

CURRENT SET AND DRIFT

Fall 2009

Westchester Sail and Power Squadron, a Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

WSPS Commander Frank E. Palmieri, AP



The Gift of Safety

Happy Holidays to all!

It is that time of year when good cheer and gift exchanges between family and friends are at the forefront of our thoughts. Are you trying to justify the expense of a gift in this tight economy? How about giving the gift of boating safety? I cannot think of any better expression of love or caring than considering someone's personal welfare.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- Over two-thirds of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, ninety (90) percent were not wearing a life jacket.
- Only ten percent of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instruction.

Here are some suggestions:

If you have a friend or family member that boats, how about buying them a safety course if they have not already taken it? On the other hand, if they have taken it, offer it as a refresher. Things have changed over the years. We are also offering seminars in Basic Coastal Navigation. Take a look at our schedule in the newsletter. If you need a gift certificate for any of our courses or seminars, let me know. I can provide one very quickly. All seminars are open to the public.

How about buying that special someone a brand new, top-of-the-line inflatable life jacket or a personal strobe/locator to go with his or her existing jacket?

Does a close relative have an older shipboard VHF? Why not replace it with a newer radio with DSC? There is also an upcoming seminar on using VHF with DSC so they will know how to use it. How about handheld VHF as a backup to the shipboard model?

USPS now lists the GPS as an essential piece of navigation equipment and they have become incredibly inexpensive. Many do dual duty for road and water but these are more expensive. WSPS has a seminar scheduled that teaches how to use the GPS, also. Shipboard first aid kits are invaluable in an emergency. I'll bet the kit already aboard has a number of expired items and should be replaced.

There is, of course, much more one can come up with but space is limited.

Thinking of you, dear member, this Holiday Season.

Warmest Regards and don't forget our Holiday Party on December 17th.

Commander Frank E. Palmieri, AP

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Two Local Lighthouses

The Execution Rocks and Stepping Stones lighthouses are familiar sights, to everyone who has sailed the western end of the Long Island Sound.

Execution Rocks. Located in the middle of the Sound, between Sands Point on Long Island and David's Island in New Rochelle.



The lighthouse, painted white with a brown band in the middle, is 55 feet tall, with a flashing white light.

It is built on the largest exposed rock in the middle of dangerous rocky reefs, called "Execution Rocks". **One story, never proved,** says that the rocks received their name before the American Revolution. British authorities, in an effort to avoid public executions, chained condemned prisoners to rings in the rocks at low tide, leaving them to drown as the tide rose. Retribution is said to have come when a British ship, loaded with soldiers sent to pursue George Washington as he retreated to White Plains, struck the rocks and went down with all on board. A less grisly source for the name is that it was coined by Manhasset Neck residents because so many ships were **wrecked ("executed")** on the rocks going into Manhasset Bay. Some say that the ghosts of the men who died on the rock reef have been sighted near the light station. **Allegedly, due to the rock's ghostly history,** the US Lighthouse Service relieved any keeper from duty without question

Congress appropriated funds for a light at the site because the Sands Point Light was not sufficiently effective at warning sailors of the danger in storms and fog. The light went into service in 1850, initially tended by the keeper of the Sands Point Light. Later keepers lived in the bottom of the tower until **the keeper's house was built in 1867.** The light was manned until 1979 when it was automated. In 2007 the Coast Guard closed

the lighthouse, although it retains responsibility for the light itself. Historically Significant Structures received the deed for the lighthouse and now runs occasional public tours of the site.

Stepping Stones. This lighthouse is also located at the western end of the Sound near the junction of the East River and the Sound. It is a red brick tower in the Second Empire style, and is 49 feet tall, with an occulting green light.

The rocky reefs crossing the Sound in this **area have been called "stepping stones"** since the colonial period or earlier. Some colonial maps call this area of the Sound the "Devil's Belt" and the reefs the "Devil's Stepping Stones". **One version** of a Native American legend tells how the Siwanoy Indians chased the devil, Habboamoko, out of Connecticut to the north shore of the Sound. Habboamoko was able to escape safely across the Sound to Long Island at low tide on the stepping stones formed by the rocks. Furious at the Siwanoy, he threw boulders back across the Sound which explained why New England is so rocky.



When shipping traffic through the Sound increased in the 1860s, Congress appropriated funds for a lighthouse which would replace a buoy on Hart Island and mark a clear channel through the area. The Lighthouse Board decided to build the lighthouse in its present location, 1600 yards offshore, when they could not procure land on Hart Island. Construction on the **lighthouse, a keeper's house** attached to a square tower, began in 1875. The light went into service in 1877. In 2006 the Coast Guard decided to dispose of the lighthouse although, like Execution Rocks, they are still responsible for the light itself. The lighthouse has been offered to suitable organizations and the town of North Hempstead has expressed interest.

Source: www.lighthousefriends.com

Ron's Corner #5 December 2009



I want to be the first to pedal a paddleboat solo across the North Atlantic in winter. Sailing the Sound is too ordinary; I want to do something nautically adventurous. My

paddleboat will be sailing-pond-stock, no high-tech modifications to detract from its sweet simplicity. I will have an **LL Bean** raincoat and ball cap for foul weather, a **Suunto** pocket compass, **FiberOne** chewy bars and Poland spring water. I think they would sponsor my trip but I would have to graffiti the boat with their logos. "Across the Pond" will be the title of my memoir.....maybe.

If you've read this far, I know that some of you are already wishing me well and the others have proof that something's not right. Anyway, I was inspired by a new biography: *A Pearl in the Storm: How I Found My Heart in the Middle of the Ocean* by Tori Murden McClure, Collins 2009. She is the first woman to row solo across both the North and South Atlantic. Tori McClure built, with the help of friends, a 23' open rowboat



with a small aft cabin and took it to sea. Aside from her courage and

skill, there is another story about the overwhelming power of the sea. No matter how much planning, preparation and redundancy of systems, the ocean applied **Murphy's Law**. Strong through bolts that had been heavily sealed with epoxy and covered in fiberglass leaked, then failed. Fittings of all kinds were swept from the deck; nothing could withstand the water.

Now, as you know, during this winter between our summer sailing, is the time

to repair, rebuild or simply clean our boats. Sailing local waters is no guarantee **the familiar sound won't up and bite you in the!**

SEO Report

The squadron education function was busy this fall teaching two ABC boating classes and an excellent Engine Maintenance class taught by P/C Ron Gabel AP. And we are just initiating our Piloting Class and our Seminar Series. So far we have acquired 3 new members, and provided boating education to a dozen boaters. Check out our schedule of classes and seminars in the upcoming events and join us for these really great boating educational opportunities

Recipe from Marie's Galley

EMPANADAS

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 package refrigerated pizza dough (about 1 pound)
Flour for the work surface
16 oz can refried beans
1 pint container fresh salsa
8 oz. package shredded Cheddar
Sour cream (optional)



- Heat oven to 400 F.
- Spread 1 teaspoon of oil on a baking sheet.
- Divide the dough into 6 equal portions. Roll each into an 8 inch round on a lightly floured surface.
- On half of each round, spread some of the beans, then top with 1 1/2 tablespoons of the salsa and 2 tablespoons of the cheese. Fold over the other half of each round, covering the filling, and press the curved edge with your thumb to seal. Lightly brush the tops of the empanadas with the remaining oil, then transfer to the baking sheet.
- Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden.

Serve with a dollop of sour cream on the side, if desired.

Slices of avocado go nicely with this.

Serves 6

District 2-Fall Council – WSPS Awards

The District 2 **Fall Council** meeting was held on 23-25 Oct. 2009 in Lake George, NY. Westchester Sail and Power Squadron was well represented by Commander Frank Palmieri, SEO John Steger District Law Officer and P/C Irwin Staple. The meeting featured National Education officer V/C Robert Sweet SN. Bob is the author of several books we use in our classes such as



NEO V/C Robert Sweet SN

the ***Weekend navigator*** and ***GPS for Mariners.*** His presentation was one of the best we've heard from a National representatives and inspired all the SEO's and members with his insights and the knowledge that USPS courses are considered the best in the country. Many organizations including US Coast Guard Auxilliary have requested

to use our material. Bob was also the "brains" behind the initiation of the current popular USPS Seminar series.

The meeting also saw WSPS garner several awards for our activities promoting boating safety to Girl Scouts, teaching kids with disabilities, and participating in the wounded warriors program and promoting safety at the Post Marine boating store. For all these activities, we received the Chapman award for boating Safety. In addition we have several certificates and awards for Bob and Pam Kelly for their achievements during the D/2 Summer council!

Not only was the meeting informative, but the evening dinner sail on Lake George was fun, exciting and enjoyable. Building on our growing relationship with the members of the Cross County Power Squadron we enjoyed good friends, great food, dancing and a wonderful evening.

District meetings are work but can be very productive and informative. The Winter District 2 meeting is scheduled for 27 February in Poughkeepsie NY. You do not have to be an officer to attend; you will learn a lot about what makes the USPS tick and also have some fun. We encourage you to join us at the next District Meeting in Poughkeepsie.



WSPS Planned Upcoming Events

Dec. 8	Piloting Class (11 week class)
Dec. 10	Chart Reading Seminar
Dec. 17	Holiday Party
Jan. 7	WSPS Executive Meeting
Jan 14	Using GPS Seminar
Jan. 28	General Meeting at Orienta Yacht Club
Feb. 2	Begin ABC Class (8 week class)
Feb. 4	WSPS Executive Meeting
Feb. 11	VHF/DSC Marine Radio Seminar
Feb. 25	General Meeting at Orienta Yacht Club
Feb. 27	D/2 Winter Council – Poughkeepsie NY
March 4	Joint WSPS/CCPS COW
March 18	Coastal Navigation Seminar
March 20	ABC one day class
March 25	General Meeting at Orienta Yacht Club
April 6	Begin Marine Electronics (8 wk class)
April 9-10	D/2 Spring Conference
April 15	Knots, Bends, Hitches Seminar
April 22	General Meeting

(Please call 914 472-5520 to confirm dates)



WSPS Birthdays



DECEMBER

Steven Skalicky	06 Dec.
Walter O. Baggett	15 Dec.
Edmond Malone	15 Dec.
Eddie Lee Armour	18 Dec.
Frederick Cronin	23 Dec.
Jack Berger	24 Dec.
Anthony Weiner	28 Dec.
Ronald D. Sernau	29 Dec.
Egbert Jan de Vries	30 Dec.

JANUARY

John C. Sabatino	01 Jan.
Jack Kraft	02 Jan.
Gilbert Landy	12 Jan.
Doug Ratford	17 Jan.
Irwin Staple	23 Jan.
Peter Lavery	26 Jan.
Ed Rippstein	28 Jan.

FEBRUARY

Herbert Gardner	07 Feb.
Stephen Kost	07 Feb.
Luis Carter	09 Feb.
Michael Quartararo	11 Feb.
Robert Lent	21 Feb.

MARCH

Candyce Corcoran	03 Mar.
Alan Goldman	04 Mar.
Kate Dillon	12 Mar.
Andrew Mancusi	14 Mar.
John Steger	16 Mar.
Eugene Laska	17 Mar.
Michael Dillon	22 Mar.
Gustave Wormuth	22 Mar.
Paul Okura	24 Mar.
Kenneth Waldemar	27 Mar.
Mary Broderick	30 Mar.

**WSPS wishes all these members
Healthy and Happy Birthday!**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CROSS COUNTY POWER SQUADRON

WESTCHESTER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

JOINT 2009 HOLIDAY PARTY



17 DECEMBER 2009

THURSDAY at 7 for Dinner
AT THE New Rochelle Rowing Club



- ** A HOT DINNER BUFFET **
- ** HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE **
- ** MERRIMENT & FRIENDS **
- ** MUSIC & DANCING **

FREE HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY

PLEASE BRING:

A. WRAPPED GIFT for the Holiday Gift Exchange - value about \$10 - married man, woman, or unisex

PLEASE ALSO BRING AT LEAST 2 MORE THINGS:

- I. (2) Yourself - and your guests (tell us how many are coming)
- II. (3) Money for the 50-50 and the game of skill!!!
- III. (4) Wine and beer will be served. If you'd like "booze", bring your favorite.

Reservations needed by Saturday, Dec. 12

RSVP: P/C Virginia Moore - 914-963-9409
 CMDR. Frank Palmieri 914-997-1940
 PLEASE ASK VIRGINIA OR FRANK WHAT YOU CAN BRING
 FOR DINNER, HORS D'OEUVRES, BEVERAGES OR DESSERT



THE NEW ROCHELLE ROWING CLUB
 is on HUDSON PARK ROAD in New Rochelle
 Across from the New Rochelle Marina
 PLENTY OF PARKING IN THE LOT NEXT TO THE CLUB



Westchester Sail and Power Squadron

Presents

FOUR GREAT BOATING SEMINARS

ONE EVENING ON EACH TOPIC

1. How to Use a Nautical Chart **Thursday, Dec. 10**

Where to go and how to get there. Even with GPS and electronic navigation aids, the chart is needed to tell you what is around you and between you and your destination. Navigation aids, landmarks and contour lines are easy to identify, once you know how. We also have photos and descriptions of local harbors to make next summer's trip a snap! Instructor: Cmdr. Frank Palmieri AP

2. Using your GPS **Thursday, Jan. 14**

It's different from your car!! Waypoint Navigation? You can do it. What the buttons do, what the screens show, and how to access the functions you need. Learn about the problems and traps in GPS and how to side-step them. Bring your own GPS unit and we will try to help you out, but if you don't own a GPS - come and learn what features to look for when you do want to buy one. Instructor: Cmdr. Frank Palmieri AP

3. VHF & VHF/DSC marine Radio **Thursday, Feb. 11**

Learn about "The Red Button" VHF is useful on board - but how is it different from a cell phone? What about the RED BUTTON for search and rescue in event of emergency? How does it work - what do I have to do to make it work? Bring your VHF if you want and we will help answer your questions. Instructor: PIC Ron Gabel AP

4. Basic Coastal Navigation **Thursday, Mar. 18**

Do you know how to get there safely? Simple boat navigation with GPS and electronics. Learning what navigation is and how to use the tools of navigation? How to plan for your trip and respond to special conditions. Solving for course, speed and distance using special techniques. Waypoint navigation fundamentals: Overview of electronic navigation. Considering water depth and tides. Instructor: Cmdr. Frank Palmieri AP

Each Seminar is \$25 per person (includes booklet and laminated guide)

Seminars start at 7:30 pm and go until 9:30 pm

ALL SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCHEAMBEAU SCHOOL

228 Fischer Ave. White Plains

Register for any or all (take two get the 3rd free) by sending an email to: fwsteger@hotmail.com

Or calling 914 472-5520



Westchester Sail and Power Squadron



2009-2010

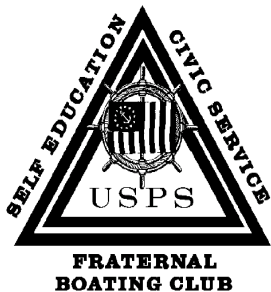
COMMANDER:
EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
EDUCATION OFFICER:
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER:
SECRETARY:
TREASURER:
ASSISTANT SEO:
FLAG OFFICER:
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cdr. Frank E. Palmieri, AP
Lt/C Walter O. Baggett, AP
Lt/C John Steger, AP
Lt/C Norwood Beveridge, P
Lt/C Ruth E. Harkin, S
Lt/C John W. Wroblewski, S
1st /Lt Dennis McGrath, AP
P/C Ron Gabel, AP
P/C Alan Goldman, AP
Cristiano Tannure, S

Fleet Captain:
Historian:
Law Officer:
Auditor:

Douglas Ratford, AP
P/C Marie Lambert, P
P/C Robert P. Kelly, JN
P/C William F. Gratz, SN

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Please help WSPS save money and a few trees! Send an email to jwsteger@gmail.com to request electronic delivery of the WSPS Newsletter and most other WSPS correspondence.