



Summer

2012

Schedule of Upcoming District Activities

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The District 1
2012-13 Bridge officers

Summer Activity and Annual Awards Issue

From the Helm

D/C Herb "Bud" Greenbacker, SN

Why take USPS courses? Why become an USPS member? The answers are many and varied. Let me suggest a few reasons.

"Why should I take the ABC course rather than the State course?" you may be asked. The State course teaches you safety afloat and the State laws. All important, but that's not all you need to learn. Suppose we taught people how to get a driver's license without teaching them how to drive. That is the comparison to make. Why learn to chart on a paper chart, when we have a chart plotter? Imagine using your GPS to drive to Florida without any streets entered into the data base. That is what your chart plotter is doing. There are no "streets" at sea. Yes, there is a chart on the screen, but it is like looking at a paper chart through a straw. If you are at Saybrook Point Marina and you ask the chart plotter to give you a course to Bell 8, what will happen? You will try to cross over the breakwater. If you did not have a paper chart and didn't know the area, you could be in trouble.

Why become a member? Have you ever gone to the national web site and looked up member benefits? There are a great number available. One is insurance. I only have liability insurance on my boat. I had Boat US insurance for many years. I was paying about \$450 per year. When I asked for a quote from USPS insurance the fee for the same coverage was \$177. Do you have insurance with USPS?

Other reasons to join include: the programs at meetings; other boaters to talk boats with; great rendezvous and cruises. If you are new to boating, the old salts love nothing better than helping you learn. If you are experienced, you can help the new members with your knowledge.

Don't tell me that you cannot get new members in your Squadron. Some Squadrons are growing their membership. They are taking advantage of the six month free membership for our ABC students and the ability to offer our advanced courses to non-members and sign them up. If other squadrons can do it, so can you. You must have a positive attitude, and be welcoming.

Hope to see all of you at our activities this summer. This issue is full of them and I hope you take advantage of your own membership.

Commander Bud

2.

Welcome to the District 1 Summer Activities

I want to welcome everyone back from the winter break. It wasn't much of a winter but the spring has been something else. First dry and now wet, it makes it hard to get our boats in the water, but I'm sure we all will. Then we can start enjoying our boats with friends and family on the water. This year's District activities will be a lot of fun. Here is a summary, but please see the flyers on the next pages for complete details.

June starts off the District's boating season with the Spring Rendezvous at Saybrook Point Marina. Come and join us 22-24 June by boat or car. The Saturday activities are great for adults and kids alike and we have the District Council meeting and blessing of the fleet as well. There will be lots of activities for you and the kids. Please see the flyer for more details and the Saturday schedule.

This year District 1 is re-introducing our Sail Race by participating with the Branford Yacht Club's Sail Race on Saturday, 14 July. There will be several racing classes including both Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker classes. All boats must have a valid 2012 PHRF-ECSA rating certificate. Even if you are not a racer, please come and enjoy the day and the club party afterward.

Our mini cruise will be to Brewer Pilot's Point Marina South Yard in Westbrook this year. The dates are 10-12 August. Come and cruise and have fun. Reserve your slip early to ensure a spot. If you have a slip with a Brewers yard you can use your Gold and Green cards to reduce your cost.

Last year's Poker Run was cancelled in the middle of Hurricane Irene, but this year we are racing again. Come join us on Saturday 22 September at Hamburg Cove Yacht Club for a full day of Poker Run, blindfolded racing, kid's activities, good food, and a lot of laughs.

I hope to see many of you at our District summer activities. Please be safe and have a good boating season.

D/Lt/C Art Andrea, AP
District Admin Officer

3.

2012 DISTRICT 1 RENDEZVOUS

Saybrook Point Marina

Two Bridge Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Friday 22 June–Sunday 24 June

Hosted by Norwich Squadron



Saturday, 23 June

0700 – Breakfast on your own.

0900 -- Children's activities; poster contest.

Children can start a poster anytime during the day.

1000 -- Flare Demo, Fire Extinguisher Demo, PFD Demo, Knot Demo.

1200 -- Light Snack hosted by Saybrook Squadron.

1245 -- Blessing of the Fleet.

1300 -- D/1 Council Meeting in the Saybrook Pavilion

hosted by Saybrook Squadron.

1500 -- Poster Contest Judging/ Cdr's cocktail hour.

1600 -- Cookout – Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, fixings and desserts furnished by district. Bring a pot luck side dish, salad, beans, etc. Hosted by Norwich.

All Day -- The pool is open! A Coast Guard Vessel from Homeland Security will be present for information and display. Vessel Examiners will be available throughout the day both Saturday and Sunday to perform Vessel Safety Checks.

Friday and Sunday: There will be informal get-to-gathers for dinner and breakfast on your own.

Advance tickets are available from your Squadron Commander. **Adults \$7.00 (\$10.00 at the door), Children under 12 \$4.00.** Please bring your own lawn chair(s) as seating is limited for the meal.

Dockage \$3.95/ft, shore power \$11/30a, \$22/50a all per night. Complimentary cable TV and WiFi. Docking arrangements can be made using their website or call 860-395-3080. State that you are a member of District 1 USPS.

Directions:

From I-95 or Rt. 9, take Rt 154 south (becomes main St. in Saybrook, then becomes College St) then right onto Bridge St. See Signs for Saybrook Point Inn and Spa and the Marina.

4.

This is your chance to bring some of your old flares and light or shoot them off. It's a lot of fun for the older kids and very instructional for the adults. If you don't have any, we have extras.



Members and past members of the Bridge assisted in the blessing of the fleet led by Chaplain Paul Bialecki at last year's Rendezvous. If you own a boat, please come and take part in this service. You don't need to bring the boat.



Get your Vessel Safety Checkup

It's the time of the year again for your boat to have its annual safety check. We'll have examiners available at the June Rendezvous. It's free and a lot cheaper than getting a ticket from the Coast Guard or DEEP while on the water. The Vessel Safety Check (VSC) consists of checking your vessel for all the Federal and State safety requirements as well as critical safety issues such as your engine's blower.

If your boat passes, we give you the Coast Guard sticker to display on your boat. I urge you to get a Vessel Safety Check from your Vessel Safety examiner in your squadron or district. If you fly the USPS Ensign on your boat you need to tell the whole boating community that you have a safe boat and the sticker on the side of your boat will do that for you. Every Vessel in District 1 should have a Vessel Safety Check (VSC) sticker on it.

P/D/C Pat Pabouet, P, District VSC Chairman

District 1 Sail Race

After a few years of hiatus, we are pleased to bring back the District Sail Race. We are joining with the Branford Yacht Club to take advantage of their 14 July "Branford Invitational" which is part of the ECSA (Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association) racing schedule. If you are already a member of the ECSA, you can take part and earn ECSA points as well as credit for your squadron. Trophies will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each class.

Eligibility: The Branford Invitational has hosted as many as 75 racers in the past in up to 8 classes, both spinnaker and non-spinnaker. You must have a 2012 PHRF-ESCA rating certificate to race, which the yacht club or ECSA can help you obtain.

Starting line and Time: Off Branford Harbor between Negro Heads and Cow and Calf Buoys. First Gun will be at 11:00 am. Spinnaker classes will have windward and leeward courses. Non-spinnaker classes will have a triangular course.

Dockage: If you are not in the Branford area, you can sail over Friday and use their dockage free of charge and make a weekend of it.

Entry fee: \$35.00 per boat (\$30.00 for USSA members) plus \$12 prepaid per person attending the awards party/ \$15 when paid at the party. Non-racers can come and enjoy the day and join in the party.

Contact: Art Andrea for the race entry form and for help with the PHRF-ECSA rating certificate and any other details. trescooch@sbcglobal.net or 203-641-0954.

Wear your PFD

Whether you are sailing, motoring or paddling, please wear your PFD at all times. The "National Safe Boating Council" has released the fatality statistics for 2010 and while the number of fatalities in the country was down to 672 from the ten year average of 705, the statistics show that 485 of the victims were not wearing PFDs and 122 were (the remaining 65 were "unknown" as to PFD wear). A boater can be thrown overboard or have a head trauma and be rendered helpless. Your PFD might be the difference between life and death. Don't even think about it, just **Wear It!**



**2012 DISTRICT 1 Mini Cruise
Brewer Pilot's Point Marina (South)
63 Pilots Point Dr, Westbrook, CT 860-399-7906**

DATES: 10-12 August, 2012

Friday 1730 -- Cocktails, Dinner on your own.
Saturday- 0900 -- Breakfast in the Picnic Area.
Pancakes and Coffee supplied by District 1.
1700 -- Cocktails.
1830 -- Summer Cookout, bring your own food.
Sunday- Cruise home

Not coming by boat? Don't hesitate to come for the afternoon and for the cookout and enjoy the camaraderie.

Make your own reservations with Brewer Marina (South) at 860-399-7906. The transient slip rates include Electric/Cable /Water/ Wifi/Amenities and are: \$3.00/ft up to 30', \$3.5/ft up to 40', \$4.00/ft up to 50'. Please see their web site for cancellation policies, etc.

Please notify Art Andrea at trescooch@sbcglobal.net for his count.

Members cooking breakfast last year at the Mattituck mini cruise.



**DISTRICT 1 RAFT-UP,
9th ANNUAL POKER RUN, and
COOKOUT**

Saturday 22 September, 2012

Come join us by boat or car

Rain date: Sunday, 23 September

Location: Hamburg Cove Yacht Club,
Hamburg, CT



Want to raft-up and relax?

Join us Friday evening or Saturday morning for the raft-up. Look for the USPS Ensigns flying! Stay for a day or the weekend. Don't have a boat but want to spend time on one? We'll dinghy you out to the raft-up.

Want to join the Poker Run?

Entry Fee: **\$5.00** Registration: **0945-1045** Start time: **1100**

What is a Poker Run?

A Poker Run is an organized event where the objective is to obtain the best Poker "hand." A Poker Run is not a race. It's a game of chance. The winner with the best "hand" will win the Grand Prize. There will also be prizes for the 2nd and 3rd best hands. Winners will be determined, and prizes will be awarded at the cookout. Participants are encouraged to register **before September 20th**. Each participating boat navigates to five checkpoints with the help of clues. At each checkpoint a sealed envelope containing a playing card is given after correctly answering a boating question. Time doesn't matter. The best hand does! Remember, only 1 entrant will be allowed per dingy. Your boat will be your dinghy, sunfish, canoe, kayak, or other tender. Don't have a dinghy, no problem. Our dinghy captains will be happy to dinghy you around!

Blindfold Dingy Race is on again this year!

This is your chance to demonstrate your navigation skills.

Cookout: Hamburg Cove Yacht Club 1400.

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Cost: \$8.00 per person. Contact Joe Fernandes, at jfernandes8@cox.net or 860-276-9407 for more details and to register.

While last year's Poker Run was cancelled because of Hurricane Irene, these pictures from 2010 show us that everyone has a good time. The "blindfolded" Dingy race was good for a lot of laughs. Can you row straight or not?



Even the little ones had a great time. Bring the whole family with you.

The picnic is always a big hit. We also had a raffle. This is a great family event and you don't need to bring a boat.



Directions:

From the north, take I-91 or Rt. 9 South to I-95. Take I-95 north to Rt. 156 in Old Lyme.

From the west, take I-95 north to Rt. 156.

From the east, take I-95 south to Rt. 156.

Take Rt. 156 north approximately 4.7 miles to arrive at Hamburg Cove. The Yacht Club is on the south side of the cove almost immediately off Rt. 156.

National Awards

Ed: The following awards were presented by USPS for the year 2011-12.

50th Anniversary Commemoration Award. Manchester

50 Year Pins:

P/C Marty Abrams, JN	Hartford
P/C Kenneth L. Bell, Sr., AP	Meriden
D/C Herb "Bud" Greenbacker, SN	Meriden
Peter D. Aduskevich, AP	Middletown

Life Member (25 Merit Marks)

Richard R. Plumbley, AP	Springfield
P/C Christine L. Gwizd, AP	Hartford
P/C Richard E. Eppler, P	Manchester
P/C Craig T. McLea, P	Manchester
D/Lt/C George Gilbert, AP	Middletown

Membership Growth Award:

Hartford Squadron for 12% growth; New Haven 11%; Middletown 7%; Milford 4%; Meriden 1%.

2011 "Distinctive Communicator Award" for Publications

D-1 Sounds of 1	Hartford-The Bilge Pump
Meriden-Masthead	Middleton-The Jib Sheet
New Britain-Nauticalines	Norwich-The Compass Rose
Saybrook-The Outer Light	Waterbury-Pharos Beacon

2011 "Distinctive Communicator Award" for Websites

District 1	Hartford	Meriden
Middletown	New Britain	New London
Waterbury		

Educational Achievement (Full Certificate/Senior Navigator (SN))

D/Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN Hartford

District Awards

Ed: The following awards were presented by District 1 for the year 2011-12.

Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching

Robert M. Goman, S Hartford

Everett M. Lebel Educational Achievement Award for the Squadron with the most active educational program based on members taking courses –
Waterbury

Teaching Aides Contest

Lt Jim Long, AP	Meriden	1 st Place
Lt/C Stanley L. Klein, SN	Middletown	2 nd Place
P/D/C Patrick A. Pabouet, P	Hartford	3 rd Place

District VSC Awards for most VSCs:

1 st Place	P/C John R. Robinson, AP	Saybrook
2 nd Place	P/D/C Patrick A. Pabouet , P	Hartford
3 rd Place	P/C Paul R. Rosa, JN	Waterbury
Top Squadron	Meriden and Hartford tied	

Historian's Award 100% of squadron histories through 2010-11:

Hartford	D/Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN
Manchester	P/C Sean J. Connor, AP
Meriden	P/C Angela Anderson, S
Middletown	Lt/C Robert E. Borden, S
New Britain	Cdr Paul Bialecki, P
New London	P/C John (Jack) B. Kurrus, SN
Norwich	Lt/C Linda L. Lewis, AP
Saybrook	P/C Barclay M. Thomas, AP
Waterbury	Vicki Davis, P



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