon us, let us look to the future of our squadron and USPS in general. We need to start planning for the future. This year, 2009, will be a special year for Champlain Sail and Power Squadron. We will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our charter, the 400th Anniversary of the Discovery of Lake Champlain, and the Inauguration of the first ever District 2 Commander from our great Squadron! So as you can see there will be a lot to do this coming year and we need your help. So when someone asks you for some help please say yes and give a little of your time for this great organization that we all choose to be a part of. If you are sure where to start attend our monthly meeting which is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the American legion on the Quarry Road in Plattsburgh. The next meeting is this Tuesday February 3rd. hope to see you there!

Cdr. Hugh

Educational Report

As was discussed at the January meeting, we will be offering the Seamanship Course beginning in early April, right after the District Spring Conference and Advanced Piloting starting right after Labor Day in the fall so that all of those who recently completed the Piloting Course can continue. Mike Stephenson has agreed to teach the one-day GPS seminar. Joey Dumar will be organizing a seminar on the in and outs of crossings the border by boat. Both of these seminars will be open to the public. Bob Shivokevich will be teaching the Basic Boating Course in conjunction with Clinton Community College this Spring. The squadron taught an ABC course to the Rouses Point Fire Dept. volunteers. They are getting a rescue boat, and needed a Safe Boating course in order for them to operate the boat. There were 20 firemen/fire women there and all 20 passed. A big thank you to those who taught and proctored the exam, Robert Shivokevich, Hugh Conners, and Joe Dumar.

would also like to see one of our elective courses offered to the membership. The elective course possibilities are: Cruise Planning, Engine Maintenance, Marine Electronics, Sail, and Weather. Please let me know by e-mail which course you are interested in taking and the course that has the most interest will be offered in the spring, providing we have someone willing to teach the course. As you most of you know this time of year I am living on boat trying singlehandedly to keep the economy of the British Virgin Island afloat (and trying to keep my boat afloat too) so I cannot be contacted by phone by only by e-mail. Any other suggestions in regard to the education program would be most welcome also. Stay warm and don't hurt yourself shoveling too much snow. Dave E-Mail tropicstar82@hotmail.com.

BOATING OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

With the Boat Operator's Certification Program, USPS will certify USPS members at various levels of recreational boating proficiency. We expect that these certifications will be recognized across the boating community, both domestically and internationally. In the United States, The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has asked congress to authorize the Transportation Secretary to establish requirements for standards of proficiency for recreational boaters. We intend to have USPS certification accepted as the above proof and be accepted as the national certificate for the USA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DISTRICT 2 SPRING CONFERENCE

See attached flyer for all the details

As most of you know the fire at Comfort Inn was a major blow to the community as well as to us. We had plans to hold our Spring Conference at the Comfort Inn . The Conference committee met right away and with the quick thinking of Dave Robertson to to check with the Holiday Inn to see if the dates were still available with them. Dave arranged a meeting with the hotel management and as the say the rest is history. We now have a place where we can still hold the Spring Conference on the same schedule dates. How we need help to make this event one of the best in District 2.

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 SN 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. The registration form is attached and is also available on line at the D/2 website. Go to USPS.org, click on site index. Go to Districts pick out D-2 and Viola there it is!! CHECK IT OUT!!

SQUADRON MONTHLY MEETING

The next monthly meeting for the Champlain Sail & Power Squadron will be on Tuesday February 3rd starting at 7:00 at the American Legion on the Quarry Road in Plattsburgh NY. Hope to see you there.

SQUADRON ANNUAL POOL PARTY

The Annual Pool party will be on Sunday February 8th. The event will take place at the Inn at Smithfield, (Best Western). The squadron has reserved a poolside room so we have a place to change. We will again have our "Nautical Competition". There will be the PFD swimming race, line toss, knot tying contest, and our Famous Trivia Contest. We will top it off with our always fun Chinese Auction. Bring a wrap gift valued between \$1.00- \$10.00, and join in the fun. Bring along your favorite beverage, and a snack to share and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow members. What better way to shake off the winter blues and cabin fever, than to spend the time swimming and participating in the fun. The fun will begin at 1:00 and go until ????

So come on and join the fun!! SEE YOU THERE!!!

DAVE ROBERTSON'S DID YOU KNOW??

DID YOU KNOW? One of nature's cruel jokes. A shipwrecked sailor floating on the high seas on a hot day, surrounded by water in every direction. It's salty, but why isn't it drinkable? According to Dr. Walter Dzik, Co-director of Massachusetts General Hospital's Blood Transfusion Service, when we lose "free water"-water that contains less salt than our blood-through sweating, breathing and other body processes, we need to replace it by drinking or eating substances that are less salty than our blood. The average salinity of salt water (35 parts per thousand), however, is almost four times greater than the salinity of human blood (9 ppt.). So, if our shipwrecked mate takes a sip, he can expect to accelerate his dehydration and worse.

Source: Sail Magazine.

FRANK'S SAFETY CORNER

VHF RADIO VS. CELLULAR TELEPHONES

The Coast Guard does not advocate cellular phones as a substitute for the regular maritime radio distress and safety systems recognized by the Federal Communications Commission and the International Radio Regulations -- particularly VHF maritime radio. However, cellular phones can have a place on board as an added measure of safety.



CELLULAR PHONE LIMITATIONS IN AN EMERGENCY

- Cellular phones generally cannot provide ship to ship safety communications or communications with rescue vessels. If you make a distress call on a cellular phone, only the one party you call will be able to hear you.
- Most cellular phones are designed for a land-based service. Their coverage offshore is limited, and may change without notice. Most everyone has experienced communications out to about 25 miles at times. Yet at other times could not get through to a land based phone inside of 10 miles from shore. This might well create a communications problem in the event of an emergency at sea.
- Locating a cellular caller is hard to do. If you don't know precisely where you are, the Coast Guard will have difficulty finding your location on the water.

Note: In some areas, however, cellular providers have established a special code (*CG) which, if you are in range, will connect you directly to a Coast Guard Operations Center. This service may only work with the carrier to which you have subscribed.

CELLULAR/VHF MARINE RADIO COMPARISON

Cellular phones do provide the convenience of simple, easy-to-use, inexpensive, private and generally reliable telephone service to home, office, automobile or other locations. Placing a shore-to-ship call to someone with a cellular telephone is especially convenient. However, you cannot use your cellular phone outside the United States, and you may need a special agreement with your carrier to use it outside that carrier's local service area.

VHF marine radios were designed with safety in mind. If you are in distress, calls can be received not only by the Coast Guard but by ships which may be in position to give immediate assistance. A VHF marine radio also helps ensure that storm warnings and other urgent marine information broadcasts are received. The Coast Guard announces these broadcasts on VHF channel 16. Timely receipt of such information may save your life. Additionally, your VHF marine radio can be used anywhere in the United States or around the world.

On VHF radios, however, conversations are not private and individual boats cannot be assigned a personal phone number. If you are expecting a call, channel 16 or the marine operator's working channel must be continually monitored.

SHOULD YOU RELY ON A CELLULAR PHONE EXCLUSIVELY?

Actually there is no comparison between cellular phones and VHF marine radio. They normally provide different services. The cellular phone is best used for what it is, an on-board telephone -- a link with shore based telephones. A VHF marine radio is intended for communication with other ships or marine installations -- and a powerful ally in time of emergency. If you have a portable or hand-held cellular telephone, by all means take it aboard. If you are boating very far off shore, a cellular phone is no substitute for a VHF radio. But, if you are within cellular range, it may provide an additional means of communication.



BOAT OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

Interested in becoming a certifier? Interested in helping your squadron's membership grow? Tired of sitting around complaining that nothing new is happening in the USPS? Then here's your chance! Attend the B O C Seminar at the upcoming Winter Council 31 January 2009 at the Best Western Motel & Conference Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. The Seminar is about 2-2½ hours and should include anyone who has an interest becoming a certifier in the program.

The USPS has learned the bitter lesson of change or wither and die. It is changing! We are going to be offering on the water training such as being offered by the Seneca Squadron in upstate New York. Imagine a squadron that has doubled its membership in the last three years.

The USPS has the program to train us to train others on-the-water, it has arranged insurance coverage for us when training on our own boat or on student's boats.

All we need to do is supply members that care enough to help create better boaters and to help their squadron grow. This is your chance to excel and show off your knowledge and experience. Do something for the good of others and most important, for your own good.

Join me there and let's be the Best in USPS!

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
2009 DISTRICT 2 SPRING CONFERENCE

March 27 & 28, 2009

Holiday Inn
412 Route 3 Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518-561-5000

Hosted by
Champlain Sail & Power Squadron
Celebrating 60 Years of Boating Education
Celebrating Lake Champlain's 400th Anniversary

Friday: 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM Registration Table Open
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM P/D/C Meeting
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Cocktail Party (cash bar)
7:00 PM - Dinner with C/C's Representative
Saturday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration Table Open
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Lite Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM -11:30 AM Business Meeting
9:30 AM Guest Program Departs
11:30 AM -12:30 PM Social Hour (cash bar)
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Business Meeting Reconvenes
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Social Hour (cash bar)
7:00 PM -11:00 PM Dinner Dance (cash bar) **Semi-Formal Attire**

Honoring Champlain's 60th Anniversary
(Above times subject to change)

Directions: Travel North on I-87 to exit 37. At end of ramp turn right onto Route 3. Turn left just before the fourth light (including the one at the end of the exit ramp) just before Wal-Mart.

Cut Here-----

REGISTRATION FORM

First Registrant: Name _____ Grade _____ Rank/Position _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____ Squadron: _____

First Time Attending A District 2 Meeting? Circle Yes or No

Second Registrant: Name _____ Grade _____ Rank/Position _____

Friday Dinner: _____ **Buffet** _____ @ \$38 = \$ _____

Saturday: Lite Continental Breakfast & Executive Buffet Lunch _____ @ \$21 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner: Prime Rib _____ **Baked Salmon** _____ @ \$48 = \$ _____

Vegetarian by Request _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____

Meal SUBTOTAL \$ _____

Register meal choices before March 3 and save 5% off meal selections

The savings would be \$ _____ **If by the March 3 cutoff date, enter value here** = \$ _____

Meal TOTAL \$ _____

Hotel Rooms Friday _____ **Saturday** _____ **Total Nights** _____ @ \$79 = \$ _____

Circle: Double or King Circle: Smoking or Non-Smoking

Note: Cut-off Date for Hotel Room Reservations is March 3, 2009.

Reservations received after this date are subject to Space Availability & Rate Change.

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Champlain Sail & Power Squadron and mail to Sonia Shivokevich,
7625 Route 22 West Chazy, NY 12992. E-Mail shivokevich@hotmail.com Phone Number (518) 493-7251
Form 27 November 2008

Nimue's Log

A journal describing the sailing adventures of the captain, crew and boat cat aboard Nimue III, a Mariner 28 sailboat



_Cherokee was the next stop on our road trip. It's a tiny village of about 160 residents. As we approached the village, we passed a sign that said "Parking lot this way.

"That's interesting," we thought, "what's the parking lot for?" We drove on and discovered the answer a bit too late.

What a peaceful town Cherokee is.! Narrow concrete streets are lined with neatly kept houses. The community sits on a lovely shallow bay and has a history of wrecking, sponging and fishing.



We drove along the waterfront lined with an assortment of boats and as we proceeded, the road became more narrow.

We started to wonder what exactly the traffic pattern was. There wasn't much traffic, but cars and trucks were parked in some of the driveways.



Then we came to an intersection where a pick up truck obligingly backed about 75 feet to let us through and after that the only way to turn was left. Just one detail: the road, barely wide enough for our Toyota seemed to have the middle third dug up! It appeared that the village was undergoing a transformation to buried utilities.

Gingerly we maneuvered our seemingly behemoth car onto the two edge thirds of the road without dropping into the ditch in the center. Oh, no! As we reached the end of this lane, we were faced with a right turn. The front yards on both sides of the street were encircled by chain link fences! Would we be able to make it?



Gamely, Peter swung the Toyota into the turn. What else could he do? *Thump*. The front bumper grazed a fencepost. He kept going and we squeezed into the road. Whew! The fence appeared to be unscathed. We continued driving and saw that this road ended at a parking lot. The very same one we had passed on the way in. AHA! Right about then, I happened to turn the page of the guide we had been following. There I saw a little note. "Visitors' cars are not permitted in the village of Cherokee and are asked to park in the lot at the edge of town."

Oh! So why didn't the sign say something about that??? We parked the Toyota and somewhat sheepishly walked back into town to explore a little further. Luckily the villagers were friendly, and no one complained about our nerve-wracking drive through Cherokee.

Peter & Claudia at Hopetown

