



Saugatuck River Sail And Power Squadron



Dredgings Monthly Newsletter

October 2020
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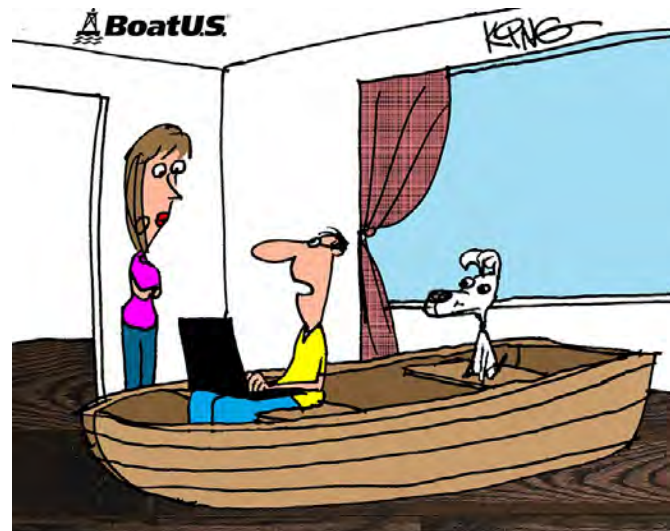
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Send your articles and address changes to P/C Stephen H. Raffel, SN, 6 Janson Drive, Westport, CT 06880 or email to the following: raffel@post.harvard.edu.

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.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB



"I'm taking an online boating class. I thought it would help me if I were actually in a boat."

Reprinted with permission Boat US

There is a full range of online courses, seminars and webinars available on the national USPS website.

Among the subjects that you can find are: Weather, Boat Handling, PWC instruction, Docking, Anchoring and many more.

<https://www.usps.org/>

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Our Westport town marinas are both full. That is the good news. The bad news is there seems to be a diminished use of these boats. While I have no numbers to prove this observation, I do very much sense less boating activity than in the years prior to Covid-19.

Notice the front page of this issue. Your boating education can certainly continue if you go to the Education page on the National website <https://www.usps.org/>. There is a most impressive number of education options.

One activity that did involve members gathering this summer was our traditional Compo Beach picnics. Those who attended had a wonderful time. Social distancing was observed and the sunsets were a highlight each time. If you didn't attend this year, put it on your calendar for next year. You won't be sorry you did.

Our days are not unlike a sailboat tacking back and forth against a headwind and strong current. We will surely survive this challenge if we continue to do all the right things—masks, hand washing, social distancing and keeping our spirits high.

Craig Burry, P
Commander

*It's out there at sea
that you are really yourself*
Vito Dumas

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. What is the rule of thirds as it applies to fuel?"
2. What are a few (but not all) safety tips for climbing a mast?
3. Worn spark plugs will likely result in what?
4. When dealing with rigging what one simple action should you take?

ANSWERS:

1. Use a third on the way out, a third for the way back and a third for reserve.
2. Be sure the mast and halyard are adequate, use the lightest capable person, use a bosun's chair, use a separate halyard attached to the climber.
3. Difficult starting, fouled plugs caused by unburnt fuel.
4. Be careful not to tape any surface in such as way that will allow water to accumulate.

Education Report

The SRSPS courses are all on hold as we go through this pandemic. As soon as we emerge from it, and it is safe to gather, we will announce the courses, their location and times.

I do hope you will at the very least look at the National Education page. There are many worthwhile offerings and how better to fill the dark days of winter?

Be well, be safe, wear your masks, wash your hands and follow social distancing at all times.

SEO Russ Levine, P



Propeller Safety

A typical three-blade propeller running at 3,200 rpm can inflict 160 impacts in one second. • A typical recreational propeller can travel from head to toe on an average person in less than one tenth of a second.

Most propeller accidents CAN be prevented! • Swimmers • Skiers • Tubers • Anglers • Wake Boarders And All Boaters

1. Be aware of what is going on around you! The captain of the boat is in command and must take responsibility for the safety of people in and around the boat.
2. Wear your engine cut-off switch lanyard and your life jacket at ALL times. If the lanyard is removed from the switch, the engine will shut off.
3. Assign a passenger to keep watch around the propeller area of your boat when people are in the water.
4. Read and follow all the safety instructions in your boat and engine operator's manuals.
5. Consider purchasing propeller safety devices for your boat.



Marine Safety Alert

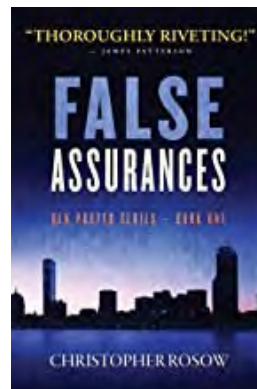
The Coast Guard has reported possible poor reception on VHF frequencies, digital selective calling (DSC) and automatic identification systems (AIS) when in the vicinity of light emitting diode (LED) lighting onboard ships.

In order to determine the full impact of this interference, the Coast Guard requests to those experiencing this problem to report their experience at this URL: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=contactUs>

Contribute by PDC Susan Darcy, JN

False Assurances

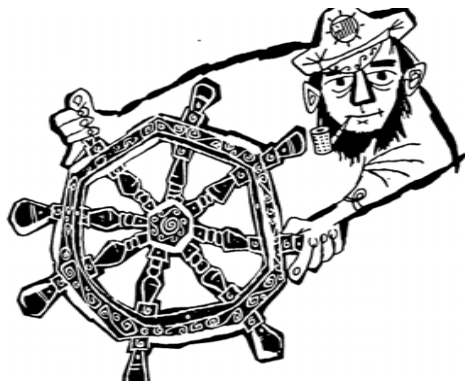
Looking for some exciting reading as you stay close to home? Here is a highly recommended book that was featured in *WindCheck Magazine*:



On the morning of July 12, 2017, the FBI Boston field office receives what appears to be a hoax call: a man rescued from the waters off Massachusetts has claimed that his sailboat was hijacked and used to smuggle weapons and terrorists into the United States. With local agents tasked to prepare for an evening Presidential visit to downtown Boston, and with procedures requiring a response to any threat, no matter how unreliable it may seem ...

Available on Amazon

**Saugatuck River Sail and Power Squadron
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Dates to Remember:

Ex Meeting	Oct 6
Ex Meeting	Nov 3

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
Oct 6	3:00 pm	Exec Committee Meeting	Westport Town Hall
Nov 3	3:00 pm	Ex Committee Tentative	Westport Town Hall