



## UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

# Mark 4

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Issue 2

### Message from the D/C

**July , 2006**

At this point in my term of office, I find myself experiencing the same feelings as expressed by my predecessors: One-third of the term has already passed by! The old adage is true; time flies when your having fun.

Being District Commander has been fun. Participating in the District Change-of Watch, attending and officiating at many of the Squadron Changes of Watch in our District, presiding at District Council and Bridge meetings, helping plan upcoming District events, and participating in the planning for the 2006 Governing Board meeting in New York have kept the calendar full. All of this has been made easy and pleasurable by a most cooperative and helpful District Bridge, supported by the many active committee chairs.

Many thanks are due to many people for keeping our District going. I'd like to especially acknowledge some of them at this time, and will address the contributions of others in a later issue.

First, our accolades go to Vincene and Anthony Aquilato, who have worked tirelessly for the past three years to bring the 2006 Governing Board meeting to New York and to lead the planning effort to make this the biggest and best GB meeting ever. The good news is, as we approach August, we have

more than met our guarantees for room occupancy. On the other hand, it seems like many people are waiting for the last minute to sign up for the planned activities. I know there are an unlimited amount of things you can do on your own in New York, but think how much more fun it will be with a large group of USPS people. Please, get you reservations in now.

Few of us realize the effort it takes to put out the District roster each year. Many thanks and sincere appreciation are due to D/Lt Greg Boyle, P, our roster chairman, for the countless hours spent gathering the information and producing out District roster.

Also, our appreciation is owed to Cdr Bruce Borkowski, JN, who has maintained the District web site current and easily accessible.

My thanks also go to Rich Zucchi and Harry Wagner, who have planned a District mini-cruise to Atlantic City and Wildwood beginning July 14. Forty boats have signed on for the A/C part of the cruise, more than we anticipated in our wildest projections. The District will sponsor a dock party for all attendees at 4PM on July 15 at Trump Marina, H Dock. A prayer to the weather gods would be appreciated.

September 16 will see a District wide predicted log contest in Barnegat Bay, being organized by Rich Fiorentini. A special thanks to Rich for undertaking this event. If your boat is not in that area, you can still participate as an observer on one of the boats. A social

event still to be planned will follow the contest.

Watchung Sail and Power Squadron will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 17. All Watchung friends in the District are invited to (continued on page 2) attend. Cost for this gala affair is \$75 per person for an elaborate banquet, a live band, plus. Many of Watchung's retired members and Past Commanders are coming from around the nation for this event, and representation from the National Bridge is expected. Only a limited number of reservations can be accommodated, so get yours in early. You don't want to miss this one! Many Watchung members have worked on this one, led by P/C Vic Silvestrini, SN and P/C Mirabel Fanders, P.

Planning is underway for the District 4 Fall Conference. We will be presenting educational, informative and interesting workshops for all. The National representative will be our National Secretary V/C Robert Baldrige, SN. For those of you who don't know V/C Baldrige, I assure that you will find him to be an interesting and entertaining speaker. Don't forget the change of date and venue this year. The Fall Conference will be the weekend of Oct 20-21, and the location will be the Governor Morris Inn in Morristown, NJ. Thanks, again, to Vincene and the Meetings Committee for arranging this, as well as to all of our District Officers for planning the workshops and program.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the squadrons who have hosted Marlene and I at their Change of Watch earlier this year. The friendliness and graciousness of USPS members cannot be matched anywhere. If anyone ever had a doubt as to why we love this organization so much, the reason is simple; it is composed of the most wonderful people anywhere!

D/C Harold Oslick, SN

## **SQUADRON NEWS**

DO YOU WANT TO PUBLISIZE A SQUADRON EVENT OR ADVANCED COURSE BEING OFFERED BY YOUR SQUADRON? WHY NOT FORWARD A RELEASE WE CAN INCLUDE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARK-4.

## **GOVERNING BOARD UPDATE**

We have the Liberty Landing and Lincoln Harbor Marina websites listed on our website. We do not have prearranged prices for our members.. We advise those interested in coming by boat to deal directly with either of the two marinas.

Ferry service is available from both marinas to the NY Waterway terminal in New York City and free bus service departs from there to midtown and lower Manhattan. Since the bus should be available to Grand Central Station (which is next to the Grand Hyatt, it's a great way to attend a session at the Governing Board, meet the national officers, visit the ship's store and view the exhibits.

The Governing Board website , [www.nyc2006gb.org](http://www.nyc2006gb.org) is being updated daily. Why not go to the site for the latest information? We keep adding to it all the time

*THE GOVERNING BOARD COMMITTEE HAS WORKED HARD ON THIS, OUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO HOST OUR ORGANIZATION. IT UP TO ALL OF US TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT BY ATTENDING AND HELPING MAKE IT A SUCCESS.*

## **EDITORS'S NOTE**

Sorry for the late release of volume 2 of our newsletter. We hope it reaches all District 4 members through the individual email lists of the squadrons. If so, it will clearly provide your D-4 Bridge and the squadrons a new means of communication that will be beneficial to all our members.

P/D/C David J. Meshulam

# DISTRICT 4 PREDICTED LOG CONTEST

September 16, 2006  
Barnegat Bay

If you are interested in participating in the contest please contact  
D/Lt/C Richard V. Fiorentini,  
SN

[USPSpwrbtr@aol.com](mailto:USPSpwrbtr@aol.com)

732-780-4696

Or

D/Lt/C Richard Zucchi, AP

[rzucchi@comcast.net](mailto:rzucchi@comcast.net)

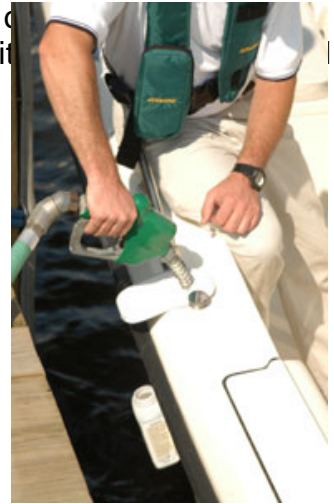
732-262-8687

No later than Sept. 5, 2006.

The contest is open to all members of District 4. Please let us know if you (continued on page 4) are interested in taking a short class describing what the contest is and how to do the calculations. Think you know your boat? Then see how close you can come to your predictions when you can only use a compass, tachometer and chart.

## ● How To Get The Most From A Tank Of Gas

As the cost of a gallon of gas has risen to reach record highs, it's important to get more out of each tank. We have compiled a few tips that help stretch your fuel dollars so you can spend less time at the fuel dock and enjoy more time on the water:



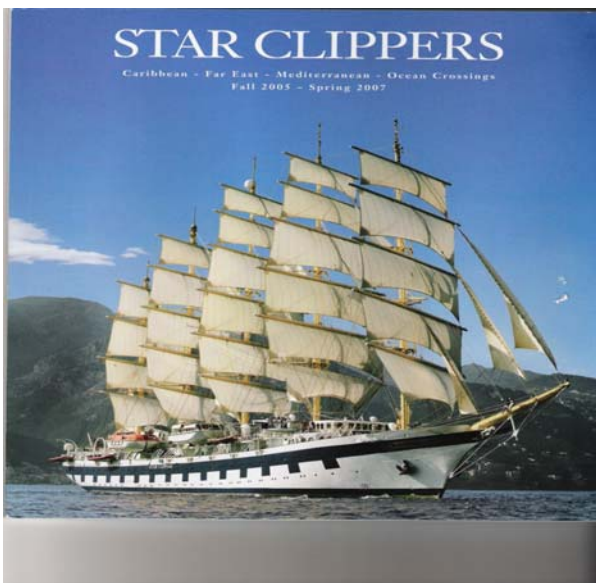
- Don't load the boat up with weight that you don't need. Leave the extra 'junk' at home. Do some spring cleaning and remove unused equipment that has been collecting mildew in the bottom of lockers for years.
- Watch your water weight. At 8.33 pounds per gallon, why keep the water in the tank topped off if you're only going out for the afternoon?
- Minimize the amount of time that you idle at the dock and be sure to use dockside power in lieu of generators.
- The proper use of trim tabs reduce drag, especially when accelerating up to planning speeds. A boat that is trimmed correctly will move through the water with less effort--and less fuel.
- A well-tuned engine uses less fuel. A tune-up is an excellent investment and could easily pay for itself over the summer.

You can also show your BoatU.S. Membership Card and save even more money on fuel, transient slips and repairs at over 830 marinas. One fuel fill up at a participating marina can easily save you more than the cost of your annual Membership dues. New fuel providers are added each month.

After the contest we will go to dinner at a local restaurant where the finer points of the day can be discussed over food and beverage.

PS: CC Marshburn,SN may be joining us.

### **FUN. FUN, FUN, FUN**



D4 is in the beginning stage of coordinating a European Cruise aboard the Royal Clipper for September 2007. The 11 day cruise will leave from Rome and return to Venice, Italy visiting 11 ports along the way. The Royal Clipper only holds 245 passengers. D4 would like to charter the whole boat. If interested, and, for more information, contact D/Lt/C Richard Zucchi @ 732 262 8687 or [rzucchi@Comcast.net](mailto:rzucchi@Comcast.net).

### **TEACH WHERE THE BOATERS ARE**

**By: P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP**

At the annual USPS convention in January, I addressed the District Commanders and asked for their input regarding success stories of yacht club/USPS squadron interactions and activities. I received responses from 4 districts, all positive, outlining their activities at yacht clubs in running courses as well as in the use of yacht club facilities for squadron meetings, etc. In our own district squadrons have offered boating courses to yacht club members and have been welcomed to use yacht clubs for meeting purposes. Promoting yacht club/squadron interaction is a "WIN WIN" situation. After all, why not run courses where the boaters are thus fulfilling our mission of boating education and as a bonus get a crack at recruiting new members and possibly gaining a facility to hold our meetings?

The above applies not only to yacht clubs but also to marinas. Do you keep your boat at a marina and if so, how aware are the boaters at the marina of the new New Jersey legislation regarding certification? Why not volunteer to teach a course at the yacht club or marina to accommodate your neighbors? You get your merit mark, the squadron gets another instructor and the potential for membership growth. It is workable and makes sense. In the last 5 years I have personally given a course at the Atlantis Yacht Club in Monmouth County, doing so individually or with the help of members of Shrewsbury Sail and Power Squadron (after all, the yacht club is in their area) and as a result that squadron has recruited members. We have also given the course at Lincoln Harbor Marina.

Our squadrons have a tendency to run their courses at the same location each year. Has your enrolment gone down and could it be that you have been at the same location too long? (continued on page 5)

Get your members thinking about new locations (yacht clubs, marinas, employers) and use their input.

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## **Crisco For Your Hands**

**By Don Baker, Raritan Bay S&P**

Ok, years ago I did an article for *Relative Bearings* about Polyestermite and later one on dehydrated water, so those of you who remember those gags, are surely going to think, "Here he goes again." But, this one's for real.

I was scrubbing all the winter dirt off my boat the other week and with the cleaners and water, my hands at the end of the day felt like sandpaper, even though I was wearing latex gloves most of the time. Earlier in the season, while sailing with one of our members, Doc Al Weinstein, I mentioned my sandpaper hands. He said, "Rub in some Crisco." I thought, sure! and let it pass. (cont) Then later, after working all day cleaning my boat, my hands turned to sandpaper, and he again said to rub in some Crisco.

Well, I thought, I'm going to feel pretty dumb rubbing Crisco on my hands, but, what the heck, no one will know. So I bought a small can that day and rubbed a light coating into my hands that night. The next morning I was amazed at how well my hands had healed and how they looked. I applied a second light application, and by that evening my hands were as smooth as a baby's bottom. The darned stuff works ten times better than any hand lotion. It leaves them a bit shiny and takes a while to rub it in, but Wow!

The skin on the top of my hands has also grown rather thin with age, and bleeds easily with the slightest abrasion. He said that it will help that too. So, if anyone wants to try it, I have enough in the small can I bought to last longer than I will live. Now,

where except in *Relative Bearings* and *Mark-4* will you find great stuff like this.

### **ITS ALL ABOUT EDUCATION**

**Message from DEO, D/Lt/C Ann MacQuade, JN**

Memorial Day has passed. We Honored our fallen hero's and our hero's who have suffered great infirmity. Each of our services depends on watercraft vessels and the ability of their captain plus crew. The basic training thru USPS classes can be very valuable. USPS classes can teach Radar, GPS, Weather, Docking, Chart reading and plotting, even Celestial Navigation. Each function is an important part of the learning experience. The ability of so many aboard with such previous knowledge of these subject certainly gives an edge that keeps every vessel running smoothly and safely.

The basic function of the USPS classes is to teach water safety and make your vessel's operation safe. We need to get the word out that safe handling of any water craft from row boat to ocean going ship is vitally important. New boat owners are not aware that they are only as effective and efficient as the knowledge plus the experience that they themselves possess. How can anyone be safe on or around the water unless they know "THE RULES OF THE ROAD"? Encourage everyone you know, or talk to, to take the Basic Boating Course with a local USPS Squadron. Then go on and expand that Knowledge by taking more courses.

Captain and crew must be able to handle adverse conditions.

Weather can change at any time with a drop of an anchor do to atmospheric conditions. Each captain, an all aboard, should be able to read the signs in the sky, in the air, and on the water which indicate weather changes or storms coming.

Always file a float plan with someone. This will help to locate you and your vessel should there be an emergency on board. Get the word out USPS public boating course is for every boater no matter what the size of their vessel of craft. You could save a life.

### *New Jersey Experienced Boater Test*

Here's the procedure for the Test Out Exam.

When you order the Test Out package from USPS HQ, your squadron will be billed. I will find out what procedure needs to be followed to advise USPS HQ of those who take the exam, and those passing and failing. Perhaps we can file the ED27 form online as we do for regular boating courses.

The USPS exam is our Boat Smart exam, plus the 10 NJ specific questions, and there is a state mandated \$25 fee for each exam.

1. Applicants must sign the certification that they have at least 100 hours of on the water experienced.
2. Applicants complete the TEST OUT Marine Police application form before taking the exam.
3. If the person fails, write **FAILED** across the application and mail the white copy along with a check for \$5 to Judy Robb at Marine Police HQ in Trenton. The squadron retains the yellow copy. Do not give the pink copy to the applicant, since it is not valid.
4. If the person passes the exam (70% is the minimum grade) the instructor signs the application and sends the white copy to Judy Robb with a check for \$5. The applicant is

given the pink copy, and the squadron retains the yellow copy. The applicant will ultimately receive the laminated NJ State Marine Police certificate, but the pink copy makes the applicant legal until receiving the laminated certificate.

You may combine state applications and write one check equaling \$5 per application, but the check cannot exceed \$100. If the number exceeds the \$100 maximum, you must write an additional check.

Those failing the exam must now take a boating course, and cannot retake the Test Out exam, and tell the student that they may not take the Test Out exam again elsewhere, because they will not receive a NJ certificate until passing a NASBLA approved boating course. (continued on page 6)

This will discourage them from seeking out another venue to take the exam. Either the student passes or fails, but we must be strict in the application. Remember you are signing an official government document.

Don Baker

## **Port Captains and Cruise Planning.**

Are you working together ? This seems a logical step in providing the latest information regarding cruising away from home. It's also just as helpful in providing updates locally. Attention All Port Captains !! Now is the time to not only get your boats ready for a busy, happy, safe-boating summer; BUT also the time to check up on any new information you may need in order advise others about the areas you have registered to represent as Port Captain. **Please**, check with the National USPS Website (USPS.org) for your current listing in the Port Captains Roster. ( found under committees on the fly-out menu). (continued on page 7)

THERE ARE MANY ERRORS! PLEASE CHECK YOU LISTING CAREFULLY. Then make necessary corrections. This is such an important but little publicized part of USPS, won't you do your best to make the listings correct.

Thanks for your Dedication to happy Safe Boating by serving as a Port Captain. Remember if you keep a log of the calls you have answered, it will help qualify you for a Merit Mark.

Sincerely, Carrie  
D/Lt Carolyn C. Markham, P

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**PEARLS OF WISDOM**  
**Enjoy the Coffee**

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the Professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups and were eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this: Life is

the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and do not change the quality of Life. Some times, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee provided."

So, don't let the cups drive you... enjoy the coffee instead

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**DISTRICT 4 FALL CONFERENCE**

The District 4 Fall conference is scheduled to take place 20-21 October, 2006, at a new location. Thanks to the efforts of the Meetings Committee and especially D/Lt. Vincene Aquilato, the conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in mid Morristown. The location is convenient to all, being right off Rt 287. The hotel is beautiful and the food great.

Morristown is a sightseers paradise, being one of the most historic cities in New Jersey. Further details will be provided. KEEP THE DATES OPEN> LETS ALL PLAN TO ATTEND.

