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The USPS Ensign, May it Rest in Peace

The USPS Ensign was born in 1914 and had many good years nationwide being displayed on member boats. It originated in Boston and was on display all the way to Puerto Rico. Alas time has taken its toll and the Ensign has gone missing in our area. For years my wife and I have sailed from Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, to Buzzards Bay in Massachusetts. Stops along the way included various ports in Long Island Sound, Connecticut Coast, Block Island, Martha's Vineyard. When we started in 1989 we saw many boats flying the Ensign and on many occasions met USPS members on those boats. Our travels included areas highly populated with USPS members belonging to Districts 1,2,3 and 4. Slowly through the years the Ensign vanished. Two weeks ago we took our boat from Monmouth Beach, NJ, up the East River to City Island, Port Washington and Port Jefferson. For those unfamiliar with any of these ports suffice it to say there are large marinas all over and Long Island

Sound is always full of boats, both power and sail. Same applies to the East River. Since 1989 the number of Ensigns displayed has been going down. This year it finally happened. WE SAW NO BOATS, EITHER MOVING OR AT A DOCK, WITH THE ENSIGN DISPLAYED (EXCEPT OURS). The Ensign is apparently dead.

With over 30,000 members nationwide and more than 3000 within our area, where are the boaters and why are they not flying the Ensign? Is it a matter of cost and if so what can our national organization and the Ship's Store do about it? Are our members no longer using their boats and if so, why are they not flying the Ensign at their marina or yacht club?

I have been asking the above questions for some time but have never gotten any suggestions. We tried a SPOT THE ENSIGN Contest a few years ago with some limited response. We in District 4 and I am sure The National Marketing Committee would certainly welcome any suggestions as to how we can (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

promote our brand by displaying its symbol, the Ensign. If you have any suggestions or questions please contact me at djmgem@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

P/D/C David Meshulam, AP

Editor, Mark 4

Commander's Reception 2015

Commander Pfaff and his executive officer who is fortunately his wife. D/Lt /C Elaine Pfaff, hosted all squadron commanders A great time was held by all.



Second in command

What everyone on board should know



I believe there are some essentials all captains should teach their crew.

Learn how to start and stop the engine(s): In my boat the ignition keys are in the cabin, but the start buttons are at the helm; every boat is different, so practice your starting procedure.

Learn about life jackets: Where are they, how do you put them on, and do they have whistles or other safety equipment?

Learn how to put the boat in gear: Knowing how to put the boat in forward and reverse may come in handy.

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

Learn how to get back to the

dock: Should something happen to the captain, what would you do?

Getting back to the dock may be the fastest way to get help.

Learn how to pull into the

slip: Docking doesn't need to be pretty, but in an emergency, a little bump at 1 mph should do little to no damage.

Learn how to tie a line around a

cleat: A simple figure eight will hold any boat.

Learn how to drop

anchor: Dropping an anchor will most likely keep you safe and help calm things down if you can't drive the boat.

Learn how to use the radio: It's a fairly safe bet that the boat is equipped with GPS. Find out how to get your latitude and longitude positions from the GPS. With that, the U.S. Coast Guard, police and towing services can pinpoint your exact location. If latitude and longitude aren't displayed on your GPS, look for it on the small screen of your VHF radio. Most modern VHF radios display your location.

Learn how to use a fire

extinguisher: Nothing is more dangerous than a fire aboard a boat. Waste a fire extinguisher or two if

you have to, but practice how to handle one.

Learn how to light a flare: and how to hold it safely.

Learn how to untie the boat: It's never good to tow your dock behind you.

Learn how to disconnect the power cable from the shore power station: Water and electricity do not mix.

—Marty Seconhouse

AROUND THE SQUADRONS

It has been a quick moving and busy summer for many D-4 squadrons. Special thanks to all squadrons who have made inroads in public relations and squadron advances. Of note are some of the following.

Barnegat Sail & Power Squadron

What is New in Barnegat?

Barnegat Bay Sail and Power Squadron was in danger of folding and returning its charter! So many other squadrons' members couldn't believe it! They said that we used to be one of the most active in D/4, and we had a great location, right off the Bay. True, but members were getting older, moving to warmer climates, and some officers had been in office for too many years. A squadron luncheon meeting was held in April to vote to fold or repair BBSPS.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Several officers were willing to continue in their positions. Only empty seats were for commander and administrative officer! Jr P/D/C Bob Barkalow was willing to return as commander for BB. Only chair empty then was administrative officer. Rather than let BBSPS fold, I offered to go in as Admin. I felt I have organized and run social activities in the past, so why not?!



Since that April meeting, Bobby held a bridge meeting, and ran a general membership meeting. Others are on the horizon.



We organized a pontoon boat lunch cruise in Barnegat Bay, thanks to one of our members, Mike Marotta. We had a group of 17 attend.

A Day at Monmouth Park Racetrack also was enjoyed by 17 squadron members.



We have John Sarle to thank for organizing bi-monthly Wednesday luncheons at Waters Edge. Attendees numbered in high teens to almost 20.

Our Christmas Party has been reserved at The Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant, on Saturday evening, December 5. Please write it on your calendars now!

Lt/C Joyce Barkalow. P

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Shrewsbury Sail & Power Squadron
on the ball

Raritan Bay Power Squadron

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Submitted by Lt/C Ben Schneider, S



Please take notice that there is a bill being introduced in the New Jersey State Assembly that exempts veterans and members of the military from boat license and registration fees.

Assembly Bill A-1906 defines a veteran as any resident of this State who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or a reserve component thereof.

Under the provisions of this bill, members of the military include residents of this State who are members of any branch of the active duty or reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States.



Please show your support for **Assembly Bill A-1906** by writing to your State Assemblyman/woman and ask them to move this Bill in support of New Jersey's service members and veterans.

You can find your state assemblyman/woman by going to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>



(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

Good times at Shrewsbury Picnic in Leonardo



Watchung Sail & Power Squadron

USPS Boating Course leads to Naval Career

Vincent LaRocca took the Boating Safety Course offered by the Watchung Sail and Power Squadron. Although he was only 12 years of age at the time, he still scored one of the highest grades in the class. He joined USPS as a family member and received his Safety Certificate when he became 13. He became involved with Watching Sail and Power Squadron and taught members of his 8th grade class about Safety during Boating Safety Week. Through his association with USPS he became interested in maritime life.

While in his senior year in high school, he applied to and was accepted as a candidate for the U. S. Naval Academy and graduated with the class of 2015. Vincent was within the top ten percent of his class. He chose to be stationed in Jacksonville, Florida so

that he could serve aboard the USS New York.

On June 5, 2015, I attended a private graduation party for Vincent hosted by his parents, Squadron Law Officer, Lt Tony LaRocca and his wife. Admiral Dennis Morel was present to present Vincent with his Officer's Sword.

(Submitted by Commander Ted Wallace)

Lackawanna Sail & Power Squadron North D4 Rendezvous

Squadron ran a Hudson River Rendezvous with boats and others joining in behind the Statue of Liberty and on the Lightship in Jersey City.





Mark 4 is the official publication of District 4, USPS. Published 4 times a year. P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, Editor, Gail Merson, Assistant Editor, with the help of many loyal members. Articles and announcements from squadron officers and members are welcome by email at DJMGEM@

More Sad News: The Passing Of "Someone Else"

The boating fraternity was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of their most valuable members - "Someone Else". Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. "Else" had been around from the very beginning. He did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, decisions to be made or meetings to attend, one name was on everybody's lips - "let 'Someone Else' do it". It was common knowledge that "Someone Else" was amongst the largest contributors. Whenever there was a need for volunteers to do things, or even to simply participate in events, everyone just assumed that "Someone Else" would volunteer to do them and to participate in the activities as well.

"Someone Else" was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of "Someone Else".

Now "Someone Else" is gone! They wonder what they are going to do.

"Someone Else" left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to do the things "Someone Else" did! When asked to help, remember we can no longer depend on "Someone Else".

Let's start a rumor - "Someone Else" is gone, but "I'll Do It" is alive and well!!!

(THE ABOVE APPEARED IN THE RARITAN POWER SQUADRON

NEWSLETTER. WE THOUGHT ALL SHOULD GET THE SAD NEWS. THANKS.)

On the light side

A woman runs a red traffic light and crashes into a man's car. Both of their cars are demolished, but amazingly, neither of them is hurt. After they crawl out of their cars, the woman says; "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replies, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continues, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune." She then hands the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opens it, drinks half the bottle and then hands it back to the woman. The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man. The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

The woman replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Adam ate the apple, too.

Men will never learn..