

CURRENT SET AND DRIFT

Fall 2012

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

WSPS Commander John W. Steger, JN



Our 2012 boating season is over, and our celebration for 75 years of service to the boating community is now past. We have many people to thank for everything that has happened during the last few months. We had 14 Thursday evening sails and a Friday fireworks cruise, and many captains of boats were exceedingly generous with their time and use of their vessels. The 75th Anniversary Celebration was a smashing success, and all the members who worked so hard did an outstanding job. We combined the 75th anniversary celebration with hosting the District 2 Fall Conference, and that also proved to be an excellent affair. So the squadron should be proud of itself for being so active and involved, and carrying on the wonderful traditions of our past members. As commander, I have to say thank you all for your participation in these wonderful achievements.

And during all this, our Education department under Frank Palmieri was conducting a series of basic, advanced and elective classes. Our many offerings continue to make the squadron one of the best education units in the District. Besides an ABC class, we also conducted a Seamanship class and an Engine maintenance class with several students in each.

To make the season more exciting, we just came through a major storm, Sandy, which left many of us without heat and light for several days. This was topped off by a ferocious nor'easter which dumped several inches of snow on our area. Fortunately, most of us survived with little more than the inconvenience of no electricity for several days, but I'm sad to report that a couple of member boats were severely damaged in the storm. Our heartfelt sympathy to everyone who experienced losses and problems due to these storms.

We are now planning our Holiday party and programs for the beginning of next year. After such an exciting year, we look forward to seeing you at our next General meeting and celebrating with you at our year end party.

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Going Aground - What to do</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>
<i>EPIRB/PLB</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>
<i>SEO Report</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>
<i>75th Anniversary Dinner/D2 Conference</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>
<i>Sandy's Aftermath - Boat Damage</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>
<i>Volunteers Help in Connecticut</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>
<i>Holiday Party</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>Merit Marks</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>Upcoming Events,</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>Birthday's</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>Flyers: Holiday Party/Toys for Tots</i>	<i>pg. 7</i>

GOING AGROUND or What to Do When Your Bottom Hits the Bottom
Published with permission of [Boating Times Long Island](#)

Ohmigosh – we’ve run aground! Ugly words, aren’t they? But, unless you’re far offshore, you may be faced with shallow waters and narrow channels and you have to know what to do when your bottom hits the bottom.

First is safety! After having everyone put on a life preserver, determine if you, your crew, or your passengers are hurt. Cruising into an immovable bottom at 15 or 20 knots can cause people to fly about. If someone has been hurt, determine the nature of their injury and whether they need medical assistance. If so, use your VHF radio to call for help.

The second concern is for your boat. Check your bilges to see if there are any holes (you’ll quickly notice water). Your boat won’t immediately sink, but you will need to prevent your vessel from getting into deeper waters. If you can repair the hole(s), great! If not, call for help.

There are several ways to get your boat back into the water:

- You can wait until the tide comes in and your boat floats again. Watch that wind or **current doesn’t push your boat further into shallow water**; consider setting an anchor.
- If your boat is small enough, someone can jump over and push it into deeper water in his or her PFD with a lifeline attached to the boat. Remember to turn your engine(s) off. On a sailboat, have those aboard go to one side or the other to help get the centerboard or keel off the ground.
- If your boat has outboard or inboard-outboard engines, you may be able to raise the lower unit so that the propellers are off the bottom enough to motor into deep water. **Don’t try to motor off with inboard engines as you may suck sand into the water intakes.**
- **You can use a method called “kedging,”** which entails setting an anchor and using it to pull your boat back into deeper water.
- Call for help. If you have a towing contract, call your provider. If not, emergency services will assist in calling a commercial towing service.



Can you prevent going aground in the first place? One answer is to know the waters that you’re in and to have current charts available. The United States Power Squadrons® offers a complete education program designed for recreational boaters. Take advantage of these classes and other available education for an edge in keeping your bottom off the bottom.

To locate local courses and seminars check on-line. WSPS courses and events are on line at <http://www.meetup.com/Westchester-Sail-and-Power-Squadron/>. The National website is www.USPS.org.

EPIRB/PLB

The Life You Save Could Be Your Own!

Courtesy of National Boating Federation eBulletin

If you plan to GO OFFSHORE – (Atlantic, Pacific, Great Lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico) – consider taking an EPIRB and PLB. It could save your life!

An Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) is used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency. It does this by transmitting a coded message on the 406 MHz distress frequency to a satellite that is then relayed by earth stations to the nearest rescue coordination center within moments of activation. EPIRBs that are equipped with a built-in GPS enables the rescue sources to more accurately identify your position and respond to the emergency.



Personal Location Beacons (PLB) are another type of 406 MHz emergency signaling device. Usually smaller than an EPIRB, these devices are designed for individual personal use. There are many models available and functions can vary. These are not recommended for maritime use unless they are fully waterproof and can be submerged.

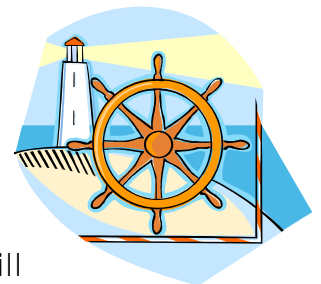
Choose the device that suits your needs and is right for your boating situation. Proper registration of your EPIRB or PLB is essential. This should be done at the time of purchase. You must provide the correct information to:

<https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/rqdb/forms/epirb.pdf>

SEO Report

P/C Frank Palmieri JN SEO

This past number of months has been, to say the least, challenging for everyone in the northeast. Despite that, all of us, including WSPS have carried on. The squadron hosted a record number of courses including, of course, ABC3 class which had 11 students enrolled and will be finishing on November 20th despite 2 weeks of postponement due to lack of electricity at the NR Marina. Ditto for Engine Maintenance, taught by Ron Gabel. The final exam was postponed a few weeks but we expect to have 6 students graduating. Seamanship, taught by Andy Papademetriou, had 4 students enrolled and will be finishing shortly. All instructors and students are to be congratulated for carrying on. Classes being planned for next year include Marine Electronics starting 1/21/2013 and, since we believe we will have plenty of basic boating student graduates- Seamanship starting 3/19/2013.



Postponed to 2013 were the seminars GPS and Tide and Currents. Knots, bends and hitches for the Mariner will be given as scheduled on 12/6/2012. There will be a survey going out to members to see which seminars they may prefer since USPS now offers over 20 two hour lectures.

75th Anniversary Celebration and D2 Fall Conference

The banner shown here was displayed at the DoubleTree Hilton hotel on October 13 where we held the WSPS 75th Anniversary Celebration. This was planned to coincide with the District 2 Fall Conference, and both activities were

successfully linked and carried out in a grand fashion. Besides being a fun celebration, and an excellent dinner, we honored the memory of the many members who were responsible for the achievements of the squadron and its service to the boating community for three quarters of a century. Over seventy members and friends attended the dinner/dance which was made extra special by the presence of the Chief Commander, John Alter and his wife, Judy, who participated in all the activities and helped make them memorable. The seven piece band *Susan Said*, was wonderful, and it was fun to see so many members out on the dance floor responding to the great music and enjoying themselves.

We should not forget all the work done by members to make these events such a success. We are indeed indebted to *Frank Palmieri* for all his efforts as the overall coordinator and planner for all activities. His outstanding negotiations with the hotel, and many, meetings and arrangements were a key to the success of the events. In addition, there are many people to thank for their superb efforts. We will undoubtedly forget some, but here is a list of those who we need to recognize and thank for doing such a wonderful job:

Registration and Reservations: Peggy Howland, Mimi Perez, Ann Toffel, Mel Goldstein

Special Guest and Spouse Programs – Peggy Howland
Raffle – Andy Papademetriou, Nancy Steger, Pam Kelly, Jackie Kraft, Jack Kraft

Decorations – Virginia Moore, Marie Lambert

Ship's Store – Joe Pizzuti, Cristiano Tannure, Guido Dattaro

Band Committee: Patricia Swords, Sandy Gola, Bob Kelly

Souvenir Journal: Jackie Kraft, Jack Kraft

Greeters: Gigi Palmieri, Harriet Okura, Nancy Steger, Pam Kelly

Silent Auction: Nancy Steger, Andy Papademetriou, Frank Palmieri

Finances: John Wroblewski

Flags and Scouts Color Guard: Jackie Kraft, Howard Sklar, Miriam Beveridge

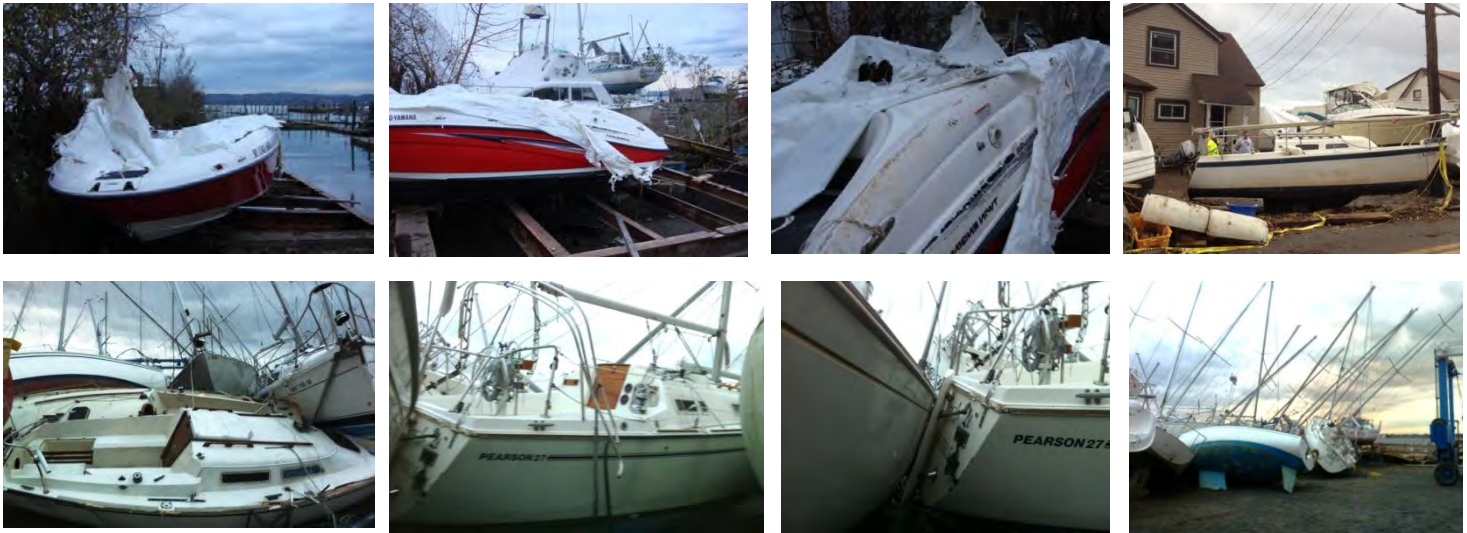
Educational Aids: Ron Gabel

PR Information Table: Paul Okura



Sandy's Aftermath

Many of us were without heat and light for many days due to the recent storm; some for as many as 10-12 days. And we experienced the discomfort and inconvenience of loss of power. The lack of internet communication caused a delay in many of our plans such as getting the Holiday party organized, and putting out the Newsletter. From most reports however **we didn't suffer** the devastating losses of many people in the **Rockaway's and Staten Island.** **But a few members were shaken** to learn of severe damage to their boats. Frank Palmieri and Paul Okura were stunned to find that their boats were impacted by the storm and each **may be a total loss.** **Frank's boat was one** of almost 30 boats damaged at his City Island marina on Long Island Sound. Paul keeps his boat in Piermont on the western side of the Hudson, and he found it two marinas away with the top sheared and a hole in the hull. Our sincere condolences to these members along with a hope that their insurance companies will provide a satisfactory and quick settlement so they can continue to enjoy their boating interests. Attached are pictures of Frank's and Paul's boats damaged in the storm.



Volunteers Help in Connecticut:

From the Berkshire Eagle Nov. 18 2012

WSPS member Virginia Moore also experienced some of the adverse effects of Sandy at her Beach house on Fairfield Beach Road in Fairfield Connecticut. However, she was all smiles as she watched a crew of volunteers clear sand from around her house which her family had built in 1945. She was pleased as she watched the group of men and young boys in orange shirts work to find the asphalt buried under several feet of sand on the patio of her beachfront cottage in Fairfield. **"They are wonderful. All of them. They've been working as if they were getting paid double,"** Virginia said of the volunteers who showed up at her door on Nov. 11th. Over a thousand volunteers joined homeowners and renters to clean up along the Fairfield shoreline in the aftermath of Sandy.



Holiday Party – Dec. 13

Our 2012 Holiday Party will again be at the Orienta Yacht Club. Please contact Virginia Moore 914 963-9409 or John Steger 914 472-5520 to see how you can help, or what appetizer or dessert you can bring for this festive occasion. See the attached Flyer.

This has been a wonderful party in the past, and we hope you will all come again.

Merit Marks

We are happy to report that 27 members of our squadron have received merit marks for the services they have performed for the squadron this year. **Congratulations and thank you** to:

Walter Baggett, Guido Dattaro, Kate Dillon, Mike Dillon, Ron Gabel, Alan Goldman, Mel Goldstein, Bill Gratz, Ruth Harkin, Peggy Howland, Pam Kelly, Bob Kelly, Jack Kraft, Marie Lambert, Russ Michel, Virginia Moore, Suzanne Nentwich, Paul Okura, Frank Palmieri, Andy Papademetriou, Mimi Perez, Joe Pizzuti, Howard Sklar, Cristiano Tanure, Ann Toffel, John Wroblewski, Paul Zengara



Marie's Galley

by P/C Marie Lambert, P

Pigs In A Bag! You've heard of "Pigs in a Blanket" right? Well, here's our version in a Bag!!

- 1 large Reynolds Foil Bag (or any brand)
- 2 1 lb. of Sausage (Use Hillshire Smoked Sausage Ring)
- 3 1 large Onion, chopped
- 4 1 large Green Pepper, chopped
- 5 4-5 Potatoes, chopped (leave the skins on)
- 6 Olive Oil
- 7 2 TBSP. chopped Garlic
- 8 1 tsp. Crushed Red Peppers
- 9 For those of you who love hot peppers, you may also add them to this recipe. I use 2-3 hot peppers, chopped

Pour 2-3 TBSP. of Olive Oil in bag and add everything else. Close bag and place on a pre-heated grill. Turn bag often to prevent food from burning. Grill for approx. 25 minutes over med. heat. Carefully open bag and serve on platter. This recipe is quick, easy and taste great.

WSPS Planned Upcoming Events

Nov. 22	Thanksgiving
Nov. 28	General Meeting - Fishing
Dec. 4	WSPS Exec Meeting
Dec. 6	Knots and Bends Seminar
Dec. 13	Holiday Party
Jan. 5.	WSPS Exec Meeting
Jan. 4-6	New York Boat Show
Jan. 15-20	USPS National Meeting-Jacksonville FL
Jan 21	Begin Marine Electronics (8 weeks)
Jan. 29	Begin ABC Class (8 weeks)
Jan. 31	General Meeting – Charter Planning
Feb. 6	WSPS Executive Meeting
Feb. 28	General Meeting
March 16	D/2 Winter Council – Poughkeepsie NY
March 7	WSPS Change Of Watch
March 19	Begin Seamanship Class (8 weeks)
March 28	General Meeting
April 4	WSPS Exec. Meeting
April 19-23	D/2 Spring Conference
April 25	General Meeting
April 27	Flare/Up at 5 Islands in New Rochelle

(Please call 914 472-5520 to confirm)

WSPS Birthdays

DECEMBER

Steven Skalicky
Walter O. Baggett
Eddie Lee Armour
Frederick Cronin
Anthony Weiner
Ronald D. Sernau
Egbert Jan de Vries



JANUARY

Jack Kraft
Gilbert Landy
Cristiano Tannure
Joseph Orlando
Veronica Armour

FEBRUARY

Howard Sklar
Patricia Swords
Herbert Gardner
Luis Carter
Michael Quartararo
Joseph Marchese
Torsten Marshall

MARCH

Marcia Sklar
Alan Goldman
Beatrice Boyajian
Steven Perry
Kate Dillon
Suzanne Nentwich
Andrew Mancusi
John Steger
Eugene Laska
Michael Dillon
Gustave Wormuth
Paul Okura
Teresa Hennelly
Mary Broderick

We have been advised that for security reasons since our Newsletter is placed on the internet on the D/2 website and may be viewed by anyone the actual birthdates should not be shown. Keeping information like birthdates off the internet helps prevent identity theft
(Editor)

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



Happy Holidays



WESTCHESTER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

Invite you to our

2012 HOLIDAY PARTY



DECEMBER 13, 2012
THURSDAY at 7 P.M. for Dinner
AT THE Orienta Yacht Club



\$20 per person

- ** A HOT DINNER BUFFET **
- ** HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE **
- ** MERRIMENT & FRIENDS **
- ** MUSIC and GOOD CHEER **
- **FREE WINE AND BEER**



OUR FRIENDS FROM ORIENTA YACHT CLUB ARE ALSO INVITED

PLEASE BRING:

A "Toys for Tots" gift. An unwrapped gift for a boy or girl up to 16 years of age for this Marine program.
A WRAPPED GIFT for the Holiday Gift Exchange -value about \$10 - marked man, woman, or unisex
A holiday appetizer or dessert. For people bringing appetizers, please make sure to come early to the party so that we can serve them before the main dish.

PLEASE ALSO BRING AT LEAST 2 MORE THINGS:

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



Reservations needed by Friday, Dec. 7 so that we can order the appropriate amount of food.

RSVP: P/C Virginia Moore 914-963-9409 or reloads@usa.net
Cdr John Steger 914 472-5520 or jwsteger@gmail.com



THE ORIENTA YACHT CLUB
is on POST RD. just past MAMARONECK AVE. in Mamaroneck
Turn into the Mamaroneck Diner driveway (past Brewers)
Drive through to Orienta Yacht Club Parking Area



TOYS FOR TOTS Marine Toys for Tots
MAKE A DONATION

In addition to a small raffle present, we would like you to bring an unwrapped gift to the Holiday party for a boy or girl up to 16 years of age who will benefit from this program. We will bring these to the Marine Office for distribution to the children. If you don't wish to bring a gift you can make a cash donation at the party which will be given to the program.



Westchester Sail and Power Squadron



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

Fleet Captain:
Historian:
Law Officer:
Auditor:

2012-2013

Cdr. John W. Steger, JN
Lt/C Paul K. Okura, S
P/C Frank E. Palmieri, JN
Lt/C Russel Michel, AP
Lt/C Ruth E. Harkin, AP
Lt/C John W. Wroblewski, S
1st Lt Andy Papademetriou, AP
P/C Alan Goldman, AP
P/C Howard Sklar, AP
1st Lt Robert L. Verona, AP
1st Lt. Joseph Pizzuti, AP
P/C Ron Gabel, AP
P/C Marie Lambert, P
P/C Robert P. Kelly, SN
P/C William F. Gratz, SN



Westchester Sail and Power Squadron
Current Set and Drift
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Cdr. John W. Steger, JN



To save money and a few trees, we are only sending electronic copies of Newsletters and most other WSPS correspondence. To receive a hard copy please send a request to John Steger at the address above.