

# CURRENT TREND<sup>®</sup>

February

ROWAYTON SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

2004

“A Unit of United States Power Squadrons”



**Chunk of Ice from Five Mile River**

## **It Ain't Over Yet Ready for Another Storm? Here's What You Can Do**

### **Prepare a winter storm plan.**

Have extra blankets on hand.

Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat and warm-weather resistant boots.

Assemble a disaster supplies kit containing...

- First aid kit and essential medications..
- Battery powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Canned food and non-electric can opener
- Bottled water.

Have your car winterized before winter storm season.

### **Stay tuned for storm warnings**

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio and your local radio and TV stations.

Know what winter storm WATCHES and WARNINGS mean.

- A winter storm WATCH means a storm is possible in your area.
- A WARNING means a winter storm is headed for your area.

### **When a WATCH is issued...**

- Listen to NOAA and local radio and TV Stations.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Avoid unnecessary travel.

(continued on page 12)

**Official Publication of  
Rowayton Sail & Power Squadron**

**2003—2004 Officers**

Commander	Cdr Robert D. Hensley, JN
Executive Officer	P/R/C/ Robert D. Bair, AP
Educational Officer	P/D/Lt/C David A. Dewar, SN
Administrative Officer	P/C Barbara B. Bair, AP
Secretary	Lt/C James A. Marron, S
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**Ida Walley Zoradia Lewis;**



**No Ordinary Light Keeper**

-Bob Bair -

Ida Lewis is the most celebrated lighthouse keeper in American history. Her father, Hosea, was Lime Rock Light's first keeper when the light was built in 1854 in Newport, RI, but he had a stroke three years later and was unable to

perform his duties. Traditionally, Lewis' wife, Zoradia Walley Lewis, would have succeeded him, but she also was in poor health; consequently, the oldest of their four children, 16-year-old Ida, took over care of the light in 1857. (It is important to note that while Ida was an excellent lighthouse keeper, her celebrity status was primarily due to her many lifesaving rescues. In fact, at age 14 she was reputed to be the best swimmer in Newport.)

Ida's first recorded rescue occurred in 1858 when she saved the lives of four young men who capsized their boat in Newport Harbor; none could swim. In mid-winter, 1866, she came to the rescue of a drunken sailor. In 1867 during a storm, three sheep herders had gone into the water after a valuable sheep; Ida saved them and the sheep as well. On March 29, 1869 she came to the aid of two soldiers from Newport's Fort Adams, and her fame spread quickly following that rescue.

An article about Ida appeared in the *New York Tribune*, *Harper's Weekly*, *Leslies' Magazine* and several other leading newspapers. Susan B. Anthony praised Ida in her journal. The Lifesaving Benevolent Association of New York sent her a medal. The City of Newport held a parade in her honor, followed by the gift of a mahogany rowboat with red velvet cushions, gold braid around the gunwales, and gold-plated oarlocks. The boat was aptly named, *Rescue*. Stories regarding Ida spread throughout the nation, which prompted President Grant to visit the "heroine of Newport" in 1869. It is reported that when he got his feet wet stepping out of the boat onto Lime Rock (it was 200 yards (cont'd on Page 6)



## Last Wonder; First Light



The first known lighthouse was the Pharos of Alexandria, built on the island of Pharos in the ancient Egyptian city of Alexandria's harbor; it was also the last of the famous Seven Wonders of the World to be built, and the last to vanish. (The other six Wonders are identified below. Alexandria is just one of hundreds of cities named by Alexander the Great, a conquering marauder with obviously no small ego.) Also of interest is the fact that this was the only Wonder built for a practical purpose—safety for men returning from sea, and it served as a lookout for the military.

Construction of the fitted-stone Lighthouse of Alexandria was completed around 280 BC, 20 years after it began, or about one-half a man's lifetime in those days. Cost to build was a staggering \$2.5 million, which, if converted to current dollars, was a rather

tidy sum. Height of the light was approximately 450 feet, and its "beacon"—actually a perpetually-burning bonfire—could be seen for 30 miles. (A circular shaft inside Pharos was designed so that fuel for the fire could be lifted to the top.) During daylight hours, a mirror was used to guide ships home. Julius Caesar was certainly correct when he described the light as "such wonderful construction", because it lasted nearly 1400 years until destroyed by an earthquake. The Pharos of Alexandria lighthouse was the last of the Wonders to disappear. The other six follow.

1. The Pyramids of Giza. Built in the third millennium BC.
2. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Built by King Nebuchadnezzar around 600 BC.
3. The Statue of Zeus. Created by the Greek sculptor Phidias in Olympia, Greece, in the fifth century BC.
4. The Temple of Artemis. Located in Greece and built in 356 BC.
5. The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. A monumental marble tomb completed in the fourth century BC.
6. The Colossus of Rhodes. A bronze statue of the Greek sun god Helios, circa 280 BC.

Pharos' impact on the world is indeed lasting. Today, pharology is still the name given to the branch of engineering dealing with lighthouses. And while the word "pharos" means beacon in English, it also serves as the French, Italian and Spanish word for lighthouse. Finally, if you visit the Pennsylvania Dutch area where I grew up, ask a local to pronounce the word F-I-R-E and he or she will invariably answer, "Phar"...as in the bonphar that burned atop the Pharos of Alexandria. Seriously.

ROWAYTON SAIL & POWER SQUADRON CHRISTMAS PARTY  
PASTIME ATHLETIC CLUB, DECEMBER 13, 2003



**COOL SAFETY STUFF ON OUR USPS.ORG WEB SITE!**

The USPS has as great service for filing float plans; I know I've used it! The description below was lifted from the site and gives you an overview of what it does and the benefits of filing float plans. The Float Plan stuff is located under the "Other" tab in the member's area of the site.

If you are going for just a few hours on your boat, let someone know where you expect to be and when you expect to return. If you plan a longer cruise, leave a copy of a written *float plan* with your *marina*, yacht club, or friend. A float plan includes a description of your boat, who is on board, a description of the safety equipment you are carrying, where you expect to be, and when you expect to be there. Instruct the person holding the float plan to notify the Coast Guard or other appropriate agency if you do not return within a reasonable time after your scheduled arrival (taking into account weather, etc.). When you arrive at your destination, or if your plans change, notify the person holding your float plan to avoid unnecessary worry and possible waste of search and rescue resources. There is no special or official form that you must use for a float plan, though you may find convenient pre-printed ones available in boating supply stores and catalogs, or you can generate a customized form using our [Float Plan template](#). Do not attempt to file the form with the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard will not accept float plans.

The USPS template is a flexible tool for helping you generate a customized float plan. You may use it in several different ways.

1. You can fill in all the information needed, "Generate" the plan and print the results.
2. You can fill in only the information which will not be changing, "Generate" the plan, and print the results. You can then fill in information on your customized paper forms as needed.
3. You can generate a customized form as above and then SAVE the generated template as a local file on your machine. You can then open your local template in your browser any time you need a plan, type in the missing information and print your plan.

- Rex Wilson -

**Distinction in Journalism Award 2003**

Rowayton Sail and Power Squadron has received "Distinction in Journalism Award for 2003" from National Publications Committee advisor P/C Delia V. Rettew. On the back of our newsletter "Current Trend" we can display this award. One more reason for all of you who read our publication to submit an article, by hand, by fax, by e-mail or any other way you can think of... pictures, maybe. We will edit, or put it in the correct form to be published... Want to sell or buy something?

Congratulations to all contributors...and the squadron...  
- Barbara Bair -

**"Good Luck, good speed and safe traveling"**

Jim and Joan Shaver have been very active members of our squadron for years. Jim is past commander and has served on the bridge and executive board for many years. Jim also serves on the National Committee on Safety. We wish you both, good luck, good speed and safe traveling. You will be missed!

Jim & Joan Shaver  
5572 Novara Place  
Sarasota, FL 34238-6214

## Ida Lewis Lighthouse

(continued from page 2)

Off shore), he said, "I have come to see Ida Lewis, and to see her I'd get wet up to my armpits if necessary". And, she was the first woman to receive a gold Congressional medal for lifesaving.

Ida married Captain William Wilson from Black Rock, CT in 1870 but, alas, she was not as good at rescuing marriages as she was at rescuing lives; they separated two years later. During Ida's 39 years on Lime Rock, she was credited with saving 18 lives - the last was in 1906 at the age of 65 - although unofficial records put the number at 25. When asked where she found the strength, her reply was, "I don't know, I ain't particularly strong. The Lord Almighty gives it to me when I need it, that's all". When Ida died on October 24, 1911 all the vessels anchored in Newport Harbor tolled their bells in her honor.

If you can't find Lime Rock on your charts, it's because the Rhode Island legislature changed the name to Ida Lewis Rock in 1924 and the U.S. Lighthouse Service renamed the lighthouse "Ida Lewis Lighthouse" (the only time this recognition has ever been given to a keeper). An automated light on a skeleton tower replaced the old one in 1927 but this, too, was discontinued in 1963. So, is this the end of the story? Not quite.

The buildings on Ida Lewis Rock were sold in 1928 for \$7,200 and became the internationally-known Ida Lewis Yacht Club. A causeway now connects the rock to the mainland, and the light attached to the keeper's house is operated as a private aid to navigation in tribute to Ida Lewis. How appropriate. Ida's lifesaving work continues...

- Bob Bair -



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## Ida Lewis Yacht Club



**SUMMERTIME ON-WATER ACTIVITIES FOR 2004**

As incoming Administration Officer I have proposed a calendar of summertime on-water activities for the 2004 boating season. While strictly a work-in progress, the intent is to have at least one activity a month from May through September. Some of the ideas being considered include daytrips to Captains Harbor, the Greenwich Island, and Northport, a run to the Thimble Islands, a Fathers Day Breakfast at Sand Hole in Oyster Bay, a overnight camping trip at one of the Norwalk Islands, raft-up rendezvous at Fish Island, a best poker hand predicted log race, a Gilligan's Island Costume party and chowder dinner on one of the Islands, and the first ever Rowayton Sail and Power Squadron Fish Tournament (at the end of the season so you have all winter to clean the boat afterwards!)

With your input, and guidance from the Bridge we can make this a very fun summer! If you have a thought for a good activity give me a ring. Also I need an event coordinator for each activity, I know everyone is busy but this will be a LOT of fun and I need help.

So give me a call and lend a hand: Rex Wilson 853-0897 or [nrwilson@optonline.net](mailto:nrwilson@optonline.net)

## New Member Drive

In what can only be described as a stroke of marketing genius, we initiated a new members recruitment campaign that coincided with some of the coldest January weather on record. The result is we managed to corner a bunch of great new people while they were tearfully looking at their boats marooned in arctic drifts; their state of mind was very conducive to discussing summer boating with the Squadron!

So far we have ten candidates who have asked to join and half a dozen more who are seriously considering joining. And this is even before we get a chance to pitch Dave Dewar's Basic Boating course with 20 potential recruits! If you read the latest Ensign, there was a little inset article "*Reaping the benefits of the Power of One Campaign.*" In a nutshell, if 50% of the squadron recruits one new member we are eligible to win \$2,950 to enhance the Squadron's business. Which means we are close!

By my count the Membership Drive has generated a dozen new members, the Basic Boating Class should be good for at least 8 more new members for a total of about twenty. If you fine people talk to your friends and acquaintances and find ten or so more members we qualify for the Admirals Club (not to mention the \$2,950.) So open up those little black books and make a couple phone calls.

Call or email me if you need materials: Rex Wilson 865-0897 or nrwilson@optonline.net

## Boat Humor

**Give this picture a title!**



Give this picture the best headline or title you can think of— Submit your entries to Barbara Bair at 838-5041 or email them to: [whpt@msn.com](mailto:whpt@msn.com).

The winner will be announced and receive an unusual surprise at the Change of Watch on March 6th at the Pastime Club.

## Rowayton Sail and Power Squadron Sponsor Speaker Series

The Rowayton Sail and Power Squadron along with six other Fairfield County Squadrons, and The Maritime Aquarium put together the first in a series of nautically themed lectures. Over 300 people gathered at the Imax at The Maritime Aquarium on November 6<sup>th</sup> to talk to vendors such as Tripp Design, to listen to John Rousmaniere speak about storms, ships, sailors, and the history they created, and view the IMAX movie "Chasing the Wind." Additional activities included book signings by John and a cocktail reception after the lecture.

The program was conceived by the Penfield Squadron as a vehicle to raise community awareness of the USPS and enhance the Squadron's image; in that regard it was an exceptional success. We also managed to end up with a little surplus cash that is being distributed among the participating squadrons. The Maritime Aquarium was very supportive and is enthusiastic about future programs with the USPS. Negotiations are in progress for the next speaker, possibly this Spring.

The program also received surprisingly good coverage in the media including stories run by The Hour, Wind Check Magazine.

If you missed out on this event make sure you catch the next one and bring a friend who might be interested in joining the Squadron, we need the members and this is a great way to introduce people to the good stuff we do! - Rex Wilson -



# **ROWAYTON SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON BRUNCH**

**Sunday, February 8, 2004**

**12 Noon**

**At**

**Rowayton Community Center**

**The Menu:**

*Choice of Bloody Mary or Screwdriver (also sodas & water)*

*Omelet or Eggs Benedict*

*Bacon or Sausage*

*Hash Browns*

*Coffee and Tea*

**Guest Speaker**

**Jim Bloom** who will speak about the history of the  
Bloom Brothers oystering business in Norwalk

*Don't miss this breakfast of champions!*

RSVP or Questions contact:

Norma Gerwig [nagerwig@aol.com](mailto:nagerwig@aol.com) or

Barbara Bair 838-5041



**Nominations for Bridge Appointments 2004-2005**

**Commander:** Robert D. Hensley

**Executive Officer:** Robert D. Bair

**Education Officer:** (SEO) David A. Dewar

**Assistant Educational Officer:** Craig W. Hauenstein

**Administrative Officer:** N. Rex Wilson

**Secretary:** Russell H. Patrick

**Treasurer:** Jeffrey C. Gerwig

As of the Change of Watch in March, Donna Yarde will be our newsletter editor. Her e-mail is donnay45@yahoo.com, phone & Fax is 899-0452.



## It Ain't Over Yet ( Continued from Page 1)

### When a WARNING is issued...

- Stay indoors during the storm. If you must go outside, wear several layers of clothing, and cover your mouth to protect your lungs.
- Understand the hazards. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from a person's body at an accelerated rate, driving down body temperature.

### Avoid traveling by car, but if you must, and you get stuck...

- Stay with the car. Do not try to walk to safety.
- Tie a bright-colored cloth to the antenna for rescuers to see.
- Start the car and use the heater for about 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up.
- Leave the overhead light on when engine is running so you can be seen.
- As you sit, keep moving arms and legs to keep blood circulating.
- Keep on window (away from blowing wind) open slightly to let in air.

Much of the above was extracted from a pamphlet produced by the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

- Bob Bair -



“Fallen Buoy”

## USPS Cuisine

A new USPS National Cookbook is being developed and you can reserve your copy now for \$20, which includes shipping and handling. The book will be sent to you in September.

*By Land or By Sea, Cuisine of the United States Power Squadrons®* is more than just another cookbook. In addition to all the best recipes contributed by USPS members, it also includes histories of squadrons, USPS, ideas for fund raisers, special events, crafts, etc. There is also a special section titled, “Recipes of the Past chief Commanders”.

*By Land or By Sea* at  
[www.usps.org/national/auxiliary/cookbook](http://www.usps.org/national/auxiliary/cookbook).

When the book is released in September, the price will increase to \$25, so don't delay; reserve your copy today.



# DISTRICT 2 SPRING CONFERENCE



hosted by  
**PEEKSKILL SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON**

**March 26 & 27, 2004 – Holiday Inn, Fishkill, NY (I-84 & Route 9)**

## Conference Schedule

**Friday** 3:00 Registration begins  
 6:00 Social hour (cash bar)  
 7:00 Dinner with Chief Commander's Rep

**Saturday** 8:00 Continental breakfast  
 9:00 Guest program departs  
 9:00 Morning session begins  
 11:30 Social hour (cash bar) and buffet lunch  
 1:00 Afternoon session begins  
 6:00 Social hour (cash bar)  
 7:00 Dinner dance

## Guest Program (Saturday)

Enjoy a day in the Mid-Hudson region. Take a tour of the Brotherhood winery, complete with wine-tasting and buffet lunch. To complete the outing, sample the stores at the Woodbury Commons Outlet Center.

## First-Timers

Is this the first District conference you're attending?  
 1st Registrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 2nd Registrant \_\_\_\_\_

**Dress: Fri. dinner** – blazers, **Sat. meeting** – Uniform F or business casual, **Sat. dinner** – Uniform A with bow tie or formal. Suits or sports coats are always appropriate.

## Registration Form

**1st Registrant** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Rank & Position \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd Registrant** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Rank & Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Dinner** Italian Buffet

**Total Friday dinners** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Guest Program** (incl. Cont. Bkfst & Lunch) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Cont. Bkfst & Lunch** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Dinner Dance** \_\_\_\_\_ Prime rib of beef  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken piccata  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled salmon

**Total Saturday dinners** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Rooms** (double or single) \_\_\_\_\_ No. of nights \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$89 = \_\_\_\_\_

Late fee for all registrations received after **February 28** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE** \_\_\_\_\_

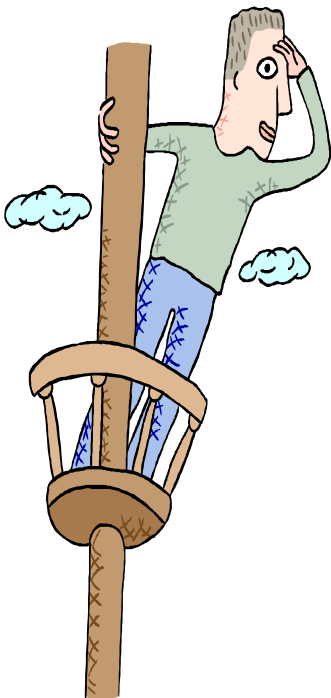
Please make checks payable to **Peekskill Power Squadron** and mail with this Registration Form to:  
 Lt/C John Skelton, 8 Orchard Place, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533  
 Phone 845/223-8483 Email jskelton@frontiernet.net

# First Class Mail



Rowayton Power Squadron  
Cdr Robert D. Hensley  
8 Keeler Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06854

## Good Things Ahead...



**8 February, 2004** - Sunday Brunch,  
Rowayton Community Center

**6 March, 2004** - Change of Watch,  
Pastime Club

