



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

Mark 4

Official Publication of District 4 - A Unit of United States Power Squadrons

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Issue 5

COMMANDER'S CORNER

I am honored that you elected me to be your newest District Commander. There are a lot of things in my life that I am proud of and being a member of the United States Power Squadrons is one of them.

One of the things that have always fascinated me is the long and rich history of the United States Power Squadrons; its traditions, its dedication to civic service, and the pride shown by its members. I remember a moment of panic when I first thought that I wouldn't be asked to join Raritan Bay Power Squadron. I was so proud when Don Baker did ask me to join. I think everyone in our District should feel the same kind of pride that I do in being a member.

You'll notice a pride of lions with us wherever we go this year. This is my mascot so that we can all be reminded to feel the pride of membership in the United States Power Squadrons.

Let's all work to bring our squadrons together for both social and educational functions. Let's promote that sense of family that I know everyone here feels. Publicize your events and classes in Mark IV so that all members of the District can take advantage of them. Get out to other squadron events and make new friends. If we all work together, it will be no problem keeping this the best district in all of the United States Power Squadrons.

District Commander Kathleen Bisogno, JN

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Two significant issues were discussed and well received by the membership at the annual conference held in Jacksonville in February. Since this issue of Mark 4 is somewhat late, with our apologies, the members of District 4 should be aware of them and understand the hoped for benefits to USPS as well as the ground rules imposed.

Clearly the main mission statement for USPS is to educate boaters in order to improve boater's safety. To achieve our goal, we need students as well as members willing and able to teach the students. Our bylaws provide that we may admit to membership only individuals who take and pass our basic course. With competition from other organizations and professional companies, as well as the decrease in squadron membership, the number and size of classes have gone down and so has our membership. This situation will get worse as we lose our older members due to age, health, and death. We need new blood.

EXPERIENCED BOATER.

The experienced boater program, approved at the conference, allows squadrons to admit to membership boaters who are experienced even though they have not taken our exam. The criteria for admission are left up to the squadron. Presumably recommendation by a squadron member should be required and the new member can then be encouraged to take our courses. The program is limited to 3 years and will be re-evaluated then.

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Boating Accidents and Fatalities

By
D/Lt Don Baker, JN

As a member of the USPS Legislative and Partner Relations Committee and State Liaison Officer with the Coast Guard for New Jersey, I received the Coast Guard boating statistics for 2005. Any doubt about the relationship of boater education to accidents and fatalities should be dispelled by these statistics. Most states now have mandatory boating education laws, and New Jersey's law took affect in January 2006 with a phase-in by boater age. By 2009, all New Jersey boaters will have had to obtain a Marine Police Certificate by taking a NASBLA approved course or through the Test Out option for experienced boaters. Interestingly, I have received about a dozen calls from boaters who requested the Test Out option. Except for two people for whom I have administered the exam, I have convinced the others to take a course by merely asking four questions from the USPS and NJ exams which they could not answer. They realized that a boating course was a better option. Raritan Bay squadron teaches two spring and two fall courses in two area high schools each year with an average of a bit over fifty students per class, or about 200 plus boaters per year. Spring, fall and some summer courses are taught by all other squadrons in D/4, so USPS teaches a large number each year.

In 1974 there were approximately 6 million pleasure boats registered in the United States and 1754 deaths. In contrast the 2005 figures indicate that with almost 13 million boats registered, fatalities were down to 697. Because of boater education, deaths have plummeted 1,057. That is a remarkable accomplishment.

At the February Annual USPS meeting in Jacksonville, the Government and Partner Relations Committee, headed by R/C Bill

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USPS UNIVERSITY.

To attract new members, and increase exposure of USPS to the boating public, the conference emphasized the USPS University project. The Educational Department is currently working on a number of seminars to be made available through local squadrons to non-members of USPS (as well as members). It is hoped that the seminars will attract boaters who can then be recruited into membership. For full details about the project and the seminars available or scheduled for completion, go to WWW.USPS.Org.

REMEMBER, OUR MISSION CALLS FOR COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS. WE MUST TEACH AND ATRACT NEW MEMBERS IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE.

Teaching the Professionals

USPS, and more specifically Northern New Jersey Sail & Power Squadron, has once again been honored for the caliber of the classes it teaches. We received requests from two groups to teach their members – the Paramus Rescue Squad to qualify their men to legally operate boats in New Jersey, and a US Naval Reserve Masters at Arms unit, to teach their men piloting so they can plot their courses while out on patrol. The men we worked with were preparing for deployment to the Mid-East within the next 90 days. Classes were run during the week of Feb. 26. Any squadron wanting further information on running similar courses for public servants, contact Bob Phillips at srobt4@verizon.net.

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Husted, SN had the presidents of BoatUS Foundation and NASBLA along with Coast Guard and other interested organizations as guests. We had an opportunity to discuss ideas and problems, and the lack of life jacket wearing was discussed at length, because it remains a major problem. The Coast Guard statistics show that of the 491 people who drowned, only 65 were wearing life jackets, and 426 did not. These deaths are preventable, and the Coast Guard, Marine Police and other interested organizations now have a five year awareness plan to get boaters to wear life jackets.

Personal Watercraft are still a source of concern with 1,007 injuries and 65 deaths in 2005. Another statistic that caught my eye dealt with the education or lack of education of boat operators.

	Vessels Involved	Fatalities
American Red Cross	34	5
Informal	345	19
None	2,975	296
Other	467	48
State Courses	546	24
Coast Guard Auxiliary	384	13
United States PS.	124	4
Unknown	1,753	288

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and Power Squadrons are major boating course educators, and my understanding is that the American Red Cross is a minor player. Look at the numbers for those boaters who had not taken a boating course, and compare them with USPS. People who have not taken a course represent a fatality rate of 9.9%, per 100,000 boaters, whereas the USPS rate is 3.2%, the lowest of all. We are making a major difference.

The Coast Guard statistics are 45 pages long. The preceding statistics reflect an accomplishment. However a boater got education, USPS is doing its part. The proctors, lecturers and others involved in teaching should feel good when looking in the mirror in the morning. If you would like to digest the 45 pages

of statistics, they are available for download at www.uscgboating.org.

USPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The USPS conference was held 21-25 February, 2007, at the Hyatt Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. As usual, D-4 was well represented with the full bridge, led by D/C Harold Oslick, SN, attending, as did P/D/C's Griffin, Aquilato, Horowitz, Balbo, Drummond, Lee, Caprario, Green and Meshulam.

The Saturday open session was attended by 804 members in addition to dignitaries representing the top National boating organizations, the US Coast Guard, NOAA, Boat US, NASBLA, and others.

Northern New Jersey Sail & Power Squadron was presented with a banner for membership growth, mainly achieved by the merger with Saddle River Power Squadron.

P/R/C Robert Green, SN, was installed as Rear Commander in charge of the Marketing/PR Committee, R/C Anthony J. Aquilato, AP installed as Rear Commander in charge of Nominations, R/C Michael J. Horowitz, JN, installed as Rear Commander in charge of Finance and R/C William J. Robinson, SN, Rear Commander in charge of Auditing. P/D/C David Drummond, SN, and Commander Kathleen Bisogno, JN, continued as aides to Chief Commander Ernest Marshburn with many other D-4 members taking active roles on national committees. Congratulations to all.

Number One Idiots of 2006

Early this year, some Boeing employees on the airfield decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home. Shortly after they took it for a float on the river, they noticed a Coast Guard helicopter coming towards them. It turned out that the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator beacon that activated when the raft was inflated. They are no longer employed at Boeing

Hey fellows, did you have the necessary certification to operate a boat?

Cooperative Education Program, USPS/IOBG

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by USPS and The International Order of Blue Gavel (IOBG), at the 2007 conference, is to encourage squadrons (districts) and yacht clubs to interact by offering boating courses at yacht clubs, providing a possible venue for squadron courses and meetings. The contacts, on a voluntary basis, can be mutually beneficial by exposure of members of each organization to the other. An added benefit to squadrons may well be the reactivation of members who may be paying dues but are basically inactive, by getting them to participate in teaching a course at their own yacht club or in conducting Vessel Safety checks. With mandatory boat operation certifications being

required by many states (with more to come), the program should be well received and can be instituted even at a yacht club that does not have an IOBG chapter.

The USPS Marketing and Public Relations Committee, and IOBG, in accordance with the MOU have appointed Liaison Officers to coordinate inter organization activities and facilitate the match up between interested squadron (districts) and yacht clubs. The Liaison Officers are:

IOBG
member of USPS)

P/C BJ Ursin (also a

1148 Brighton Crest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98229
Bj7cmg@aol.com

USPS
(also a member of IOBG)

P/D/C David J. Meshulam

66 Derby Court
Madison, NJ 07940
djmgem@aol.com

All contacts by squadron or district members interested in joining the program with a local yacht club should be addressed through David Meshulam. All contacts by yacht clubs interested should be through BJ Ursin

Mark 4 is the official publication of District 4, USPS. Published 4 times a year. P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, and P/C Ronnie Phillips, A.P., Editors. Articles and announcements from squadron officers and members are welcome by email at DJMGEM@AOL.COM or ronniepd4@verizon.net

John Gage Circumnavigates the Globe

The Voyage of the "Dream Catcher"

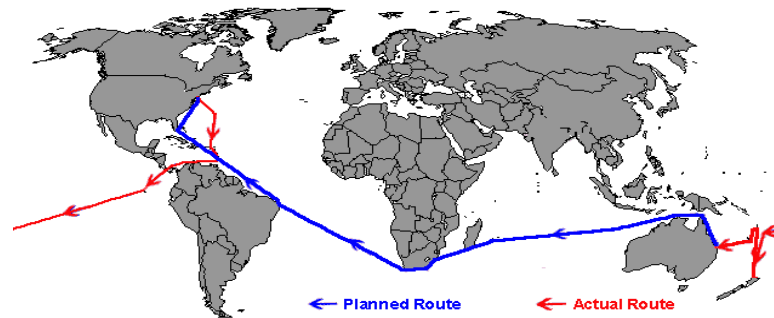
Henry R. Keller
Shrewsbury Power Squadron,

Ferdinand Magellan's ship, "Victoria", under the flag of Spain circumnavigated the globe in 1522. Sir Francis Drake duplicated the accomplishment for England on the "Golden Hind" in 1580. On May 12 of this year, New Jersey adventurer, John Gage, became one of the oldest to join this exclusive list when at 74 he sailed into Raritan Bay on the New Jersey coast.

Gage is a long time member of the United States Power Squadrons®, the nation's largest boating education organization. He set off on the adventure of his life on December 18, 2003 on his 42-foot sloop. The final leg of the journey was from Brazil to Saint Lucia to home. His return was highlighted when members of the local Shrewsbury Power Squadron, District 4 Commander Kathleen Bisogno, JN, D/Lt/C's Richard Zucci and Donald Kadlac, and P/D/C David Meshulam formed a flotilla of vessels to escort their courageous fellow sailor as he rounded Sandy Hook. A well-deserved celebration followed at the Raritan Yacht Club to honor his accomplishment.

Since 1977 he dreamed of sailing around the world. In 2003 he came to the realization that those "dreams were golden, but time was a thief". He looked for the ideal boat and when he first saw his sloop, he became convinced that this would be the vessel to share his journey. He thought of no more fitting name to christen her than "Dream Catcher".

Gage had imagined that his greatest satisfaction would be the successful completion of the journey. He now declares that the most gratifying aspect has been the individual legs taken and the people met along the way. He recalls that there were "magical nights with wonderful new friends.



On the isolated Pacific Island, Suarow, yachters joined him in singing, dancing and story telling while dining on tuna, crab and rice prepared by the sole island resident, Papa John. In the Fijis he met with local chiefs and was presented with their local beverage, kava, a purported mood mellowing drink "which had the taste and consistency of mud". At Port Vila on the tiny island Efate in the Vanuatu Archipelago, a local inhabitant greeted him with the reassurance that: "We are very friendly, we are Christians, we haven't eaten anyone in seventy-five years.

Gage offers to all who dream that the pursuit of dreams is part of our life mission, defines who we are, and contributes to the quality of our life. It is the pursuit not the arrival that is the most rewarding part of the experience. He offers five steps to those who wish to follow his example. Write down your dream where you can view it regularly. Read about and confer with people who have pursued a similar dream. Prepare a list of requirements including supplies and equipment as well as personal skills and conditioning. Plan for financing based on anticipated expenditures. Set a launch date and then "...JUST DO IT! TIME IS A THIEF!"

Henry (Hank) Keller is the Education Officer of the Shrewsbury Power Squadron. A resident of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, he kept in close communication with his friend, John Gage, throughout the extraordinary worldwide journey.



Dream Catcher Coming Home



John Gage Coming Home



Presentation by D/C Kathleen Bisogno to John Gage at Raritan Y.C.

District 4 Bridge

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**Tri-District Rendezvous
Liberty Landing Marina, Jersey City, NJ
6, 7, 8 July 2007**

Come join fellow members from Districts 2, 3 and 4 for a weekend of socializing and boating. Chief Commander Ernest Marshburn, SN will be there for all to meet and get to know.

The scheduled events are as follows:

Friday 6 July - Boats check in to marina beginning 1300, day and evening are open for socializing on docks, taking in the sights in New York City (there is a water ferry to NYC from the marina) and fine dining at the Harbor House Restaurant at the marina. Arrangements have been made at the Newark Airport Marriott for those of you coming by car, see below for details.

Saturday 7 July - Note, if you are coming by car for the day only, any USPS boat will welcome you aboard.

1030 - Flag Raising Ceremony, suggested attire uniform "E" or white short sleeve shirt and white shorts or slacks.

1130 - 1530 Boat ride on the "Little Lady" up the scenic Hudson River to the Tappan Zee Bridge with Buffet Lunch.

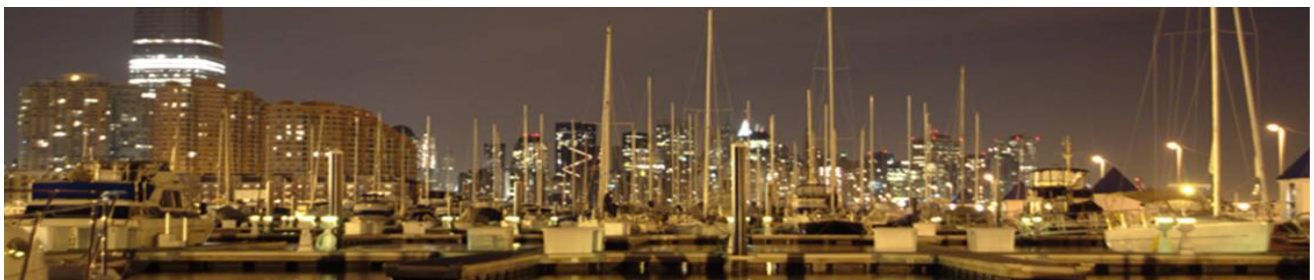
1630 - ? Dockside cocktail party and pot luck dinner. In the past, this has been a wonderful evening with magnificent views of Manhattan on nice wide docks.

Sunday 8 July Breakfast, more socializing, goodbyes and departure before 1200.

Slips and space on the cruise are limited. The price for boats is \$3.50/ft (including electric) with a 2 night minimum. Send the enclosed reservations form for slips directly to Liberty Landing Marina before 1 May, 2007.

The cruise will cost **\$50/person** for a Buffet lunch with beverages (BYOB), please send a check made out to: "**USPS Meetings Committee**" to P/D/C Harold Oslick, JN, 847 Nancy Way, Westfield, NJ 07090-3424.

Hotel - The Marriott at Newark Airport is 15 minutes from the Marina via the NJ Turnpike extension. The rate is \$109 per night (double occupancy). There will be no sales tax if you book your rooms through USPS. Send the enclosed form with a check made out to "USPS Meetings Committee" to Stf/C Vincene Aquilato, S, 22 Avis Drive, New Rochelle, NY 10804-3004 by 1 June 2007.



Cruise Reservation Form

Saturday, 7 July Hudson River Boat Cruise - Boat departs Liberty Landing Marina promptly at 1130.

Mail to P/D/C Harold Oslick, JN
847 Nancy Way
Westfield, NJ 07090-3424

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

DISTRICT _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____

x \$50 EACH

CHECK TO: USPS MEETINGS COMMITTEE \$ _____

Hotel Reservation Form:

Mail to: Stf/C Vincene Aquilato, S
22 Avis Drive
New Rochelle, NY 10804-3004

Deadline: 1 June 2007

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

DISTRICT _____

NUMBER OF ROOMS DESIRED: Friday 6 July _____

Saturday 7 July _____

Total

x \$109

CHECK PAYABLE TO: "USPS MEETINGS COMMITTEE" \$ _____