

Sail and Power
Boating

SPINDRIFT



Volume 106, Issue 3 bimonthly

May - June, 2005

HOUSATONIC RIVER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

Commander's Message:

The boating season is once again upon us. I hope you are all prepared and ready to set sail, or power up, as it were. I can see the boats on the river, they are getting more frequent. It has still been a bit cold for a solo kayak trip, so I have been patiently biding my time.



We serve our community by our involvement in National Boating Safety week. This year, we have conducted Vessel Safety checks at multiple locations to kick off this event.

Since we were so successful last year in getting people certified to do VSC, we have several checkers and can broaden our reach in the community.

Our kick off day activity was Saturday, May 21, 2005.

We plan to continue offering VSC throughout the boating season.

I recently read an interesting story about the science of evacuation. (Time Magazine, May 2, 2005, "How to get out alive") They are finding that for the majority of people, their first reaction to a disaster is to do nothing. Instead of the fight or flight mechanism one would expect, you instead get the freeze response.

Further studies are suggesting that people who have had training on basics tend to be the ones who can react quickly in an emergency.

This gives us another reason that vessel safety checks can be useful, even to boat owners who have all the required equipment. Going through the check puts them through the basic exercise of thinking about where their safety equipment is stored and how to access it. Time finding this equipment could make the difference!

Cdr. Donna Wells

BoatSmart Course Needs Volunteers

We will be teaching the BoatSmart course June 4 and June 11 at the Housatonic Boat Club in Stratford 8 AM -12 PM. Please volunteer to help register students, assist the instructors during sessions, help grade test papers at the second session and talk with prospective new members. Call Ike Heitlinger 268-7217 or Joan Pappas 380-0011.

What We Do On The water

Now that we have our boats in the water, what do we do with them?

Well, this year the sailors smile since fuel is so expensive, car-toppers grin – same reason.

We all come together for raft-ups, rendezvous, and expeditions (like Branford in August). Our members put lessons learned to good use – see activities planned for this summer inside.

Throughout, we set examples of safe boating for all we meet and are proud to fly our ensign.

Upcoming CPR Class

A loved one comes up to you with panic in their eyes clutching their chest white as a ghost. What would you do?

Ever worried about how you would respond if faced with a medical emergency. You need to know the basic steps to take to protect yourself and your family.

We are considering running a CPR class in the Fall in conjunction with the Huntington Fire Dept. and would like to gauge the level of interest. It will most likely be two evenings and consist of demonstrations and hands on techniques with mannequins.

If this sounds like something you always wanted to know, call Jeff Shuster (203) 929-3150 and let him know you are interested and as the time gets closer he will get back to you with the specifics.

Membership News

June 16th is our new member reception at Captain's Cove.

This is one of our favorite events because it helps kick off our boating season. What better way than to come down to the docks and smell the salt air, see the boats in the water and hoist a few.

Come on out and meet and greet our membership for evening cocktails and appetizers at 1800 (that's 6:00 PM for our newest members). We reserve a section all to ourselves.

Call Gary Hanson for more information.

5th Annual Cartop Regatta – Saturday, August 20, 2005

This year's Cartop Regatta will be held in Branford, Ct on Saturday, August 20th. We will meet on the Branford River State Boat launch at 10:00 AM for some fun on the water with our small boats. The Branford River offers a quiet and very scenic river tour, as well as easy access to the outer Branford Harbor and Long Island Sound.

This regatta is for all small boats, canoes, kayaks, and dinghies. All skill levels are welcome! Invite your friends, join us for a day on the water, and a casual luncheon later in the day at Lenny & Joe's (famous for their buttered lobster roll). Contact regatta chair P/C Dennis Watcke at 203-426-1187 to express your interest in this popular event.

Vessel Safety Check News

This year, Housatonic River Sail & Power Squadron has five certified Vessel Examiners: P/C Rich Amato, L/C Ira Goldman, Carl Linley, P/C Joan Pappas, and P/C Dennis Watcke. We examined boats at area marinas and yacht clubs. We can also perform VSCs for member owned boats (including kayaks and dinghies) upon request. The Vessel Safety Check program is important to improve safety on the water, as well as offer opportunities to better educate the boating public on boating laws and regulations, for the good of all. It also gives us a chance to perform a community service while promoting our Squadron and its activities. If you would like our Examiners to visit your marina or yacht club, contact P/C Dennis Watcke at 203-426-1187 or Squadron Safety Officer Carl Linley at 203-371-6872.

2005-2006 Bridge Officers & Editor

Commander	Donna Wells	381-0637	donnawells@yahoo.com
Educational	Joan Pappas, AP	380-0011	joanandmichael@aol.com
Executive	Ira Goldman, SN	445-9302	igoldman@localnet.com
Administrative	Gary Hanson	375-9072	ghanson01@snet.net
Secretary	Dennis Watcke, AP	426-1187	captain5003@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Albert Grunow, S	377-0733	algrunow@aol.com
Asst. SEO	Ike Heitlinger, AP	268-7217	IKEH@aol.com
Editor	Lee Parratt, JN	261-3798	Spindrift@pinesoft.com

Spindrift is published by the Housatonic Sail and Power Squadron.

Please send articles and address changes to:

Lee Parratt, Editor, P.O. Box 104, Monroe, CT 06468

Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect HRSPS and USPS policy or endorsement unless so stated.



May - June

MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE

16 Jun **New Member Reception** Location: Captains Cove – Black Rock – 6-8 PM. Cheese and Veggies. *Call Gary Hanson for details.*

20 Jun **Executive Committee/Business Meeting** Location: Breakwater Key.. Start Time: 1930. ALL MEMBERS are invited to attend. *Call Ira Goldman for details.*

25 Jun **Port Jefferson Raft Up** *Call Gary Hanson for details.*

16 Jul **Summer Overnight Rendezvous – Westbrook, CT – Dinner at Boom Restaurant..** *Call Gary Hanson for details.*

30 July **D2 Dinner/Council.** Location: Captains Cove. *Call Gary Hanson for details.*

20 August **Car-top Regatta** Location: Branford, CT. Casual Lunch/Dinner. *Call Dennis Watcke for details.*

11 Sep, **Steak Roast** – *Call Gary Hanson for details.*

We're in the water – help promote safe boating by example!

Lee A. Parratt, JN
Housatonic River Sail and Power Squadron
P. O. Box 104
Monroe, CT 06468-0104



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321