



the Tar Talks

A Publication of the Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron

Getting Ready

Every autumn boat owners and crew across the region safely tuck their vessels in for a long cold winter. Some turn their sights to skiing or perhaps warm weather vacations. Others use the winter to hone their small boats skills or take NSPS classes like "Sail" (see article on page 3). There's never a shortage of winter projects either. Maybe a sail needs repair, or a fuel pump needs replacement, or a custom improvement sounds like a good idea. Whatever the effort, winter can be just as active as the summer. But there is no season as busy as spring - as we try to shrug off the long cold winter months and dodge the drenching rains, we savor every sunny day and look fondly towards launch day and getting out on the water again.

For Ship 6 spring prep is a yearly ritual. The teenage crew starts to get cabin fever, work lists are created, and the process and tools needed are discussed. From polishing topsides to checking hardware and preparing the hull for the coming season there is always plenty of work to go around. This year is no exception. In fact, the lists are longer than usual. The typical stuff is there, sure, but there are new items too. New items because Ship 6 will be sailing a new boat this year. We're very excited to now have a Tripp 37 and are currently in the process of repairing and updating various gear and systems. The biggest project underway is refurbishing the mast which was stored for the last 4 years laying down and exposed to the elements. Recently the crew rallied and took advantage of great weekend weather to sand and prep the mast for painting. When finished it will look like new and the Ship 6 crew will know that they were part of making it happen. Getting hands-on experience is the best way to get to know your boat.

So for now the work parties continue and if you find yourself roaming around Cove Marina on a spring weekend, you are likely to see Ship 6 working on something or other. Splash day 2010 will be a very special one for us. See you out on the water!

Kai Horan, Skipper Sea Scout Ship 6, and NSPS Administrative Officer

A few spring prep tips from Ship 6:

- Check your lifejackets for tears or weak points. If inflatable, check and replace the inflation canisters as needed.
- Get new flares. Treat yourself to a couple of really goods ones like Solas grade.
- Always wear face masks and eye protection when sanding or scraping.
- If using power tools, ensure no loose clothing or strings are nearby.

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Congratulations

To Engine Maintenance
December grads:
Jim Hamren, Jon Ricci,
Laura Shaw, Dave Tom,
Karl Wagner, Les White
and Fred Zinsser.

Welcome to New Members

Antonio Angarita
Dean Fino
Mireli Fino
Asa Hyvonen
Harris Leinwand
Caroline Olmo

and to all the new Sea
Scout members.

Safety Corner

Spring is coming! Now's a good time to start planning for launch by reviewing your safety equipment. Do you need to replace your flares? Are your life jackets in good condition and sized correctly for your passengers? Are your fire extinguishers OK? If you get all your safety gear in order now, preparing for your Vessel Safety Check will be all that easier once you're splashed.

Are you aware that Federal law requires the operator – or owner, if the operator is deceased or unable to make the report – to file a boating accident report with the State reporting authority when, as a result of an occurrence that involves a boat or its equipment:

- A person dies
- A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury
- A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid
- Damage to vessels and other property totals \$2,000 (lower amounts in some states and territories) or more
- The boat is destroyed.

Bette Conner, AP, Safety Officer & VSC Chair

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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 at optonline dot net

Ship 6 Winter News

It's been a busy year already for Ship 6, illustrating that the winter is no time for just sitting around. Ship 6 continues it's strong and consistent winter program with lots of seamanship skills as well as leadership and teambuilding activities. One crewmember is braving the elements and participating in frostbiting JY15's along with Ship 6 leaders, at Stamford Yacht Club.

On February 6th, crewmembers, leaders and parents attended the 2010 Sea Scout Bridge of Honor held in Southport, CT. Crewmembers Andres and James were promoted to Apprentice and crewmember Lauren was promoted to Ordinary. Congratulations! These are earned advancement ranks and in succession can lead to the coveted Quartermaster rank. In addition, crewmembers Kayla and James were recognized for their special effort in restoring a sailing dinghy - nice job! Michael, one of our newer members, was also present and is currently working towards his rank of Apprentice.

Ship 6 has also been focused on using the winter to learn about sailing theory by participating in the NSPS Sail class held at Ship 6's meeting place, St. Paul's on the Green on Saturday afternoons. Nine crewmembers and two leaders participated in the class. A great success! We're looking forward to seeing some of this new found knowledge applied to Ship 6 activities this coming season.

Speaking of the upcoming season, Ship 6 is looking forward to a great summer with lots of activities planned including racing, overnight cruising and the yearly Sea Scout GAM. And of course lots of boat prep which will be starting in a couple of weeks.

For more information about Sea Scout Ship 6 visit www.norwalkship6.org

Kai Horan, Skipper, Ship 6

Change of Watch and more party

Please join us for the annual Change of Watch and New Member Introduction at the Red Barn, 292 Wilton Road, Westport.

When: Sunday April 11th, 2010, from 1:30 pm - 4 pm

What: Brunch buffet including 1 Mimosa or Bloody Mary, and unlimited Champagne. \$30 per person less \$5 for a Merit Mark and \$5 for pre-registering.

Please RSVP with checks payable to NSPS by April 5th to Les White, 6 Strawberry Ridge Rd., Ridgefield, CT 06877



Pierre-Auguste Renoir: Luncheon of the Boating Party (1881)

Education Dept. Update

Sail Class: Our Saturday afternoon class proved to be a great success. We had about 20 students, including 8 Sea Scout Apprentices, 5 NSPS members, 2 new members and 5 potential new members. The program's success was due in great part to the help of Kai Horan, Karl Wagner and Jon Ricci. Kai arranged for the venue at St Paul's Church and recruited her Ship 6 crew. Karl taught about half the course sections and both Karl and Jon have been helpful setting up and contributing to the presentations. We will be planning on improving the quality of presentations for future classes and hope to continue the program in the future.

CT Safe Boating Course: We are currently working with Norwalk Boat Club to offer a CT Safe Boating Course at NBC on Sunday April 25 at NBC on Wall St. in Norwalk. Details of this program are a work in progress. Jim Hamren and Laura Shaw will share teaching responsibilities. Getting the word out will be an important factor in the success of this class. John Sutton, and a small team of NSPS members will attempt to promote this important program. Ruth Janssen will apply her design skills to create the flyer and registration form.

Another CT Safe Boating Course is planned at SHYC in the spring. This course will be open to local boaters as well as SHYC members and dock crew.

Seminars: We are working on a Seminar to be presented at Saugatuck Harbor YC in late April or early May. The subject will be APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System). Staff of West Mountain Radio will be presenting the features of this exciting technology, as well as information on equipment and range of operation. If you are interested in attending this seminar please contact Mike Brown (203 554 5199) or email redog_captain@yahoo.com The cost including an informal dinner will be \$10.

For all of these events new membership will be a goal and our membership chairman Jon Ricci, will attend to make a presentation on the benefits of joining the USPS and NSPS.



Sail class photos by Kai Horan.

Karl Wagner teaching.

Loran-C Termination

In accordance with the 2010 DHS Appropriations Act, the U.S. Coast Guard terminated the transmission of all U.S. LORAN-C signals on 08 Feb 2010. This termination does not affect U.S. participation in the Russian American or Canadian LORAN-C chains. U.S. participation in these chains will continue temporarily in accordance with international agreements.

LORAN-C was originally developed to provide radio-navigation service for U.S. coastal waters and was later expanded to include complete coverage of the continental U.S. as well as most of Alaska. Twenty-four U.S. LORAN-C stations have worked in partnership with Canadian and Russian stations to provide coverage in Canadian waters and in the Bering Sea. The system has provided better than 0.25 nautical mile absolute accuracy for suitably equipped users within the published areas, and has provided navigation, location, and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. It was approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system has served the 48 continental states, their coastal areas, and parts of Alaska. Dedicated Coast Guard men and women have done an excellent job running and maintaining the LORAN-C signal for 52 years.

LORAN-C has, as a result of technological advancements in the last 20 years, become an antiquated system no longer required by the armed forces, the transportation sector or the nation's security interests and is used only by a small percentage of the population.



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Address Correction Requested

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