



## UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

# Mark 4

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Issue 4

### MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER

I have just returned from the Fall Governing Board meeting in Bellevue, Washington that I attended on your behalf. It was a productive and very informative meeting and I want to pass on some of the highlights of the information we obtained.

The meeting took place in the Bellevue, Washington, a wonderful suburb of the City of Seattle, located on Lakes Washington and Sammamish near Puget Sound. It is really a boater's paradise. So much water, so many boats!!

District 4 was represented by 25 members who traveled across the country to attend the meetings and bring back loads of information for our members. In addition to participating in the working sessions, we also had fun being in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, some of us for the first time. Needless to say, the seafood is fresh and plentiful (even if they do throw it around at the Pike's Place market) and the Dungeness crabs are just the best! Many members took advantage of the destination by making trips to the San Juan Islands, Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia, and even on to Alaska. If one has never been to the Pacific Northwest, it is certainly worth planning such a trip in the future.

Following are some highlights from the Fall Governing Board meeting:

1. The Bylaws have been changed unifying all classes of membership. This was done to simplify the membership structure

for USPS and make all members of USPS more equal in their rights and privileges. ie: combining Active and Family member classes. There are now four classes of members, namely, Active, Apprentice, Corporate, and Honorary members.

2. Membership is Job # 1. Membership must remain a top priority for the organization and to help address the issue emphasis has been placed on expanding the Cyber Squadron program by registering the on line students of Americas Boating Course as USPS members. There are now approximately 900 Cyber Squadron members on the roles now. This presents a real opportunity for Squadron growth by reaching out to these students and encouraging them to transfer to a local squadron. The key component in this effort is the Squadron Public Contact person in each squadron. The Cyber member will be referred to that contact at the 4 closest squadrons.
3. Retaining existing members is very important also. A membership renewal reminder will now be sent out electronically. Email messages are now sent to these members whose

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- anniversary month is approaching.
4. A dues increase has been approved. A \$2.00 dues increase for a single active member will be effective in the Spring of 2011(for the 2012 dues year). The new dues rate for an active member is \$41.00: for a family unit headed by a regular active member the dues rate will be \$61.50, and the dues rate for family units headed by a life member will be \$20.50.
  5. Effective this year 2010, electronic merit marks certifications will be sent out via email to all recipients, except first timers and those members who do not have an email address. It is estimated that this change will save USPS approximately \$10,000.00 annually.
  6. A new major initiative is underway with the Brunswick Corporation, America's largest boat builder/dealer. Participating Brunswick dealers will purchase a brand display and educational materials from USPS. Approximately 50 boat dealers with squadrons nearby have been identified for the initial distribution. Squadrons will have the opportunity to teach ABC3 and Seminars in the boat dealer facilities, and to use the dealer's boats for on the water training.
  7. Educationally, major emphasis is being placed on training certifiers and those who can demonstrate on the water skills. We now have over 500 members so qualified. We are beginning to certify Inland Navigators and preparing to certify the next level, Costal Navigator.
  8. The USPS boat insurance program and Travelers insurance program have announced additional discounts

exclusively for USPS members.

Members who complete various levels of the Boat Operator Certification (BOC) program will now qualify for the following insurance discounts:

Inland Navigation	2.5%
Coastal Navigation	2.5%
Advanced Coastal Nav	5.0%
Offshore Navigation	5.0%

These discounts are in addition to the 23% credit available for the completion of USPS safety courses and the annual Vessel Safety Check, bringing the total credit to 38%.

9. Marketing the educational program and the entire organization remains a top priority. We are now able to offer any and all of our programs to the public. Squadrons may also offer 6 months free membership for these students completing the ABC3 course.

USPS continues to expand the Leadership Development program being offered to all members. The DAO and SAO course has been a success and is now being given at 6 selected locations throughout the country. It will again be given at the Annual Meeting in Fla. In Feb. 2011. The next level course DXO/SXO will be offered

also at the Annual meeting with the AO course as a prerequisite. Both courses focus on practical leadership skills and address such topics as attitudes, leadership styles, team building and goal setting. Sections regarding USPS structure and conducting effective meeting round out the program. All members are urged to attend these professional training sessions.

As you can see with all these changes and new developments happening, it is an exciting time to be a member of this dynamic organization. Here in District 4, it continues to be a

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**productive, educational, and funfilled year.  
Join with us as the party  
continues.....It's 5o'clock  
somewhere!!**

**Richard D. Swackhamer  
Commander, District 4**

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## ***USPS, D4 and Lackawanna have lost a great friend.***

The Most Reverend Archbishop Herbert M. Groce, Jr. passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2010, following a long illness. For many years he was friend and beloved Chaplin for USPS squadron, district and national.

Bishop Groce, or Herb as he was often addressed, was a 38 year member of USPS and was a familiar sight at most D4 conferences for at least 25 years.

Perhaps he was best known in D4 for his wonderful deep voice giving special meaning to the sermons he preached at the annual Memorial Services in Staten Island. His friendly greetings and jolly manner, his participation in squadron, district and national, made him friend to all. He served as National Chaplin during the years of 2006/7 & 8 until poor health required him to retire. His Saturday evening services at the annual National Meetings and at the Governing Board Meetings will be fondly remembered by many.

Herb was a man of many interests and in all he rose to the top ranks. He was an archbishop for the Episcopal Church of the United States. He had his doctorate degree in theology, and was ordained as a priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Devine in New York City.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 91 of Wharton, NJ, Grand Chaplin of the F&AM of New York State, and Chaplin for the Knights Templar International. He was also active nationally in the Boy Scouts of America.

Archbishop Herb Groce served as vice president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and as director of operations for the Lincoln Center of Performing Arts in NYC. All this and much more, yet he always had time to stop and say "Hello" in that wonderful deep basso profundo voice.

His immediate family included this wife Linda, two sons, three daughters, and six grandchildren.

He was a gentleman and a Prince among men. Oh, how we will miss him.



## A Bit of History:

### What makes Twin Lights 'historic'?

Stating that a building or place is officially historic is not as straightforward as you might think. Surely, Twin Lights is historic, and without doubt nearby Stone Church, Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Lighthouse are all historic as well, but why? Their historic designations are regulated by the US Department of the Interior through the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of such places throughout the county. To be considered for listing on the National Register, a property must be at least 50 years old and have significance because it:

- A. Is associated with important events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. Possesses architectural value that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Possesses archeological material that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

As you can see, Twin Lights is an example of a property that has significance under more than just one category. Twins Lights' strong connection with navigation, the development of maritime trade in the US and Marconi and wireless transmission, just to mention a few aspects, sets it apart. Because its history is so extraordinary, the National Park Service has bestowed an additional distinction upon Twin Light, namely that of a National Historic Landmark (NHL). NHLs have the highest level of historic designation and are properties of national significance. Of New Jersey's four first-order lighthouses, a group that includes

Barnegat, Absecon, and Cape May, only Twin Lights is a NHL.

At times, National Register status is accompanied with misconceptions. Such status does not guarantee preservation, for example. The federal or state government cannot prevent private owners from significantly altering or even demolishing their National Register listed properties. This type of safeguard would rely on a local preservation ordinance. Moreover, with respect to publically owned listed properties, National Register status does not require a government to maintain them properly. The recognition provided by the National Register of Historic Places they may be enjoyed by future generations. (M.C.) requires our day-to-day vigilance and involvement so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. (M.C.)

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## Get storm smart

Don't let bad weather sneak up on you

During the tropical storm season, mariners should monitor NOAA radio, the National Hurricane Center's website and other public weather forecasts while being on the lookout for warning signs of approaching storms.

### Warning signs

Abnormally large swells that are far apart, with a period of 10 to 15 seconds, may foretell the approach of a tropical storm or hurricane.

As a hurricane approaches, thin, wispy cirrus clouds appear and the barometer starts a long, slow fall. The cirrus clouds thicken into a veil of cirrostratus clouds, altostratus clouds form beneath them, and light rain begins.

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Then, the barometer falls more rapidly, wind gusts increase, dark cumulonimbus clouds appear, and rainsqualls become more frequent.

#### Take action

When a storm approaches offshore, boaters need to do some quick analysis to determine whether they can make it to safe harbor.

If forced to remain offshore in a storm, the captain should try to get to the storm's navigable semicircle, which in the northern latitudes is on the left side of the storm's path facing the direction the storm is moving toward. The winds aren't as strong because the storm's forward motion is subtracted from the wind speed; however, the seas remain extremely dangerous.

To learn more about reading the weather, take the USPS Weather course or the Hurricanes and Boats seminar. Find a course near you at <http://www.usps.org/cgi-bin-nat/eddept/cfind.cgi> or by calling 888-367-8777.

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### **ON THE LIGHT SIDE**

Come with me to a third grade classroom...There is a nine-year-old kid sitting at his desk and all of a sudden, there is a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants are wet. He thinks his heart is going to stop because he cannot possibly imagine how this has happened. It's never happened before, and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it. When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives...

The boy believes his heart is going to stop; he puts his head down and prays this prayer, 'Dear God, this is an emergency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat.'

He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that says he has been discovered.

As the teacher is walking toward him, a classmate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap. The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, 'Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!'

Now all of a sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rushes him downstairs and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out. All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk. The sympathy is wonderful. But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else - Susie. She tries to help, but they tell her to get out. You've done enough, you klutz!"

Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, 'You did that on purpose, didn't you?' Susie whispers back, 'I wet my pants once too...'

May God help us see the opportunities that are always around us to do good. Remember. Just going to the synagogue or to church or to a mosque doesn't make you holy any more than standing in your garage makes you a car..

Each and everyone one of us has gone through tough times at one point or another. Always keep the faith. Faith will brighten your days, no matter what your religion.

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## District 4 Golf Outing

On one of the most gorgeous days of the summer, several “sailors” from District 4 embarked on what we hope will be the “inaugural voyage” of the District 4 golf outing. With the first tee time being 9:00am, three threesomes teed off at the Pine Barrens Golf Club, a challenging and beautiful golf course built on 420 acres of natural terrain within the protected acreage of the New Jersey pine barrens in Jackson, N.J. The Pine Barrens Golf Club is the home course for D/4 members Bob and Joyce Barkalow who also made all of the arrangements for the day.

The early morning dew quickly dissipated and with a warm sun and cloudless sky the conditions were perfect. Actually the speed of the greens increased as the day progressed, but the sand was still there. Lots of sand!!

The course conditions were certainly a credit to management and ground crews at the Pine Barrens Club considering the hot, dry summer we have all had. “Very hot and dry” conditions can be very good for boaters and those who like the beach, but not for golf courses that are trying to remain lush and green under such harsh conditions.

The participants in this inaugural event represented several of the District 4 squadrons; Bob Barkalow, David Hill, Rich Zuchi from (Barnegat Bay), Rich and Ken Fiorentini (Raritan Bay), Bill Stevens (Palisades), Bill Medwin (Lake Hopatcong), Tony Santuro (Shrewsbury), and Rich Swackhamer (Watchung).

It was a typical day on the links with some long drives, great approach shots, precise putting and..... some shots in the woods, some lost balls, and lots of sand...a typical day! Most of all, it was FUN. After several hours we all gathered in the beautiful club house for a delicious luncheon with the event planner, Joyce Barkalow, joining in the festivities. All agreed we should do it again and if we can entice other members to join us, future outings may include some contests and prizes. Since the event was held on a Tuesday, it did not interfere with anyone’s weekend boating plans.

Kudos to the participants and the Barkalows for sharing their beautiful golf club with us. So now for some of us in D/4 the familiar boating expressions, such as “welcome aboard” or “ahoy mate”, have been replaced. As the participants left the club house, you could hear them cry out, “keep it in the short grass”!! See you next year!!

(Submitted by Flag Lt Ted Wallace)

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## AROUND THE SQUADRONS

The US Coast Guard Station at Sandy Hook was very popular with our D-4 squadrons this summer as both Shrewsbury and Staten Island Power Squadrons held meetings and get togethers there. The food at both gatherings was “to die for”. The camaraderie was even better.

Staten Island Power Squadron had 50 at their Crab-Q. Now they will all have to do some dieting.



*(Editors's Note, Glad to see the Ensign displayed)*



**D/Lt Florence Smith and past first lady, Bernice Fiorentini enjoying the Crab-Q**

Not to be outdone, inter squadron and district activities are planned by Raritan Bay Power Squadron. On 21 October Trenton Falls Power Squadron (D-5) members will visit the Raritan Bay Power Squadron of District 4 at the Keyport Yacht Club. The meeting begins at 1900 with a buffet supper followed by a program.

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### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

(The following is reproduced from the October issue of the Crow's Nest, newsletter of the New York Power Squadron)

On 26 Sept. Maddy and I drove to Long Beach Island, on the northern tip of which stands Barnegat Light, entrance to the shallow bay of the same name. Barnegat Bay Sail & Power Squadron hosted a dinner-theatre party attended by 83 members from 15 squadrons who had a great time eating, drinking and boat talking. The show was a musical review of Irving Berlin's life. When they got to "God Bless America," tears welled up in my eyes, as I imagined myself at our NYSPS Change of Watch with hands joined

in a circle singing "God Bless America," a tradition started by P/D/C William Chefales years ago at our Change of Watch.

We cannot get 83 people to any event. Perhaps we should try to double up with a neighboring squadron and rent space for a combined Change of Watch.

**D/Lt Ernest Wasserman (editor of Crow's Nest)**



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### **"OLD BARNEY" LIGHTHOUSE**

**Mark 4 is the official publication of District 4, USPS. Published 4 times a year. P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, Editor . Articles and announcements from squadron officers and members are welcome by email at [DJMGE@AOL.COM](mailto:DJMGE@AOL.COM)**

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

## **IT'S 5 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE!**

At the beginning of the year, D/C Richard Swackhamer, promised everyone that it would be "5 o'clock somewhere" all year long in District 4. Well, here we are half way through the year and the Commander has been true to his word. He has scheduled events in various locations throughout the entire district in an effort to increase participation and has created some new and exciting activities for all to attend .

On June 12 it was 5 o'clock at Carrie Markham's shore house. There was not only a picnic, but Educational classes as well. Chris Windeler set up a "Paddle Smart" seminar for the attendees who wanted to increase their knowledge of kayaking and canoeing as well as a "Boat Operator Instructor" on the water course.

July 9, 10 and 11 the District moved its next activity to the North and we held a rendezvous and Barbecue at City Island. There were many members and guests and approximately 20 boats attended for the event. There was even food and cocktails for those members who arrived early on Friday. This terrific weekend event was planned and executed to perfection by Mike Fabrizi , Sal Scotti and their committee. More than 80 members enjoyed the barbecue and comraderie on Saturday . Chris Windeler set up another "Boat Operator on the Water Instructor" course for those who were not able to attend the event at Carrie Markham's home. There were approximately 42 people who remained overnight and and on Sunday attended a scrumptious breakfast on the deck of the North Miniford Yacht Club prior to departing the event on Sunday.

On the weekend of August 7 and 8 the District moved South to Atlantic City for our yearly rendezvous at Farley Marina. There were approximately 20 boats who made the scene as well as many members and guests who drove to the event and participated in a pot luck supper

and cocktails on the dock. This year many of the attendees actually left the dock with one of several "door prizes" ranging from adirondack chairs , bird feeders, beach towels, and beach bags full of goodies. One of our lucky members even hit a "Royal Flush" at video poker in the Casino. Drinks were on him!! This year the weather cooperated nicely, but why not, after all, it was" 5 o'clock in Atlantic City" !.

September also offered more fun and exciting activities including the newest event on September 14, 2010.....a District Golf outing . Ten members attended the day of golf and the luncheon that followed ,held at the beautiful Pine Barrens Golf Club, in Jackson, N.J.

In another first for the District, 83 members attended the Dinner/Theatre event at the Surflight Theatre on Long Beach Island. The night started at Buckalew's Restaurant for Dinner followed by a short walk to the Surf light Theater for a fabulous show, "The Melody Lingers On", highlighting the life and songs of Irving Berlin. This was a huge success and those in attendance stated that they are looking forward to doing it again next year. The golf outing and the dinner theater events were chaired by Bob and Joyce Barkalow and kudos go out to them for their hard work. The Commander delivered on his promises.

Next up is the Fall Conference that will be held at the Park Ridge Marriott, October 22 and 23. Friday night's "Margaritaville Party " promises to be another funfilled happening and should not be missed as it will continue to be " 5 o'clock somewhere in Distict 4", this time at the Park Ridge Marriott. See you all there

P/C Ted Wallace

**SEE ATTACHED FLYERS**  
**FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE**  
**DISTRICT CONFERENCE, 22-**  
**23 OCTOBER. SEE YOU**  
**THERE**