



CROSS CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Cross County Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons®, District 2

Volume XLXII

April/May 2007

Number 2

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE — **Teresa F. Hennelly, P**

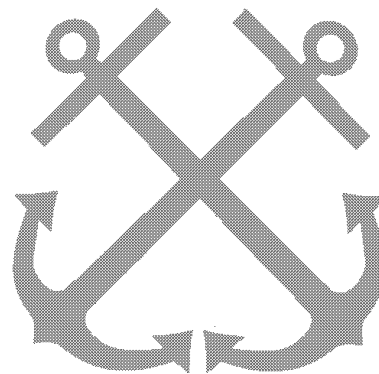
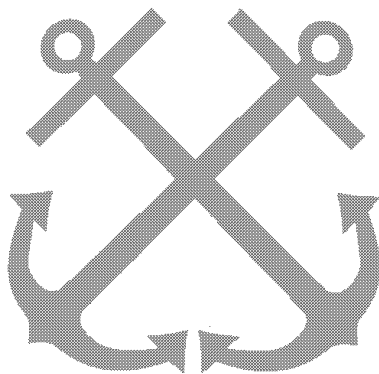
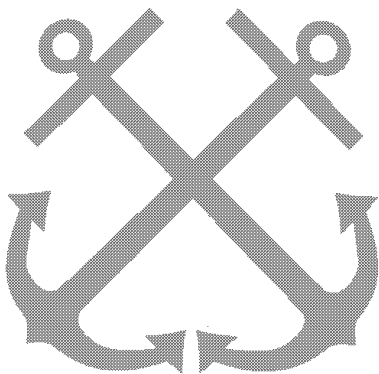
The month of May is special. We celebrate our mothers and our veterans and our socialists. But it is the delicacy of these days that emerge from a soggy April and are girding in anticipation of June's shenanigans. It is the showcase month for spring with cherry blossoms, magnolias, and flowering spring bulbs. Waterfowl have returned to their nests. Fathers and sons share quality time over their boats and yards. Mom's spring cleaning is winding down and the crops are almost in. Everything looks neat -- delicate.



I think this pause gives us a moment to go over the rules – and the best rule is to just be nice. It is no skin off our noses to be civil, understanding and patient with each other. I'm sick of gloves off politicians, malicious gossip, racial strife, environmental disregard and bullying of any stripe. Just think if we all behaved with gentleness and graciousness no matter what the circumstances. I bet all potential conflagrations could be diffused if only we tried out a little niceness first. That old adage "nice guys finish last" is tired. As one wise person suggested: go back to square one and start being courteous again.

Kiss your mothers and buy a poppy from the veterans. May I take this opportunity to wish all the mothers out there a Happy Mother's Day. Remember, your Mom was the first person who told us that being nice is the way to go! Right?

#####



2007-2008 Bridge

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With regret, we note the recent passing of P/D/C Andrew A. (Sandy) Lambert, SN, a member of the Westchester Sail and Power Squadron and an Associate Member of the Cross County Power Squadron.

Sandy shall be missed by all who knew him. Our condolences to Marie and their family.



April Birthdays:

Edwin Martinez, 9th
Teresa F. Hennelly, 15th
Helen E. Howland, 17th
Stephen J. Martin, 17th
Virginia P. Moore, 21st
Stephen M. Giordano, 21st
Frank Tricarico, 29th



May Birthdays:

George E. Heading, 2nd
Harvey Fink, 28th



MESSAGE FROM THE SEO

Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP

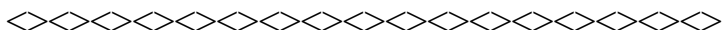
Activities Calendar

April — June 2007

Our spring Public Boating Class has ended. Unfortunately only two of the four students who had registered for the class, took the exam. Both passed with very high marks as well as passing the PWC test for that endorsement. I was told that the other two students (a couple) couldn't complete the course because of illness and/or personal problems.

Thanks again to P/C Howard A. Sklar, AP, for instructing the class, with assistance from P/C Virginia P. Moore, P; P/C Paul H. Wieland, AP; 1st Lt Guido Dattaro, SN and Lt Joseph N. Pizzuti, AP. Commander Teresa F. Hennelly, P, was also on hand the final evening to present certificates to the graduates.

On another note, the Squadron has purchased a digital projector (with approval from the Executive Committee) for use at future classes or other presentations. This machine will replace our ancient overhead projector. The new machine will be used with a laptop computer. Presentations will be made using Powerpoint software.



26 April, Thursday, Executive Committee Meeting at the Cdr's home, 118 Ritchie Drive, Yonkers, NY 10705 at 1900.

3 May, Thursday, General Meeting at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina at 2000.

Program: Safety Meeting
Lt/C Mark Hennelly will present:
"Commissioning Your Boat".

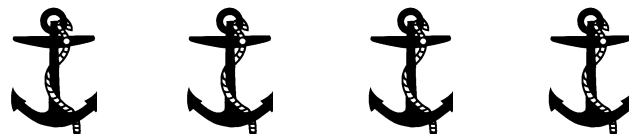
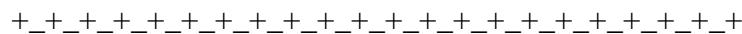
19-25 May, National Safe Boating Week.

31 May, Thursday, Executive Committee Meeting at the Cdr's home, Yonkers, NY 10705 at 2000.

7 June, Thursday, General Meeting at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina at 2000.
Program: TBA

23 June, Saturday, Commander's Reception and Blessing of the Fleet at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina. Time to be announced. Also, our Annual White Elephant Auction.

No Executive Committee Meeting in June.



CROSS CURRENTS is an official publication of the **Cross County Power Squadron**, a Unit of the **United States Power Squadrons®**

Members are encouraged to submit material for publication in **CROSS CURRENTS**.

The Editor reserves the right to edit articles as needed. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Cross County Power Squadron, The United States Power Squadrons® or its editors.

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Lt/C Peggy E. Howland, P, Co-Editor

Lt Paul H. Wieland, AP, Associate Editor



LEGISLATIVE REPORT PART I - P/C Arthur Steiner, P

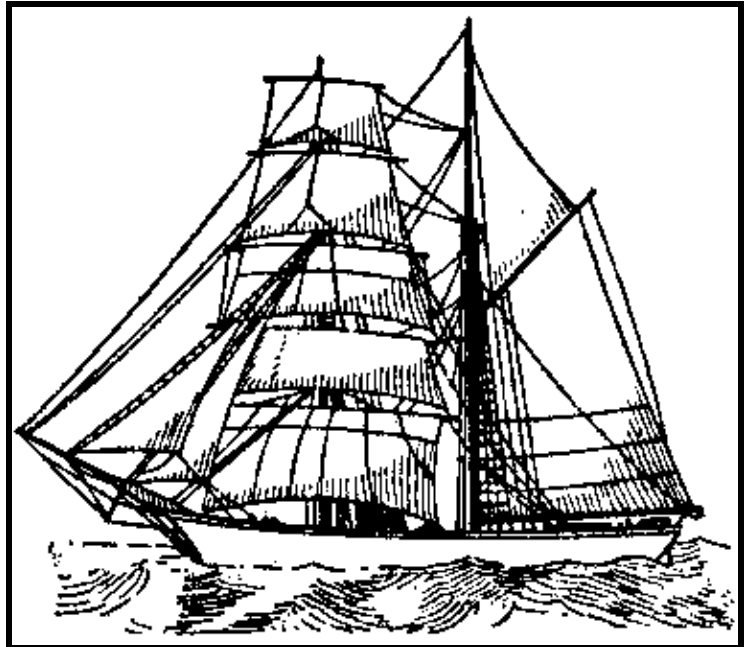
Firstly, I want to thank you for all the nice things said about me in the last issue of this "rag". Frankly, I do enjoy accumulating items and then writing them up. It certainly gives me the opportunity to exercise my brain and my typing skills.

Relative to my observations on the plethora of "over-size" yachts here in Ft. Lauderdale, I now note that the Caribbean Islands are now in a rush to enlarge their marina facilities so as to attract some of the "biggies."

Apropos of luxury in yachting, booths at the recently concluded Palm Beach Boat Show featured such items as an electric powered device which can dispense five different types of alcohol in measured amounts. Cost? \$499! And, by the way, free sample drinks were supplied at the booth! Another entrepreneur was exhibiting a red 2006 Ferrari "Spider" (used) for only \$307,451..What is yachting coming to?

Back to the Caribbean area: It's no secret that yacht crime is a fairly popular occupation down there. Recently, the Grenada Board of Tourism sponsored an "island wide" conference on how to deal with the burgeoning problem. Fuller cooperation among the various police departments and increased communication and surveillance were agreed on.

With the increased activity on energy-saving fuels and propulsion, I note that a forty-six foot, solar-powered, catamaran was the first vessel to make a trans-Atlantic crossing exclusively on solar power! She had twin electric motors powered by battery banks charged by 48 solar panels built into a canopy, which also served as a sun-shade for the crew.



In spite of all those safety warnings, I've always been an advocate of single-handing your boat. Your procedures change for the better when there's no one to yell at! Now I note that a "Short-handed Sailing Association" has been formed for both racing and cruising. Just try docking and undocking by yourself. For a test, for those on moorings, practice picking up your buoy by yourself. Frankly, it was always my pride to sail up to my mooring. A little tricky, especially in a well populated harbor, but you certainly get to know your boat's tendencies.

I haven't been hearing much about the proposal for a natural gas terminal on L.I. Sound lately. Apparently, all the public hearings have concluded and it will be several months before final decisions are announced. At the last meeting on January 16th, statements such as "unthinkable", "the start of the industrialization of the Sound," and "the Sound is our Yellowstone" were made by opponents. Hopefully they were registered in the minds of the deciders.

Happy "Spring Outfitting!"



United States
Power
Squadrons®



United States Power Squadrons®

Sail and Power Boating

Grants Governing Board Emeritus Status to

Arthur Steiner, P

upon the award of the

50th Merit Mark

representing meritorious service
given unstintingly and unselfishly
in the interests of our organization.

Presented by order of the Governing Board

24 February 2007


Chief Commander

dedicated to
making boating
safer and more fun

Congratulations Arthur
On this Special
Occasion.

The following was submitted by Cdr Teresa F. Hennelly, P:

I've looked at clouds from both sides now,
from up and down, and still somehow
it's cloud illusions I recall.
I really don't know clouds at all
Joni Mitchell, Both Sides Now

On 18 April 2007 the Cross County & Westchester Sail Power Squadrons held a joint General Meeting and program at the Orienta Yacht Club in Mamaroneck, New York. After a pre-meeting dinner, Bob Heinemann of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary delivered a lecture entitled "Weather and Boating." Being conscious of the weather is just as important as properly navigating your boat, or keeping your boat seaworthy. It always is a good refresher to sit in on a lecture on weather so as to be aware of how to avoid being caught in open water in hazardous conditions! In our basic seamanship classes we cover basic topics such as wind and pressure, rain and storms and fronts. We learned how to make weather predictions based on observations of the sky, barometer and wind information, as well as weather data provided by maps, satellite images, and radio and TV broadcasts. And Bob was just as thorough – and yes, even old salts need refresher courses! Bob handed out a training guide developed by the West Coast Guard District.

We were reminded that many times you can identify the current (or future) weather situation by analysis of cloud types ... and reading clouds can get to be a complex study. I thought it would be a good idea to include a little cloud primer this month. Did you know that:

Cumulus: in Latin, means "heap." Cumulus clouds look like a heap of cotton balls or whipped cream.
Stratus is Latin for "covering" or "blanket." Stratus clouds look like a flat blanket in the sky.
Cirrus is Latin for "curl." Cirrus clouds look like curls of white hair.

That there are two cloud appearance types: cumulus and stratus, which are also the basic names of the low clouds. Sometimes they appear higher in the atmosphere and get a combination name with a prefix. For example, middle cumulus clouds are called "altocumulus" and high stratus clouds are "cirrostratus." If a cloud produces rain or snow it gets either "nimbo" at the beginning or "nimbus" at the end.

Cumulus clouds are low individual billowy globs that are low, have flat bases and look a little like cauliflower. They are at least as tall as they are wide and form on sunny days from pockets of rising air. Their constantly changing outlines are fun to watch because they can take the shapes of almost anything, including animals and faces. Cumulus clouds usually signal fair weather. If they build into the middle or high part of the atmosphere they get the name cumulonimbus. A cumulonimbus cloud is tall, deep and dark and can bring lightning, heavy rain and even severe weather such as hail, damaging winds or tornadoes. It is a sign of rapidly rising and sinking air currents.

Stratus clouds are layered and cover most of the sky. They are much wider than they are tall. If you see them in broken or puffy layers, they are stratocumulus clouds. If you see them in thin high layers that turn the sky solid white, they're cirrostratus clouds. The tiny prisms of ice in a cirrostratus layer can bend the sun's light. As a result, often you can see a halo or veil of rainbow colors around the sun. When stratus clouds are very thick, they become dark nimbostratus clouds, which can produce rain, drizzle or snow.

Cirrus clouds are high and thin and made entirely of ice crystals. Forming above 20,000 feet in the atmosphere, they often look like wisps of white hair. Cirrus clouds, which are a sign of warm moist air rising up over cold air, are sometimes an early signal that thickening clouds could bring light rain or snow within one or two days.

The Training Guide reminds us the cirrus clouds are fair weather clouds, that usually indicate an approaching front. Cumulonimbus clouds are indicative of significant upward motion (due to warm air at the surface rising, then condensing), leading to thunderstorms. Stratus clouds are a good indicator that precipitation is approaching.

It never ceases to amaze me that every aspect of boating is inextricably bound with nature. Bob reminded us that the more one can act in concert with the environment, for example reading the waters, clouds and stars, the safer and happier our boating experience will be. Thanks again to Bob for taking the time to meet with us.

Photos from D/2 Change of Watch 31 March 2007



Photos courtesy of
P/D/C Wayne Garnsey, SN

Cross Currents

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**Address Correction
Requested**