



## UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

# Mark 4

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### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

**I Hope everyone had a fulfilling Thanksgiving, I know we did. Looking forward to the upcoming holidays, I hope you enjoy all the season has to offer.**

**With regard to the special edition of Mark 4, as it pertained to our need for membership retention and recruiting programs, the comments were well taken. I am still looking for constructive comments from everyone about the findings of the ad hock committee.**

**There is a good possibility that we will have the Virtual Trainer at the Spring Conference, so look forward to that. We are still working on ways to make the conference a more productive and worthwhile experience and urge everyone to attend. .**

**We need to find ways to attract new members and keep the members we have. Keep in mind the USPS triangle- Self Education, Civic Service and Fraternal Boating Club.**

**Cdr Bob**

**“Hail to the Chief and his admiral” Joyce. Just think, summer is coming back soon.**



## **COUNCIL MEETINGS????**

A suggestion has been made that members who attend a D4 council meeting arrange to have a squadron member who has never attended a meeting tag along to see what the meeting is all about. The district is fortunate in covering a relatively small area, most of New Jersey along with New York City and Staten Island (Some districts cover 2 or 3 states). Meetings in D4 are generally held 6 times a year in Lyndhurst NJ, plus at the fall and spring conference. The affairs of the district and squadrons are run by the council. The council consists of all squadron commanders, the D4 bridge members and the immediate Past District Commander, each having 1 vote. Also generally attending are Past District Commanders as well as any squadron members who are always welcome. All attending are given the opportunity to be heard but only council members may vote. Commanders are given the opportunity to report on activities in their squadron. Thus it presents a forum to increase attendance at squadron programs by exposing all members in the district to the planned squadron function.

Each district officer also submits his or her report. As an example, D/Lt/C Richard Woznicki, the District Education Officer submitted a full report as to what is happening on the national level in the education field.

Copies of his report were submitted to all Squadron Commanders and were included in the minutes of the meeting. If interested, ask your squadron commander for a copy.

## Careful Around The Holidays !!!!

As the Holiday Season comes upon us, be careful of your surroundings. When you are at the mall make sure you park in a well lighted area and write down what row you parked your vehicle in. Look around to see if there is a sign with a row number or letter. Lock your car with the lock button on the door AND NOT the keyless remote. Potential thieves could be close by with an electronic device that can intercept your keyless code and then enter your car and take your valuables when you leave it.

You will be starting to decorate for the Holidays, Please be careful about your lighting. Check all wires and plugs before using them. Make sure they are not frayed and the bulbs are in excellent condition other wise discard them. Be careful with live trees make sure they are well watered and kept away from your heating vents. Keep your pets away from them also as they are poisonous to them.

If you burn yourself during this coming holiday season remember if a burn is too hot to handle on your own when it is larger than the palm of your hand, extremely painful, swollen and blistered or producing a yellow discharge. Head to the doctor's office or emergency room.

Something I found interesting: did you know that you can use Reddi-wip (continued on page 3)

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as a facial mask? Put it all over your face and leave on for 20 minutes and then wash it off with warm water, followed by cold water. It will give you a healthy glow and moisturize your face.

*Be Safe & Healthy this Holiday Season  
Your Safety Office, Bernice Fiorentini*

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**ON THE LIGHT SIDE**

A group of 40 year old buddies discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed upon that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the waitress's there had low cut blouses and were very young.

10 years later at 50 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food there was very good and the wine selection was good also.

10 years later at 60 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they could eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean.

10 years later, at 70 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the restaurant was wheel chair accessible and they even had an elevator.

10 years later, at 80 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally it was agreed that they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before.

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**SHREWSBURY POWER  
SQUADRON CELEBRATES  
IT'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

In September 2014, the Shrewsbury Power Squadron celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala affair in Long Branch New Jersey. The affair was well attended including members of the squadron and of other squadrons as well as District officers and Past District Commanders. Congratulations to the squadron.





**D/C Bob Barkalow at the mike**



**Staten Island Power Squadron well represented**



**Also present were members of Raritan Bay, Northern New Jersey.**



**The Shrewsbury Bridge**



**AROUND THE SQUADRONS**

Lackawana Power and Sail Squadron conducted a demonstration of use of a fire extinguisher on September 17, 2012.



And held its annual clambake with delicious food as usual.



While Staten Island Power Squadron had a hit again with its annual Crab-E-Que.



The USPS Fall Conference which took place in Crystal City , Virginia in September was also great and well attended by District 4.



**(THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT  
SENT TO MEMBERS OF  
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SAIL &  
POWER SQUADRON BY ITS  
COMMANDER  
DAVID GRILL)**

I had the pleasure of attending the 2014 Governing Board Meeting in Arlington VA and would like to report back on some of what transpired. In no particular order of importance:

1. Dues will be raised \$2 per year. The justification for the increase is increased expenses for marketing, re-branding, and course development. Primarily due to the downward trend of membership National has been running a deficit and the budget gap needs to be closed.
2. As a cost control measure, USPS has signed a multi-year contract for a conference hotel in Orlando for the February Annual Meeting in 2016, 17, and 18. The 2015 meeting scheduled in Jacksonville will be the last one in that city for a while.
3. A resolution will be introduced through the channels designated in the bylaws to add three members to the Board of Directors. Those new members will be elected by the membership as a whole and will come from current or past District or Squadron Bridge members. They cannot be a current or past member of the National Bridge. This change is being advocated by a member and is not supported by the current BoD. The argument for the change is to make the BoD less insular and introduce new blood to the Board.
4. District Three is trialing a new relationship between USPS and the USCG Auxiliary. With minimal training USPS members would be authorized to accompany USCGA boats on patrol as observers and participants. This trial has the full support of the USCG, who had a Captain present at the conference. Once the kinks are worked out the program will be expanded to other USPS and USCG Districts. I 'volunteered' D/4 for the expansion, believing that this will be a good way to get our members involved in a water-borne activity.
5. The USCG is enthusiastic about expanding its relationship with USPS, as it sees USPS as a 'force multiplier' with more eyes on the water. Like most government agencies USCG is being asked to do more with less and is looking for help.
6. USCG reports that for the first time, fatalities due to accidents on the water are trending down. They attribute the change to a combination of safety awareness programs run by many organizations and to the teaching efforts of USPS.
7. USCG is encouraging Power Squadron members to consider dual membership in the CG Auxiliary, which, like USPS, is (continue on page 7)

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seeing declining (and aging) membership.

8. NOAA is expanding its Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) program. More material will be made available for downloading. The ENC charts will contain details not available on current raster charts, including, as an example, information on the type, construction, and color of a bridge.
9. Cooperating Charting is being encouraged by USPS, USCG, and NOAA. The federal government would like to engage USPS in an ongoing effort to keep charts up to date. In combination with the ENC program corrections can be made much more quickly than in the past. Should NNJSPS and/or D/4 wish to get more involved, the USPS area rep is Billy Owens.
- 10 The keynote address at the meeting was delivered by Admiral Thad Allen, USCG (ret). Admiral Allen was the Commandant of the USCG and was put in charge of organizing the post-Katrina rescue and clean-up effort after FEMA botched the job. He was brought back from retirement to supervise the Gulf clean-up after the BP fire and blow-out.
10. USPS has decided that effort has to be put into marketing USPS as a national brand. The USPS logo and name should take precedent over the local squadron or district logo and name. As an example, NNJSPS should be known as US Power Squadron in Northern New Jersey or something similar. This makes the organization more along the line of a national franchise, rather than independent local organizations.
11. On-line seminars offered to non-members will be expanded. Currently, 80% of registrants to the seminars are non-members. Aside from revenue being shared with squadrons, the contact information of students will be shared. Leads will be sent via email to squadrons within 40 miles of the student's ZIP code. The squadron member designated as 'Public Contact' will get the email and has the responsibility of following up.
12. The boating simulator was a huge success. The device is three flat-screen monitors around a control console and give the operator a wrap-around view of the 'water'. USPS is purchasing more of the simulators and will be distributing them to the districts. We (in D/4) are talking about getting one and housing it at Squadron HQ in Little Falls for use by all D/4 squadrons.
13. Districts and squadrons are encouraged to support and (continued on page 8)

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expand the Vessel Safety Check program. The program is seen as another way of getting more 'brand recognition' for USPS and attracting more members to the squadrons.

That's everything I have notes on. There was a good showing from D/4 at the meeting.



Regards,

*David Grill,*  
*Commander, WMS&P*

(On behalf of D4 and Mark 4 my thanks to Dave Grill for a job well done.

Dave Meshulam, Editor)

D4 at the Conference in Crystal City



SPECIAL THANKS TO D/LT/COMMANDER PFAFF FOR ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED FOR THIS AND PRIOR EDITIONS

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR FAST APPROACHING IT'S THE TIME FOR ALL TO MAKE THEIR RESOLUTIONS. AS MEMBERS OF USPS, TO MANY OF US OF LONG STANDING, I ASK AND URGE EACH TO GET ONE NEW MEMBER FOR OUR ORGANIZATION IN THE COMING YEAR. I MAKE THAT PLEDGE. DISTRICT 4 AND USPS NEEDS OUR HELP. ALL OF US HAVE WORKED TOO HARD OVER THE YEARS TO ALLOW THE ORGANIZATION TO VANISH AS THE YEARS GO BY AND MANY OF US TAKE OUR FINAL VOYAGE. THE DISTRICT BRIDGE WITH THE HELP OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MANY OTHERS IS WORKING HARD TO STOP THE FURTHER LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP. LETS ALL GET BEHIND THEM. HAVE AN IDEA? PASS IT ALONG TO D/C BARKALOW.

P/D/C DAVID MESHULAM, A/P EDITOR

**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@AOL.COM](mailto:DJMGEM@AOL.COM)**

**Special thanks to all contributors for this issue.**