



SPINDRIFT



Volume 108, Issue 1 bimonthly

January—February 2007

HOUSATONIC RIVER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON



Commander's Message

Well we are now through the holidays and into 2007, so we can start thinking about what we each need to do to get ready for the next boating season. In spite of the unseasonably warm weather we have had in December, it is probably not wise to assume that winter is over and begin uncovering boats. (At least not until the February ski trip is completed)

However this is a good time to consider what you would like to do to become a better boater this year. This is a great time to consider what courses you would benefit most from and let our Squadron Education officer, Joan Pappas, or her assistant, Ike Heitlinger, know your needs as soon as possible. Whether you boat on Long Island Sound, the open ocean, or an inland lake there is always something new to learn, even for someone like me who completed a full certificate many years ago.

At the time I decided to start the USPS educational program, it was because I was boating with friends through the tricky inlets on the New Jersey shore and the challenging seas that could build up on Lake Ontario. At the time there were no requirements for my friends to have a boating certification so I decided that I better learn all I could about boat handling under those conditions. These are not skills that can be easily learned under the stress of

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue:

- Commander's Messagep. 1
- New Membersp. 3
- EPIRB Noticep. 3
- Holiday Partyp. 4
- Advanced Grade & Elective Courses p. 5
- Boating Safety Coursep. 6
- Change of Watchp. 7
- Calendar of Events Back Cover

Holiday Cheer!



Members Mike Pappas, Ira Goldman (Commander), and Joe Wall enjoy good conversation at the this year's annual Holiday Party. Read more about it on page

Have you had YOUR boat inspected this year???

Contact Dennis Watcke or Ira Goldman to arrange a convenient inspection time for your annual Vessel Safety Check!



*SAFER BOATS Make for
SAFER BOATING
And MORE ENJOYMENT
Of our sport!*

WANTED:

Pictures and stories from your boating adventures!

Share them with your HRSPS friends
in YOUR HRSPS newsletter

Submit pictures and stories to

Jim Valovich, newsletter editor at
spindrift2006@yahoo.com

Commander's Message

(Continued from page 1)

adverse conditions unless one has studied the options in advance.

For those of us who have taken these courses ten or more years ago we did not have GPS or computer charting. Therefore even experienced members can benefit from taking a supplemental program or some full courses over again. For a full display of what is available to members, I encourage you to visit the USPS Educational Department web site at: <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/main.htm> There you can find not only descriptions of the educational programs but links to electronic charts and free chart viewer programs from

NOAA and Maptech. There is also a link to Member Benefits including discounted insurance and discounts at West Marine.

The last thing I would like to mention is that we will be starting our Spring Boating class in Trumbull in March. Our ASEO, Ike Heitlinger, will be looking for members to help out with teaching these classes. It is not a lot of work but does require some preparation so please contact him if you have a favorite chapter you would like to teach or say, "yes" if Ike asks you to volunteer.

- Ira Goldman



WEAR IT!

Join the North American Safe Boating Campaign!

We have tons of boating information on our web site.

Be safe while boating, wading, or along shore—WEAR IT!

www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com



NOTICE:

BOATERS MUST NOT OPERATE 21.5/243 MHZ EPIRBs after 31 DECEMBER 2006

WASHINGTON - The Coast Guard reminds all boaters that beginning January 1, 2007, both 121.5 and 243 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) are prohibited from use in both commercial and recreational watercraft. Boaters wishing to have an emergency rescue beacon aboard their vessel must have a digital 406 MHz model.

The January 1, 2007, date to stop using 121.5 MHz EPIRBs is in preparation for February 1, 2009, when satellite processing of distress signals from all 121.5/243 MHz beacons will terminate. Following this termination date, only the 406 MHz beacons will be detected by the International Cospas-Sarsat Satellite System which provides distress alert and location data for search and rescue operations around the world.

The regulation applies to all Class A, B, and S 121.5/243 MHz EPIRBs. It does not affect 121.5/243 MHz man overboard devices which are designed to work directly with a base alerting unit only and not with the satellite system.

This change, in large part, was brought about by the unreliability of the 121.5/243 MHz beacons in an emergency situation. Data reveals that with a 121.5 MHz beacon, only one alert out of every 50 is a genuine distress situation. This has a significant effect on expending the limited resources of search and rescue personnel and platforms. With 406 MHz beacons, false alerts have been reduced significantly, and, when properly registered, can usually be resolved with a telephone call to the beacon owner. Consequently, real alerts can receive the attention they deserve.

When a 406 MHz beacon signal is received, search and rescue personnel can retrieve information from a registration database. This includes the beacon owner's contact information, emergency contact information, and vessel/aircraft identifying characteristics. Having this information allows the Coast Guard, or other rescue personnel, to respond appropriately.

In the U.S., users are required by law to directly register their beacon in the U.S. 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database at: <http://www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov/> or by calling 1-888-212-SAVE. Other users can register their beacon in their country's national beacon registration database or, if no national database is available, in the International Beacon Registration Database at <https://www.406registration.com/>.

The United States Coast Guard is the lead agency for coordinating national maritime search and rescue policy and is responsible for providing search and rescue services on, under and over assigned international waters and waters subject to United States jurisdiction.

Welcome Aboard New Members

The following New Members* have recently joined HRSPS. Please extend a warm welcome to them when you see them at squadron meetings and events.

Richard, Barbara & Christopher Whalens
244 Freeman Avenue
Stratford, CT 06614
203-377-1349

**Please add these new members to your Squadron Roster*



ON-LINE Readers!

Check out the USPS National WEBSITE:

[Click HERE](http://www.usps.org/newpublic1/members)

If you are reading this in hardcopy, please visit "http://www.usps.org/newpublic1/members"

2006-2007 Bridge Officers & Editor

Commander	Ira Goldman, SN	445-9302 igoldman@localnet.com
Educational	Joan Pappas, AP	380-0011 joansails@aol.com
Executive	P/C Lee Parratt, JN	261-3798 lee@pinesoft.com
Administrative	Gary Hanson, S	375-9072 ghanson01@snet.net
Secretary	Dennis Watcke, AP	426-1187 captain5003@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Donna Wells	377-0733 donna_wells@yahoo.com
Asst. SEO	Ike Heitlinger, AP	268-7217 Ike_heitlinger@aol.com
Editor	James Valovich, AP	334-4206 jvalovich@sbcglobal.net or spindrift2006@yahoo.com



HOLIDAY PARTY 2006



SPRING 2007 CLASSES

Representatives from three squadrons, Penfield, Saugatuck and Housatonic River have arranged for classes in a number of Advanced and Elective courses.

All classes will be held at **Ludlow** Middle School, 689 Unquowa Road, Fairfield from 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Classes will begin the week of 30 January 2007 and recess for winter and spring vacation weeks: 20-25 February and 16-20 April, respectively. Classrooms already assigned are 325, 329, 330 and 331.

Contact Joan Pappas (joansails@aol.com) or 203-380-0011

to register for any of the following courses.

A minimum of three students is required for each class but six or more students is the preferred class size.

Students will be asked to pay in advance (check or cash).

Books have to be ordered early, so call now.

Class schedules will be determined and classrooms assigned after reservations have been received.

ADVANCED GRADES

Seamanship and Boat Handling (\$25)

will be offered later in the Spring when newly revised textbooks will be available.

Piloting (\$45) is the first in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This all-new course focuses on navigation as it is performed on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool, while covering enough traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if the GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning.

Advanced Piloting (\$35) is an all-new course that continues to build coastal and inland navigation skills, allowing the student to take on more challenging conditions (unfamiliar waters, limited visibility and extended cruises). GPS is embraced as a primary navigation tool while adding radar, chart plotters and other electronic navigation tools. As with Piloting, the course includes many in-class exercises, advancing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Cruise Planning (\$35) is designed for members whether they plan to cruise for just a day or for a year - in either a sail or powerboat - and covers AC, DC, batteries, chargers, depth finders, chart plotters, Radar and Loran and much more.

Marine Electronics (\$35) consists of three modules: ME 101 Boat Electrical Systems, ME 102 Marine Radio Communications, and ME 103 Marine Electronics for Navigation. There are no prerequisites for any of these modules; however, it is suggested that a member take ME 101 before taking ME 102. All three modules must be completed successfully to receive credit for Marine Electronics.

Sail (\$35) consists of two modules: Sail 101 Basic Sail and Sail 102 Advanced Sail and covers boat design, equipment, sail shape, rigging, spinnaker runs, steering helmsmanship, wind and heavy weather sailing. Both modules must be completed successfully to receive credit for Sail.

Engine Maintenance (\$35) consists of two modules that cover inboards, stern drives and outboard engines. Even if you've completed EM before, these modules are well worth taking again, as they introduce new material and provide greater information on all subjects. Successful completion of both modules is required for credit for Engine Maintenance.

Weather (\$50) consists of two modules (Wx101 and Wx102) and will provide basic weather knowledge for safer and more enjoyable boating. The student will learn to make weather predictions based upon observations of the sky, barometer and wind information, as well as weather data from by maps, satellite images, radio and TV broadcasts. The Weather course uses a USPS supplement manual together with The Weather Book from *USA Today* (second edition, 1997) as textbooks.

Take a Boating Course with the Experts ...

HOUSATONIC RIVER

SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

presents

USPS® BOATING COURSE

Course covers Connecticut Boating and
Personal Water Craft operation

Students who pass required exams will be eligible for
CT DEP Safe Boating Certificates for Boating and PWC

Wednesday nights from 7 pm to 9 pm

Beginning 3/14/07 & ending 5/2/07

at Trumbull High School, Room C-2

\$80. Includes Boating Course, PWC Instruction,
all course materials and

**ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP IN
HOUSATONIC RIVER SAIL & POWER SQUADRON**

Discounts for additional family members available

Classes fill early, please call to reserve your place

To Register Contact

Ike Heitlinger at 203-268-7217 or e-mail at ike_heitlinger@yahoo.com

Joan Pappas at 203-380-0011 or e-mail at joansails@aol.com

Housatonic River
Sail and Power Squadron's

**Change-of-Watch
Dinner Meeting**

To be held at

Outriggers Restaurant

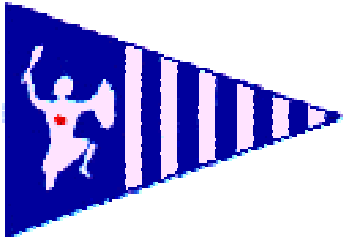
**Brewer's Marina, Stratford
Sunday, March 4, 2007 at 4 p.m.**

RSVP Gary Hanson at 203-375-9072

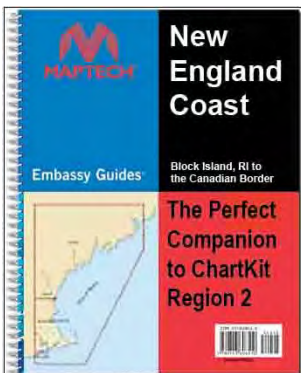
Dinner choices are:

*Chicken Outriggers -- Surf and Turf
-- Grilled Swordfish --*

\$35.00 per person - Payment required on date of event
-- Cash Bar --

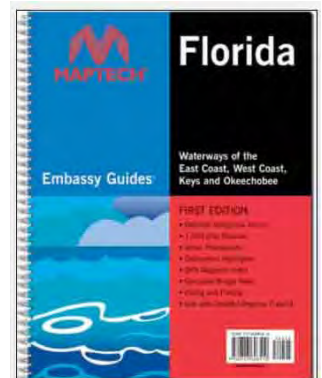


LOW PRICE ON EMBASSY GUIDE BOOKS!



For a limited period of time, Maptech is offering the current editions of their Embassy Guides® for New England and Florida at a special price to members for only \$10 (regularly \$45). *Offer expires April 30th.*

Maptech will be replacing these books with new editions (Florida in Jan 07 and New England by Jun 07), but the current editions contain very useful information and are still quite valuable references. This offer is being made to USPS because of our partnership.



To order the books, go to <http://www.maptech.com/promo/>. The promo code for the discount is: J2Q4P

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

30 Jan. - Tue. - **Elective Courses Begin**

- at Ludlow Middle School (Fairfield)
- See inside for details
- All members are invited to take classes

19 Feb. - Mon. - **February Monthly Business Mtg.**

- At the home of Carl and Chris Linley
- 7:30 p.m.
- All members are welcome

4 Mar. - Sun. - **Annual Mtg. and Change of Watch**

- At the Outriggers Restaurant, Stratford, CT
- 4:00 p.m. (*Details Inside*)
- All members are requested to attend

11 Mar. - Wed. - **Safe Boating Course begins**

- At Trumbull High School—7:30 p.m.
- See inside for details

Get the Spindrift in

**F U L L
C O L O R ...**

... and help us save po\$tage.

Send your e-mail address to
spindrift2006@yahoo.com



Spindrift is published by the Housatonic Sail and Power Squadron
(a unit of the United States Power Squadrons)

Please send articles and address changes to spindrift2006@yahoo.com or

Jim Valovich, Editor, 523 W Jackson Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604

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

James M. Valovich, AP
Housatonic River Sail and Power Squadron
523 West Jackson Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED