

the Tar Talks

A Publication of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron

USPS National and the State of Connecticut Recognize NSPS and Ship 6

February 10, 2008 - Norwalk, CT

Mayor Dick Moccia joins Sea Scout Ship 6 and the Officers of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron in the celebration of their award for youth safe boating. Awarded by the national United States Power Squadrons® organization, the Norwalk Sail and Power Squadron & Sea Scout Ship 6 have been recognized for their continued commitment and support of the Sea Scout Ship 6 youth development program and safe boating.



Adults are, left to right, Kai Horan, Mike Brown, Jon, Norwalk Mayor Dick Moccia, and State Representative Larry Cafero. The front row includes some of the extraordinary members of this Sea Scout troop. The frame to the right holds our Youth Safe Boating Award from National, and the frame to the left holds a Connecticut State Proclamation Representative Cafero shepherded through the House recognizing the value and contribution Ship 6 brings to the community.

Ship 6 is also supported by Cove Marina (where this photo was taken) as well as many other area businesses and individuals. Ship 6 is run entirely by volunteers who put countless hours into organizing this quality youth program.

For more information about Sea Scout Ship 6 see the program website at www.norwalkship6.org or contact Skipper Kai Horan at 203.249.8138 or Committee Member Mike Brown at 203.554.5199

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Congratulations

to **Tony Mobilia** for achieving Life Membership status (25 merit marks) and

to **Ed Kuchinski** for completing Piloting.

In Memoriam

The Tappan Zee squadron of our own D2 surrendered its charter on 12/31/07 and thus ceased to exist. The members voted to donate most of their assets to a Sea Scout troop in their area. A number of members have transferred to Storm King Squadron.

Safety Corner - Lightning

In the United States, there are an estimated 25 million lightning flashes each year. During the past 30 years, lightning killed an average of 62 people per year. This ties the average of 62 deaths per year caused by tornadoes. Yet because lightning usually claims only one or two victims at a time and does not cause mass destruction of property, it is underrated as a risk. While documented lightning injuries in the United States average about 300 per year, undocumented injuries are likely much higher.

Watch for developing thunderstorms! Thunderstorms are most likely to develop on spring or summer days but can occur year round. As the sun heats the air, pockets of warmer air start to rise and cumulus clouds form. Continued heating can cause these clouds to grow vertically into towering cumulus clouds, often the first sign of a developing thunderstorm.

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from the area where it is raining. That's about the distance you can hear thunder. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter immediately.

The vast majority of lightning injuries and deaths on boats occur on small boats with NO cabin. It is crucial to listen to the weather on a small aquatic vessel without a cabin. If thunderstorms are forecast, don't go out. If you are out on the water and skies are threatening, get back to land and find a safe building or vehicle.

Boats with cabins offer a safer but not perfect environment. Safety is increased further if the boat has a properly installed lightning protection system. If you are inside the cabin, stay away from metal and all electrical components. **STAY OFF THE RADIO UNLESS IT IS AN ABSOLUTE EMERGENCY!**

What should you do if you are on a small vessel and lightning becomes a threat? If the vessel has an anchor, you should properly anchor the boat then get as low as possible.

Large boats with cabins, especially those with lightning protection systems properly installed or metal marine vessels are relatively safe. Remember to stay inside the cabin and away from any metal surfaces.

the National Weather Service , www.nws.noaa.gov

Tri-Squadron COW

Commander Fred Zinsser, AP, is sworn in for a 2nd term by D2 Commander Martin Feldberg, AP, as wife Barbara looks on. The event was held March 9th at Quattro Pazzi Restaurant at Oak Hills Park. Saugatuck Harbor and Rowayton squadrons joined us for this 2nd annual joint swearing-in ceremony.



Tony Mobilia photo

Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron 2007 Bridge

Commander:

Fred Zinsser, AP
203-846-3136
Fred.Zinsser@hexcel.com

Executive Officer:

(open)

Administrative Officer:

(open)

Educational Officer:

Laura Shaw, AP
203-858-4568
BoatNSPS@optonline.net

Treasurer:

Les White, S
203-438-0765
Polarisii@aol.com

Secretary:

(open)

Members at Large

P/Lt/C Mike Brown, SN
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

The After the Holidays Party Was a Great Success Ruth Jansson photos



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
2008 DISTRICT 2 CHANGE OF WATCH



April 4 & 5, 2008

The Norwalk Inn & Conference Center

99 East Ave., Norwalk, CT 06851

Hosted by

Rowayton Sail & Power Squadron

Friday:	4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Registration Begins
	4:00 pm	P/D/C Meeting
	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Cocktail Party (cash bar)
	7:00 pm	Buffet Dinner
Saturday:	8:00 am – 11:00 am	Registration
	8:00 am – 9:15 am	Continental Breakfast
	9:15 am – 12:00 pm	Business Meeting Call to Order
	12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Meet & Greet (cash bar)
	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Luncheon Buffet
	2:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Business Meeting
	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Hospitality (cash bar)
	7:00 pm – 12:00 am	Dinner Dance (cash bar) <i>Uniform A, formal or semi-formal attire</i>

(above times subject to change)

Guest Program

The Maritime
Aquarium
and
Imax
plus
A Tour of the
Lockwood-Mathews
Mansion, Museum
&
Victorian Tea

Cut Here -----

REGISTRATION FORM

First Registrant: Name _____ Grade _____ Rank/Position _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Squadron: _____

First Time at D2 Meeting

Second Registrant: Name _____ Grade _____ Rank/Position _____

Luxury Hotel Room (*Double Queen*) Friday _____ Saturday _____ Nights @ \$99 = _____

Note: Cutoff Date for Hotel Rooms is March 10, 2008.

Reservations received after this date are subject to Space & Rate availability.

Non Smoking, Smoking

Friday Dinner: **Buffet, Sliced Sirloin, Chicken Scampi, Stuffed Filet of Sole** @ \$35. = _____

Saturday: Continental Breakfast & Lunch
Buffet, Yankee Pot Roast, Oriental Stir Fried Chicken @ \$42. = _____

Saturday Dinner:
Prime Rib _____ *Chicken Marsala* _____ *Poached Salmon* @ \$50. = _____

Guest Program: @ \$40. = _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Rowayton Sail & Power Squadron "COW 2008"
and mail with this form to Norma Gerwig, 38 Burchard Lane, Rowayton, CT 06853
email: nagerwig@aol.com Phone: 203.866.3437 Fax: 203.853.2088

Education Department Update:

Piloting:

Congratulations to the students of the Piloting class that was held this past fall: Tom Meyer of Stamford, David Pierce of Candlewood Lake, and Norwalk's Ed Kuchinski. All passed with flying colors! Thanks again to instructor Jeff Scott, JN, for his dedication to teaching.

Squadron Boating Course

Unfortunately, the Squadron Boating Course that had been scheduled to start in February at Middlebrook School in Wilton was cancelled due to low enrollment. Apparently this phenomenon isn't limited just to NSPS – Safe Boating classes at the Maritime Center were cancelled for the same reason. NSPS plans to offer the full 12-hour course again in the fall.

We are, however, currently teaching the 8-hour class to a group of teenagers who will be dock handlers this summer at Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club. This course, taught by Mike Brown, SN and Laura Shaw, AP, is being offered on two Saturday mornings. Our thanks to Mike Brown and John Decker of SHYC for setting this up.

In case you're curious...The 8-hour course (it used to be called Boat Smart) is the minimum required to qualify for the CT Safe Boating Certificate. Graduates of the 8 hour course are not eligible for the Coastal Boater endorsement. The 12 hour course (The Squadron Boating Course) covers all topics included in the shorter course, but also covers basic plotting, charting, and knots.

Anyone Interested in Engine Maintenance?

John Frank has once again stepped up to the plate to teach Engine Maintenance. If you're interested in taking this course, which would begin in April and run approximately 10 weeks, contact Laura Shaw at 203-858-4568, or email BoatNSPS@optonline.net. We don't have a specific evening planned yet, so let us know your preference.

SEO Laura Shaw, AP

Become a Vessel Safety Examiner

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be hosting a Vessel Examiner Qualification Workshop on May 17, 2008. The workshop will be held at the Flotilla 72 Base at Calf Pasture beach. This will be a full (8-hour) day that will cover all core materials in the Vessel Safety Check Manual. Following the training, participants should take the on-line exam to qualify as Vessel Examiners (that and conducting 5 Vessel Safety Checks under the supervision of a qualified Vessel Examiner).

If you are interested please contact Walter Roberts (bkny@erols.com) or Jason Farrow (jfmads01@optonline.net)



Upcoming District Events

April 4 & 5, 2008

2008 District 2 Change Of Watch and Spring Conference

Norwalk Inn and
Conference Center
Norwalk, CT

Hosted by Rowayton Sail
and Power Squadron

See registration form on
facing page

Get Involved

If we are to avoid the fate of the Tappan Zee squadron we need more members to get involved and share some of the workload. We need to be actively recruiting new members to take advantage of our outstanding educational programs: Public Boating Course, member courses and new USPS seminars. There are many way you can help that do not involve committing great chunks of time. If you have some time to contribute please contact Cdr Fred Zinsser, AP (203-846-3136) or SEO Laura Shaw, AP (203-858-4568).

Hello from Florida

To Fred Zinsser: Thank you for the Roster. When it came I read it as if it were a favorite magazine. I have been away from Norwalk for twenty six years yet remember many of the past Commanders and many of those listed on the Members of Merit page. Assuming that you are always on the lookout for material for the Tar Talks I will tell the story about how John Lysobey's fast and smart action saved two fingers of my right hand one Sunday afternoon in the Norwalk Islands. Essie and I had an old twenty-six foot sail boat with a wide beam and a big two cylinder Palmer slow turning gasoline engine. That engine was well known as the "fisherman's friend." The beauty of the Palmer was two fold. First there were small thimble sized cups with pet cocks above each cylinder. One would fill them with gasoline, and open the pet cocks while hitting the starter. It never failed. The other was a method for starting with a dead battery. The engine was equipped with a very large flywheel and one could actually spin it by hand. So when the rendezvous at Sheffield was over and the Palmer would not turn over due to a dead battery, I just spun the flywheel. This was the very first time for me. The engine started immediately and I was so surprised that I did not get my hand out of the way and two fingers passed between the alternator belt and an engine turning block. One finger was badly hurt but the other was about half way severed. John Lysobey's beautiful mahogany boat was anchored nearby and he had with him a guest, a lady, whose name escapes me, but who was the Chief nurse at Norwalk Hospital. I was in good hands. John used his ship to shore radio and the Chief Nurse called an out-standing surgeon (Malcolm Beinfeld) and asked him to go to the hospital. She then used the radio again to get an operating room ready. I was never admitted to the hospital but was taken directly to the OR and my fingers were saved. // Back to 2008: I am still sailing but no longer as Master. I gave FLYER (35.5 Hunter Legend) to son, Craig just before my 80th birthday and we celebrated my 81st in Key Largo, sailing every day with Craig and Mark and their wives, Karen and Sue and my loving wife, Essie. When strong wind suddenly came up and it was necessary to shorten sail one day I just said, "I will take the helm." The boys did the work. Life as an octogenarian is not so bad.

Bob Grosby (Editor's Note: Bob is a 56 year member of NSPS.)



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Address Correction Requested

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