

the Tar Talks



A Publication of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron

Commander's Message - Cdr Laura Shaw, AP

As a new publication of the Connecticut DEP states: "To further promote safety in coastal waters the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is sponsoring the Connecticut Coastal Boater Endorsement Program. This program seeks to recognize and reward those boaters who have chosen to further their boating education. "Boaters desiring to travel in coastal waters should seek advanced courses in navigation. Boaters should be confident in their vessel and their handling skills."

"Boaters who complete a course in basic navigation will receive the Coastal Boater Endorsement decal to be placed on their Safe Boating Certificate or Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation. There is no fee for the endorsement."

What does this mean for USPS® members?

- If you've successfully completed the Squadron Boating Course (this is the LONG course - not ABC, Boat Smart or any other short course) since January 2005, you automatically qualify.
- If you've successfully completed the Squadron Boating Course any time in the past, PLUS have completed Seamanship and/or Piloting since 2000, you're grandfathered.
- If you've successfully completed the Squadron Boating Course at any time in the past, PLUS have completed Marine Electronics since 2000, you're eligible.

- Commander Laura



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Welcome New Members

Edward Kuchinski
of New Canaan

Aoife Sullivan
of Wilton

Congratulations

are due to -

- John Sullivan for completing Seamanship and Sail
- Aoife Sullivan for completing Sail
- Laura Shaw and Fred Zinsser for completing Cruise Planning
- Laura Shaw and Les White for achieving Senior Member status for earning 5 merit marks

Ruth has done it again!

When the Ensign recently published the 2006 USPS Website Award winners, we were pleased to note that Norwalk was the only squadron in District 2 to win an award. This year's scoring process rated websites in the following four categories, on 21 items:

- Organization identification and promotion (nine items, 46 points)
- Technical quality (five items, 32 points)
- Artistic/aesthetic quality (four items, 16 points)
- Overall impression (three items, 6 points)

Awardees fell into two categories: those with 70 to 84 points received an Award certificate. Those with 85 to 100 points received an Award of Excellence certificate. Norwalk received an Award of Excellence. Congratulations and thank you webmistress Ruth Jansson.

Safety Corner - Automatic Fire Extinguishers

Any fire on a boat must be considered an immediate threat to the safety of the vessel and the lives of the occupants. Everything possible must be done to speed detection and suppression of a fire. Fortunately we can equip even small boats with highly effective automatic fire extinguishing systems.

Although not required by law for most recreational vessels, the very great safety advantages provided by automatic fire extinguishing systems make them a must have for the engine or generator compartment of any boat. An automatic system will detect and respond to an overheat condition (temperature in excess of 165°F) before the development of the flames and smoke that normally announce the fact that something has gone terribly wrong. A remote indicating and alarm panel both verifies that the system is charged and ready for operation and will notify the crew should the system be automatically activated, ensuring that follow-on fire emergency action is taken without delay.

The automatic extinguishing systems for unoccupied engine and machinery compartments use a chemical fire suppressant, FE-241, that when present in sufficient concentration interrupts the combustion process. For this reason, the size of the extinguisher must be matched to the volume of the compartment to be protected. The discharge of FE-241 into a gasoline engine compartment will normally shut the engine down, simultaneously eliminating a likely source of the fire or overtemperature condition and preventing a still running engine from drawing in additional oxygen containing air. Diesel engines may continue to run even in the presence of the extinguishing agent and should be equipped with an auxiliary electrically operated engine shut-down device. Remember, any fire on a boat is a critical emergency condition and justifies an immediate mayday call on the radio even as the crew reaches for fire extinguishers and everyone dons their PFDs. A few moments thought about the damage a fire can do should be sufficient to make you want to have the best and most complete fire detection and suppression system available.

by Chuck Husick, Boat US, used with permission, all rights reserved

Thank You Laura and Bill -

Organizations are only as strong as their members, and in particular their member-leaders. The upcoming Change of Watch (see details on page 3) will see the end of two extended terms of two extraordinary leaders:

- Commander Laura Shaw will be stepping down after four years as our leader-in-chief. Space will not permit a listing of all the things Laura has done for NSPS, but suffice it to say we are all deeply in her debt.
- Bill McClenaghan will be leaving the Bridge also after serving four years as our Squadron Education Officer. Bill has organized 4 public courses a year, taught 2 a year most years, and overseen member course offerings.

Both have been mainstays of NSPS' Safe Boating Week efforts conducting many Vessel Safety Checks at Veteran's Park. Many thanks Laura and Bill.

Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron 2006 Bridge

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(open)

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Les White, S
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Jim Hamren, JN
914-533-6090
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Members at Large

P/Lt/C Mike Brown, SN
P/C Irwin Kotcher, P
P/C Bill McGirr, AP
P/C Tony Mobilia, AP
P/R/C Kel Weber, SN



The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron or USPS. All members are invited and encouraged to submit items for publication. Email Jim Hamren, hamren@optonline.net

Spring Member Course Offering - Marine Electronics

Norwalk Squadron is offering Marine Electronics on Thursdays, beginning March 29 and running 10 weeks. Classes will be held at Norwalk City Hall (exit 16 off I-95), room 322. Instructor is Jeff Scott, JN. Cost is \$43. If you've completed the Squadron Boating Course, successful completion of Marine Electronics will entitle you to Connecticut's new Coastal Boater Endorsement - a sticker that you can affix to your CT Safe Boating card.

The Marine Electronics course 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. All three modules must be successfully completed to receive credit for Marine Electronics.

ME 101, Boat Electrical Systems, provides information about properties of electricity, electrical power requirements and wiring practices, direct current power, alternating current power, galvanic and stray-current corrosion, lightning protection, and electrical interference.

ME 102, Marine Radio Communications, delves into radio waves and transmitters, receivers and transceivers, antennas and transmission lines, FCC Rules and Regulations, FCC Frequency Plan, marine radiotelephone operating procedures, and other communication services (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), Digital Selective Calling (DSC), Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), satellite communications, amateur radio, and more).

ME 103, Marine Electronics for Navigation, presents information on depth sounders, RADAR, LORAN-C, GPS Navigation, and two new chapters: Electronic Charting, and Computer-Assisted Navigation (CAN).

Please sign up by Friday, March 16 - we need to order books soon. (We may push back the start date a week if we need to, and extend the course length by a week).

To sign up: Call Bill McClenaghan at 203-838-4984, or email wmcclena@aol.com

Come to the Tri-Squadron Change of Watch (Norwalk – Saugatuck River – Rowayton)

Please join us for this first-ever event (at least we don't know of another instance) where the 2007 Bridges of the 3 squadrons will be sworn in.

- When: Sunday, April 15, 1:30 p.m.
- Where: Quattro Pazzi Restaurant, 165 Fillow St. (at Oak Hills Park), Norwalk (www.quattropazzi.com)
- What: brunch buffet, \$28 per person, cash bar

Reservations are due by April 7th. Mail checks payable to NSPS to: Les White, 6 Strawberry Ridge Rd., Ridgefield, CT 06877



D/2 Spring Conference

Friday & Saturday,
March 30-April 1
2007

Hosted by Storm King Power Squadron

Best Western Hotel
Poughkeepsie, NY

Complete program and
registration materials are on
the D2 web site

Northern Trek
May 18-20
Melody Manor and
Northward Ho Resorts
Bolton Landing,
Lake George, NY

Stamford SPS hosting fire safety event

Date: June 4, 2007
Time: 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM
Cost: FREE
Contact: Cdr Mary Howland,
Phone: 203-348-8611

The event will begin at the Stamford Fire Training Center on Magee Avenue. The FD will put on a fire safety demonstration with an opportunity for attendees to have a hands on experience. The group will move to West Beach off Shippan Avenue, where will be a demonstration by the USCG.

The After-the-Holidays Party at Ambrosia was a huge success.



Ruth Jansson photos

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