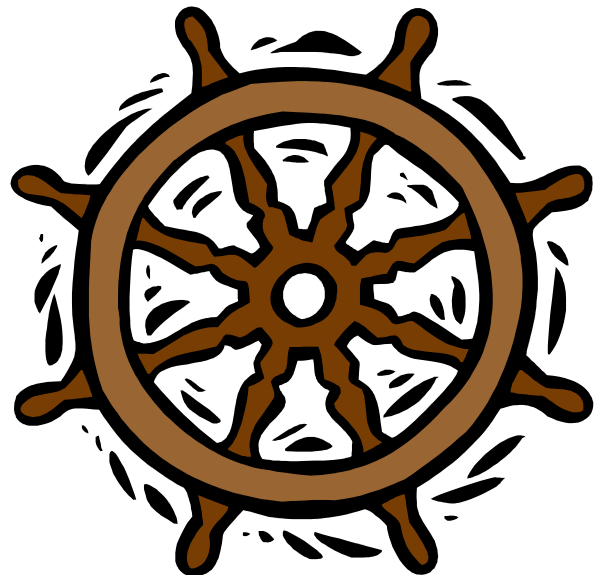


# *The Log*

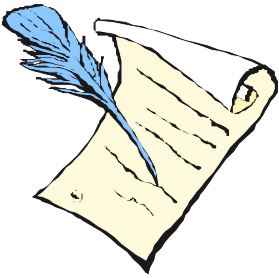
*Amoskeag Power Squadron*

*Winter 2007 Edition*



## Amoskeag Power Squadron Bridge

Commander	Cdr Harlan E Blanchard (pab0211@aol.com)	603-293-8249
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Education Officer	P/C Daniel J Gingras (dgingras@comcast.net)	603-624-7830
Administrative Officer	Lt/C Richard A Allard (rallard@carlsonre.com)	603-622-4767
Secretary	Lt/C Mary M Duval (r.h.duval@att.net)	603-669-4919
Treasurer	Lt/C Gerard J Gagne (tclipr@comcast.net)	603-623-8711



### Letter from the Editor.....

Well, the holidays have come and gone and now it's time settle in and enjoy the long days of winter! Although judging from the weather that we have had to date and what's predicted for the immediate future, it may not be a long cold winter at all! This is good news to those of us who are counting the days until we can get back on the water but bad news to those of you who were looking forward to skiing and snowmobiling.

And then those are those hardy souls who still have not put their boats up for the winter. You may shake your heads in disbelief, however, take it from someone who was staying on their boat the week before Christmas, the boat traffic on the Piscataqua River was quite heavy for that time of year. As we always leave our boat in the water throughout the winter, we try to make a trip down and stay overnight once a month just to insure that there is nothing freezing, leaking or anything else that's apt to happen on an unattended watercraft. Usually during this time of year, the river is dead and you would never know that you were on a floating object. This year was another matter. We were being tossed almost constantly by wakes from passing boats.

Well, sit back, relax, take out your charts and start plotting a couple of interesting cruises for next summer. Better yet, if there is an Elective Course that you've always wanted to take, give Dan Gingras and call and see if there's still time to get into that class. Or, keep your eyes open for the new upcoming two hours seminars that will soon be offered by USPS. These tutorials are half-day sessions, open to the public and will be on Weather, GPS, VHF and Charts.

Lt/c Mary Duval AP  
Secretary

### Question to think about.....

When must a sailing vessel give way to a power-driven vessel





## A Note from the Commander....

I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday season. It's beginning to feel like Spring is in sight. Before we know it, commissioning time will be upon us. Can't come too soon to suit me.

Along with Spring commissioning come Vessel Safety Checks. If you have ever wanted to become certified as a Vessel Safety Examiner, there is a one-day course coming up on Saturday, March 17. The course is being held at Paugus Bay Marina on Rte 3 between Weirs Beach and Meredith starting at 9:00 AM. Cost is only \$10.00. Being a VSE is a great way to promote boating safety as well as to promote USPS to the boating public. For more information on the VSC program, contact Ron Adams at 668-4993.

Our annual Founders Day dinner meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 16. The dinner meetings are a great opportunity to make some new friends, renew old acquaintances and swap boating stories. I hope to see many of you there.

USPS has come out with four new 2-hour seminars that are intended to be taught to the public. The topics are Chart Reading, GPS, Weather, and VHF Radio. We are hoping to arrange for some venues to offer these seminars sometime in the April-May timeframe. If any of you are interested in teaching one of these seminars (or assisting), please contact me at 293-8249 or pab0211@aol.com. We can always use more instructors.

This year our Change of Watch will take place at the District 19 Spring Conference, which will be held the weekend of March 23, 24, 25 in Concord. There will be a dinner on Saturday evening with an auction by Steve Richard. Steve is an entertainer as well as an auctioneer so his auctions are really something to see. You can check out all the Spring Conference activities on our website, [www.amoskeag.org](http://www.amoskeag.org).

Come on Spring!!!!  
Cdr. Harlan Blanchard, AP



## LOOK TO THE FUTURE.....

I have wondered about the future of the USPS and how we will fit into it. I was fortunate to meet R/C Robert Sweet, SN at the District 19 conference in Rutland Vermont this past November. He and the National Education Committee have some great ideas and are busy putting them in place.

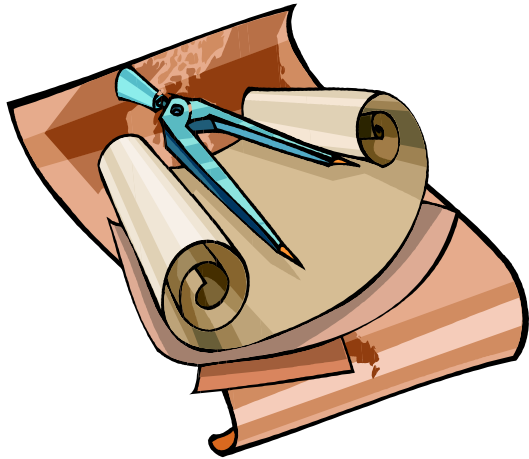
The premise that USPS is built on education and boating camaraderie will continue as a core theme. Our current courses have been revised and updated with a few new ones added. Delivery of courses and solicitation of new members will change somewhat but not drastically, with the presentation of mini-courses and perhaps the opening of advanced classes to nonmembers. The mini-courses rolled out to date are GPS, Charts, Marine Radio and Weather. These short subject courses are to be used to update members, entice new members, and be informational to the general public; all can be presented in several hours and potentially in collaboration with local businesses and schools. We were told there are 3-4 more of these one lecture series coming soon.

I believe offering new, updated and well-presented material will attract new membership and update the current membership; I was impressed with the mini-course I saw and believe it will keep us fresh in the eyes of the general public. Good public relations can only be good for the USPS.

R/C Sweet suggested that in the future we might see the Power Squadron offering specialized certificates for Lake & Inland Waters, Coastal and Deep Water. This type of boating certification is already popular in Europe and may well be a place for us to fit in the future of American boating.

Lt/c Jack LewisAP  
Executive Officer

## WHAT'S UP WITH EDUCATION ???



Well the 2006-2007 USPS education season is off and well under way. We have classes in Piloting, Junior Navigation, Marine Electronics and Weather. Unfortunately we were not able to round up sufficient interest in Advanced Piloting to teach a class, but we'll do it again next year.

There are major changes afoot in USPS. Looking at some of the newer courses, they're all great changes. The new courses are highly relevant to the way we use our boats today, with a focus on GPS, chart plotters and modern electronics while still emphasizing the basics in case the electronics go south.

Junior Navigation is the prime example of this. Gone are the obscure elements that even my son, who is a Maritime Academy graduate and second officer on a military ship said were absolutely never used in modern navigation. Instead, we focus on simple sun sights to give us running fixes and Local Apparent Noon sights. I suspect the star sights will be moved to the Navigation course for those who really want to learn star sights. JN is more focused on using the sextant as a backup to the GPS, which only makes sense to those of us who have navigated offshore. We're also focused on a bunch of new seminars too. Including a GREAT GPS seminar which can be taught in a few hours.

The best news is our **Squadron Meetings**. The last meeting was a great slide show by Jonathan Bird, a National Geographic photographer. It was by far, the best slide show that I have ever seen (and I've seen quite a few). The February meeting will feature the author of [The Hours Until Dawn](#), which is a fantastic book that I read last year and highly recommend. Unfortunately, I'll be at the Miami Boat Show but you will really kick yourself if YOU miss this presentation!

See you on the water!

Lt/c Dan Gingras SN  
Education Officer

### Note VSC Classes.....

**Saturday, March 17, 2007**

**9:00 am**

**Paugus Bay Marina (on Rte 3 between Weirs and Meredith)**

**Cost \$10**

Note that there is a kitchen and refrigerator (for your lunches and cold drinks).

Take I93N to Meredith exit (R140E). When you get to the "T" intersection, McDonald's will be in front of you.

Turn right. About ¾ miles on right is Paugus Bay Marina's showroom.

For more information, contact Tom Roscoe 603-366-4178.

### Mark the Date....

**District 19 Spring Conference  
Concord, NH  
March 23, 24 and 25**

**Registration Form included at the end of this  
Newsletter.**

**A sailing vessel when overtaking a power-driven vessel, is the give-way vessel.**

## FEBRUARY FOUNDER'S DAY MEETING

**Where:** Derryfield Country Club Restaurant  
625 Mammoth Road  
Manchester, NH

**When:** Friday, February 16, 2006

**Time:** 6:30 pm Social Hour

**Dinner:** 7:00 pm Dinner

**Cost:** \$25 per person



**PROGRAM:** A Narrated Slide Presentation by Award-winning  
Author, Michael Tougias

### **TEN HOURS UNTIL DAWN**

The True Story of Heroism and  
Tragedy Aboard the **Can Do**

During the height of the Blizzard of 1978 the pilot boat CAN DO, with five men aboard, set out from Gloucester to assist a lost Coast Guard boat and an oil tanker that was in peril. This is the story of what happened on that awful night.

Using slides of the boats, the men involved and photos of the storm, author, Michael Tougias, will take us through this incredible night where many lives hung in the balance. With the aid of maps, Tougias lets the audience see the progression and location of these boats and explain what happened and why.

Ten Hours Until Dawn was recently awarded the American Library Association's "Editors Choice Selection". Tougias is the author of 17 books. More about the book and the author can be found on the web at [www.michaeltougias.com](http://www.michaeltougias.com).

**\*\*\* Mark your calendar now to join us on February 16 & bring a friend!!!**

**DISTRICT 19 SPRING CONFERENCE**  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Room:** @ \$85.00 per night  
Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
One Kingsize Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Two Double Beds \_\_\_\_\_  
Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Smoking \_\_\_\_\_  
Check out 12:00 (noon)

**Planetarium Show (6:00 PM Friday, transportation on your own):**  
@ \$7.00 ea. Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals: (All include gratuity and tax)**

Friday Dinner On your own

Saturday Breakfast On your own

Saturday Lunch On your own

**Saturday Banquet and Entertainment**

@ \$29.00 ea. Number 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate choices and number:

Chicken Cordon Bleu \_\_\_\_\_

Baked Stuffed Haddock \_\_\_\_\_

Center Cut Pork Chops \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday Breakfast (Commander's Breakfast)**

@ \$13.50 ea. Number 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All are invited to attend the Commander's Breakfast and the District Council Meeting.

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check to:**  
**Amoskeag Power Squadron**

**Mail Check and This Form To:**

**Harlan Blanchard**  
**1032 Cherry Valley Rd.**  
**Gilford, NH 03249**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mailing Address:**  
**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Squadron:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekend Dress Code:**

Friday night: USPS Blazer or appropriate casual dress  
Saturday day: Casual dress or Uniform G  
Saturday night: USPS blazer or Uniform A with four in hand tie  
Sunday breakfast: USPS Blazer or appropriate casual dress

**Don't forget the most important part; YOUR NAME TAG!**