

# The Crown

## Storm King Power Squadron

Loyal Unit\* Of The United States Power Squadrons®



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Volume 35 July-August 2008

District 2



### Hi All Storm King Squadron Members,

Hope your summer has been going well and is full of wonderful boating experiences. Be sure to write them down and send them to me so that we can include them in our next issue of the Crown. SKPS had a full and exciting calendar of events since our last issue. To celebrate Safe Boating Week SKPS had several important and informative events. In May, Nat Sobelman, Yogi Ferro, and Tony Tucci distributed flyers on safe boating at the Newburgh Municipal Landing. There were many boaters and they did a wonderful job of educating the public – reminding all how important it is to wear your life jackets at all times – especially children. In June, Nat again along with George Ghirlando manned a booth at Cornwall's Riverfest. They distributed information on safe boating as well as USPS's new course PaddleSmart for kayaking and canoeing. They were assisted by P/D/C Martin Feldberg and his wife Alexandra (see picture pg. 8). In addition, since our last report, a number of our courses were given including another ABC Basic Boating Course – the success of our education program is due to our hardworking SEO Nat Sobelman and all the members who teach and proctor.

During our Annual June Family Picnic, SKPS celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Throughout those years we have had many exciting activities, taught numerous people about safe boating on the water, made many wonderful friends, and have grown to be quite a viable organization. A large number of family, friends, and members showed up, including District Commander Jeff Gerwig, for our celebration featuring tasty food (as usual), the Coast Guard came with their special boat and allowed all on board and answered questions, then the Cornwall Fire Department demonstrated the safe way to use fire extinguishers, and of course, we had our annual demonstration of the appropriate way to light flares. Congratulations to us all!!!

Our next major event is our Annual Rendezvous on July 18-20<sup>th</sup> at Hop-O-Nose at Catskill. It should prove to be another great time – although the gas situation has most of us being very cautious – we do encourage all to come – buddy up, share the ride whether by boat or car and come for a wonderful time with your friends.

Editor: Rose Moskowitz



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Now that the Summer Season has begun -- think safety and be sure to wear your life jacket and be sure that your guests wear them too.

**Remeber: Safety First**

## July Rendezvous 2008

**Hurry! Hurry!! Hurry!! Hurry!!**

Make your reservations for our fabulous annual July Rendezvous to be held at the Hop-O-Nose Marina Fri - Sun. July 18, 19 & 20th. It should prove to be another successful event and fun for all - with great food, fun, and friendship.

Please call Pete or Rose to reserve either a place for your boat for the weekend or make a reservation for Friday night dinner or full day of Saturday fun. Be sure to share your ride so more members can participate either on your boat or by car. \$10/person for either Saturday or for the full weekend by boat. Friday night dinner is price fix at \$17/person.

## From the Education Department

by Lt/C Nat Sobelman, P

**Advance Piloting:** SKPS is pleased to announce that we have received the "official word" that Bill and Amy Denison have passed their Advanced Piloting tests and have been awarded the grade of Advanced Pilot. Teacher Bryan Moskoiwtz did an excellent job of guiding his students through the the Advanced Piloting waters and bringing them safely to shore. Congratulations Bill and Amy.

**ABC Boating Course:** We offered another ABC Boating Course for 34 interested students at the 84 Diner on Saturday June 8th We had teachers and proctors which ensured the success of the class. A great big thank you to all members who attended and helped.

**Seamanship:** Two of our members, Alex Stach and John Cuneo completed their Seamanship and was finally awarded the grade of S (Seaman) on 24 April 2008. In addition, since John had successfully completed the Piloting course in January, he was awarded the grade of P (Pilot). Instructors Rose and Bryan Moskowitz once again offered another Seamanship Course From April - May teaching four of our newest members. We are awaiting the results of the tests from National in order to congratulate these additional four students.

Since it is summer and we are in the thick of boating season we do not offer courses at this time -- BUT...watch the next addition of the Crown with a whole list of wonderful courses to further your boating education.

## Benefits of a Vessel Safety Check

A Vessel Safety Check is a COURTESY of your local squadron. USPS is NOT law enforcement and does not report a failed VSCs to any government agency. There are absolutely NO NEGATIVES to participating in this free and courteous Vessel Safety Check. A Vessel Safety Check can identify SAFETY and money saving opportunities:

*\*By preventing citations by meeting federal and state and local safety equipment requirements.*

*\*By identifying educational and equipment-related possible boating insurance discounts.*

*\*By increasing awareness of safety practices to avoid accidents and costly breakdowns.*

A Vessel Safety Check can reduce accidents and injuries by educating the boater as to the value and use of marine safety equipment, and other safe practices on the water.

FOR A COURTESY VSC, CONTACT:

Bill Burbage, Safety Officer  
(845) 798-1762

[wburbage@sdtc.com](mailto:wburbage@sdtc.com)

or

Storm King Power Squadron  
(845) 863-4939

## Kudos and Accolades to SKPS Tony DiStefano

Our own Tony DiStefano had his Christmas Sailing Adventure to Key West published in the July/August issue of Good Old Boat. It was the same story written in the last Crown!!

Congratulations, Tony!!



## What is a Vessel Safety Check?

It is a free check of a vessel's equipment for compliance with federal, state and local safety requirements. Some of the items we check are:

- Proper display of numbers
- Registration/ Documentation
- Personal Flotation Devices
- Visual Distress Signals
- Fire extinguishers
- Ventilation
- Backfire Flame Control
- Sound Producing Devices
- Navigation Lights
- State & Local Requirements
- Overall Vessel Condition

## My Pal Duffy (Part 2)

by Bil Burbage, AP

Perhaps you may remember the story of My Pal Duffy in the last issue of the Crown ...well ...on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, Duffy graduated as an Explosive Detect-ion Canine (EDC) from ATF, Front Royal, VA. I promised Duffy when we went to the ATF, EDC Graduation for PBB puppies Dean and Baxter in December, 2007, that I would return to visit when he graduated. I wondered if Duffy would remember me five months later ...he did! Big time! This was an example of the tail "wagging the dog"! His eyes lit up in recognition when he saw me and I called his name. His Handler immediately said "You must be Bill". I guess Duffy told him all about me! In fact, during the Graduation Ceremony, they asked the members of the audience to stand up and give the name of the dog with which we were involved in training. I responded "Duffy" and he almost took his new Handler and Partner to me in the audience! He thought I was calling him to "come!" I had to give him the "stay" command signal with my hand! My wife and I are very proud of Duffy. I often told him that one day he would make an excellent EDC and someone in law enforcement a wonderful and devoted partner, and now he does. I explained to the audience present for the Graduation Ceremony that the real credit for the success stories in the PBB Program belong to the Raisers like Jason, and all the men and women in the various facilities who do such an amazing job in the care and training of these wonderful working dogs. I got a laugh when I said, as I always do, that the Raisers make us Sitters look good out in public! The ATF staff publicly acknowledged the outstanding accomplishments of everyone involved in the PBB Program and right-fully so. We should all be proud.

**We Are!! Thanks Bill!!!**

## SKPS CALENDAR 2008

All Regular meetings start at **7:30 PM** at Cornwall Yacht Club. They are held on the **Second Wednesday of each month.**  
All Bridge meeting start at **7:00 PM** at the Cornwall Yacht Club. They are held on the **First Wednesday of each month.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Comments</u>
July 18-20	Annual Rendezvous	Hop-O-Nose, Catskill, N.Y.
26	District Summer Council	Dolphin Cove Bridgeport Conn.
August 6	Bridge Meeting	7:00pm CYC



### Suggestions & Comments

by AO Lt/C Pete Skorewicz, P

As was discussed at prior meetings, we always welcome suggestions and comments about SKPS squadron activities. After all, this squadron's strength is composed of the good people we have with many ideas. Always feel free to talk to any bridge members about any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have.. ..

**Name tags:** -- To place an order please see Manny Sangervasio. It is great to wear your name tag to all our functions. Cost \$8.00 each.

### SKPS Burgee's Available

by AO Lt/C Pete Skorewicz, P

If you would like to purchase a SKPS burgee for your boat please let me know. I have 8 left and will be placing another order shortly with the company. The cost on the burgee is \$22.00 each. So if your burgee is worn out or you are a new member and want a burgee please let me know.

### SKPS Needs YOU!!

**The Education Department is looking for volunteers to help proctor or teach sections of the BoatSmart course. We need new blood and a new voice in our instruction. Even if you have never done anything like this before - we will guide you through the process as you discover how rewarding it can be. Call Nat or Wayne.**



Let's all be the beacon of light that illuminates the way to safe boating!

Here's to a safe and wondrous new season!!

### Important Notice --- Scholarship Awards

Each year SKPS awards scholarships to a graduating senior whose parent is a member of SKPS, CYC, MYC, and/or NYC. This year the award for \$250 was given to Christina Jordan from CYC. It's that time to begin thinking about an upcoming graduate and have them apply for this award. For further information and how to apply call Rich Hollahan.



### News From the Education Department

By Lt/C Nat Sobelman, P

We had another successful Basic Boating Course June 8<sup>th</sup> at the 84 Diner . We have 33 more safe boaters out there on the water. I would like to thank the members who gave up all or part of their Sunday to help teach and proctor and lend an important hand.

Four teachers: George Ghirlando, David Levi, Tony Tucci, & Nat Sobelman

Three proctors: Tony Martin, Pat Martin, Martin Feldberg; Registration: Alexandra Digillo-Feldberg; Computer: Bill Denison.

This brings our student total this year to 79.

## **MADDIE & ME**

**by Bill Burbage, AP**

Maddie is a three year old, female, black, Labrador Retriever, A.K.A. “Water Dog” hence ...see how I ease into this...dog ...water ...boat ....an appropriate story for a boating publication - the Storm King Power Squadron Publication! See the connection here? The Labrador Retriever is noted as adaptable, very quiet, very intelligent, easy going, very easy to train. The Labrador, or “Lab” as generally known, originated in England in the late 1800’s and traveled to Newfoundland to help fisherman recover nets and fish. More water associations ...definitely good story for a boating publication! Here was the start of their reputation as “working dogs” ...their double short cold weather coats ...their web toes ...their otter tail used as a rudder (rudder ....got it?), the floppy ears to keep the water out make them just perfect for this type of work in all types of weather conditions. In fact, the Lab is the most popular breed of dog by registered ownership in the world and in the United States and the United Kingdom! How’s that for popularity? O.K., I think you get the picture where we’re going here! I don’t know how many of you have read the very popular book on all the Best Book Selling lists ... it’s a very funny and sometimes sad account of a young couple facing the various challenges that life throws our way daily with a mischievous yellow Labrador Retriever named Marley, the book is entitled Marley and Me, and it can still be found on bookshelves to be read by avid Lab fans such as myself. Well, move over Rover ....err ... Marley - you’ve got some serious competition ...Maddie!

My wife and I adopted Maddie when she was just a pup ...10 weeks old ...rescued from Alabama by the Labrador Rescue Service, Bloomingburg, New York. I was on the lookout for an older dog such as a Lab for one of our residences that house several young men with “special needs”. I figured an older Lab would have all the qualities needed to fit into this lifestyle .... “take a lickin’ and keep on tickin’” ...it need be! I went on the web page and there was Maddie and Madison ...two eight week old black Labs, cute as can be! Well, I just happened to know the Founder of the Rescue Service.... made a call ... Madison was already adopted ... but Maddie was mine if I wanted her! I called my boss ...MaryAnn ...I can beg and plead with the best of them! I’ve learned how to do this from the best of them ...my kids! Five minutes on the phone and I had her melting like putty in my hands, besides... all the whining and begging “please ....please” ....how could she resist! So, off we went to pickup our little bundle of joy that evening ....so cute ....so small ...such sharp baby teeth! Our first night was fairly uneventful, Maddie seemed to welcome her new home ....her new feathered step-brother Paddy, our Cockatiel, her new step-sister Samantha, our senior citizen cat...by the way...both Paddy and Samantha are adopted pets - we just can’t say no! So...back to our first night of bliss before our lovable little “terrorist” showed her true colors! Maddie slept in her kennel next to my bed ...not a peep ....up at 3:30am for the first week to go out to potty – back to sleep to 7:00am. I must say, she “housetrained” almost immediately! “What a good pup?” Says you! “Not quite” says me! The fun started as she has the distinct honor and reputation as the “most difficult” puppy ...Lab puppy I have ever trained! Even the jail dogs were a piece of cake and I’ve had a few of them whose reputation proceeded them! Nothing ...NOTHING ... ABSOLUTELY NOTHING...stopped her from her terrorist activities! Jumping up and play biting with those razor sharp puppy teeth, coming when called ....yeah right! Adios Amigo!!! I’m heading South towards the border!! I’ll “come” back for dinner! We tried all the various training methods known to mankind! Read just about every Dog Training book published: water spray ...now that was dumb! It’s a water dog! What were you thinking?? Shock treatment ...yeah that worked ...she wanted to eat the control! She was like the “Energizer Bunny” but her batteries NEVER ran down! We actually lodged her in a kennel for a weekend and never felt a moment of guilt ... nor did we miss her; in fact, we gleefully partied hardy! After a very brief weekend ....we wondered if the kennel owners would realize we hadn’t returned for Maddie! We did, however, guilt. “Professional dog training” is what we need...PetSmart ...training classes for puppies ...8 weeks ....the answer to our prayers!

Actually, if you study Maddie’s photo closely ...you will notice her jacket stating that she is a Certified Therapy Dog with Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. Maddie has her Doctorate in Dog Training ... 32 weeks of training at the levels of Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Canine Good Citizenship (notice ship in that word) and Therapy Dog Training & Testing. My “Terrorist” is now a TD - she worked very hard ...and I’m very proud of her. She turned out matured, into a very loving adult dog who takes her job very seriously ....when I take her to work and put her jacket and Identification Card on ...it’s all business! She brings lots of happiness and comfort to everyone she comes into contact with, - especially adults and children with disabilities. Amazingly, my “terrorist” has a calming effect on autistic children, not always an easy task. Dogs are being trained to do all sorts of important work as assistance and service dogs for their human companions and Maddie is doing her part to bring a little joy into the hearts of those in need of her “special” talents. Works for me!

## Boating in Zihuatanejo, Mexico

by Amy and Bill Denison



*We left the May springtime of Dutchess County and traveled to Zihuatanejo, Mexico in search of relaxation time and the heat of the tropics and to celebrate our 30th anniversary! It is always summer in Mexico with the temperatures never going much below 80. We stayed in a lovely condominium built into the side of a cliff. It was a ten-story walk to the beach so we only did that once a day and stayed at the beach all day watching the blue water and many boats criss crossing the bay. There was a nice reef just off the beach, which was a great place to snorkel and try to identify the many types of reef fish. We also spotted a sea snake.*

*There were many beach vendors that approached us who were selling everything from jewelry to Mexican pottery. One such vendor was named Moses. He was a fisherman who had a Panga boat for hire. We could not resist talking about fishing and he showed us some pictures of large fish that were caught from his boat. His son, Kenny would be our captain on this 23-foot Panga boat. We wanted to know if he had the required safety equipment and he answered of course “yes”. How about a radio? “Yes” again. He even told us there was a bathroom on board.*

*Kenny met us the next morning at 08:30. The inside of the boat was bright pink and we looked for the life vest. Yes, they were on board. The radio turned out to be an AM/FM cassette. There was no compass but Kenny has boated in these waters all his life and we were not going far off shore. So, off we go for a day of fishing. On the way we cruised next to jagged rocks of the Pacific. It was very spectacular scenery. We managed to catch about 10 black tuna. We stopped at Ixtapa Island where we were treated to local cuisine of sushi from the fresh caught tuna and also some fresh tortillas stuffed with tuna. “Yummo” as Rachael Ray would say. The local Pacifico and Modelo beer also tasted good. On the way back we spotted the waters just boiling with tuna feeding and we caught a few more fish that we gave to a local man who hitched a ride back with us. The people of Mexico were so nice and friendly and the food was authentic Mexican. We are looking forward to going back again.*



**Boaters Unite -- Message from Boat US**

Dear BoatUS Member,

We need your help now to pass NEW federal legislation in the Senate that would provide a permanent exemption for recreational boats from the upcoming EPA discharge permit requirement. Remember that if we don't get legislation passed, we all need to get EPA permits to operate our boats effective 9/30/08!

We appreciate the time that many of you have already taken to let your Senators or Representatives know your support of S. 2067 or HR 2550 "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007." **Now there is a new Senate Bill #2766 "The Clean Boating Act of 2008", which is more politically viable, and our best chance to eliminate the permit requirement before it comes in effect on September 30, 2008.**

**Please pick up the phone or email today and ask our Senators to sponsor and vote YES for: S 2766.** Congress may soon be on recess, we need their staff to hear from us so that this bill can move as soon as the Senators are back in Washington.

Remember to contact both of your Senators:  
[Visit BoatBlue.org](http://BoatBlue.org)

New York  
**Senator Hillary Clinton (D)** (202) 224-4451  
**Senator Chuck Schumer (D)** (202) 224-6542

**Membership Report**

*by Manny Sangervasio. AP*

We have a number of new members joining SKPS. Some new to USPS and others have transferred from Tappan Zee Powever Squadron – we are proud and delighted to have all our new members join us in safe boating, education and social activities.

The names of the new members are:  
Tom O'Connor, James Dougherty, Denise Mallon, & Paul Kluckman and Fred & Margo Shneider



**WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?**

by Cdr. George P. Ghirlando, AP

**BIBLE:** I have been researching words for the past couple of years that are derived to the language of the sea and adopted for land use. Well, now I am learning there are many nautical terms that are derived from the land. Apparently as ships evolved into more complex structures, new names had to be found for all the new parts that were added to the ships. Most of these words are derived from common household items. A number of others are related to matters that might be a normal part of household life, customs and conversation. Bible is one of those words.

It is in nautical terms the small block of sandstone that was used for scraping and scouring the deck each morning on Man-o'-War. So named because the sailor had to get down on his knees to do the job. Also commonly know as a "holystone"; the allusion is obvious.

Next time we will look at the word, Prayer book, as another word of the sea that comes from land use.  
(Source: SHIP TO SHORE by Peter D. Jeans)



**My Pal Duffy**  
**by Bill Burbage**



**My Maddie**



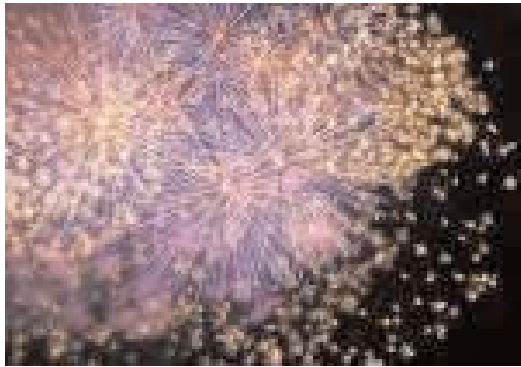
**Duffy Graduates**



*Our own P/D/C Martin Feldberg and his wife Alexandra at Riverfest*



*Flare Demonstration at our Annual Picnic at CYC*



***Happy 4th of July and Happy birthday to the United States of America***



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