

the Tar Talks

A Publication of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron

Update on the Dredging of Norwalk Harbor

Norwalk boaters have been alerted to be ready to pull their boats and moorings from areas of the federal channel by Oct. 1 to prepare the way for the long-awaited Phase Two of the Norwalk Harbor Dredging Project, now tentatively set to begin Nov. 1.

Phase One, involving the upper channel of the Norwalk River, from Wall Street to the Metro-North railroad bridge, was completed in February 2006.

The Army Corps of Engineers has advertised for bids on the project for Phase Two. If the bid results fall within the Army Corps guidelines, approximately 200,000 cubic yards of silt will be removed to restore the authorized depths in the federal channel south of the Stroffolino Bridge, also known as the Washington Street Bridge, in the East Basin, and in the South Anchorage.

Funding comes from the federal government for the digging, and from city and state allocations for the required capping material.

The Harbor Management Commission and the Harbor Master will inform all those affected by the dredging as to the status of the activity, once the Army Corps finalizes its schedule. Mooring permit holders should continue to watch for further announcements in the media and by mail.

P/C Tony Mobilia, AP
Chairman, Norwalk Harbor Management Commission



View of the dredging from Phase 1; Photo by Tony Mobilia

Inside this issue:

<i>Safety Corner</i>	2
<i>Ship 6 Update</i>	2
<i>Fall courses</i>	3
<i>D2 Events</i>	
<i>Boat Show</i>	4
<i>Member Benefits</i>	



Please Renew

If you have misplaced your USPS statement contact Les White, Treasurer, at polarisii@aol.com or (203) 438-0765.

In Memoriam

Faye Sheppard, widow of P/C Bob Sheppard passed away recently at the age of 90. In the years before USPS accepted women as members, Faye was an active supporter and participant in squadron activities with husband Bob.

Safety Corner

Protecting from Propeller Injury -

According to the USCG, in an average year, approximately 200 to 250 non-fatal injuries are reported as a result of a person being struck by the propeller and/or propulsion unit of their boat. These non-fatal injuries are life changing. Further, an additional 25 - 35 deaths are reported each year as a result of these accidents. A variety of technologies are available that should be considered by recreational boaters when they are considering means for reducing the risk of propeller-related injuries while boating. More information is available at <http://www.uscgboating.org/articles/boatingview.aspx?id=104>.

Dispose of Old EPIRBs Responsibly -

EPIRBs (Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacons) are devices intended to save lives by transmitting a signal to rescuers with the position of troubled boaters. When they are improperly disposed of they can cost the Coast Guard valuable time, and taxpayers thousands of dollars in resource costs, by causing false-alarm calls.

The Coast Guard recommends that unwanted EPIRBs be disposed of by either removing the battery and shipping the unit back to its manufacturer or rendering the unit inoperable by demolishing it. The EPIRB should also be unregistered with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in any case when the unit has been disposed of or transferred to a new owner.

Ship 6 Update

Ship 6 welcomes new crewmembers Rachel, Lauren and Kayla.

Recent activities included a jam-packed Safety at Sea Day at the U.S. Coast Guard New London Station where the crew gained hands-on experience in cold water survival (while wearing bright orange survival suits), fire and water damage control (using the Coast Guard Wet Trainer), law enforcement procedures, self defense, and much more. The program even included a ride on 41 ft Coast Guard vessel.

It was a terrific day. Despite the heat, the crew had a lot of fun and learned some cool stuff along the way. It was a really early start (the crew was a little bit grumpy at 6 AM) but it was well worth the effort. It was great to see the crew interacting with youth from other Sea Scout programs, making new friends and gaining self-confidence.

For more information about Ship 6 go to www.norwalkship6.org

Kai Horan,
Skipper



Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron 2008 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

USPS Courses Offered Fall 2008

Advanced Grades

Course Name	Offered by	Start Date	Location	Contact
Seamanship	Stamford	Wed, Sep 17	Marine Center	gwlk@aol.com
Piloting	Captain Harbor Darien	Mon, Sep 22 Mon, Sep 15	Greenwich High School Middlesex Middle Sch	ralphkravitz@sbcglobal.net dsps@optonline.net
Junior Navigation	To be determined by class interest. If interested, contact: dsps@optonline.net			
Navigation	Stamford	Wed, Oct 15	Marine Center	gwlk@aol.com

Electives

Course Name	Offered by	Start Date	Location	Contact
Cruise Planning	Darien	Tues, Sep 16	Middlesex Middle Sch	dsps@optonline.net
Marine Electronics	Stamford	Wed Sep 17	Government Center	gwlk@aol.com

eMail SEO Laura Shaw at boatnsps@optonline.net for further information and directions, or the contact person listed for each course.



Upcoming District 2 Events

10/24-10/26/08
District 2 Fall Conference
 & Celebration of Peekskill's
 50th Anniversary
 Holiday Inn & Conference Center
 Fishkill, NY

03/27-03/29/09
District 2 Spring Conference
 & Celebration of Champlain's 60th
 Anniversary and the
 400th Anniversary of the Discovery
 of Lake Champlain

Details at
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d2/d2event.html#District>

Volunteers Needed for Norwalk Boat Show

We're looking for some folks to help us out with the Norwalk Boat Show, which will run from Thursday, September 18th through Sunday the 21st at Cove Marina. Our Boat Show Chairman, Mike Brown, needs help for a couple of hours in the evening (after work) on Wednesday, September 17th to set up the USPS District 2 booth. We also need volunteers to man the booth on Thursday the 18th. The show runs from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., and we'd like to get people in for 2 to 4 hour shifts. One big perk is free admission to the boat show for the day you help man the booth. Helping out with the Boat Show is also a fun way to earn a USPS Merit Mark. Leave a message for Mike at (203) 554 5199, or email reddog_captain@yahoo.com if you can help.

Member Benefits - Did You Know?

C-Map offers product discounts and a discounted membership rate to USPS members for digital charts, Chartplotters and any of their products. This allows any boater to have the most accurate charts available to them at any time. C-Map offers a library of over 20,000 electronic charts that can be obtained at a discount as a USPS member. More information is available at http://www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/memberbenefits/cmap.htm

Maptech is offering all USPS members a 20% discount on their award winning marine software, books, digital and waterproof charts and accessories! Head here for more information: http://www.usps.org/x/x.pl/x/x.cgi?eddept/stores/_usps_stores_maptech.htm



c/o Jim Hamren
21 Wakeman Road
South Salem, NY 10590-2118

Address Correction Requested

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