

CROSS CURRENTS

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

Volume XLXXI

May 2011

Number 1

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE — John A. Wieggers, AP

Greetings!!!

Welcome to the “Year of the two Johns”. Commanders - John Wieggers of Cross County Power Squadron and John W. Steger, AP of Westchester Sail and Power Squadron.

Since this is my first Commander's Message, I would like to touch on a few items of our Squadron's history:

Our oldest member (that's length of membership) - David S. Hays, P - Joined 1/10/55.

Next, P/C Arthur Steiner, P, - Joined 1/15/57 and was Commander 1966-1967.

After Arthur, Lt Alan R. Geist, JN, joined 1/10/59.

P/C Harvey Fink, SN - Joined 1/24/61 and was Commander 1970-1971.

Next, P/C Gilbert Alvarez, AP joined 1/24/63 and was Commander 1971-1972.

After Gil Alvarez P/C Arthur P. Reichling, SN - also joined 1/24/63 and was Commander 1968-1969 and 1988-1989.

The Cross County Power Squadron originally began as the Yonkers Power Squadron in 1954 and for a while, was affiliated with the then Westchester Power Squadron. In the 1970's the Cross County Power Squadron as we know it, was formed. We have contributed over 30+ years of public service to the community at large.

Our activities for the coming year may be found on Page 3. of this issue.



The above background information is only a small part of our history, more will be provided in my future messages.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that *Cross Currents* has been awarded the 2010 Distinctive Communicator Award from National.

I wish to thank all those who contributed and/or gave critical comment. In particular, I wish to thank Co-Editor Lt/C Peggy E. Howland, P and D/2 Web-master P/D/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, for their assistance.

Cross Currents also received Honorable Mention for the D/2 Past Commanders' 2010 Award. - Ed.

2011-2012 Bridge

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January Birthdays:

Joseph N. Pizzuti, 10th



February Birthdays:

Howard A. Sklar, 3rd
Stephen J. Lowenstein, 8th
Joseph M. Marchese, 13th



March Birthdays:

Marcia J. Sklar, 1st
Nettie Goldstein, 9th
Suzanne P. Nentwich, 12th



April Birthdays:

Edwin Martinez, 9th
Stephen J. Martin, 17th
Virginia P. Moore, 21st
Frank Tricarico, 29th



June Birthdays:

James J. Campbell, 1st

August Birthdays:

Daniel W. Zygmunt, 10th
Leah D. Campbell, 22nd
John Loperfido, 22nd



MESSAGE FROM THE SEO
D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP

Activities Calendar
April—July

Well it's that time of year again ! Spring is in the air (or is it?) and thoughts go to water and boating. Our late spring Public Boating Class will hopefully have started as you read this issue.

So far we haven't been batting too well. Our early spring class had to be cancelled because no students showed up. We had four CCPS members in attendance, but no students; how disappointing and frustrating.

How about a Seminar, talk to your friends. One doesn't have to be a member to attend a USPS Seminar. Let me know what you'd like to learn and we'll set it up.

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- 4 May, Wednesday, boating Class starts 7:30-9:30 PM at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina.
- 5 May, Thursday, CCPS Executive Committee Meeting, 8 PM at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina.
- 12 May, Thursday, WS&PS Seminar, Anchoring.
- 19-26 May, National Safe Boating Week.
- 20-22 May, Northern Trek, Lake George, NY.
- 24 May, Wednesday, WS&PS Seminar, VHF/DSC
- 26 May, Thursday, CCPS & WS&PS General Meeting, P/R/C Anne S. Peskin, SN—History of Navigation.
- 28 May, Saturday, CCPS & WS&PS Boating Safety Day at Post Marine.
- 30 May, Monday, CCPS & WS&PS Memorial Day Parade, Scarsdale.
- 9 June, Thursday, CCPS Executive Committee Meeting, 8 PM at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina.
- 18 June, Saturday, CCPS & WS&PS Raft Up with Greenwich S&PS.
- 25 June, Saturday, CCPS/WS&PS Blessing of the Fleet & Picnic at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina.
- 30 June, Thursday, CCPS Executive Committee Meeting, 8 PM at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina.
- 29-31 July, D/2 Summer Council & Rendezvous, Bridgeport, CT.

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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.

To submit articles and comments, contact D/Lt/C Melvin Goldstein, AP, Co-Editor, (914)337-4026 or iluvtouche@aol.com

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

PAST COMMANDER'S MESSAGE — Howard A. Sklar, AP
(Written before the COW - Ed.)

Hello again or should I be saying goodbye. This will be my last message as Commander of our Squadron (hopefully). It has been a very good 2+ years and I would like to take the time to thank a few people personally here in this message. P/C Virginia P. Moore, P, who as my Administrative officer during my term has stepped up each and every time I called upon her. P/C Peggy E. Howland, P, for putting up with me and for always keeping the record straight. P/C Melvin Goldstein, AP, for being a good sounding board and supplying guidance and patience whenever needed. P/D/C Suzanne P. Nentwich, AP, for being a friend and allowing me to utilize her expertise and knowledge when dealing with difficult situations as they arose. Lt Joseph N. Pizzuti, AP, for always being there with a helping hand and a cheerful spirit. Truly Joe is a person who knows how to get the job done. These five people have always shown an untiring spirit and truly understand what being a member of Cross County is all about. As for me while stepping down as Commander I will become with your approval the Squadron's Administrative Officer. I guess I am never going to be known as a Past Commander.

I also, would like to welcome the new incoming Commander John A. Wieggers, AP, and I hope that John will get all the support and understanding that was afforded me during my tenure.

Volunteer organizations are facing hard times due to dwindling membership, the advancing age of their most senior members and the hectic work and life schedules of their younger members causing them to have a lack of free time to pick up the mantle. These three factors working in concert could cause a lack of enthusiasm among the membership and a diminishing of an organization's activities. Cross County however is truly lucky in having that core nucleus of tireless and devoted members that keeps our Squadron together and strong.

So again, I would like to say thank you to those mentioned above as well as all of the members of Cross County that have contributed to make my years as Commander an enjoyable and pleasurable experience.

As for other news:

Winter is almost over – HIP! HIP! HOORAY! , and our thoughts can now start to turn to warmer weather with more pleasurable activities such as boating and fishing. Now is the time to begin planning for those trips afloat and making arrangements for your boat to be in tip top shape prior to getting underway. Possibly a course or two might be the answer to those questions you have not resolved or attending a Seminar might just be the refresher you need in something you learned a long time ago and have just forgotten over time. If so email Mel our tireless SEO at iluvtouche@aol.com and he will happily accommodate your needs or steer you in the right direction.

The Change of Watch will be held at Fogarty's Town Tavern, Bronxville, NY, 10 March 2011 in conjunction with Westchester Sail & Power Squadron. A good time is always had by all and it is a great time for all of our members and theirs to catch up on each other's activities and lives. Renewing old acquaintances and/or making new ones especially since we share a common goal, is what makes life worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted.



**Photos from the District 2
Spring Conference & Change of Watch
Saratoga Springs, NY
1-2 April, 2011**



Photo credits—P/D/C Martin E. Feldberg, AP

Discovering Maritime and Shipwreck Museums – Winter 2011

By Lt/C Peggy E. Howland, P

Morehead City and Beaufort, North Carolina, with a little personal history.

Being a scuba diver with an amateur interest in marine biology, I always enjoy discovering a new aquarium or a maritime museum. Thanks to North Carolina for treasuring both its maritime heritage and its marine life, there are two excellent visits to make in the Beaufort area on the NC coast.

I paid \$7.00 admission to the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, across the bridge from Beaufort and Morehead City. It is modern and well done and of course includes a variety of the local marine and seashore life.

The North Carolina Maritime Museum on Front Street in Beaufort was free, and well worth visiting for anyone who enjoys boating, fishing, and the seashore. This Museum was such a delightful find, that it gave me the idea to write this article, in order to share my discovery with all of my USPS and District 2 friends who might visit North Carolina!

The history so well displayed here is of the fishing and shellfish industries, as well as of a shipbuilding and seafaring people, the preparations and emergency measures for rescuing sailors, cargoes and people in danger from the unpredictable storms and hurricanes that batter this part of the Atlantic coastline.

The vicissitudes of life along this coast rose and fell not only with the weather, but also with the supply of the various kinds of seafood and marine products desired by consumers.

It was fascinating and a little sad to see the history of going after whales, for their oil, for their baleen used in corsets and other necessities before the invention of plastic, and the people whose livelihood depended upon this industry. Shrimping, clamming and fishing of all kinds had their ups and downs with the commercial demand and the ability to supply without depleting the resources.

Beaufort is a wonderful historical site, especially for me because some ancestors of mine had settled there. I had such fun, pursuing the evidences of them everywhere and imagining their seafaring life in this salty old town!

My great great great grandfather was Benjamin Tucker Howland, a sea captain, who plied the waters between North Carolina and Philadelphia. His son also was a sea captain. His daughter's husband, Mr. Duncan, purchased the home he first acquired on the waterfront by the inlet at the west end of Front Street, with a great view of the ocean and the boats. Old wooden rocking chairs grace the lower and upper porches of the family home, from which family and guests could enjoy the view and spectacular sunsets.

The Anne Street Methodist Church is one block behind Front Street, and I found my great great grandmother's memorial window in the church, as well as the names of many other family members. The cemetery next to the church contains their graves, and I copied numerous names and dates from the inscriptions on the tombstones.

(Continued on P.7)

(Discovering Maritime and Shipwreck Museums continued from P. 6.)

The Rev. Bridges Arendell, the minister of the Methodist Church, was the father-in-law of Jonathan Lucas Howland, the youngest son of my ancestor Benjamin Tucker Howland. And interesting to me, I found that “Bridges” and “Arendell” are the names of the two main streets in Beaufort!

It was a gray day in January when I arrived in Beaufort, excited at the prospect of seeing an ancestral home. In my mind, it was just a perfect seafarer’s day, that reflected the mood of the seashore in winter. When I stopped in at the real estate office that was owned by a descendant of Mr. Duncan, the son-in-law of Benjamin Tucker Howland, they informed me that my distant cousin was out of town. But they very generously produced the key to the Duncan House, as it is now called, and had one of the men who cares for their properties take me there and let me wander through the house and look at everything! There were wonderful photographs of the area in years past. I enjoyed sitting on a rocking chair on the second floor veranda, imagining what it was like to see the ships sailing in and out of the harbor.

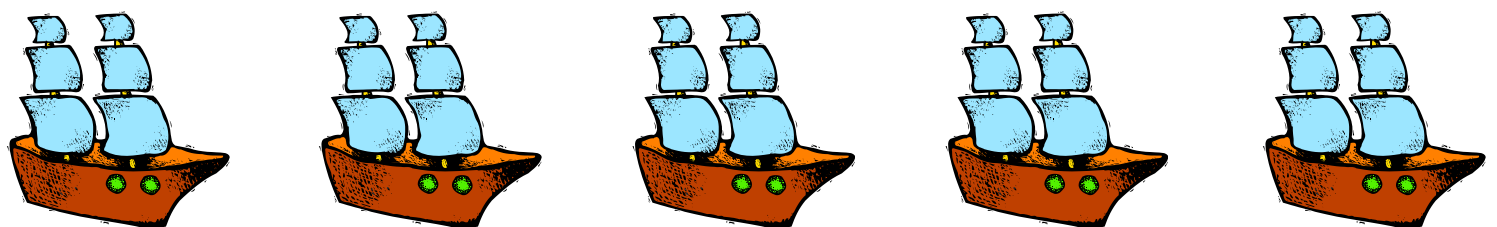
Along Front Street, many of the houses have historical markers on them, with the names of the families who once owned them, and perhaps are still shared by descendants of the original inhabitants. Most of them are private. I saw that the Duncan House, my ancestral home, is for sale, and I called my “rich” brother to see if he wanted to buy it! It is still managed by the family as a rental for groups coming to enjoy a vacation with friends at the seashore or a family reunion. I amused myself imagining my adventure-loving nieces and nephews in our huge family enjoying a week-long party there with their friends!

Museums on the Treasure Coast of Florida

I visited a wonderful museum at Sebastian Inlet in Vero Beach. It’s the McLarty Treasure Museum, all about the Spanish Galleons in the 1715 Plate Fleet, of which 10 or 11 vessels sank in a fierce hurricane, taking down millions of dollars worth of gold, silver, jewels, and more. The Plate Fleet got its name from its cargo of silver, “plata” being the Spanish word for silver. I paid only \$4.00 admission for my sister and me to enjoy a pleasurable afternoon at the McLarty Treasure Museum. It’s at 13180 A1A, by the Sebastian Inlet State Park. People still take their metal detectors down on the beach there, hoping to find an occasional coin or piece of jewelry.

It happens that at one of the timeshares where I stayed this winter, I had seen a fun movie called “Fool’s Gold”, about a couple of scuba divers researching and discovering a Spanish galleon and its precious cargo, and the excitement, danger and intrigue of finding the treasure that had been cautiously and cleverly hidden by the crew after a shipwreck many years ago. Having seen this movie made “the real thing” at the McLarty Museum all the more intriguing.

Mel Fisher, the well-known real life scuba-diving treasure hunter who discovered the wreck of the 1613 Spanish Galleon, *The Atocha*, in 1985, with its reported \$450 million cargo, has several locations in Florida where one can view and/or purchase some of the many gold coins and artifacts from his amazing find. Some are in Key West, but the Vero Beach area also has one location, at 1322 US Highway One, Sebastian. I was hoping to get there the same day I visited the McLarty, but ran out of time. I’ll plan that for a future sojourn in Florida. There is also a small admission fee, with reduced rates for seniors and kids. They show a discount coupon on line, only for the Sebastian location.



Cross Currents

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*In recognition of
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R/C Brenda Joyce, P
Chairman

31 Dec 2010
Date