

CURRENT SET AND DRIFT

Spring 2013

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

WSPS Commander Paul K. Okura, P



We are off to another exciting new boating season with numerous initiatives. We encourage all members to take part in our effort to actively promote the pleasures of boating to everyone we meet so hopefully people will naturally think of United States Power Squadrons as the best boating organization for boating education and fun.

I am happy to report that thanks to the hard work of everyone, we received the Outstanding Squadron Award from District 2 for the second consecutive year along with 5 other awards at the District 2 Spring Conference in Tarrytown, which was well attended by our members and guests from other squadrons and districts. We would not have been able to achieve such accomplishments without the hard work and dedication of many squadron members so I want to express my personal thanks for your time and effort

More wonderful news for our squadron is that

in April, past Commander Howard Sklar, AP from our squadron was sworn in as the new Commander of District 2. He has taken the helm from P/D/C Susan Ryan, JN who did a marvelous job in leading our District last year.



IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Piloting Class & On-water-Cruise</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>
<i>In Memoriam</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>
<i>District2 Spring Conf. & COW</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>
<i>Meet your new Bridge</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>
<i>Safe Boating Class</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>
<i>Thursday Night Sails</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>
<i>Boating Safety Week</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>
<i>Memorial Day Parade</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>
<i>General Meeting May 19</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>NY State Boating Legislation</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>Vessel Safety Checks</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
<i>WSPS Interview in Local News</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
<i>On the Water Sailing Classes</i>	<i>pg. 9</i>
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	<i>pg. 10</i>
<i>Birthdays</i>	<i>pg. 10</i>
<i>Save the Date - Commander's Picnic</i>	<i>pg. 11</i>
<i>Save the Date - District 2 Fall Council</i>	<i>pg. 11</i>

Piloting Class

City Island, Bronx, March 19, 2013

This year our piloting class taught by instructor Frank Palmieri contained not only 9 weeks of intensive classroom instruction but the students were also able to get hands on experience using compass and GPS on Frank's new yacht.



Students learned how to manually chart, plan a cruise and utilized the knowledge they gained in class on board his yacht. The on the water component of the class turned out to be perfect weather and the students were able to cruise above 6 knots and were able to practice tacking and jibing. In addition to Louise Doyle and Paul Okura who were part of the Piloting class, Paul Zengara acted as the 1st mate of the ship to help navigate the ship while Frank was busy giving detailed guidance and instructions to the students.



In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the deaths of the following members and close family of members:

Andrea Pizzuti, loving wife of 1st/Lt Joe Pizzuti AP, on June 1, 2013 after a long illness.

Shirley Wiener the mother of Marcia Sklar and mother-in-law of D/C Howard Sklar, AP. Shirley died on June 12, 2013. May they Rest in Peace. Sincere condolences, thoughts and prayers from the Squadron to those who have lost a loving spouse or parent.

District 2 Spring Conference and Change of Watch

Tarrytown, Marriot Hotel, April 19, 2013



The District 2 Spring Conference was held at the Tarrytown Marriot Hotel where Past Commander, Howard Sklar was sworn in as the new Commander of District 2. He took over from Past District Commander Susan Ryan who did a lot to get the USPS brand **out to the general public. Howard's** entire family was alongside him at this memorable occasion. The squadron was also honored to receive Outstanding Squadron Award which is an exquisite painting for the 2nd year in a row. Our squadron also received 5 other awards which is a reflection of the hard work of many outstanding members in our squadron. The awards included Operations Training Award, Outstanding Fraternal

Boating Award, Outstanding Achievement Award, Outstanding Educational Achievement Award and Vessel Safety Honor Roll. Congratulations to all for work well done, and special congratulations to our squadron member and new District Commander D/C Howard Sklar, AP

Safe Boating Class New Rochelle Marina Class Room Single Day Class, May 11, 2013

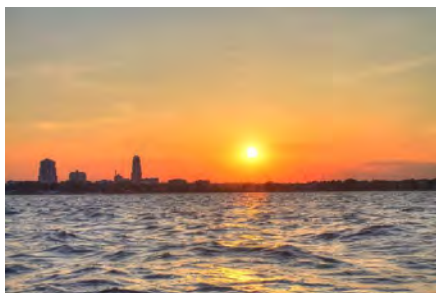
On May 11th, we ran our one day America's Boating Class (ABC) at our classroom in New Rochelle Marina. We had about 10 students and they all survived the 8 hour class and passed the test with excellent scores. The class covered everything that the boaters should know including how to navigate a boat, navigational rules, how to use GPS, importance of all the safety equipment. This is the same class that is normally run over 8 weeks so it was very tough course but all the students listened to our instructor Frank Palmieri who patiently went over the volume of information that had to be covered during this one day class. Students had a nice Pizza lunch and were able to get to know one another during the lunch break. This particular class had one illustrious student who works for the CBS News in New York City as an Editor. The class also included Instructor Frank Palmieri's wife GiGi who did very well despite suffering from jet lag from an overseas trip



Thursday Evening Sails

Our popular Thursday evening sail began in June on board past Commander John Steger's yacht from New Rochelle harbor. The day was a beautiful sunny day and the sunset over the skyline of New Rochelle was spectacular. The passengers were able to experience tacking and jibing a 27 foot yacht while receiving instructions from Captain Steger. Passengers also got to learn how to trim the sails to get maximum performance from the sail. With the addition of Frank Palmieri's boat, we are looking forward to exposing more people to the pleasures of sailing and to take our classes and seminars So join us when you can, and enjoy evening sailing on the sound and great sunsets.

Call John on 472-5520 if you wish to join one of these fun and spectacular sunset sails.



Boating Safety Week

Thanks to the generosity of the Post Marine store in New Rochelle, we were able to stage our Safe Boating Week event inside the store which has become our squadron's annual tradition.

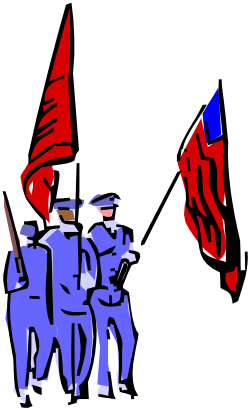
This year, we used our squadron canopy at the front entrance of the store so that all visitors to the store went through our canopy and had full view of our table which was manned by P/C's Frank Palmieri and John Steger as well as the current Commander, Paul Okura.

We also displayed the USPS logo metal sign and USPS logo banner at our table so we were highly visible and many visitors stopped by at our table to ask questions and took flyers of our future events.



Our table had various materials we use at our USPS classes and seminars. We distributed many flyers from USPS as well as Federal and State regulations on boating

Memorial Day Parade Scarsdale, NY



We were blessed with a gorgeous day for the Memorial Day Parade in Scarsdale on May 27th. This year, the Westchester Sail and Power Squadron car was driven by SEO, Andy Papademetriou and was accompanied by Paul Zengara, District Commander Howard Sklar and our squadron Commander Paul Okura.

Members marched in their Vessel Safety Inspector red jackets and P/C John Steger once again was the Master of Ceremony for the Memorial Day parade program.

The WSPS Mercedes 560 SL convertible was decorated with USPS the logo with magnetic backing on both sides of the doors to get the USPS brand more recognized by the general public.



General Meeting - May 30th

WSPS had its General Meeting at the Orienta Yacht Club and was proud to host Beth Leonard, Director of Technical Services for BoatUS. The evening's topic was "Hurricane Sandy: The View From BoatUS". The turnout was terrific with about 45 people, including WSPS members, folks from Orienta and others from the general public present. Beth Leonard is an accomplished sailor having circumnavigated twice around the world and writes and edits the quarterly journal, *Seaworthy*. She is very well known among the sailing community, having also written hundreds of articles for more than a dozen sailing magazines including *Cruising World*, *Practical Sailor*, *Good Old Boat*, and *Yachting World*. Beth is also the author of three books: *The Voyager's Handbook*, *Following Seas* and the award-winning *Blue Horizons*.

Beth fascinated the audience as she spoke about the superstorm that BoatUS estimated caused \$650 million in damages. Beth spoke about how the BoatUS Catastrophe (CAT) Team was onsite as soon as they could gain access, in many cases within 24 hours of the storm making landfall. They remained in the field right through Christmas, recovering boats, assessing damage and investigating what worked and what didn't to secure boats before the storm. Beth Leonard shared some of the CAT Team's experiences and discussed why this storm did so much damage, what the BoatUS CAT Teams did on the ground, and the lesson learned from this devastating storm. **More about Beth can be found at her website: www.bethandevans.com.**

Our General Meetings are normally planned for the last Thursday of each month.



New York State Boating Legislation State Capital, Albany, May 20, 2013



At the request of State Senator David Carlucci and Assemblywoman, Sandy Galef, Past Commander John Steger and current Commander, Paul Okura drove up from Westchester to Albany to take part in the Press Conference to announce the new Bills the legislators jointly introduced which will require boaters in New York State to take a safe boating class.

Robert Terry, District Vessel Safety Check Program Chairman and Carl Filios, DEO joined the two WSPS members and they also gave comments during the

Press Conference expressing their support of the bill.

There were many reporters from various news organizations who asked about the bill and we had a chance to explain that should the Bill get passed, there are already organizations in place such as the United States Power Squadrons which are capable of teaching the safe boating classes.



The reporters also asked what will be covered in the safe boating classes so we briefly described the subject matter covered in our ABC class. We stressed to the Press that New Jersey and Connecticut already require their boaters to take safe boating classes and that having such basic boating knowledge should reduce unnecessary accidents on the water.

We are very happy to report at this time that the bill passed in the Assembly, and has **also passed in the Senate. It is now on the Governor's desk for final approval. Do I hear a "hip, hip, hooray?"** WSPS has been hoping for this legislation for years and we are proud to have played a small part in getting it passed.

Vessel Safety Checks

This year, the Vessel Safety Check started later than normal as many marinas in Westchester County were damaged severely by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012.

Vessel Examiners Andy Papademitriou and Paul Okura started our Vessel Safety Check program at the Orienta Yacht Club in Mamaroneck. The Vessel Examiners were able to use the squadron Canopy purchased to protect the Vessel Examiners from the sun and also to advertise the program and attract the attention of the boat owners. Since this was our second year of the Vessel Safety Check program, it was nice to see boat owners remembering us from last year.



Press Article on Boating Safety Bill in Local Paper



P/C John Steger and Commander Paul Okura were interviewed by the **Journal News** on board John's yacht. Their interview article made the front page of the Journal News on June 18, 2013 which was great publicity for the United States Power Squadrons and for the Westchester Sail & Power Squadron.

The interview describes how the new bill introduced by Senator David Carlucci and Assembly woman Sandy Galef if signed into law will require boaters in New Yorkstate to take a safe boating class. The interview was published in the Journal News and it was also on their online news. The entire interview can be seen on video at: http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013306170107&nclick_check=1

John and Paul explained in the interview about how important it is for the boaters to take these safe boating classes so that the boaters in New York can avoid accidents and enjoy the natural beauty of rivers, lakes and the Long Island sound.



Subsequent to the interview we learned that the bill passed both the Senate and the Assembly and is now waiting for the Governor to sign it into law. A similar regulation when it went into effect in Connecticut resulted in a major increase in the number of people who take their ABC class. So we are hopeful that a similar positive impact will result from the passage of the bill in New York State.

Spring Project

Lt/C Russ Michel, AP

A few seasons back I wrote about the hunt and purchase of my boat and the importance of taping or sounding out for signs of de-laminating. I bought this boat knowing there was an issue with the cockpit sole near the steering wheel. The surveyor thought the job (in upper New England) would be about \$2,500. When I got her home, the quotes were at least twice that. After **two seasons "the list" is long and**



time/money is short. So I decided to tackle this job on my own with Google and YouTube as my reference library. A few people did this type of repair and documented it very well on line. This was a big win. Their effort(s) provided a lot of valuable information which saved time and avoided pitfalls. Initially the survey suggested the delaminating was an area **about 12" by 20"**. The actual area needing replacement was about twice the size (26x42). This could only be known when

the fiberglass skin was peeled off.

The first step was to remove the fiberglass skin as neatly as possible (it will be replaced at the end). Two tools were real time saver. I bought a multi-tool (oscillating) and eventually a grinder. I bought the multi-tool first and it was a winner. It did very neat plunge cuts with surgical like precision. If you are considering one, get one that **has "tool-less" attachment changing**. You will appreciate this when you are deep into a long day. As much as I tried to get by with only the multi-tool a grinder was needed. Both of these made quick work of removing the rotted core. The next step was picking the new core. It originally had a 3/4 inch marine plywood core. After much research I chose a material called Coosa composite board - **Bluewater 26**. This material can be used for decking and transoms; it is one of the strongest and stiffest materials available. It consists of Polyurethane foam filled throughout with layers of continuous strand glass & woven fiberglass. It's thirty percent lighter than plywood



with superior structural integrity and they claim it to be 99% impervious to water, no water rot, mold, mildew and is algae resistant. It is expensive but I did not want to do this again. A four by four 3/4 inch sheet was \$168. From what I can tell it's worth it. It works like wood, is easy to use and glasses in easily. This has been an interesting project. I learned a lot and found the internet to be an incredible resource.

On the water sailing class - Fire Island Sailing Alliance

This year we've implemented a reciprocal program with the Fire Island Sailing Alliance to cross-market our mutual MeetUp activities. The Fire Island MeetUp group runs on the water sailing classes at their facility in Atlantique, Fire Island. Our Commander Paul Okura took the midweek sailing class in June to learn how to sail a Sunfish. Even before you get to the class, **they ask all the students to purchase and read "Start Sailing Right" which is easy to read and to understand for beginning sailors.** The day started with the indoor class to review all the sailing basics such as tacking, jibing, no sail zone, capsizing recovery, etc.



The students were of all ages including teens. After classroom instruction, students did land exercise at the beach to learn how to set up and dismantle the rig, how to heel, how to use the tiller, how to switch sides, etc. Then they were accompanied by the instructor to practice sailing on a schooner and finally were allowed to sail a Sunfish under close supervision. Each student learned to do tacking, jibing and capsize recovery maneuvers.

Fire Island Sailing Alliance has its cottage in Atlantique on Fire Island which is about 30 minutes away by ferry from Bayshore, Long Island. The midweek sailing class was over 3 days. Food and board were all included in the sailing class price which was \$295. All of us had cleaning and cooking duties but it was so much fun to learn how to sail a Sunfish with other people. The cottage is on the beach so the sunset was spectacular

If you are interested in joining any of the classes, call our squadron SEO Andy Papademetriou at 917 648-7056 or email at andypapad@yahoo.com. You can also contact Capt. Mike Miller 845 346 5414 or firesail@verizon.net



WSPS Planned Upcoming Events

July - Sept.	Thursday Night sails – every Thursday in July August and September. **
July – Aug.	Free Vessel Safety Checks
Sept. 1 - 8	National Mtg. San Antonio, Texas
Sept. 5	WSPS Executive Meeting
Sept. 17	Begin ABC Class 8-9 wks
Sept. 19 -22	Norwalk Boat Show
Sept. 21	D2 Summer Council
Sept. 23	Begin Marine Communications 8 wks
Sept. 26	WSPS General Meeting
Oct. 3	WSPS Exec Meeting
Oct 5	Commander's Picnic
Oct. 17	WSPS Education Seminar - TBD
Oct. 24	WSPS General Meeting
Nov. 7	WSPS Executive Meeting
Nov. 8 - 10	D2 Fall Conference
Nov. 14	WSPS Education Seminar - TBD
Nov. 17	Single Day ABC Class
Nov. 21	WSPS General Meeting
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving
Dec. 5	WSPS Executive Meeting
Dec. -12	WSPS Holiday Party
Dec. 25	Christmas

**Assuming Weather cooperates and boat availability

(Please call 914 472-5520 to confirm dates)

WSPS Birthdays

JULY

Michael Agovino
Seth Newlin
Mildred Perez
Veronica Rivera
Joseph Varulo
Paul Zengara



AUGUST

Donald Bernard
Leah Campbell
Phillip Lindenbaum
Russ Michel
Ray Quartararo
Daniel Zygmundt



SEPTEMBER

Arnold Berlin
Peggy Howland
Joseph Hvsic
Marie Lambert
Dennis McGrath
Lynn Quartararo
Gregory Rivera
Gregory Roelants
James Santo



Gene Vetrano
...Gail White
John Wroblewski

OCTOBER

Sunil Bangali
Edwin Fischer
James Levi
Alice Munzo
David Price
Jose Sanchez



NOVEMBER

Kory Brietel
Edmund Cienava
Melvin Goldstein
John kamke
Matthew Quartararo
Robert Verona



DECEMBER

Eddie Lee Armour
Walter O. Baggett
Phyllis Bernard
Frederick Cronin
Mark Hennelly
Donald Ruggieri
Elizabeth Saracino
Ronald D. Sernau
Steven Skalicky
Anthony Weiner



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

(If we missed your birthday, please let us know!!)



*The Yacht 'America' Winning the International
Race, by [Fitz Henry Lane](#), 1851*

Save The date

District 2 Summer Council 2013

Saturday – 21 September

At the I-84 Diner

853 Route 52 and Interstate 84
Fishkill, New York



SAVE THE DATE



COMMANDER'S PICNIC



LOBSTER & CLAMBAKE

To honor all Past and Present Commanders of the
Westchester Sail and Power Squadron and Cross County Power Squadron

Saturday October 5, 2013

Oriente Yacht Club

Mamaroneck, NY



Westchester Sail and Power Squadron



2013-2014

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

Cdr Paul K. Okura, P
Lt/C Russ Michel, AP
Lt/C Andy Papademetriou, AP
P/C Frank E. Palmieri, JN
Lt/C Ann Toffel
Lt/C Ruth E. Harkin, AP

P/C Alan Goldman, AP
D/C Howard Sklar, AP
P/C Melvin Goldstein, AP
1st Lt Joseph Pizzuti, AP
1st Lt John W. Wroblewski, S
P/C Ron Gabel, AP
P/C Marie Lambert, P
P/C Robert P. Kelly, SN
P/C William F. Gratz, SN

Fleet Captain:
Historian:
Law Officer:
Auditor:

Westchester Sail and Power Squadron
Current Set and Drift
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Scarsdale, NY 10583
P/C John W. Steger, JN



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