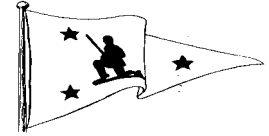




Saugatuck River Sail And Power Squadron



Dredgings Monthly Newsletter

March 2020
Vol 63 No 3



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Send your articles and address changes to P/C Stephen H. Raffel, SN, 6 Janson Drive, Westport, CT 06880 or email to the following: raffel@post.harvard.edu.

Articles and opinions do not necessarily reflect either SRSPS or USPS policy or endorsement unless so designated.

Saugatuck River Sail and Power Squadron is a unit of the United States Power Squadrons® and District 2.

Courses Coming Soon

Marine Navigation (Piloting)

Marine Navigation (Piloting) is the first course in the sequence on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation with a GPS as well as traditional charting methods. Also, covered are interpreting charts, navigation aids, plotting courses, determining direction and distance using mariner's compass.

Marine Electrical Systems

Marine Electrical Systems (MES) Covers the practice of wiring your boat, including marine electrical wiring standards and diagrams, direct and alternating current, galvanic and stray current corrosion, lightning protection, multimeters and camping procedures. Troubleshooting is emphasized so students should feel comfortable performing even tricky wiring tasks.

To find course information go to <http://tinyurl.com/uspsmes> contact Karl Wagner 203-274-5550 for more details

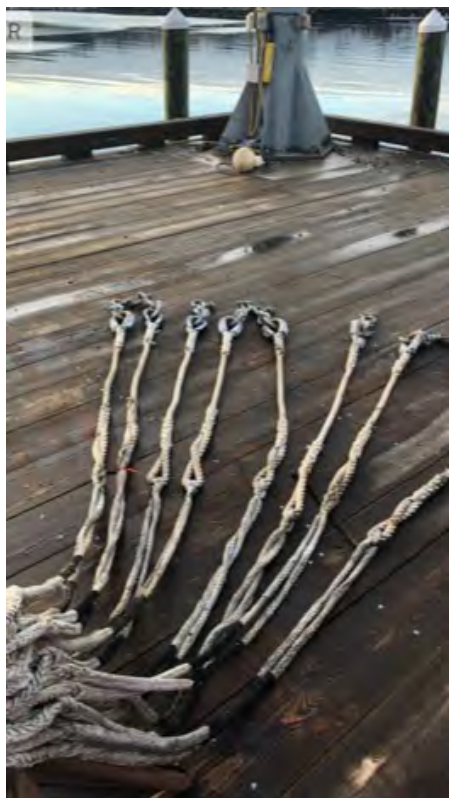
Harvey Volkman, AP, commander of SRSPS 1981-1982 died Feb 11. The Squadron sends it deepest sympathies to his wife, Mary Lou, and his family.

Commander's Message



If our balmy weather holds, the boating season should start with very fair temperatures. It will be on us in a NY minute.

I've been splicing, prepping and checking over 178 mooring bridles this winter. It is a very tough job.



It is important to check your mooring hardware every year. Failure to do so can lead to the loss of your boat when the weather turns bad.

Craig Burry
Commander

If you aren't getting notice of *Dredgings* and other Squadron information by email, it is because we don't have your current email address. Send it to raffel@post.harvard.edu.

Do You Know the Answers?

1. At the Cape Cod Canal which vessels have the right of way?
2. What is the largest source of rising seas?
3. When do you need to compensate for current?
4. What is a RACON?

ANSWERS:

1. Vessels going with the current have right of way over those going against it.
2. Melting glaciers; number 2 is thermal expansion from warming oceans.
3. Unless the boat speed is much greater than the current, you need to alter course to compensate when it comes at an angle to the vessel .
4. RACONS are Radio Beacons triggered by a vessel's radar signal. They reply with a coded signal giving bearing

Education Report

Marine Electrical Systems and Electronic Navigation are courses will likely begin soon.

Karl Wagner can be reached at 203-274-5550. He will answer any questions.

SEO Russ Levine, P



The crew of Coast Guard Cutter Escanaba returned to Boston Thursday following a 70 day patrol in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Throughout the patrol, Escanaba's crew focused their efforts on search and rescue, vessel safety, and federal fisheries enforcement.

The crew assisted five people aboard the fishing boat Perseus after it became disabled 60 nautical miles off the coast of Massachusetts. The crew towed Perseus back to Boston.

Coast Guard Cutter Escanaba, known as "The Pride of Boston", is a 270-foot medium endurance cutter with a crew compliment of 100.



***I am not afraid of storms
for I am learning how to
sail my ship
—-Louisa May Alcott***

Walt Paul A Sailing Tale

The following was received from long-time member Walt Paul.

Continued from February *Dredgings*

The problem was the connection of the chain to the cable at the binnacle. Most steering chain master link connections (along with mine at the time) are made with a clip identical to that used to connect both ends of a chain on a bicycle. With a stroke of great fortune and Evie's prayers, we happened to have a spare set of clips I had received from Will Keene at Edson. I detached the cable from the quadrant inserted the new clips on the chain and reattached the cable to the quadrant. It was light out when everything was connected and snug.

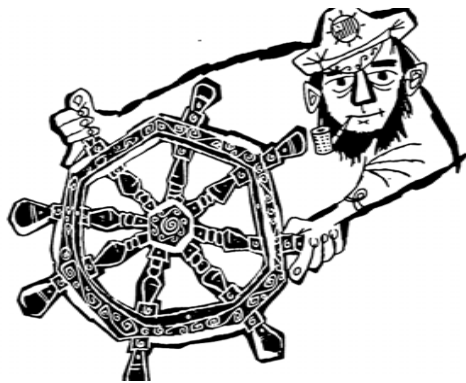
There is a lesson in all of this; those clips Will gave to me were similar but different. They have little cotter pins holding a retaining plate onto the posts. I don't mean to make this note sound like a sales call, but a prudent offshore cruiser, sail or power should consider changing the master links on the steering.

One last thought; Our emergency tiller was made from THIN wall tubing which has little strength. Ours became thick wall and easy to tell the difference as soon as we got to Ft. Lauderdale.

...the trend toward faster pleasure boats powered by bigger and bigger outboards ...has become unacceptable to boat in ways that are environmentally harmful.

Ben Emory
Maine
BoatU.S. Magazine

**Saugatuck River Sail and Power Squadron
6 Janson Drive
Westport, CT 06880**



Dates to Remember:

Ex Meeting	March 3, 2020
Ex Meeting	April 7, 2020

Schedule of Meetings and Events

SRSPS: http://www.usps.org/d2/saugatuck_river/index.html

Dredgings: http://www.usps.org/d2/d2_squadron_news.html

Date	Time	Event	Location
March 3	3:00 pm	Ex Committee	Westport Town Hall
April 7	3:00 pm	Ex Committee	Westport Town Hall