

# CURRENT SET AND DRIFT

Winter 2009

Westchester Sail and Power Squadron: *A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons*©

## WSPS Commander Frank E. Palmieri, AP



Well, suddenly it is 2009 and it is hard to believe that last year passed so quickly. When I look back with regard to the squadron, I see an organization that has become very much alive, vibrant and growing. In short, a vigorous Westchester Sail and Power Squadron. Here are some of our activities in 2008:

1. Change of Watch – joint activity with CCPS (March)
2. Blessing of the Fleet – joint party with CCPS (June)
3. WSPS Commander's Party – joint party with CCPS (September)
4. Seasonal District 2 Conferences
5. Girl Scout Boating Safety Day
6. Manning USPS booth at Norwalk Boat show
7. General Meeting – NY Rowing Association program at NRRC
8. General Meeting – Herb Gardner presentation on Intracoastal Waterway
9. Thursday Night Sails – 12 evenings on the water
10. Wednesday/Friday night fireworks cruises to Rye Beach – 3 cruises
11. Holiday Party – Joint party with CCPS
12. Education:
  - a. Advanced piloting class
  - b. Seamanship class
  - c. Squadron Boating Class – three classes

- d. Chart Reading Seminar– (two classes)
  - e. GPS Seminar – (two classes)
  - f. Sail Trim and Rig Tuning Seminar
  - g. Anchoring Seminar
13. Four Newsletters and a Photo Supplement
  14. Updated Web page

The number of events seems impressive and is a testament to the planning of the Squadron's Bridge (to whom I am indebted) and working closely with our friends at CCPS (which has been a joy). However, no matter how many events we plan, the **quality** of those events, which was unsurpassed, could only occur with the participation of you, our members, your families and our friends. In fact, the best part of all this has been and will always be enjoying your company. On reflection then, for 2008, despite what the Financial Markets may say, with such quantity and quality, I think we have been enriched a thousand fold.

What will 2009 bring? With your help, more, much more, of the same! Take a look at our Schedule of Events for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2009 in this newsletter and plan to join us. In fact, if there is any one of you that would like to join us on the Bridge, to teach a course or to help out at an event, please let me know. Help us build an even richer Westchester Sail and Power Squadron 2009!

## A NEW YORK HARBOR TOUR ABOARD

### AMERICA II

By Dennis McGrath

In another Newsletter, a second part will provide historical background information leading up to the 27<sup>th</sup> America Cup and *America II's* performance in the pre-Cup trials held in Freemantle, Australia.

What is the perfect birthday present that an 'old' sailor could possibly receive from his significant other and life's partner? How about an opportunity to sail on *America II*, a sleek sailing vessel that once competed for the America's Cup? For a sailor who had sold his 34-foot Tartan sailboat a little more than a year ago and was feeling a little sailing deprived, being at the helm where racers competed wasn't just appealing, it was a dream come true. The web site [www.bigapplesailing.com](http://www.bigapplesailing.com) described several sailing opportunities in New York Harbor, and Diana and I chose a late afternoon sail on *America II* weekend before my birthday.



We first saw *America II* lying quietly on a Med-mooring in the North Cove Marina on the Hudson River in Battery Park City.

Who knew? The Manhattan Sailing Club had purchased *America II* as their flagship vessel last year and brought her

back from Hawaii to their home base. Since *America II* was originally built by the New York Yacht Club to compete in the 1987 America Cup races in Freemantle, Australia, this was a return home of sorts for the vessel. We meet the captain, Zander Lassen; the crew; and the five other paying guests at the dock. Zander is a relatively young guy from England who initially came to the U.S. to attend college and study art. He got a part-time job as a sailing instructor at the Manhattan Sailing Club to help pay his tuition. He enjoyed it so much that he stayed on after college and has worked his way up to his current position as head of the club's sailing school; he also serves as an alternate captain on the *America II*. The crew that day consisted of eight members of the club. Each of them was required to meet certain qualifications before they could serve as an *America II* crewmember.

There was no direct access to the boat from the dock, so a tender was available to ferry all of us – it took three trips. Coming alongside and preparing to board *America II*, it was immediately apparent that this was not a boat for the faint of heart. This 68-foot long, sleek-looking boat with a dark blue hull, flat deck, towering mast, and huge sails was a far cry from the relatively comfortable 21 – 51 foot cruising sailboats that either Diana or I had sailed on. Seating was very limited and even the areas where you could sit did not look very comfortable. Also, there was no cabin below for passengers to seek refuge from the weather or

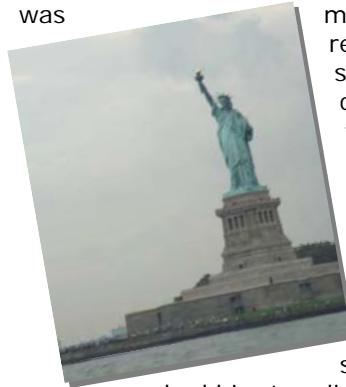
store the limited amount of gear that we brought aboard, there was no head, and there were no lifelines. The tender assisted us in our release from the mooring and the boat's inboard diesel engine took us out of the marina into the Hudson River. The extra weight of an engine was a luxury that did not exist when this boat raced competitively.

After initial introductions, Zander asked who among the paying guests had sailing experience

and who were interested in serving as supplemental crewmembers. That was the exact moment I was hoping for and in a matter of nanoseconds, my hand shot up; two others also volunteered. Each of us was assigned to a grinding station. I soon realized that the grinders are the real engines on an America's Cup boat because you work the winches that reel in the genoa sheets and mainsail halyard. Initially we expended an exhaustive amount of energy setting the sails, and then we caught a break during a long run, only to be followed by intensive sudden bursts of energy resetting the genoa sheet after a tack or gibe. The rest of the crew was assigned to various stations: trimmers (starboard and port), bow, mast, traveler, and runners. All in all, we formed an enthusiastic and complete crew.



After several long tacks that took us past Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and on course towards the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, I was not sure if Zander's initial offer for me to take the helm was only because it was



my birthday or because he recognized my 'extensive sailing experience and capabilities'. I prefer to think that I paid my dues at the grinding station, thereby earning the privilege to take the helm.

In any case, Zander let one other paying guest take the helm after me, but after a comparatively short period of time, Zander

asked him to relinquish it. I was then offered another opportunity to re-take the helm and guide us back to the marina on the final legs of our sail.

At one point with the knot meter reading about 6 knots, one of the crew shouted something about 10 knots being their 'normal' cruising speed. That was all I needed to hear. I took it as a challenge and before long we were heeled over with the rail almost in the water and the knot meter climbing, but alas it never quite reached 10 knots. How could I know that behind me Diana was desperately trying to find ways to hold on and avoid sliding overboard?

Taking the helm of *America II* was the certainly the highlight of more than 30 years of my sailing experience. I cannot even begin to describe what it felt like to stand at the helm and feel the power of that boat. Overall, I estimated that I had the helm for about two hours on what ultimately was a 3.5 hour adventure. The sky was gray, overcast and a little threatening the entire time we were on the water, but the winds were relatively light. Nonetheless, this boat with its huge sails responded to the slightest wisp of a breeze. Throughout the afternoon we glided through the water effortlessly, avoiding container ships, two cruise ships, several barge-towing tugs, numerous water taxis, and all sorts of other commercial and recreational watercraft. Just the normal hectic weekend traffic in New York harbor, but oh, it was an experience that this 'old' sailor will never forget!



**RECIPES FROM MARIE'S GALLEY**  
**BY Marie Lambert**

**BLUEBERRY CREAM CHEESE**

From Regina Tannure.

(This was served at our Holiday Party to rave reviews!)

CRUST: 9" x 13" Pan

- 1 Stick of Butter (room temperature)
- 1 ½ cups chopped walnut
- 1 cup of flour
- ¼ cup of brown sugar

Cream butter & sugar (stir).

Add nuts and flour to the cream butter & sugar (stir).

Bake at 300°. for 15 minutes. Stir a couple times while baking.

Filling: 8 oz cream cheese (room temperature)

- 1 pint heavy whipping cream
  - 1 tsp. vanilla
  - ¾ cup powdered sugar
  - 21 oz Comstock blueberry pie filling
  - 4 small fresh blueberry packages
- Combine the blueberry filling and fresh blueberries

Blend cream cheese and sugar. Stir in vanilla.

Whip the whipping cream until stiff... Fold into cream cheese mixture. Pour into cooled crust. Top with blueberries.



**JIFFY CORN**

**PUDDING**

- 2 sticks of butter
- 2 cans whole corn, drained
- 2 cans creamed corn
- 16 ounces sour cream
- 2 boxes of Jiffy corn bread mix

Preheat oven 350 degrees

Melt butter in 13x9 baking dish

Put corns and sour cream in pan and mix well

Sprinkle Jiffy over all and stir lightly

Bake 45 minutes

**New Members**

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the squadron:

**Kate Dillon**, of Riverdale, NY - Interested in all aspects of sailing and boating.

**Sophie Wilhelm**, of New York City, NY - Sophie just completed the Squadron Boating class.

**Gene Balboa**, of White Plains, NY – Gene is a doctor and a new motor boater.

## Joint CCPS WSPS Holiday Party

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen... But do you recall, the most enjoyable holiday party of all? Well, with the superb planning of CCPS P/C Virginia Moore and Lt/C Peggy Howland and the assistance of WSPS Commander Frank Palmieri and others, a wonderful Holiday Party for the two squadrons was held on Dec. 12. Over 40 members and friends of the squadrons attended along with District Administrative Officer D/Lt/C Frank DeBaggis and his wife Tena. There was plenty of delicious food provided by many talented cooks, (including a delightful blueberry cheesecake provided by Regina Tannure – recipe included in this newsletter) presents and raffles and wonderful camaraderie with new and old friends. It was a great time to get together and reminisce about the fun sails and adventures we experienced together during the past boating season, and discuss new possibilities for the upcoming season. We had plenty to be thankful for as another year closes, and we appreciate all the more our boating friends and colleagues.



## Squadron Education Officer (SEO) Report

*LT/C John Steger, AP (914.472.5520)*

With most boats tucked up for the winter months, and boaters with time to increase and improve their



nautical knowledge we had a rather full schedule of classes and seminars this fall. The Squadron Boating Class ran for several weeks, and all attendees passed their exam with flying colors. Commander Frank Palmieri was the primary instructor with assistance from Lt/C John

Steger. The class also resulted in three new members, Kate Dillon, Sophie Wilhelm, and Gene Balboa to whom we extend a warm welcome. We also ran an excellent Sail Trim and Rig Tuning Seminar in October taught by Steve Perry, and a very well attended Anchoring Seminar in November. Our VHF/DSC Marine Radio Seminar was postponed because of scheduling difficulties. A Weather class, conducted by CCPS is ongoing and will complete in February. The Engine Maintenance class was cancelled because of lack of interest.



Possibly our timing for this class was poor since most boaters had already winterized their engines before the scheduled start of the class. We may try to schedule this class in the spring before members launch their boats.

In December, a new Education Committee was formed with members of Westchester Sail and Power Squadron and Cross County Power Squadron with the intention of providing the best boating education available in lower Westchester, Yonkers, and the Bronx. City Island Power Squadron has also been invited to join this group. The results of our joint scheduling and plans will be evident in the classes and seminars scheduled this spring.

We have a Squadron Boating Class scheduled to start on Feb. 10. The full spring schedule of classes and seminars are included in this newsletter.

Please contact me ([jwsteger@hotmail.com](mailto:jwsteger@hotmail.com) or on 914 472-5520) for further information about classes or seminars you would like. Our new schedule will be published in our newsletter and sent to you by email, or check out the schedule of WSPS education offerings on the USPS website: <http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin/fclass.cgi?QWestchester>.



## Volunteers Still Needed

Can you spare an hour or two per month to help your fellow WSPS members? WSPS sure could use your help! We have several Committee positions that are currently open. So please give us a call and lend a hand. It's because of members like you that the Squadron is able to function. Thanks for your help.



### For Sale:

#### **NEW Lewmar Delta 22 lb Fast Set Anchor**

For power boats 32-39'; sail boats 34-41'  
List Price: \$245; Defender Price \$172

Yours for only \$125 - Cash & Carry from Mamaroneck

Contact: Fred Cronin 914-393-3286



### District 2 Meeting – Jan 31, 2009

Commander Frank Palmieri and SEO John Steger attended the D/2 meeting in Poughkeepsie on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Among other things, during this meeting the new On-the-Water program was explained along with the requirements for instructor certification. This looks like a great program for our members and for new members since it offers real on-the-water training with qualified instructors leading to on-the-water certification. If you are interested in becoming an instructor please contact Commander Frank Palmieri or SEO John Steger.

In addition, the new USPS insurance program was explained. This is a superb program which protects members on their boats during squadron activities.

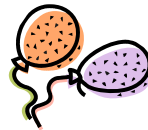
**“As soon as someone steps aboard a boat for USPS instruction the new USPS hull and liability insurance kicks in and we are covered”** The details of this program will be reviewed during our general meetings and in subsequent newsletter articles.

The next District 2 meeting is in Plattsburg NY on March 27-29. See the flyer included in this Newsletter



## **Westchester Sail & Power Squadron Calendar - 1<sup>st</sup> Half 2009**

February 5	Executive Meeting
February 10	Squadron Boating Class - 8 classes
February 12	Exec. Meeting and Orientation
March 5	Joint COW with CCPS
March 26	Seminar: VHF/DSC Marine Radio
March 28	D2 Spring Conference
March 31	Begin Seamanship Course – 6 classes
April 2	Executive Meeting
April 15	CCPS Basic Boating Class – 8 classes
April 16	Seminar: Chart Reading
April 23	Seminar: GPS
April 25	Girl Scouts – Boating Safety
April 30	General Meeting (tentative)
May 7	Executive Meeting
May 9	Americas Boating Class: 8 hrs one day
May 14	Seminar: Sailing Trim and Rig tuning
May 16	Americas Boating Class: 8 hrs one day
May 19	Begin Cruise Planning Class – 6 classes
May 21	General Meeting at Orienta Yacht Club
June 4	Executive Meeting
June 11	Seminar: Knots, Bends and Hitches
June 18	Begin Thursday night Sails/Friday night cruises



### WSPS Birthdays:



#### JANUARY

John Sabatino	1-Jan
Jack Kraft Jack	2-Jan
Gil Landy	12-Jan
Doug Ratford	17-Jan
Irwin Staple	23-Jan
Peter Lavery	26-Jan
Ed Rippstein	28-Jan
Veronica Armour	31-Jan

#### FEBRUARY

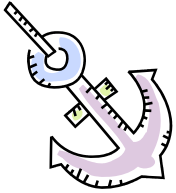
Herb Gardner	7-Feb
Luis Carter	9-Feb
Michael Quartararo	11-Feb

#### MARCH

Candyce Corcoran	3-Mar
Alan Goldman	4-Mar
Beatrice Boyajian	5-Mar
Kate Dillon	12-Mar
John Steger	16-Mar
Eugene Laska	17-Mar
Paul Okura	24-Mar
Kenneth Waldemar	27-Mar
C. Gustave Wormuth	22-Mar
Mary Broderick	30-Mar

**WSPS wishes all members a healthy and happy birthday!**

CROSS COUNTY POWER SQUADRON  
And  
WESTCHESTER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON  
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE  
AT OUR JOINTLY HELD



# ANNUAL CHANGE OF WATCH Thursday 5 March 2009

JOHN FOGARTY'S TOWN TAVERN  
60 KRAFT AVENUE  
BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK



1900 (7 p.m.) CASH BAR  
2000 (8 p.m.) DINNER AND CEREMONIES FOLLOWING  
( Dinner \$27.00 per person )  
Dress Code: Uniform A or Suitable Attire

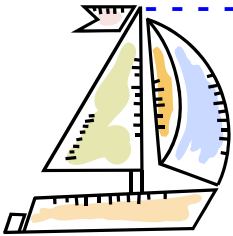
## MENU

Choice of Mixed Green Salad or Soup  
Choice of Broiled Sliced Ribeye Steak with Mushroom Sauce  
or Chicken Francaise, or Filet of Salmon, or Leg of Lamb  
Dessert: Apple Pie or Chocolate Cake  
Coffee / Tea / Decaf

Town Tavern (914-337-1122)  
is located across the street from the northbound side  
of the Metro North Bronxville RR Station

-----DETACH HERE-----

Dinner reservations, accompanied by check made out to  
CROSS COUNTY POWER SQUADRON  
should be received NO LATER than 2 March 2009



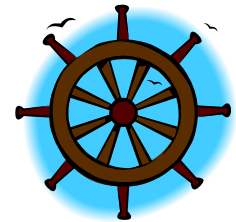
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing my check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_ number of dinners  
@ \$27.00 per person

MAIL TO: Lt/C Virginia P. Moore  
3 Undercliff Street  
Yonkers, NY 10705  
( If late, phone reservations to 914-963-9409



(Dinner Reservation is not mandatory  
for attendance to the meeting/ceremony)

**UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®**  
**2009 DISTRICT 2 SPRING CONFERENCE**



**March 27 & 28, 2009**

Holiday Inn  
 412 Route 3 Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
 518-561-5000



Hosted by  
**Champlain Sail & Power Squadron**  
*Celebrating 60 Years of Boating Education*  
*Celebrating Lake Champlain's 400th Anniversary*



Friday:	3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Registration Table Open
	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	P/D/C Meeting
	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Cocktail Party (cash bar)
	7:00 PM -	Dinner with C/C's Representative
Saturday:	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration Table Open
	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Lite Continental Breakfast
	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Business Meeting
	9:30 AM	Guest Program Departs
	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Social Hour (cash bar)
	12:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch
	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Business Meeting Reconvenes
	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Social Hour (cash bar)
	7:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Dinner Dance (cash bar) <b>Semi-Formal Attire</b> <b>Honoring Champlain's 60th Anniversary</b>

*(Above times subject to change)*

Directions: Travel North on I-87 to exit 37. At end of ramp turn right onto Route 3. Turn left just before the fourth light (including the one at the end of the exit ramp) just before Wal-Mart.

Cut Here.....

**REGISTRATION FORM**

First Registrant: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

First Time Attending A District 2 Meeting? **Circle Yes or No**

Second Registrant: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner: *Buffet* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$38 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday: *Lite Continental Breakfast & Executive Buffet Lunch* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$21 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Dinner: *Prime Rib* \_\_\_\_\_ *Baked Salmon* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$48 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Vegetarian by Request* @ \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Meal SUBTOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Register meal choices before March 3 and save 5% off meal selections**

The savings would be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **If by the March 3 cutoff date, enter value here = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Meal TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Rooms **Friday** \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Nights** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$79 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle: Double or King** **Circle: Smoking or Non-Smoking**

Note: Cut-off Date for Hotel Room Reservations is March 3, 2009.

*Reservations received after this date are subject to Space Availability & Rate Change.*

**GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make checks payable to Champlain Sail & Power Squadron and mail to Sonia Shivokevich,  
 7625 Route 22 West Chazy, NY 12992. E-Mail [rshivokevich@yahoo.com](mailto:rshivokevich@yahoo.com) Phone Number (518) 493-7251

Form 04 February 2009



## Westchester Sail and Power Squadron



**COMMANDER:**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER:**  
**EDUCATION OFFICER:**  
**ADMIN. OFFICER:**  
**SECRETARY:**  
**TREASURER:**  
**ASST. SEO:**  
**FLAG OFFICER:**  
**EXECTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2008-2009**  
 Cdr. Frank E. Palmieri, AP  
 Lt/C Douglas Ratford, AP  
 Lt/C John Steger, AP  
 Lt/C Norwood Beveridge, P  
 Open  
 Lt/C Walter O. Baggett, AP  
 1<sup>st</sup> /Lt Cristiano Tannure, S  
 P/C Ron Gabel, AP  
 P/C Alan Goldman, AP  
 1<sup>st</sup> /Lt Dennis McGrath, AP  
 P/C Candyce Corcoran, P

**2009-2010 Nominees**  
 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  
 1<sup>st</sup> /Lt Dennis McGrath, AP  
 P/C Ron Gabel, AP  
 P/C Alan Goldman, AP  
 P/C Candyce Corcoran, P  
 Cristiano Tannure, S  
 David Corcoran

**Fleet Captain:**  
**Historian:**  
**Law Officer:**  
**Auditor:**

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

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

**Westchester Sail and Power Squadron**  
**Current Set and Drift**  
**25 Ridgeway**  
**White Plains, NY 10606**  
**Cdr. Frank E. Palmieri**



**Change of Watch**

**March 5, 2009**  
**See flyer inside!**



Please help WSPS save money and a few trees! Send an email to [jwsteger@hotmail.com](mailto:jwsteger@hotmail.com) to request electronic delivery of the WSPS Newsletter and most other WSPS correspondence."