

CROSS CURRENTS

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

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June

Number 1

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE — Howard A. Sklar, AP



Ahoy mates, another year is upon us. The sun is shining, the weather is warming and our thoughts are turning to our boats.

Most of us are uncovering and readying our vessels for the summer months ahead, and really that's what it is all about. That's what brought us to USPS and our dear Cross County, our boat and the need for more knowledge to operate her properly.

So if that's what did it for us why aren't more of the boating public flocking to us. Possibly

they think they know it all and there is nothing more to learn or possibly they don't have the time or maybe they just really don't care. Their boat however was and is a big investment and you would think they would want to protect her. They definitely buy insurance, they definitely register her and they definitely take pride in her. So why is it they don't want to understand her better and make their days of sailing and cruising easier on her and themselves?

I've got it, they don't know enough about us and whose fault is that. Each and every one of us. When we are down at the dock working on our boat this spring we should be flying our ensign and talking up the Squadron at each and every chance. Talking up the new seminar courses that USPS has generated as well as the many educational courses the Squadron has to offer. What skipper wouldn't benefit from an Advanced Piloting course or an Engine Maintenance course. If we don't talk about our Squadron nobody else will for us. Enough said.

As for news:

I attended the D/2 Conference in Williamstown, MA, 9-10 April, with Marcia. Williamstown is a beautiful area and well worth a trip. There were three breakout sessions during the morning meeting; Education; PRO and Sail Angle. Sail Angle is a type of Facebook for Power Squadron members so to speak.

The Education meeting which I attended discussed all of the changes to the various courses and the Public Boating Course. An interesting discussion developed on how to entice students in the Public Boating class to become members. What some Squadrons around the country are doing is offering the Public Boating

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class, Seamanship & Piloting, membership into USPS as a package deal with a total cost of between \$100.00 & \$150.00 dollars. I kind of like the idea.

At the conference D/Lt/C Mel Goldstein, AP, was elected as District Treasurer for a second term, and for some unknown reason I was elected as the Chairman of the District Rules Committee for a three year term.

The Squadron will be offering an Operations Training Seminar at one of our upcoming General Meetings.

When our dear P/D/C Bob Beardsley, SN, passed away in February and our chaplain was enjoying sunny Florida I was in a quandary. I wanted to have a USPS memorial for Bob and really didn't know what was proper to do and say, USPS wise. With help from Peggy and the Operations Training manual I was able to perform the appropriate ceremony. Honestly, I hadn't opened the OT manual in years and it really was a breath of fresh air. It was then that I realized that our Squadron and Bridge Officers would truly benefit from an OT Seminar.

Our Safety Meeting will be held on 27 May 2010 at 2000 at the New Rochelle Marina. We are attempting to have a member of NOAA come and speak to us.

In closing let us remember Bob Beardsley and know that he fought the good fight, finished his course and kept the faith.

Respectfully submitted.

June Birthdays:

James J. Campbell, 1st



August Birthdays:

Daniel W. Zygmunt, 10th

Donald A. Bernard, 22nd

Leah D. Campbell, 22nd

John Loperfido, 22nd

John F. Ferreri, Jr., 28th



2009-2010 Bridge

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT - P/C Arthur Steiner, P

Here I sit. It is more than a month into my 91st year and I still mentally enjoy my sailing years. I sit in my comfortable lounge chair and reflect, reflect and reflect. I think of what I've done. What was right, wrong, successful or unsuccessful, and I wonder if I'd acted differently, would my life have been different? Who knows? And all I can do about it is to reflect. The one thing I do know, is that I've slowed down and the Editor can tell you about waiting longer for my items. (Ed note: Arthur is still as good as ever.)

Among my reflections are thoughts of how I've loved being on the water. I started to sail actively about some seventy-five years ago and have enjoyed every bit of it all these years. It's given me many periods of actual apprehension and many periods of extreme pleasure. All this adds up to an overall wonderful experience.

I wonder if you, as various types of boat people ever reflect on the enormity, beauty and strength of the sea around you. Think about this when you next meet up with huge seas or flat calm waters. The sea, like you, has a personality and must be regarded as a living thing. I remember my thinking while out in the North Atlantic during World War II, watching huge waves bearing down on our relatively small anti-sub patrol boat, and wondering if we would ever make it through them all. Obviously we did, and I'm here to tell about it.

Enough on past reflections and now for some current thinking. When was the last time you offered to help out in the operation of CCPS? Because of the economy, there are fewer people entering into boating. This is both good and bad. It eliminates the careless casual types who are causing problems, but also eliminates a lot of potential safe sailors. One way to help in this regard, is to introduce possible boat-buyers into the Power Squadron and to help them become more responsible sharers of our waterways.

I note with some satisfaction, that the latest series of boat shows have generated new, interested people and that the rapidly diminishing number of manufacturers are seeing signs of purchasers. Possibly one way to encourage this is to produce boats that aren't look-alike, like automobiles. It's not hard for me to remember when most small boats were built of wood and while built from similar plans, each had its own personality. An old saying that I made up is "sameness makes mediocrity".

Finally, on the Legislative end, it's been pointed out that a number of states have recognized that fuel taxes are used for road improvements and so it is unfair to tax marine-use fuel. These states have instituted methods for boat owners to recover these tax dollars; New York is not among them although Connecticut and Massachusetts are.

It's now April. Are you uncovered yet?

NEWS FROM THE USCG

31 May - The Coast Guard reported that Admiral Thad Allen, the national incident commander for the BP disaster will be giving a daily solo press briefing wherever he is in the world.

31 May - The Coast Guard rescued a man and two children who had become stranded when their jet skis ran aground in Cross Bayou, FL. They were rescued by a CG helicopter.

30 May - The Coast Guard seized almost 800 pounds of Marijuana off a boat traveling from Bimini. The pot was worth about \$725,000. Two alleged smugglers were transferred to officials.

Cross Currents

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**Address Correction
Requested**



Move over, I am the stand-on vessel!