



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

Mark 4

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Issue 1

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I find it hard to realize that this will be my last message in the Mark IV. Almost a year ago when I was sworn in it seemed like I had forever to do all the things I wanted to do but all too soon forever is gone. I know as we get older time seems to speed up but this was the fastest year of all.

I will say for me it was interesting, challenging, aggravating, satisfying and most of all FUN. I have had the privilege of meeting some of the finest people in this organization, dedicated to the promotion of Boating Safety who give unselfishly of their time, energy and knowledge who no matter what their rank or title all work for the exact same pay, one merit mark per year. I salute all of you for making my year one I will never forget.

These are hard times for the country and consequently for USPS. We are holding our own and with help from some of the new programs that National has instituted I expect to see a turnaround in membership in the very near future. We can now get out and

teach all of our courses to the public not only the seminars. People can now join USPS on line and be placed in a "Cyber" squadron until they join an active squadron. National has picked up 193 new members in this manner in just a short time. Advertising to increase Membership is the big game in town and there are many ways to do it. Check the National website for them.

The editor said to keep this short as he didn't have much space so I will close by saying "Thank you to all for giving me this opportunity to serve you. I leave with many fond memories of a year that was over all too soon. I feel confident in turning over the helm to the incoming DC Elect Dick Swackhamer and expect he will also enjoy all your support as have I and knowing Dick I know he will do an outstanding job next year".

Smooth Seas and Gorgeous Sunsets,

Richard V. Fiorentini, SN
Commander District 4

THANKS RICHARD FOR A GREAT JOB.

Mark 4 is the official publication of District 4, USPS. Published 4 times a year. P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, Editor . P/D/C Richard Zucchi, AP, co-editor

Articles and announcements from squadron officers and members are welcome by email at DJMGEM@AOL.COM

Our thanks to all the contributors to this issue whose names appear with their articles.

Link for NOAA Booklet Chartpage.

(Raritan Bay Sail and Power Squadron has publicized the NOAA Chart Booklet web site to its members and thought it should be submitted to other squadrons in the district. The following release is from D/Lt Don Baker.

Thanks.)

A number of years ago I worked with Richard Sillcox of NOAA on the development of Print on Demand Charts available from Ocean Graphics in NY. I was functioning as an advisor regarding the needs of recreational boaters.

Originally, they had no plans to fold charts such as the strip chart for 12324 covering Sandy Hook to Little Egg Harbor. I explained that most recreational boats did not have large chart tables and we fold our charts. I sent him the chapter from our Seamanship course that shows how to fold charts. We can now obtain some charts folded.

Last summer I notified NOAA that Chart #12324 that covers Toms River had the R10 buoy improperly numbered on the chart as R2. R2 is actually at the mouth of Toms River. I had not talked with Richard for a couple of years, and was surprised to get a e-mail from him, since he had been promoted to another level

at NOAA. He said that he made the change, and sent me a new chart showing the correction.

Since I keep my charts on my boat, about three weeks after receiving the new chart from him. About a month later, I wanted to see if the area off Good Luck Point reflected the new shoal that had accidentally been created when chopped clam shells were dumped in a single area instead of being spread out to create a new clam bed for the future. The area is now marked with four small white buoys, since it is now only 2 feet deep in the area.

I went to the NOAA Booklet Chart link on our squadron's web site (above), and saw that the correction for the improperly numbered R2 was not changed, although it was changed on the new chart that Richard sent to me. I fired off a e-mail to him about it. Turned out that NOAA thought that when they made a change on the regular chart that the information was uploaded automatically to Booklet Charts. They were not aware of the problem that has now been fixed.

Whereas the primary buoys change infrequently, those in harbors change often. If you get Local Notice to Mariners (I receive District 1 & 5) weekly, you will know that there is now a 2 foot shoal in the channel to Clinton Harbor on LI Sound. There are also a number of problems on the ICW from Atlantic City to Cape May. Before I make my annual cruise on LI Sound, I pull up the Booklet Charts for the harbors I plan to visit to look for

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changes that could be a navigation problem. For instance, at R8 on Block Island there is now a 2 foot shoal.

Booklet charts are very useful, and ourmembers should consult them for changes in the areas in which they boat. One can get an entire chart in pages, but that would seem quite cumbersome. They are great for updating our charts.

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov>

Don Baker

District 4 Spring Conference

This year the Spring Conference is on March 13, 2010. We are going to try something new that has not been tried before for the benefit of our members. Many feel the conference mostly is of interest to and benefits the various squadron bridges and not the individual members, therefore the change. At this conference the district will put on 5 workshops / seminars for **FREE**. That is correct for free. Come and get credit for attending a seminar of your choice. There will be the normal Administrative Workshop followed up by ID re-certification seminar presented by D/L Kelly Fahey. In the next room will be the new seminar - Suddenly in Command- presented by D/L Don Baker. In the next room will be the well received seminar - On board Weather forecasting presented by D/L Leslie Eslinger. And in the last room will be the seminar - VHS/DSC-Rescue 21 presented by Hank Keller.

This is an opportunity to bring your spouse, meet with your friends and get credit for taking a seminar. You may buy the student take home material if you are interested. An order will be

taken for it and your SEO will get it to you and your squadron will get credit for the sale.

Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio
VHF radio is the mainstay of coastal communication and essential for emergency communications. Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is rapidly becoming a reality as more Coast Guard Rescue 21 System operations go live. This seminar explains basic VHF operation. A CD is included with a DSC Simulator that allows you to practice on your computer at home. The handy waterproof McGraw-Hill Captains' Quick Guide Using VHF is included with essential information that you should have aboard.

Onboard Weather Forecasting

While not a course in weather, this seminar explains how just using your own senses can help you determine what conditions you will encounter where you are. By all means, a forecast is important. It will tell you what weather systems are headed your way, but they are challenged to tell exactly where and when conditions will change. Add your own observations and you have an extra edge. Add a couple of instruments and you can verify your observations. The seminar explains weather systems, how to understand clouds and their changes, using changing wind direction, temperature, and pressure to hone in on emerging weather fronts. The seminar includes the McGraw-Hill Onboard Weather Forecasting waterproof Captain's Quick Guide to take aboard your boat.

Partner in Command

This seminar provides an introduction to boating for crew members who need basic information and who may or may not have taken a boating course. It is designed to provide essential information one may require to assist a skipper in the safe operation of a recreational boat. Included in the seminar are actions in response to emergencies. This seminar includes a text. A "Know Practice Board" will be useful to practice tying knots. The student kit includes the student notes booklet, a completion certificate, and a patch.

ON THE LIGHT SIDE

One night outside a small town, a fire started inside the local chemical plant. In the blink of an eye, it exploded into massive flames. The alarm went out to all fire departments for miles around. When the volunteer fire fighters appeared on the scene, the chemical company president rushed to the fire chief and said, "All our secret formulas are in the vault in the center of the plant. They must be saved. I'll give \$50,000 to the fire department that brings them out intact."

But the roaring flames held the firefighters off. Soon more fire departments had to be called in as the situation became desperate. As the firemen arrived, the president shouted out that the offer was now \$100,000 to the fire department who could save the company's secret files.

From the distance, a lone siren was heard as another fire truck came into sight. It was the nearby senior citizen volunteer fire company composed mainly of old geezers over the age of 65. To everyone's amazement, that little broken-down fire engine roared right past all the sleek newer engines that were parked outside the plant.

Without even slowing down, it drove straight into the middle of the inferno. Outside, the other firemen watched as the old timers jumped off right in the middle of the fire and fought it back on all sides. It was a performance and effort never seen before. Within a short time, the old timers had extinguished the fire and saved the secret formulas. The grateful chemical company president announced that for such a superhuman feat he was upping the

reward to \$200,000, and walked over to thank each of the brave fire fighters personally.

The local TV news reporter rushed in to capture the event on film, asking their chief, "What are you going to do with all that money?"

"Well," said Butch, the 75-year-old fire chief, "The first thing we are gonna do is fix the brakes on that old truck !"

URGENT BOATER'S NOTICE

(SUBJ: TERMINATION OF ALL U.S. LORAN-C SIGNALS)

ACCORDING TO THE 2010 DHS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, THE U.S. COAST GUARD WILL TERMINATE THE TRANSMISSION OF ALL U.S. LORAN-C SIGNALS EFFECTIVE 2000Z 08 FEB 2010. AT THAT TIME, THE U.S. LORAN-C SIGNAL WILL BE UNUSABLE AND PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED. THIS TERMINATION DOES NOT AFFECT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN OR CANADIAN LORAN-C CHAINS. U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THESE CHAINS WILL CONTINUE TEMPORARILY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

(Thanks Don Baker. Too bad lorans are too light to use as anchors)

District IV-Bigger and Better- at the boat show

Starting in July Cdr. Grant Hobson, D4 Chairman for boat show presentations, began planning for the New York Boat Show. This boat show is the most important marketing event in District 4. Grant has been responsible for presenting USPS at the New York show as well as other shows in D4 and has also participated at the Atlantic City Boat Show in district 5. Grant has been refining the USPS booth along the way and, in my opinion; he has achieve a world class presentation. The USPS booth looks as good as the best vender booth. New additions to the booth this year is a 30 inch flat screen color monitor displaying a continuous program showing courses and seminars offered by USPS. The vivid colors and the continuously changing program served to attract shoppers to our booth. Our members stayed busy answering questions from people interested in courses and membership in USPS. Another positive addition this year is an additional five feet of space. This allowed Grant to spread out the display and feature more of USPS materials including the USPS University seminar series. Another plus this year is all members who came to work in the USPS booth were appropriately dressed and most wore blue blazers. This year's USPS booth is a huge improvement over what I remember seeing several years ago and served as a credit to USPS District IV.

USPS seminars were another important addition to the show this year. Grant was invited to present five 30 minute seminars over four days of the show. We decided to present two on board weather forecasting seminars, given by Marvin Lipper, North River, one Rules of the Road seminar, P/D/C Rich Zucchi Barnegat Bay, and two GPS seminars given by Cdr Kim O'Connell, North River and P/C Ray Nylander, Lackawanna. The seminars were free and opened to all who attended the boat show. These seminars were short, but gave us an opportunity to showcase USPS, our courses and our quality instruction. Grant had Seminar material available at the booth for sale for anyone who wanted more information on the subjects presented. Over 400 seminar pamphlets were distributed to people interested in our USPS university program. Our marketing efforts were successful because of the help of the members from many D4 and D3 squadrons who staff the booth and this year spoke at the five seminars. The North River Power Squadron, in particular Grant Hobson, Kim O'Connell and Marvin Lipper are credited for planning, and coordinating the event and transporting, setting up and taking down the booth.

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Cdr Kim O'Connell, S (North River) with her husband John and Grant Hobson on the right.

(See page 7 and 8 for more pictures)

OFFICER TRAINING



D/Lt/C Richard Swackhamer, AP (Watchung) standing left and D/C Richard Fiorentini, SN (Raritan Bay) standing right, address the incoming squadron bridge officers.

by working at it; managers do things right while leaders do the right thing. To lead requires vision, which must be stated and repeated. Too much supervision is as bad as too little. The trick is in narrowing down priorities and communicating them. Coaching: You can do anything, but you cannot do everything. (Delegate) Work as a team so that everybody has a stake in the outcome. No idea is a bad idea, only one that has not yet been considered. (Brainstorming) Start thinking about your mission when you are Administrative Officer and you will hit the ground running when you become Commander.

(For the record, there were 11 Pork dinners served, 9 fish dinners and 9 chicken dinners. Priorities) □



D/Lt/C Florence Smith, SN (Staten Island) moderates a PowerPoint presentation on Leadership

Wednesday 27 January 2010 San Carlo Restaurant, Lyndhurst NJ:

Twenty-nine members from eight squadrons attended the semi-annual Officer Training Dinner Meeting. During dinner D/4 Bridge Officers explained to incoming Squadron Bridge Officers how to deal with their new responsibilities. After dinner D/Lt/C Florence Smith, SN moderated a discussion on Leadership Qualities so important to the success of any organization. Some of the salient features of her talk: Leadership can be learned

Your District Officers at Work

The incoming bridge officers will hit the ground running come March Change of Watch. Below almost P/D/C Richard Fiorentini, SN (Barnegat Bay) helps incoming bridge officers Florence Smith, SN (Staten Island), Raymond Nylander,

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AP (Lackawanna) and Dick Swackhamer, AP (Watchung) empty out the potables of Swackhamer's kitchen in his Cranford NJ home.

After the kitchen cabinet meeting they adjourned to the dining room table to plan the 2010-2011 calendar, social and civic activities, while in the living room D/4 wives watched the Jets win.

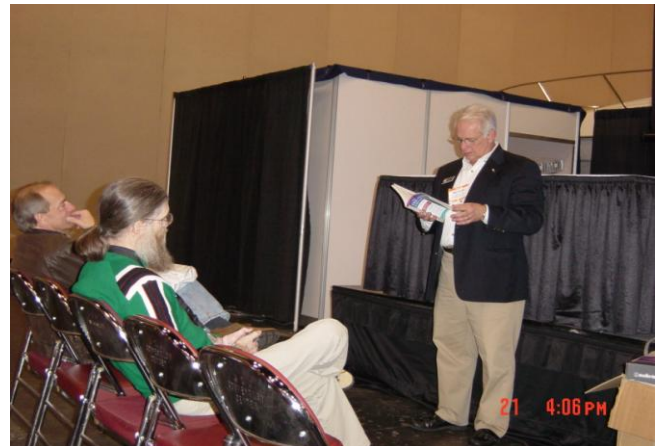
The previous week, D/C Fiorentini hosted a meeting at D/Lt/C Harry Wagner's Toms River home to plan the final months of his administration by planning for the Spring Conference in Ridgefield Park, NJ and the National Conference in Orlando FL. Scheduled for 3-6 February.



Cdr Jim DiMeo AP Staten Island, Cdr. Grant Hobson SN and P/DC Rich Zucchi JN



Jim Ulrich SN Staten Island P/DC Rich Zucchi and P/D/LTCdr Don Kadlac P Barnegat Bay



P/DC Rich Zucchi JN, conducting seminar

NOW THIS IS GREAT EXPOSURE





CDR Kim O'Connell S CDR Grant Hobson SN
North River



THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN PREPARING FOR, AND MANNING OUR EXHIBIT, AND SPECIAL THANKS TO GRANT HOBSON AND HIS CONTINUED CHAIRING OF THIS IMPORTANT COMMITTEE).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our spring conference is scheduled on 12 and 13 March, 2010. As is evident from the article on page 3 of this issue, many positive changes have been made to the program and there is something for everyone to enjoy. Start with the cocktail party and dinner on Saturday night, have your squadron once again have a hospitality suite as they did in the past, attend the Saturday lunch with other members of your squadron. Bring your squadron burgee and display it on your table. SEE ATTACHED PROGRAM FOR THE CONFERENCE

Program

- **0815 Registration**
First Timers Welcome
- **0900 Conference Call to Order**
D/C Richard V. Fiorentini, SN
Invocation
District Chaplain
D/Lt Herbert M. Groce, Jr., S
Pledge of Allegiance
District Flag Lieutenant
D/F/Lt Theodore W. Wallace, P
- **0910 Message from the Chief Commander**
V/C Bob Sweet, SN
- **0945 Announcements**
District Educational Officer
D/Lt/C Christopher Windeler, SN
District Administrative Officer
D/Lt/C Florence E. Smith, SN
District Secretary
D/Lt/C Ernest N. Wasserman, SN
- **1000 Workshop Sessions**
Room locations on the handout
- **1200 Ladies' Luncheon**
- **1230 Cash Bar**
- **Preparation of Resolutions**
Deliver to J. Arlene Maresca, AP
Chairman, Planning Committee
- **1300 Members/Non-Members Luncheon**
Introduction of Guests
Presentation of Awards
- **1445 Conference Business Meeting**
Report of Finance Committee
Report of Planning Committee
Report of Nominating Committee
Presentation of Resolutions
Election of Officers for 2010/2011
District 4 Council Meeting
Immediately upon adjournment of the
2010 Annual Conference, a District
Council meeting will convene to:
Confirm Committee Appointments
Set meeting dates for District Council
2010/2011
- **1930 Annual Dinner-Dance**
Installation of New District Officers
Door Prizes
- **2000 Dancing to the Music of**
Larry Kasar

2010 Spring Conference

Program

The morning session will be devoted to educational, and administrative workshop groups for discussions as listed on page 4.
In the morning, V/C Bob Sweet, SN, National Educational Officer, will inform us of the latest developments at National.

From 1200 to 1430, the Ladies' Luncheon will be served. If you wish to attend the luncheon, please complete the separate enclosed flyer. At 1300, the Members/Non-members buffet luncheon will be served. Please complete and return the form on this flyer.

After lunch, the Conference will reconvene to permit the presentation of resolutions emanating from the workshop sessions, and other business. A short District Council meeting will follow, to hear reports of District Officers and Committee Chairmen.

At 1930, the D/4 Annual Dinner-Dance will commence in the main ballroom.

Rooms

For those wishing to stay at the hotel Friday and/or Saturday night, the room rates will be \$99.00 per night, plus tax, single or double occupancy, a special rate for USPS members. Make your reservations by 19 February 2010, directly with the hotel. Phone 1-800-882-1038, and identify yourself as a member of USPS.

Attendance

We must guarantee our Friday night dinner, and Saturday luncheons and dinner reservations. Please complete the attached form and mail it together with your check or money order to P/Stf/C Vincene A. Aquilato, S, whose address is on the return portion of this flyer. Reservations must be postmarked by 27 February 2010. The check or money order should be made payable to "District 4 Meetings Committee," for: \$29.50 per person for Saturday lunch, and \$62.50 per person for the evening dinner-dance.

Dress code:

Saturday day: Uniform F, USPS blazer or appropriate attire.

Saturday evening: Uniform A (Bow tie) or Semi-formal.

Friday Evening Dinner

A special "D/C Roast" buffet dinner has been planned by D/4 for Friday evening, 12 March 2010. (A separate flyer has been enclosed for your information).

Directions

The **Park Ridge Marriott hotel** is located in Bergen County, NJ, approximately 13 miles north of the George Washington Bridge, and is accessible via the **Garden State Parkway, Exit 172, North**. Turn right at the exit ramp, first traffic light make right onto **Mercedes Drive**. Go to end, turn right. Follow until traffic light; turn left onto **Brae Boulevard**. Hotel is on left #300.

From New York (George Washington Bridge):

Take **Route 80 West** to the **Saddle Brook Exit** for the **Garden State Parkway**. Follow the **Garden State Parkway North** to **Exit 172 North**. Follow the above directions.

From New Jersey Turnpike:

Take **New Jersey Turnpike North** to **Route 80 West** to the **Saddle Brook Exit** for the **Garden State Parkway**. Follow the **Garden State Parkway North** to **Exit 172 North**. Follow the above directions.

From South and West Jersey:

Take **Garden State Parkway North** to **Exit 172**, then follow the directions above.

Specific individual driving directions and hotel particulars may be obtained on the Internet at: www.marriott.com/hotels/fact-sheet/travel/ewrpr-park-ridge-marriott/.....or, GPS it.