

# CURRENT SET AND DRIFT

Summer 2013

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

**WSPS Commander Paul K. Okura, P**



We are very pleased to inform all members that Governor Cuomo signed the new bill on September 27, 2013 which requires boaters in New York to take a safe boating class in order to operate a recreational motor boat in New York. While it will initially be applicable only to boaters 18 and younger, it is designed so that the cut off age will be raised 1 year each year. Eventually all boaters in NY regardless of age will be required to take a safe boating class in order to operate a boat with a motor.

This new bill could have a significant positive impact on the number of people who will be taking our ABC classes so get the word out to young people around you that they can take the safe boating class from the USPS to satisfy this new law.

During the summer, we had great Thursday night sails. It was only possible through the generosity of the members who made their sail boats available for Thursday night sails, so thank you to all the Captains who volunteered to take on the crews. I was able to get on board our AO Frank Palmieri's new yacht which was just gorgeous. All the crew enjoyed the magnificent sail and the beautiful sunset.

After the D-2 Summer Council we were asked

by the owner of the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club (where we did Vessel Safety Checks last year) to consider collaboration with our squadron. So we agreed to conduct a Flare/Up! In late October and possibly give classes and seminars to members at their Club. If this collaboration works, we plan to expand this arrangement with other Yacht Clubs in Westchester County.

So we have wonderful new opportunities for us to increase the number of students who may be taking our classes and seminars. We would like to encourage all members to get the word out about our ABC classes which satisfy the new State requirements.

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## CITY OF WATER DAY



Bob Verona and Paul Okura took part in the City of Water Day event on July 20<sup>th</sup> near Governor's Island. This was the second year in which WSPS participated in the City of Water Day event. Bob took his 21' power boat from his marina in Greenwich, CT all the way down to Buttermilk Channel next to the Governor's Island. We operated Bob's boat as a Safety Boat and we escorted many paddle boats who were crossing the Channel to get to Governor's Island from Brooklyn and other parts of NYC. After the entire day of escorting the paddle boats we landed on the Governor's Island and met with our friends from District 4 who were manning the USPS booth on the Governor's Island.

## THURSDAY NIGHT SAILS



Our popular Thursday evening sails began on June 21st and ended on Sept. 19th. Thanks to Frank Palmieri, John Steger, Russ Michael and Emilio Gonzalez many members and potential new members from MeetUp were able to enjoy eleven Thursday sails. We have boats in City Island, New Rochelle and Mamaroneck. The sailing days were mostly beautiful and sunny and the sunsets over the skyline were spectacular. Passengers (crew) were able to experience tacking and jibing on a 27 or 31 foot yacht while receiving instructions and encouragement from the captains. The crews also learned how to trim the sails for best performance.

We are looking forward to exposing more people to the pleasures of sailing and encourage them to take our classes and seminars. **So join us when you can, and enjoy evening sailing on the sound along with great sunsets** and a friendly burger and beer at Dudleys and other fun places after the sails.

## D-2 SUMMER COUNCIL



The summer D-2 Council was well represented by the WSPS members. The meeting was very well organized by District Commander Howard Sklar who announced that future Fall Conferences will be one day events and it will be hosted by the District instead of by a squadron to reduce the burden on the squadrons. A GPS seminar was also offered as part of the meeting.



## NORWALK BOAT SHOW (9-22-2013)



Bob Verona, Howard Sklar, John Steger and Paul Okura volunteered at the Norwalk Boat show and manned the USPS booth. Our booth was right across from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary booth so we invited one of their officers to try out our Laser Fire Extinguisher. It was very reassuring to see him put out the simulated fire very quickly. The laser fire extinguisher unit attracted many visitors to the USPS booth and we were able to field questions from visitors who wanted to take classes and seminars in Westchester County. The number of boats on display as well as the vendors was less than last year which could be a result of the Hurricane Sandy which damaged many marinas in NY and CT.



# Flare/Up at MBYC

The Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club contacted WSPS to see how we could work with them on boating activities. In previous years we have done Vessel Safety Checks with this Club. As a result, we agreed to attend an Open House at their Club on Oct. 20, and provide a Flare/Up with them on Sunday Oct. 27. District Coordinator George Friend directed the effort along with about 15 WSPS members who helped make this a very successful event. There were over 45 people from the club and other areas who came to learn how to fire off dozens of flares safely. The MBYC provided coffee and cookies and other delicious goodies to participants and the function was a wonderful collaboration which resulted in many more boaters now aware of how to fire flares safely. The success of this undertaking encourages us to continue to work with MBYC to conduct classes and seminars, and use this as a model to work with other Yacht Clubs and boating organizations in Westchester. We were extremely grateful to the President of the MBYC, Michele Rosenshein for her interest and help in coordinating this effort with us. Everyone was pleased with the results.



## Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for Thursday Dec. 12 at 7PM at the Orienta Yacht Club. This will be a catered dinner, so no one has to work too hard in the kitchen. And as is our tradition of the past few years, we will also ask each member to make a small contribution of a toy or gift for a child. A box for these gifts will be placed at the entrance to the club.

In addition we will have our usual raffle and game of chance. So we hope to see many members at this traditional and fun party. (See attached flyer).



## Governor Cuomo Signs Boating Legislation

We are happy to report that on Sept. 27, 2013 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation to improve safety for boaters in New York's waterways by requiring safety classes for all boat operators. The Boating Legislation bill proposed by Assemblywomen Sandy Galef and State Senator David Carlucci and reported in our previous newsletter is now the Law in NY State. The new law (A.3471-A/S.1639-A) requires all boat operators to obtain a boating safety certificate by completing an eight hour safe boating course. The requirement will be put into effect over a period of years, beginning next year with all 18-year-old boaters. Certificates can be obtained and the safety course completed with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation, U.S. Power Squadrons, or the U.S. Coast Guard. Previous law only required the operator of a **personal watercraft** to obtain a boating safety certificate or be accompanied on the vessel by a person over 18 years of age who is the holder of a safety certificate. The new law extends the requirement to all motorized water vessels.



Many boating organizations, including our WSPS and District 2 of the US Power Squadrons have indicated their early support for this legislation. Although it may take several years to apply to all boaters it is a start to make all boaters more aware of safety regulations and make New York waterways safer for everyone. There were 875 boating accidents in New York State between 2008 and 2011, which resulted in 95 fatalities and 500 injuries, according to the New York State Office of Parks Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The law takes effect on May 1, 2014.

## Vessel Safety Checks

This year, our Vessel Safety Check program started later than normal since many marinas in Westchester County were damaged severely by Hurricane Sandy in November.

Vessel Examiners Andy Papademitriou and Paul Okura started our Vessel Safety Checks at the Orienta Yacht Club in Mamaroneck. The Vessel Examininers were able to use the squadron canopy purchased to protect the Vessel Examininers 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 that boat owners remembered us from last year.



## BVI CHARTER SAIL ADVENTURE

If you are interested in a great charter sail to the BVI with squadron friends, in March 2014, check out the flyer on page 11. This will be organized by our squadron member, Captain Michael Miller. It would be GREAT to sail with friends!

## General Meetings:

WSPS held the first in a series of General Meetings for the fall season featuring guest speakers who are experts in their area of boating.



The **September** meeting held the evening 26<sup>th</sup> at the lovely Orienta Yacht Club had Captain Michael Miller talking about bareboat chartering. About 35 people attended to hear Captain Miller, who is a USCG licensed master talk about how to plan and execute a trip to the famous cruising grounds in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. He covered choosing a destination, choosing a charter company, planning the trip itself, qualifications to charter, contract negotiations, insurance and provisioning. Guests enjoyed wine and cheese provided by WSPS. (See the Flyer on page 11).

The second General Meeting **October** 24<sup>th</sup> was held at McMichael Yacht Brokers in Mamaroneck, NY. The meeting featured Rusty Stewart, Sales Manager and Chris Corkery, Yard Manager who talked about buying a boat the brokerage itself and what to look for during winter decommissioning and spring commissioning that could save hundreds or even thousands of dollars in repair bills later. The turnout was about 15 people and all enjoyed the very hospitable atmosphere of the brokerage.



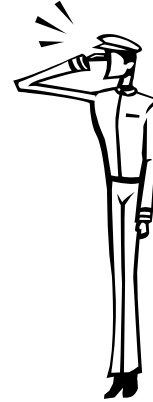
Next to come - Thursday **November** 21<sup>st</sup> back at Orienta (7PM) where our own Russ Michel, Exec Officer WSPS will talk about electronic charting and specifically a free online program **Active Captain**. See you there.



## SEO Report Lt/C Andy Papademetriou, AP

In an effort to provide expanded class offerings, WSPS has joined a consortium of Power Squadrons in the district with the aim of coordinating our class schedules so that members can take courses in any of these squadrons with minimum conflict.

Course Name	Offered by	Start Date	Day
Seamanship	Westchester Darien	Jan 27, 2014 April 7, 2014	Mon Evening Mon Evening
Piloting	Darien Norwalk	Sep 17, 2013 Jan 4, 2014	Tue Evening Sat Afternoon
Advanced Piloting	Greenwich Darien Norwalk	Sep 9, 2013 Jan 7, 2014 Mar 15, 2014	Mon Evening Tue Evening Sat Afternoon
Cruise Planning	Norwalk	Mar 22, 2014	Sat Morning
Engine Maintenance	Norwalk Greenwich	Feb 8, 2014 Feb 3, 2014	Sat Morning Mon Evening
Marine Electrical Systems	Norwalk Stamford	Jan 4, 2014 Fall 2014	Sat Morning Mid-week Eve
Sail <i>(on the water component in May)</i>	Stamford	April 2014	Mid-week Eve
Weather	Darien	Jan 6, 2014	Mon Evening
BOC/Public on the water boat handling	Stamford	Apr 25 2014	Fri Evening and Saturday



Below are the ABC Safe boating courses from the consortium.

Location	Start Date	Day
Westchester	Sep 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	Tuesday Evenings, 7:30pm, 7 Sessions
Stamford	Sep 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	Tuesday Evenings, 7:30pm, 7 Sessions
Danbury	Fall 2013	Saturday: Day 1-day class
Greenwich	Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	Tuesday Evenings, 7:30pm, 7 Sessions
Westchester	Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	Saturday Day, 8:00am, 1-day class
Darien	Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Wednesday Evenings, 7:00pm, 7 Sessions
Westchester	Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	Tuesday Evenings, 7:30pm, 7 Sessions
Norwalk	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Sundays 9:30am, 3 Sessions
Westchester	May 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Saturday Day, 8:00am, 1-day class

Please contact SEO  
Andy  
Papademetriou,  
Tel 917-648-7056,  
email  
[andypapad@yahoo.com](mailto:andypapad@yahoo.com)  
if you need any  
assistance in  
registering with  
any of these course

## WSPS Birthdays

### JULY

Mildred L. Perez  
Seth Newlin  
Joe Varulo

### AUGUST

Russ Michel  
Guido Dattaro  
Raymond Quartararo  
Donald A. Bernard  
Leah D. Campbell

### SEPTEMBER

Tina Mancusco  
Gail White  
James Santo  
Arnold Berlin  
Dennis McGrath  
Lynn Quartararo  
John W. Wroblewski  
Peggy Howland



### OCTOBER

Robert S. Forman

### NOVEMBER

Mel Goldstein  
Matthew Quartararo  
John Kamke  
Joseph J. Hvisc  
Rochelle Berkowitz  
Robert L. Verona  
Kory A. Brietel



### DECEMBER.

Elizabeth Saracino  
Steven Skalicky  
Ann Toffel  
Mark Hennely  
Dennis Troyanos  
Walter O. Baggett  
Eddie Lee Armour  
Donald J. Ruggieri  
Frederick Cronin  
Phyllis A. Bernard  
Anthony Weiner  
Ronald D. Sernau

WSPS wishes all these  
members a healthy and  
Happy Birthday



## Ruth and Paul's Excellent Summer Adventure:

By Paul Zengara, AP

In Sept. we take our annual end of summer 2 week cruise on the Sound with our 31 ft Tartan, RYPPY. We usually make a preliminary route plan, aware that we invariably amend that plan according to the demands of weather and winds. We like to divide our days between anchoring out and docking at marinas for access to good restaurants.

Our plans were to go to Port Jefferson, Branford, Westbrook, Shelter Island, Stonington, and anywhere else time and tide would allow. A two week cruise in our area gives us a good sampling of all kinds of weather conditions. There was no wind and fog as we headed to Port Jefferson but going to Branford we encountered 18 knot SW winds and 4ft seas on our starboard quarter. On the way to Westbrook we sailed with 18 knot N winds under a shortened jib.



Checking the tide tables

On an extended trip one will also uncover problems that day sails might not. For example, the jammed headsail furler that held us up a day at Westbrook, or the clogged fuel filters on the return home that prolonged bouncing around while motoring directly into 5ft seas and S winds were problems we don't usually see on our day sails.

Onto Shelter Island, making sure we timed the tide through Plum Gut, all the while keeping an eye out for those ferries. We saw more Hinckleys on Shelter Island than anywhere else. We stayed a full day on Shelter Island exploring the area with rented bikes. Then we pushed on to Stonington but very light winds forced us to use the "iron wind" and we stayed overnight in Fisher's Island West Harbor. Then, the next morning, onward to Stonington under a reefed jib alone with 18 knot S winds.

Heading home from Stonington requires properly timing the tides at the Race.

Being wrong could mean sailing for a long time without any progress. On our next to last day sailing to Port Jefferson we ran into rain in the morning and heavy clouds afterward with 12 knot winds. At one point we saw an unusually shaped cloud that Ruth (having grown up in the mid-west) immediately recognized as a funnel cloud almost directly overhead. Luckily it dissipated instead of touching down. We had a safe and relatively quiet night anchored inside NW Port Jefferson Harbor with winds about 24-28 knots. The winds moderated overnight and we had a comfortable sail home to Stamford on our last day out.



5ft seas and S winds





# Happy Holidays



## WESTCHESTER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

Invite you to our

# 2013 HOLIDAY PARTY



**DECEMBER 12, 2013**  
**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 Frank Palmieri 914. 424.2255 or [Frankp56@optonline.net](mailto:Frankp56@optonline.net) or  
P/C John Steger 914 472-5520 or [jwsteger@gmail.com](mailto: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





# SAFE BOATING COURSE



## Hosted by the Westchester Sail and Power Squadron

The United States Power Squadrons Safe Boating course is designed to familiarize you with most of the fundamentals of safe boating.

Subjects covered include:

- Boat Handling
- Boating Regulations
- Lines and Knots
- Emergencies
- Aids to Navigation
- Marine Radio Usage
- Boat Types & Terminology
- Navigational Rules
- Adverse Conditions
- Charts
- PWC
- Trailer Boating

• PWC CERTIFICATION  
(NY NASBLA APPROVED)



**Date:** Saturday November 16, 2013  
**Time:** 8:00 AM  
**Location:** New Rochelle Marina (2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom)  
 22 Pelham Road, New Rochelle NY

*(Class meets Saturday for one 8 –hour SESSION. Student materials include manual, marlinspike rope, Digital chart CD)*

**\$75 Fee**

For information call:  
 Andy at: 917-648-7056  
 OR  
 E-mail: andypapad@yahoo.com



Please make a copy of this flyer  
 and give it to anyone you think  
 might wish to attend this class.



# WESTCHESTER SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON IS PROUD TO PRESENT BVI CHARTER SAIL ADVENTURE...March 19 to 26, 2014

WITH Captain Michael Miller of Firesail Adventures



## Join the WSPS Crew!

A group of adventurous sailors will set sail to explore the many islands, cays, and reefs of the British Virgin Islands. We will visit picturesque palm fringed isles with great beach bars and bands, restaurants, hiking trails and snorkeling sites. Take the helm, trim the sails, stand bow watch, or just chill and soak up the balmy sunny days. Learn big boat sailing with Captain Michael, a USCG Licensed Master and US Sailing Association Certified Instructor. Beginners are welcome!

Our 50' Beneteau yacht has 4 cabins, each with a private head. The boat will be provisioned for all breakfasts and half of the lunches and dinners. We will cook on-board meals communally. Other meals will be taken on shore at the many fun local eateries.

On the last trip we had fabulous snorkeling and saw a wide variety of sea life, including, turtles, tarpon, barracuda, queen angels, sharks, lobsters and spotted eagle rays! Snorkeling on reefs is exciting and easy to learn. We will spend each night anchored in a different harbor or deserted cove. At night the clear, dark skies give us a fabulous celestial light show including numerous shooting stars.

### The cost of the 7 day and night trip includes:

- \* All sailing and boat equipment
- \* Double cabin with linens and your own private head
- \* All breakfasts and half of the lunches and dinners
- \* Sailing Instruction (optional)

\$1679 pp, double occupancy.

\$2479 Private double cabin, s.o.

**All WSPS members receive an additional \$150.00 off the above price.**

Contact Captain Michael for more info to help determine if this adventure is right for you. 50% deposit will reserve you a spot!

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY NOVEMBER 15, 2013

*(Captain Mike Miller reserves the right to fill any unbooked spaces with non-USPS guests).*

**Captain Michael Miller, USCG Licensed Master, US Sailing Assoc. Certified Instructor**

[firesail@verizon.net](mailto:firesail@verizon.net)

Tel # 845-346-5414

34 Carrollwood Dr.  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

[Firesailadventures.com](http://Firesailadventures.com)

[sailing.meetup.com/113](http://sailing.meetup.com/113)







## 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  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Joseph Pizzuti, AP  
1<sup>st</sup> 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**  
**342 Heathcote Road**  
**Scarsdale, NY 10583**  
**P/C 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 [jwsteger@gmail.com](mailto:jwsteger@gmail.com) or a note to John Steger at the address listed above.