# **CURRENT SET AND DRIFT**

Winter 2012

Westchester Sail and Power Squadron, a Unit of the United States Power Squadrons® WSPS Commander John W. Steger, JN







2011 is history and we are all looking forward to another great new year. As Commander, I must say it was an extremely active, exciting and rewarding year. We are all very proud of the many accomplishments of the squadron and thank our bridge and all members for their support and hard work. We received several awards, and the one I liked best was the "Doing It Right" award where the squadron was judged on the many functions a squadron should be doing to achieve its mission of boating education, civic activity and fraternity.

In 2011 we initiated some activities to give us more visibility within the boating community, such as Vessel Safety Checks, Flare/Up, Boating Safety Week promotion, marching in a parade and assisting at the

Norwalk Boat show. Our Education program has been excellent. Not only have we held several basic boating classes, but also provided a half dozen advanced classes with great attendance and success. Our



SEO is to be commended. With the addition of many former Cross County members, we have had excellent attendance at our interesting and varied General Meetings and social events. Enthusiasm for boating (Thursday Sails and Friday Fireworks Cruises) and our

progressive and brilliant MeetUp site have brought in many new members. Finally both our website and Newsletter received awards from National.

The current bridge and many members have done a wonderful job. You will see in this Newsletter the names of the new nominees who will work to continue the vitality and vigor demonstrated these last few years. However, with our **75<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary coming up, (more later) we will also be reaching out to other members for help. The more members involved, the easier it is for everyone, and the more the squadron can get done. So when you are asked, please respond positively to lend us your talent and time so we can continue and expand the good work the squadron is doing.

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# WSPS and the New York Boat Show at Javits Center

By XO Lt/C Paul Okura, S

Westchester Sail and Power Squadron was invited by North River Sail and Power Squadron from District 4 to help man the United States Power Squadron booth at the prestigious New York Boat Show on January 7, 2012.

Frank Palmieri, SEO and Paul Okura, XO of WSPS were warmly greeted by Grant Hobson, Cdr and Kim O'Connell Co-Cdr of North River Sail and Power Squadron at the USPS booth which was highly visible at the New York Boat Show in Manhattan. There were many families who brought their children and many of them stopped by at the US Power Squadrons booth to ask question about how to enroll in various classes offered by US Power Squadrons.





The New York Boat Show is more than twice the size of the Norwalk Boat Show in Connecticut where D-2 is represented each year so it was quite impressive. We saw a wide selection of boats and the boat show was well attended because we went on Saturday.

One of the interesting vessels we saw was a Kayak which can be taken apart so that the entire vessel can fit inside a regular passenger car in several bags. It was expensive but for people who want to transport an entire Kayak inside the trunk of their car or inside their SUV, this vessel was perfect. All the materials used were very durable and yet very light.

While we were manning the booth, we were visited by boaters

from Westchester, Putnam and Connecticut so it was a great opportunity for us to be able to give them direct feedback on various questions they had about boating classes and state regulations in regions within District 2.

As one of their giveaways, District 4 gave away copies of Kids Boat Safety Class materials to the children who visited the booth. They were kind enough to give us several copies which will be useful for our Boat Safety class that we are planning to run at a local elementary school in Westchester. It was truly a great opportunity for us to participate in the New York Boat Show and we look forward to doing more collaboration in the future with our good friends at the North River Sail and Power Squadron and to return their warm hospitality.



# In Memoriam

It is with regret that we inform you of the death of **P/C Arthur Steiner, P** a former commander and long time friend and member of the Cross County Squadron and a recent member of the Westchester Squadron. Arthur died in Florida on January 2, 2012. He was a 56 year member of USPS, earned 55 merit marks and was a member emeritus of the USPS Governing Board. The squadron wishes to express its sincere condolences to his family and surviving son Mitchell.

# Waypoints – Norwalk/Sheffield Harbor N 41º 03.491' W 073º 24.994'

By AO LT/C Walter Baggett, AP

Cruising up and down Long Island Sound, usually going to or coming from City Island, I have found ducking in behind Sheffield Island for a night on the hook to be about as easy as it gets. Coming from the west, i.e. NYC and Westchester, you take a left as you head up the Sound at the screw pile lighthouse on Greens Ledge off the end of Sheffield Island, and head up towards the well marked channel going into Norwalk. The waypoint given above should put you right off the channel



behind a red flashing number two You buoy. may want to further go up towards the number four buoy, but in either case, you have plenty of room to

stay well away from the traffic in the channel. On the other side of the channel is Tavern Island and, on the far shore line, the Norwalk and Rowayton Yacht Clubs.

If you do need services, head 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles up the channel where ample services include the Norwalk Cove Marina where every fall USPS D/2 has a booth at the Norwalk boat show.

A nice little museum on Sheffield Island is affiliated with the Maritime Aquarium in South Norwalk. For me, the most important thing is the good holding ground and shelter. The down side is a lot of mud comes up with the anchor, so be prepared to hose down the deck before you stow the ground tackle. Coming and going from the east is a bit trickier. On the Sound, you have to find the Peck Ledge lighthouse and wend your way around the series of little islands and shoals making up Cockenoe Harbor. Eventually, you get to the main Norwalk Harbor channel. In practice, I find this route good to use when heading east as I leave in the morning and everything is fresh in my mind. Coming in from the east, I take the long way around the Green Ledge lighthouse...**a** bit longer, but much less nerve racking.

# Nominations for Office

The Nominating committee is pleased to offer the following slate for election at the Change of Watch on March 8:

Commander.....Cdr John Steger, JN Executive Officer....Lt/C Paul Okura, S Education Officer...Lt/C Frank E. Palmieri, JN Administrative Officer.....Russ Michel, S Treasurer.....Lt/C John Wroblewski, S Secretary.....Lt/C Ruth Harkin, P Ass't. SEO......Andy Papadametriou, S

We hope to see you all at the upcoming **Change of Watch on March 8** to elect this slate. See the flyer attached.

# From Desk of Port Captain Jack

Do groundhogs need sunblock? Do we need sunblock? Well, it's a new year, but winter won't unlock for a while so we have time to walk around our boats and check to see if there are things we might need: new battery, new fire extinguisher, new flashlight, a first aid kit, new PFD. How about checking the dates on your flares? How about sunblock - groundhogs have hair for shade and don't need it; we on the other hand do whether we are boating, swimming or just walking around in the sun. We check the dates on fire extinguishers and flares always a good idea to start the new boating year with a fresh, new supply of sunblock cream, spray or lotion. Prepare for and let's have a SAFE boating season!



#### THURSDAY NIGHT MOONLIGHT SAILS RETURN IN JUNE

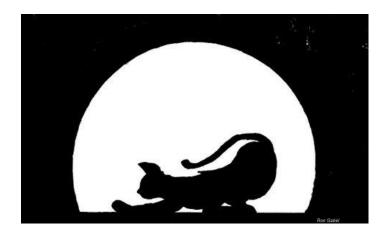






# WSPS Calendar - 1<sup>st</sup> Half 2012

February 2	WSPS Executive Meeting
February 23	General Meeting - Orienta Yacht Club
March 1	WSPS Executive Meeting
March 3	D2 Winter Council
March 8	WSPS Change of Watch
March 20	Begin 8 week ABC class
March 22	Rules of the Road - Seminar
March 29	WSPS General Meeting
April 5	WSPS Executive Meeting-Ops. Training
April 20-21	D2 Spring Conference
April 26	WSPS General Meeting
May 3	WSPS Executive Meeting
May 12	Single Day ABC Class - 8 hrs
May 19-26	National Safe boating Week
May 19	Girl Scout - Safe Boating day
May 24	Seminar: VHF/DSC
May 26	Piloting Cruise
May 28	Memorial Day Parade
May 31	General meeting
June 2	Practical-On-The-Water-Training
June 3	Alternate day for Piloting Cruise
June 7	WSPS Exec Meeting
June 21	Begin Thursday sails/Friday cruises





Check for changes & additions on our MeetUp page <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Westchester-Sail-and-Power-Squadron">www.meetup.com/Westchester-Sail-and-Power-Squadron</a>

## **WSPS Birthdays:**

JANUARY

Jack Kraft	2-Jan
Joe Pizzuti	10-Jan
Gil Landy	12-Jan
Irwin Staple	23-Jan
Veronica Armour	31-Jan

#### FEBRUARY

Howard Sklar	3-Feb
Herb Gardner	7-Feb
Luis Carter	9-Feb
Michael Quartararo	11-Feb
Joseph Marchese	13-Feb

#### MARCH

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Alan Goldman	4-Mar
Nettie Goldstein	9-Mar
Kate Dillon	12-Mar
Suzanne Nentwich	12-Mar
John Steger	16-Mar
Eugene Laska	17-Mar
Paul Okura	24-Mar
Kenneth Waldemar	27-Mar
C. Gustave Wormuth	22-Mar
Teresa Hennelly	29-Mar
Mary Broderick	30-Mar

#### WSPS wishes all members a healthy and Happy Birthday!

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

## National Meetings – Why Go?

Cdr. John Steger, JN

The Squadron Commander is a voting member of the USPS Governing board and is suppose to attend the Annual National meeting. I also felt I had a

responsibility to learn more about USPS and see how these meetings might help the squadron. After attending the Governors meeting in Greensboro, NC and the Annual meeting in Jacksonville, FL. (Jan. 25-28) I can now reflect on why I think they were valuable. These meetings gave me the opportunity to:

- 1. Meet some very talented people in USPS and realize how many experts we have in numerous areas.
- 2. Provide input to various groups on our issues and problems, and find out how/if they will respond.
- 3. Get to know the USPS leadership:
  - a. Meet with candidates for the Admin position and for the NEO position.
  - b. Actually talk to them, obtain their views, and explain my views on some issues.
  - c. Understand how committed to improving USPS the leadership is, and how willing they are to hear ideas.
- 4. Understand USPS attempts to address issues and challenges and recognize the value of what they are or are not doing, and appreciate the complexity of issues.
- 5. Obtain interesting ideas from various seminars, committee reports, DB2000 sessions, etc. and learn what other squadrons do to address similar problems to run and improve squadron activities.
- 6. Attend excellent seminars on topics such as Digital Signal Calling (DSC), Weather, etc. given by experts.
- 7. Attend committee meetings in areas of interest, learn of their plans and have them listen to our concerns, needs and requirements.
- 8. Learn some of the strategic plans and agreements with other organizations, i.e. Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Boating Safety Council, Red Cross, etc.



- 9. Meet with other organizations such as Sea Scouts, NOAA and Red Cross to see how we can work with them and them with us.
- 10.Learn of some of the "Best Practices" used by others.
- 11.Get good ideas for General Meetings.
- 12. Develop friendships with USPS members in other districts and squadrons, and have fun and develop better bonds with our own district members
- 13. See results of **National Safe Boating Poster contests**, and see the **best teaching aids** from other districts and how ours compare.
- 14. Find out about many useful and interesting websites to get information that is helpful for boaters and/or for the squadron.

15. Learn about the extraordinary activities

- of some USPS members and squadrons:
  - a. Mauro Saito from Japansailing around the world solo 8 times.
  - b. Raft-up in Jones Beach Squadron with 79 boats.
- c. 3000 Vessel Safety Checks in one year for one Squadron.
- d. 22,000 Vessel Safety Checks in his career for one USPS member.

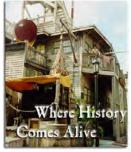
The above shows some of the values of attending National meetings. Attendance at one or more for other members and new Commanders would be recommended.

# WSPS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On October 12, at dinner in the Double Tree Hotel in Tarrytown, the Westchester Sail and Power Squadron will celebrate its Seventy-Fifth year of providing boating education and services to the Westchester **Please save the date**. P/C Frank area. Palmieri is planning the event, and we are looking for more volunteers to help. This will be a gala event, and we hope all present members will attend along with many of the past members who gave so much of their time and energy to make the squadron what it is today. Watch for the official flyer and announcement in the mail and on our internet site

### Traveling South with Peggy

By P/C Peggy Howland, P



Well, shiver me timbers! My trip to Florida this winter has come up with more places of interest to nautical folks, from pirates and shipwrecks to oceanography and marine life. Here are some of this year's catches....

I'm getting to love North Carolina as a favorite place on the way south. Last year I discovered one of North Carolina's three aquariums at Pine Knoll Shores, near my ancestral home of Beaufort on the coast where my great great great grandfather lived and from which he and his son plied the Atlantic between Beaufort and Philadelphia. This year, I found a second NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher by the waters of Cape Fear, where I visited a friend in Carolina Beach. The third aquarium is on Roanoke Island in the Outer Banks, where I visited a new friend in Manns Harbor, a friend I met less than 2 years ago on FaceBook. Check them out next time you're passing through NC. It makes you proud what a state can do to promote a love and understanding of the ocean it borders.

Florida has its own special water treats in store, from manatees in the springs and rivers to the ubiquitous alligators, as well as an abundance of colorful and interesting waterfowl. Who doesn't love seeing a large black anhinga drying its wings? Or a blue heron or brown penguin in flight?

The Saint Lucie River in Port St. Lucie is the venue for one of the best eco-cruises I've ever enjoyed, "ecocruise" being the new name for wildlife sightseeing by boat. We saw quite a few yellow-bellied slider turtles, one red-bellied slider turtle, plus other turtles and lots of alligators sunning themselves on logs sticking out of the water. The sliders all dutifully slid into the river as our boat approached. But many of the alligators were enjoying sunning themselves too much to move. One of them was 12 feet long! This was a good winter for alligator sightings because it has been unusually warm.

It's always fun to see an osprey sitting high on a tree branch eating the mullet it has just caught. We saw eight juvenile white ibis lined up on the branches of one tree (speckled brown as juveniles), and a yellowcrowned night heron that remained totally still in its tree no matter how close we got, blissfully sure he could not be seen.

The History of Diving Museum near Key Largo was of great interest to me as a longtime scuba diver. It begins with references to diving by the Sumerians of ancient Mesopotamia and Greeks of the classical period, goes through the developments in hard-hat diving around the world, diving bells, and the beginnings of SCUBA, selfcontained underwater breathing apparatus, in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. I liked it so much, I bought a polo shirt with their logo!

I also cruised out of Miami to Key West and Cozumel. The Shipwreck Museum in Key West tells the stories of breath-hold divers going after the wreck of the *Isaac Allerton*, which sank in 1856 on the treacherous Florida Keys reef, with a display of artifacts. This unusual

industry of shipwreck plundering provided for the livelihoods of early pioneers in Key West. Do you have any idea how heavy a bar of silver can be? I couldn't lift it. And Mel Fisher's Museum of the sunken Spanish galleon *Atocha* is nearby with its recovered booty of gold and silver and jewels to see and to purchase.



The Harbor Branch of Florida Atlantic University has a fascinating Ocean Discovery Center at its Oceanographic Institute in Fort Pierce, on Florida's "Treasure Coast." The treasure here is not from shipwrecks, but from the recognition of the importance of our nation's coastal and inshore marine environments. The Indian River Lagoon is an estuary,



just like Long Island Sound, with the same types of problems and possibilities that we know in our own area. This is a wonderful place for kids and adults to learn more about marine life, the eco-systems of an estuary, and lots of good stuff about protecting our waters.

These are just a few of the many informative and interesting places

to visit on your next trip south.

# Practical On-the-Water Training

On June 2, the Greenwich Sail and Power Squadron is offering an eight-hour power boat seminar - a perfect combination



of classroom training and hands-on on-thewater training. It provides an explanation of how your boat handles and why. Video clips let you visualize the maneuvers prior to your experiencing them on the water. It covers use of lines, departing, operating in a fairway, pivoting, mooring, anchoring backing, docking, steering – slalom, holding course – range, and a quick stop. Students will receive Powerboat Handling Illustrated, a DVD and a course manual. (continued) Students are tested on <u>35 skills</u> and on successful completion will receive a Certificate. The cost of the seminar will be \$150, and lunch and refreshments will be supplied.

This is a great opportunity to improve your power boat handling skills. For online registration contact <u>www.usps.org/owt</u> or Susan Ryan <u>susanpryan@sbcglobal.net</u>

# WSPS Holiday Party

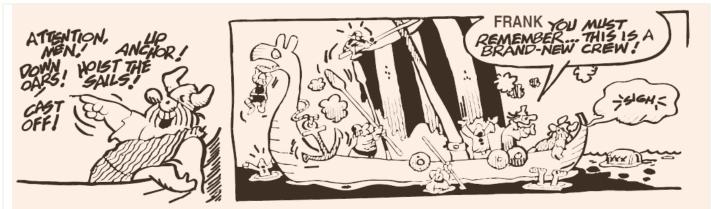
Over sixty people attended our Holiday Party on December 15 including almost the entire D2 Bridge. The party at the Orienta Yacht Club was its usual great success. A new feature this year was the Chinese Auction run by Howard Sklar which proved enormously entertaining for all. Congratulations to whoever won the



"scraper" in the end! Another new feature was the **Toys for Tots program** spearheaded by Ron Gabel, which

resulted in 44 gifts for children. We again have to thank our organizers, Virginia Moore and Walter Baggett, **the "kitchen crew"** headed up by Joe Pizzuti and the many, many others who attended, provided food and helped to make the party a wonderful evening.



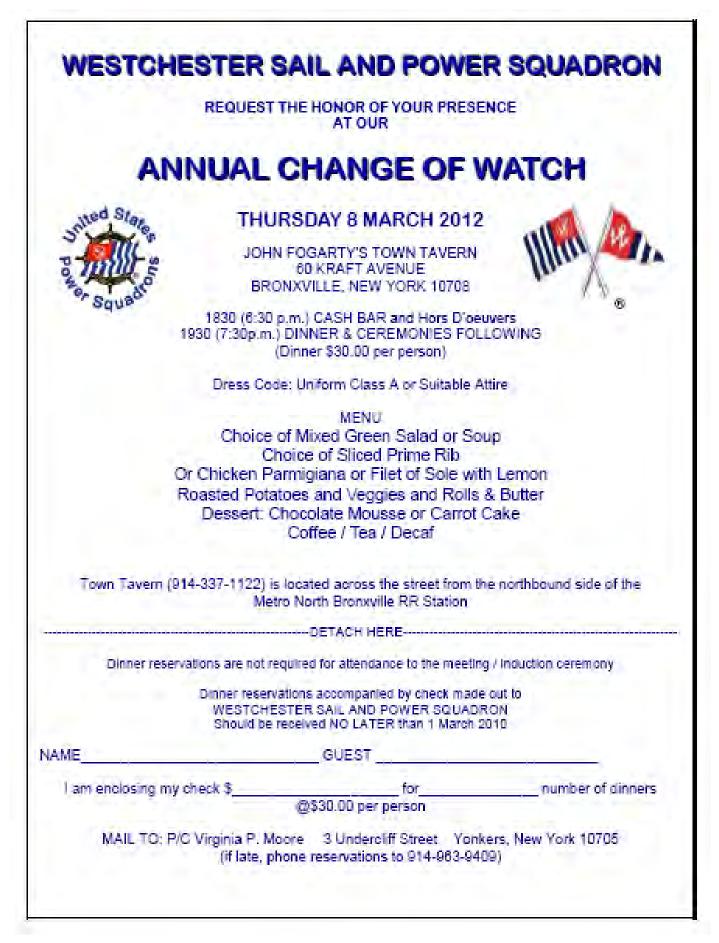


Thursday Night sails begin again June 21. Won't you join our expert crew!!

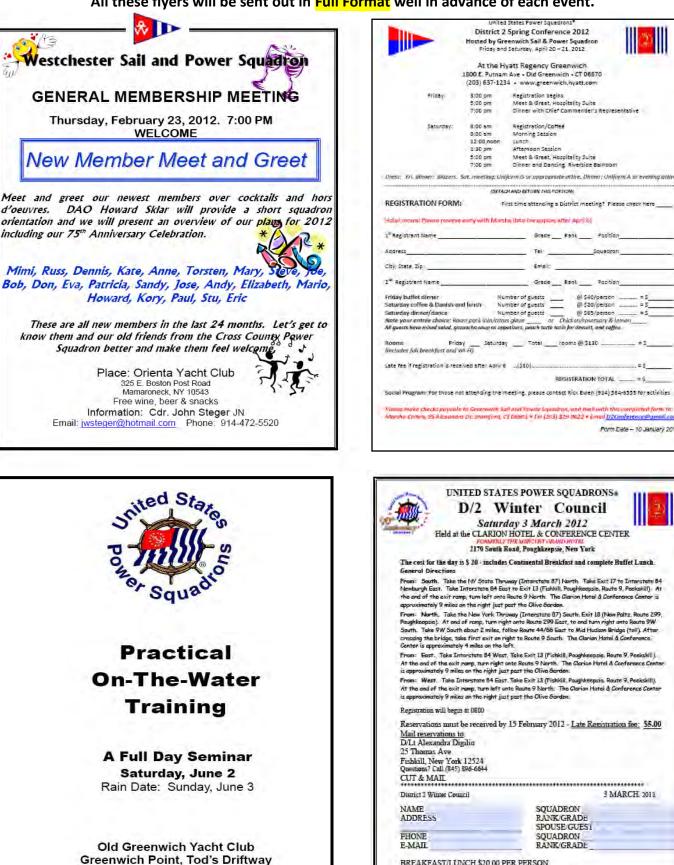
# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo

We are working on a special WSPS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo to be used in conjunction with our anniversary celebration. The logo shown here is the current design prepared by Robin Messer. (www.CRMAssocLtd.com). We will use this design on shirts for our anniversary and for any printing we will do on objects that will be distributed at the Anniversary dinner. Remember to **SAVE THE DATE**. The Anniversary dinner will be held at the **Double Tree Hotel in Tarrytown on October 13.** 





#### All these flyers will be sent out in Full Format well in advance of each event.



BREAKFAST/LUNCH \$20.00 PER PERSON MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: USPS DISTRICT 2

Old Greenwich, CT

3 MARCH 2011

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Form Date - 10 January 2012

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# **Westchester Sail and Power Squadron**



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

Fleet Captain: Historian: Law Officer: Auditor:



<u>2011-2012</u> Cdr John W. Steger, JN Lt/C Paul K. Okura, S P/C Frank E. Palmieri, JN P/C Walter O. Baggett, AP Lt/C Ruth E. Harkin, P Lt/C John W. Wroblewski, S P/C Ron Gabel, AP P/C Alan Goldman, AP 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Cristiano Tannure, S 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Kate Dillon, S P/C Ron Gabel, 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 342 Heathcote Road Scarsdale, NY 10583 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 an email request to <u>jwsteger@gmail.com</u> or a note to John Steger at the address listed above.