

CURRENT SET AND DRIFT

Winter 2011

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

WSPS Commander Walter O. Baggett, AP



Planning and Anticipation

As we fight our way through winter's snow storms and cold, nothing warms boater's hearts more than day dreams of being out on the water on a warm summer day, except perhaps for a mid-winter charter in the Caribbean. The reality is that making those dreams come true requires real planning. I define real planning as plans based on best practices and knowledge based training. Last year we offered the cruise planning course.

This year we are going through the new electronics courses which started basic electricity and are moving through communications systems and will conclude with electronic navigation. A group of us are working on Junior Navigator which is the start of celestial navigation and at least one squadron member is working on Senior Navigator. All of these educational opportunities will turn anticipation into planning and dreams come true when summer finally arrives.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention that our Newsletter and District Website have been honored by being given the Distinctive Communicator Award. Congratulations and thanks to both our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster and all who contribute to make our communication channels so good.

And please don't forget to come to the COW on March 10!!



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WAYPOINT

WEST HARBOR OYSTER BAY

N 40.54 W 073.32

By Paul Zengara



West Harbor is a great destination for overnight anchoring after a day sail or a longer cruise. My wife Ruth and I enjoy trying to sail the entire trip into Oyster Bay, past Plum Point, through Oyster Bay Harbor to Moses Point, Brickyard Point, and then into West Harbor without using the motor. Depending on the winds and traffic this can be challenging under sail involving many short tacks and shortened foresail (so as to see the buoys and the traffic). There are lots of beautiful boats to observe all along the way. Once passing Brickyard Point the traffic eases and West Harbor opens up before you.

Anchoring is good throughout and the area is large enough that even with many boats one never feels crowded. It is known as a good hurricane hole so it is a good place to familiarize yourself with in the event you need a safe haven. There is center Island Beach at the NE end of the harbor. We prefer the SE area which is far from the busy beach

and the road that runs along to the west end of the harbor. The SE end always feels secluded and quiet. Many boats weigh anchor and head home late in the afternoon adding to this feeling. Sorry, you will need to read guidebooks or talk to someone else if you are interested in doing things on land. We usually use this spot as a quick overnight and have never gone ashore.

One of our most offbeat moments while anchored here was coming above decks with coffee in hand on a gray morning and seeing something small and yellow drifting towards us. As it floated nearer we discovered a small bathtub rubber ducky with the head of James Brown that seemed to smile as it floated past and continued its way to Center Island Beach. Shortly thereafter we heard faint sounds of Rock & Roll coming from the beach. Hmmm.

Nominations for Office

The Nominating committee is pleased to offer the following slate for election at the Change of Watch on March 10:

Commander	Lt/C John Steger, AP
Executive Officer	Lt/C Paul Okura, S
Education Officer	P/C Frank E. Palmieri, AP
Admin. Officer	P/C Walter O. Baggett, AP
Treasurer	Lt/C John Wroblewski, S
Secretary	Lt/C Ruth Harkin, P
Ass't. SEO	P/C Ron Gabel, AP

We hope to see you all at the upcoming Change of Watch on March 10 to elect this slate. See the flyer attached.

Quote from our Port Captain:

*The man who rows the boat
Doesn't have time to rock it.*

Boating Safety Education

By Safety Officer P/C Frank Palmieri, AP

What's in a Statistic?

In our efforts to secure new members for USPS we often emphasize the fun aspects of boating. But we may not call enough attention to the real reason why boating education is essential. Boating accidents, most of which are preventable, occur on a regular basis, and frequently with fatal results.

Every year the United States Coast Guard compiles and publishes statistics on boating and boating accidents. The Ensign and other boating publications report on them and the results are revealing, but they receive little attention either outside or even inside the boating community. This is unfortunate since, during 2009, the Coast Guard counted **4730 accidents** that involved **736 deaths**, **3358 injuries** and approximately **\$36 million dollars of damage** to property. One telling statistic – the fact that more than **86% of deaths occurred on boats in which the operator had no prior safety training**, is something that should elicit a knowing nod from all of us who are dedicated to boating education and safety. As we are well aware a wonderful day on the water can go terribly wrong in the blink of an eye. It is often training, knowledge and experience that can make the difference in keeping us out of trouble, enabling us to anticipate many of these situations and allowing us to prepare in advance. We must get this across to other members and future members of the boating community especially, in New York where boating education is mandatory only for a fraction of recreational boaters.

More sobering data from the executive summary of the 2009 USCG Boating Statistics Report, released in November 2010 (the Coast Guard data is derived from filed reports which are legally required in every state by vessel owners/operators involved in accidents):

- Over 82 million adult Americans participated in recreational boating and there were 12.7 million boats

registered in the United States in 2009.

- The fatality rate was 5.8 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.



- This rate represents a 3.6% increase from last

year's fatality rate of 5.6 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.

- Almost three-fourths of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those,
- 84% were not reported as wearing a life jacket.
- More than 50% of recreational boating accidents involved alcohol. In fact, alcohol use doubles the probability of having an accident.
- Alcohol use was followed by operator inattention, operator inexperience, excessive speed and improper lookout as the most frequent cause of accidents.
- 80% of accidents occur on boats less than 26 feet
- The most common types of vessels involved in reported accidents were:
 - Open motorboats - 46%
 - Personal watercraft - 22%
 - Cabin motorboats - 14%

The statistics are revealing and they make a compelling case: **Boating is fun and education saves lives!**

Can't wait for spring !!!!!



Holiday Party, December 16.

Dubbed as "Santa is a Boater" this was the annual Holiday party hosted by both the Cross County Power Squadron and Westchester Sail and Power Squadron and was well attended by over 70 members and friends. We were pleased with the number of District 2 officers and their wives who attended, and members of other squadrons such as Greenwich, Darien and City Island.

The organizers (Paul and Harriet Okura) and helpers all did a fantastic job. The food was just great with fabulous dishes brought by members. The Orienta Yacht club provided a spectacular venue with beautiful decorations and wonderful views of the water. The entertainment was wonderful with our own standup comic Peter Lavery hosting our raffle, the Secret Santa Swap, M&M raffle and Gingerbread house auction. In addition we were treated to a breath taking and magnificent slide show presentation of scenes along the Hudson by Mr. Greg Miller. (see pictures on pg. 7).

It was a wonderful evening and a great opportunity to get together with friends and meet new boaters from other squadrons.



See pictures of all our Squadron activities on our Meetup page.

WSPS Calendar - 1st Half 2011

February 4	WSPS Executive Meeting
February 11	Seminar - VHF/DSC Marine Radio
February 17	Begin ABC Class – 8 sessions
February 26	D2 Winter Council
March 8	Begin Engine Maintenance Class
March 10	Joint COW with CCPS
March 19	Single day ABC Class – 8 hrs
March 31	WSPS General Meeting
April 7	WSPS Executive Meeting-Ops. Training
April 1-3	D2 Spring Conference
April 28	WSPS General Meeting
May 5	WSPS Executive Meeting
May 12	Seminar: Anchoring
May 19-26	National Safe boating Week
May 21	Single Day ABC Class – 8 hrs
May 24	Seminar: VHF/DSC
May 26	WSPS General Meeting
May 29	Girl Scouts – Safe Boating Day
May 30	Memorial Day Parade
June 2	WSPS Exec Meeting
June 23	Begin Thursday night sails/Friday cruises

Check for changes & additions on our Meetup page
www.meetup.com/Westchester-Sail-and-Power-Squadron

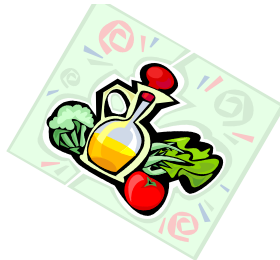
D2 Winter Council – Feb. 26th

The District 2 Winter Council will be held at Poughkeepsie, NY. on Feb. 26. All Bridge officers are encouraged to attend, and members at large are most welcome. These meetings are a great way to meet people from other squadrons and learn more about USPS. If you are interested in joining the group who are planning to attend, contact John Steger on 914 472-5520.

Marie's Galley:

By P/C Marie Lambert, P

ENDIVES, SCALLIONS, and MINT with YOGURT DRESSING



Makes 4 Servings

Time: 15 minutes

4 Belgian endives, trimmed and separated into leaves

4 fresh scallions, trimmed and minced

2 cups plain yogurt

1 small clove garlic, minced

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1/4 cup minced fresh mint leaves, plus several whole leaves for garnish

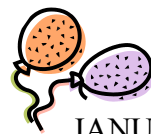
Lay the endive leaves out in a spoke pattern on a serving platter; sprinkle the scallions over them.

Mix together the yogurt, garlic salt, pepper, and minced mint; dress the endive with this mixture, garnish and serve.

Congratulations - 2010 Merit Mark Winners

The following members are our Merit Mark winners for 2010. Congratulations for keeping our squadron vibrant and active:

Mark Arcieri	Peter Lavery
Walter Baggett	Paul Okura
Michael Dillon	Frank Palmieri
Ron Gabel	Irwin Staple
Alan Goldman	John Steger
Bill Gratz	Cristiano Tannure
Ruth Harkin	John Wroblewski
Marie Lambert	



JANUARY

John Sabatino	1-Jan
Jack Kraft	2-Jan
Paul Schfflein	8-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

WSPS Birthdays:



FEBRUARY

Teran Javier	2-Feb
Herb Gardner	7-Feb
Luis Carter	9-Feb
Michael Quartararo	11-Feb

MARCH

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!

(If we have missed your birthday please let us know.)

Ron's Corner - February 2011



COOL WEB SITES

By P/C Ron Gabel AP

Here are a few very cool web sites with useful and diverse information:

Astroviewer.com

Select current night sky to view that night's sky over New York City

Dan.pfeiffer.net

Extensive boating information

Protides.com

Choose a specific area's tides

Wd40.com

A bunch of interesting facts and information

Hobbytoolsupply.com

Hard to find tools and supplies for all crafts

Repairfaq.org/repair/f_repair.html

Extensive information about fixing anything

Repairfaq.org/sam/lasersam.htm

Everything imaginable about lasers

Betamarinenc.com and

betamarinenc.com/engineplacement.pdf

Marine engine information and a pdf guide to replacement

Toolpartsdirect.com

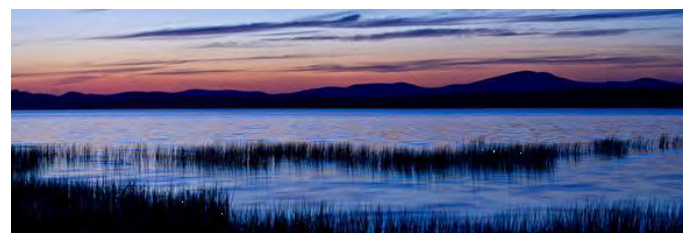
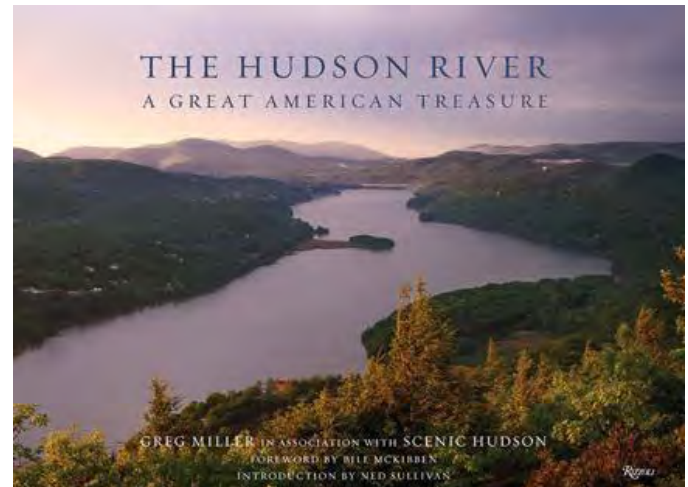
Find almost any tool or replacement part

We hope you will all attend the Change of Watch on March 10, at Fogarty's Town Tavern in Bronxville. See Flyer attached.

Scenes along the Hudson

By Mr. Greg Miller

These breath taking photographs of the Hudson River are a few of those shown at our Holiday Party and are available in **Mr. Miller's** book, "The Hudson River, a Great American Treasure.



**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 10 MARCH 2011

**JOHN FOGARTY'S TOWN TAVERN
60 KRAFT AVENUE
BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK 10708**



1900 (7 p.m.) CASH BAR
2000 (8 p.m.) DINNER & CEREMONIES FOLLOWING
(Dinner \$27.00 per person)

Dress Code: Uniform Class A or Suitable Attire

MENU

Choice of Mixed Green Salad or Soup
Choice of Sliced Sirloin Steak
Or Chicken Francaise or Filet of Salmon
Dessert: Chocolate Mousse or Homemade Apple Pie
Coffee / Tea / Decaf

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

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

Dinner reservations are not required for attendance to the meeting / Induction ceremony

Dinner reservations accompanied by check made out to
CROSS COUNTY POWER SQUADRON
Should be received NO LATER than 1 March 2010

NAME _____ GUEST _____

I am enclosing my check \$ _____ for _____ number of dinners
@\$27.00 per person

MAIL TO: P/C Virginia P. Moore 3 Undercliff Street Yonkers, New York 10708
(if late, phone reservations to 914-963-9409)



Westchester Sail and Power Squadron



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

2010-2011
 Cdr. Walter O. Baggett, AP
 Lt/C Paul K. Okura, S
 Lt/C John Steger, AP
 Lt/C Ron Gabel, AP, P
 Lt/C Ruth E. Harkin, S
 Lt/C John W. Wroblewski, S
 1st /Lt Michael Dillon, S

Proposed 2011-2012
 Cdr. John W. Steger, AP
 Lt/C Paul K. Okura, S
 P/C Frank Palmieri, AP
 P/C Walter O. Baggett, AP
 Lt/C Ruth E. Harkin, S
 Lt/C John W. Wroblewski, S
 P/C Ron Gabel, AP,

EXECTIVE COMMITTEE

P/C Alan Goldman, AP
 P/C Frank Palmieri, AP
 Cristiano Tannure, S
 Kate Dillon, S

P/C Alan Goldman, AP

 Cristiano Tannure, S
 Kate Dillon, 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

P/C Ron Gabel, 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
342 Heathcote Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583
Lt/C John Steger



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.