

the Tar Talks

A Publication of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron

Commander's Message - Cdr. Fred Zinsser, AP

So you might have been wondering what's happening with the Norwalk Sail and Power Squadron lately. Things may have seemed a bit quiet. Well – do we have news for you!

If you're a student of the better late than never philosophy, you'll be happy to hear that on Sunday June 23rd the 2009 Change of Watch was finally held at Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club. It was touch and go for a while there but members heard the call and stepped up to fill critical positions, including Admin Officer, Membership Chair, and Executive Officer, which have gone unfilled for the last 3 years. Details of the Bridge can be seen on this publication's masthead. Thanks to everyone who attended the COW – it was great to see you all.



Members of the Bridge, some familiar faces, some new ones, are committed to the success of the squadron. Over the next few weeks and months we will be developing new programs and approaches. We will be focusing our efforts on the 3 primary objectives of community service, education, and fun – all with an approach that is uniquely NSPS. For example, we are planning a number of activities which will give us all an opportunity to get together again while providing support for Sea Scout Ship 6, an important and unique element of NSPS. Did you know that NSPS is the only Squadron in the immediate area that charters a Sea Scout Ship?

You are a critical part of NSPS's future success. It's easy and fun to be part of the next chapter and I call on each and every member to attend our social events – and to share that experience with other people.

Read on to find out about the upcoming events and learning opportunities that are currently being planned. Advanced courses, offered through the Fairfield Country Consortium program, and specialty seminars are perfect for furthering or refreshing your maritime skills.

See you there!

- Commander Fred

Keeping Pace

Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron is now on TWITTER! Get the latest updates on what's going on in your squadron, whenever you want, in 140 characters or less. If you don't already have a free Twitter account, you can sign up for one at www.twitter.com. After that, search for "Norwalk Power Squadron," then click "Follow." It's easy! Login whenever you want to view our "tweets," and post your own! - Laura Shaw, AP

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Please Renew

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

Maintain Communications

To facilitate receiving email communication from NSPS, please keep us current with your email address and allow NSPS officers past your spam filters.

Safety Corner

Get your 2009 Vessel Safety Check (VSC)

Is your VSC decal outdated or have you never had a VSC check for your present boat? Be safe and show you care about complying with the CT and Federal boating rules. Send an email to JansCon at aol.com or call (203) 846-8277 to set up a convenient time for you.

Boat Responsibly and Wear It

According to the most recent U.S. Coast Guard statistics, over 2/3 of fatal accident victims drowned. Out of those, approximately 90% were not wearing a life jacket. There are so many different types of PFDs today that are smaller and more comfortable. Develop the Life Jacket habit and "Wear it!"

Bette Conner, AP, Safety Officer & VSC Chair

Ship 6 Update

Ship 6 is busy place these days with the boating season underway. The Ship 6 Sea Scouts and Celebration have been out racing with the Norwalk Islands Sailing Fleet (NISF, <http://norwalksailing.com>). Celebration competed in the MYC King Cup and was second across the finish line in for Non-spinnaker Division 3, correcting to 5th (under 135 PHRF).



Broadening their sailing skills while having fun at the same time, the Sea Scouts have branched out into sailing Ideal 18s at the Norwalk Yacht Club and plan to go kayaking as well. Ship 6 has also extended invitations to youth sailors of the Stamford Sailing Foundation's Blue Water Bound program. For more information about the Stamford Sailing Foundation see: www.stamfordsailingfoundation.org/ and www.thestamfordtimes.com/story/471549

It's not all play for the Ship 6 Sea Scouts. Like all boat owners, the Sea Scouts have been busy preparing Celebration for the sailing season including repainting the deck and assessing sail and gear inventory.

More fun and activities are in store for the Ship 6 Sea Scouts for the rest of the boating season, including a planned overnight trip to Port Jefferson and Ship 6 Social event. Come see us and share your boating experience with the Sea Scouts - tomorrow's top mariners.

Karl Wagner, P, Ship 6 Liaison

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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

Upcoming NSPS Events - You're Invited!

New for 2009 – we have 2 fun events lined up. Looking forward to seeing you there!

NSPS Summer Picnic/BBQ

Special NSPS members-only event!

When: Sunday August 30, 2009 - 12 noon until 6 pm

Where: Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club, Norwalk



Enjoy a summer afternoon with friends, food and fun. Swimming pool is available for those who want to cool down or get a few laps in. Members can invite a few member-recruits to join in the festivities and meet the Squadron. Learn about new educational opportunities and other member benefits. And of course be thoroughly entertained by the action at the BBQ grills!

Please RSVP by Aug 21st to Kai Horan/Admin Officer (kai at oceanvue dot com or 203 249 8138)



1st Annual NSPS/Ship 6 Putt-Putt Party

Open to NSPS members, friends and family, local squadrons and yacht clubs

When: Saturday October 3, 2009, 6-10 pm (rain date Oct 4th)

Where: Norwalk Cove Marina, Norwalk

Cost: \$10 per person pre-registered (\$15 per person walk-in)

Try your hand at a casual and certain-to-be-entertaining round of mini-golf to support Sea Scout Ship 6 during our 1st annual Putt-Putt Party. Not into mini-golf? That's ok – show your support anyway and enjoy watching the action and other entertainment. Socialize with old friends and new. Meet the Ship 6 crew. Food will be available for purchase, entertainment, great raffle prizes and silent auction too!

Tickets available starting August 30 at the Summer BBQ. Or pre-register with Kai Horan, Admin Officer, (kai at oceanvue dot com or 203 249 8138)

2009 COW Held at SHYC

Thanks particularly to Mike Brown, SN for arranging the venue; Laura Shaw, AP, for arranging the food, Joe Lynch, D2 SEO for officiating, and Ruth Jansson for capturing these images:



Left, Joe Lynch, D2 SEO swears in Cdr Fred for his 2nd term.



Right, D2 SEO Joe Lynch in a contemplative moment.



Above, Joe Lynch swears in the other members of the Bridge, from left to right Laura Shaw, Tony Mobilia, Kai Horan, and Mike Brown. Below, our Ship 6 committee, from left to right Mike Brown, Fred Zinsser, Laura Shaw, Karl Wagner, Kai Horan and Jon Ricci. Besides being our new Admin Officer, Kai is also Ship 6 Skipper. Jon is also our new Membership Chair.



USPS Courses Offered Fall 2009 and beyond

Advanced Grades

Course Name	Offered by	Start Date	Location	Contact
Seamanship	Stamford Captain Harbor Darien	September 2009 January 2010 March 2010	Stamford Govt. Ctr. Greenwich High School Middlesex Middle Sch.	gwlk@aol.com ralphkravitz@sbcglobal.net leah_beckman@mac.com
Piloting	Captain Harbor Darien Stamford	Fall 2009 September 2009 January 2010	Greenwich High School Middlesex Middle Sch. Stamford Govt. Ctr.	ralphkravitz@sbcglobal.net leah_beckman@mac.com gwlk@aol.com
Advanced Piloting	Darien Captain Harbor	January 2010 Spring 2010	Middlesex Middle Sch. Greenwich High School	leah_beckman@mac.com ralphkravitz@sbcglobal.net
Junior Navigation and Navigation	To be determined by class interest.			

Electives

Course Name	Offered by	Start Date	Location	Contact
Cruise Planning	Captain Harbor	Fall 2009	Greenwich High School	ralphkravitz@sbcglobal.net
Engine Maintenance	Captain Harbor	January 2010	Greenwich High School	ralphkravitz@sbcglobal.net
Marine Electronics: 101-M.E. Basics 102-Marine Comm.	Darien Stamford	September 2009 May 2010	Middlesex Middle Sch. Halloween Yacht Club	leah_beckman@mac.com gwlk@aol.com
Sail	Captain Harbor	Spring 2010	Greenwich High School	ralphkravitz@sbcglobal.net
Weather	Darien	January 2010	Middlesex Middle Sch.	leah_beckman@mac.com

Contact SEO Mike Brown, 203 554 5199 (cell) or 203 846 1021 (home) or email reddog_captain at yahoo dot com, for further information and directions; or the contact person listed for each course.

Education Dept. Update

Mike Brown was very busy this year setting up two boating courses for the public. Mike taught a one-day course, which was offered at the Norwalk Boat Club on Wall Street in Norwalk, on March 22. Bette Conner and Ruth Jansson taught the two-day four-hour sessions on April 18 and 25 at Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club in Westport. Both classes offered the PWC class as well; the PWC classes were taught by Mike Brown.

Several people helped to make these classes successful. Special thanks to squadron members Laura Shaw, Tony Mobilia, John Sutton, Les White, and Fred Zinsser for their contributions; to John Mitchell of the Norwalk Boat Club for the use of Norwalk Boat Club's facilities and the breakfast and lunch they served; and to Saugatuck Harbor Yacht club for the use of their facilities.

Our squadron has always taught the traditional 8-hour boating course. But over the past couple of years, fewer and fewer people have signed up, favoring instead the one- and two-day courses offered by others.

These two shorter courses were firsts for our squadron--and they worked very well. We are looking forward to offering more of them. *Ruth Jansson, AP*

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 24th through Sunday the 27th at Cove Marina. Our Boat Show Chairman, Mike Brown, needs help for a couple of hours in the evening on Wednesday, September 23rd to set up the USPS District 2 booth. We also need volunteers to man the booth on Thursday the 24th. 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. Contact Mike at 203-846-1021 (home) or 203 554 5199 (cell), or email reddog_captain at yahoo dot com if you can help.

Vessel Safety Check News

Two of Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron's Vessel Safety Check examiners, Bette Conner and Ruth Jansson, worked side-by-side with USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 72 examiners at Shore and Country Club in Norwalk on Sunday morning, May 17. The club's commodore, Peter Ritchie, and their vice commodore, Craig Nelson, also a member of our squadron, orchestrated this year's annual event in conjunction with their Commissioning Day celebration to be held later in the day. Cdr Fred Zinsser presented Shore and Country's VC Craig Nelson with a Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron burgee which will hang proudly in the club's Binnacle Room.



Ruth Jansson, AP, article and photo

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Address Correction Requested

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