

HEAD LINES

Marblehead Sail & Power Squadron -- District 18
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

Volume 26 Issue 5
January 2009

From the Helm

Cdr Daniel W. Shea, AP

As I write this brief article, we are about ten days prior to the winter solstice, with just over nine hours of daylight. Recreational boats are cocooned for the cold months to come, but we know that every day after December 22 will slowly increase in length until we reach the summer solstice in June, when we will have already begun our next boating season. I hope that thought brings as pleasant images to your minds as it does to mine!

Looking to 2009, you will find several references in this newsletter issue to Squadron activities planned for January and February: A midwinter social gathering at the Salem Beer Works on January 15, a presentation sponsored by Marblehead Yacht Club and our Squadron at Abbott Library on Sunday afternoon, January 25 by Brian and Sue Schanning about their cruising odyssey to the Bahamas this last winter and spring, and the Change of Watch ceremony for our Squadron on Sunday February 8.

Development of increased boating skills in the coming year is being addressed by Squadron Education Officer Ginny Osman in the form of courses for members and the public, and Seminars Chairman John Bedrossian is planning several programs of interest alike to our members and others interested in enhancing their boating skills. Look for information on specific programs in Head Lines and on our website. (Speaking of our website, MSPS Member-at-Large and Webmaster Dale Smith reports that MSPS has received the Website Excellence Award from our national USPS – Bravo Dale!)

In terms of our membership numbers, the publicity which is generated by courses and seminars open to the public is extremely important in terms of generating interest in joining our Squadron. The Marketing/Public Relations Committee of our national USPS organization is busy on refocusing their message to emphasize USPS as the premier boating safety and education group in the country with the motto “Boating is fun...We’ll show you how!” You will see a lot of evidence of this refocused message in the months to come, but in the meantime there is much that each of us could accomplish as individuals simply by asking a friend, a relative or an acquaintance with an interest in boating to accompany us to a social program or perhaps a seminar – There is nothing like a personal invitation to spark interest in belonging to a premier boating organization like our Marblehead Sail and Power Squadron!

In the November issue of Head Lines, I referenced U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen’s article on the small vessel threat in our ports and waterways. This theme was echoed in H.D.S. Greenway’s column on the Op Ed page of the 12/09/08 Boston Globe in an article entitled “Terrorism on the Unguarded Sea.” Greenway points out that the Coast Guard does have a “Marine Domain Awareness” program, which encourages people who work or recreate on our waterfronts and coastal waters to pay attention to unusual activities on the water and report observations to the Coast Guard. I suspect that we will all be hearing more on this topic, and



the role that watchful boaters could play, in the year to come.

To close on a more pleasant note, Marblehead resident Rich Wilson is currently competing in the solo Vendee

Globe race around the world. A prime motivator for him to do this feat is his desire to create a school program called “Ocean Challenge Live!” which will allow more than 250,000 school children around the world to follow his journey online, and thereby get hooked into learning about science, geography and sailing. If you want to interest your family in this journey, or simply learn from it yourself, go to sitesalive.com and enjoy!



What's Inside

| | |
|--|---|
| SEO Message | 2 |
| Join Us at the Brewery | 2 |
| Upcoming Courses | 3 |
| Upcoming Events & Meetings | 4 |
| Who You Gonna Call? | 5 |
| Southbound to the Bahamas: A Cruising Odyssey | 7 |

2008 Executive Committee

Commander – Dan Shea, AP
781-631-1716 dshea.hrps@comcast.net

Executive Officer – Dan Himes, AP
781-990-3001 danhimes@comcast.net

Administrative Officer – Louis Schoenthal, AP
978-745-9746 Louis_Schoenthal@mksinst.com

Educational Officer – Gin Osman, SN
781-631-1327 ginonrocks@hotmail.com

Treasurer – Mark Peters, P
781-639-2874 mpeters66@comcast.net

Secretary – Beth Wolfe, AP
978-744-1575 emswolfe@gmail.com

Member at Large – Shawna Gauthier, S
978-979-2487 CaptainShawna@yahoo.com

Member at Large – Bill Griffin, AP
781-631-4245 bgriffin@seachangeinc.com

Member at Large – Dale Smith, AP
781-639-4022 dale.m.smith@gmail.com

Past Commander – Alexander Falk, JN
781-990-0007 al@falk.us

Head Lines

Janet Merriman, S, Managing Editor

Copy deadline is the 15th of the month preceding the issue date. Send articles, ideas and comments to janetm@theatriumdesign.com

SEO Message

Gin Osman, SN

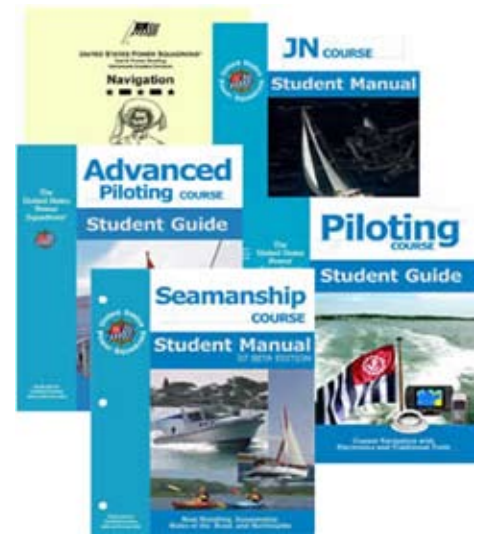
Greetings from your acting SEO! My goal for MSPS members is getting you to take courses / seminars (in classrooms or homestudy). For the public, it's keeping our water safe through Safe Boating Course (SBC or ABC), Vessel Safety Check (VSC) and USPS seminars. If you're interested in being a part of the team, then let me know (phone or email). MSPS needs a strong team to accomplish these goals.

Spring SBC is already scheduled with Marblehead High School for Wednesday, 25 February (Pass the word around... Due to town winter weather regulations, we won't be able to place street signs to advertise this class.)

Seminars are being scheduled for this spring (watch MSPS webpage for updates).

See HeadLines "Upcoming Courses" for members.

Are we having fun? Cheers ... gin



Get over the Winter Blues-Join us at the Brewery

Louis Schoenthal, AP

Thursday, January 15th, Salem Beer Works, 278 Derby Street in Salem, 6:30 p.m.

Join us to "tune" the spirit and souls of the membership this winter, rather than our Jinboards, outboards or rigging waiting for us in spring. As always, smart boat talk and wearing funny hats is encouraged. Good cheer, relaxation, and conviviality are mandatory.

The Squadron will provide hors d'oeuvres for our members. At the cash bar, don't forget to enjoy the brewery's award winning microbrews.

Upcoming Courses

Here's our current 2008/2009 member course schedule.

Advanced Grade:

| Start Date | Course | Instructor | Location |
|----------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 6 Jan (Tues) | Piloting | Gin Osman | 1st class Gin's house |
| 22 April (Wed) | Seamanship | TBA* | TBA* |

Elective:

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 13 Jan (Tues) | Marine Electronics | Brian Schanning | BYC Yardarm |
| 15 Jan (Thurs) | Sail | Team | BYC Yardarm |
| 2 Feb (Mon) | Cruise Planning | TBA* | TBA* |

*still working on this class

For topics covered in above courses, see MSPS webpage. Here's how USPS describes these courses.

Piloting (P) is the first in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. It focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice. [10 sessions; open book exam]

Seamanship (S) builds on the basics of recreational boating presented in the public boating courses, and adds foundational information for continuing boater education. The course contents should facilitate knowledge development for increased safe operation of recreational boats and provide some basis for completion of USCG licensing examination. Emphasis within the course has been placed on higher level boating skills, rules of the road, and marlinspike. [10 sessions; close book exam]

Cruise Planning (CP) is designed for members who plan to cruise for just a day or for a year--in either a sail or powerboat--this course covers ... Cruise preparation/planning, Security, Chartering, Cruising Outside the United States, Crew, Provisioning, Voyage Management, Communications, Navigation, Weather, & Emergencies. The manual includes a twelve-month cruise planning timeline. The course is non-modular with one final exam..

Marine Electronics (ME) has no prerequisites for the course; however, it is suggested that a member take ME 101 before taking ME 102. All three modules must be successfully completed to receive credit for ME ... three modules are:

ME 101, Boat Electrical Systems,

ME 102, Marine Radio Communications, and

ME 103, Marine Electronics for Navigation

[14 sessions; close book exam]

Sail (Sa) has two modules (Sa101, Basic and Sa102, Advanced) which must be completed to receive credit for Sa. Topics include: Sail Plans, Boat Design, Standing/Running Rigging, Upwind/Downwind Sailing,.Docking and Anchoring, Wind Forces, Stability/Balance, Sail Shape, Tuning the Rig, Steering/Helmsmanship, Heavy Weather Sailing, Storm Conditions, Sailing Safety, Racing/Race Management, Navigation Rules. [8-12 sessions; close book exam]

To register for any class, contact SEO (webpage, phone or email) ... payment will be collected at first meeting of class. Student materials will be ordered PRIOR to class start ... so there will be a limited number of students. IF you want to make sure to get enrolled for a particular course, then communicate early (ordering 30 days prior to start). Please advise me of your interest in any of the course(s) and when you would like to take it (spring/fall/winter, day of week, time of day, etc).

November Social Meeting Recap-Chartering

Louis Schoenthal, AP

Over 30 members and guests showed up on Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 at MYC for our dinner and group discussion of yacht chartering.

The great Italian dinner from Santoro's in Peabody, which started the evening, got the biggest round of applause of the night!

Following the meal, squadron AO Lou Schoenthal lead the discussion of chartering by presenting some talking points. He was assisted by Tom McLaughlin (MSPS), Bob Olenio, Anne Olenio and Dave Lewis from our sister squadron in Beverly. This group was the core of a recent charter to Tortola in January 2008. The discussion points included topics

such as pros and cons of cats vs. monohull boats, bareboat vs. crewed charters, issues with boats, companions etc.

Also in attendance was Angela Connery of Angela Connery Yacht charters. Angela is based in Salem and arranges yacht charters all over the world. Angela's insights into chartering were well taken.



Change of Watch-Annual Meeting

Louis Schoenthal, AP

It's hard to believe that the squadron year is almost over and it's time for the annual Change of Watch on Sunday, February 8 at 1100 at Marblehead Yacht Club. This is also our mandatory annual business meeting and a quorum is required to conduct the election.

Please plan on attending to vote for the members of the new bridge and wish them well for the 2009 season. We promise to keep the "business" to a minimum.

The menu consists of bagels, cream cheese, danish, sweet buns, juice and coffee.

Our speaker will be Garrett Wohl. An avid sailor, she moved her 38 foot sailboat "almost single-handed" from Salem to Grenada in 2007. Your AO followed the trip by email and she has quite a story.

Garrett is a Boston architect and principal in the firm of Wohl-Baker. Beside the normal ICW and sailing issues, she had to balance the trip with her business commitments, flying back to Boston regularly to keep the business going. You will all be intrigued.

December Holiday Dinner Meeting-Recap

Louis Schoenthal, AP

Our annual Holiday Dinner on Thursday December 4 at Gerry 5 V.F.A. was a rousing success with over 30 members and guests attending. For those of you not familiar with the V. F. A., this is a club was founded by the Volunteer Fireman's Association before Marblehead had full time firefighters. The tradition continues today. The excellent and reasonably priced meal was catered by off-duty firefighters!

Eric Dolin, a full time author who lives in Marblehead with wife and two children spoke on his book *Leviathan, The History of Whaling In America*. Most of us didn't realize that whaling was the third biggest industry in the USA in the early 1800s. Its golden age was right before

the civil war and the industry's decline was based on over-fishing and Jed Clampett "shootin' at some food and up from the ground came a bubblin' crude". (Actually Jed Clampett did not discover oil, but I felt compelled to put that in.)

As an interesting sidelight, Eric told us that most books found in major bookstores sell fewer than 5000 copies. You do the math. Writing is not a lucrative profession. Eric's next book will be on the fur trading industry in America.

Thanks to all who attended. Once again your ExCom was photographically challenged so there are no pictures to share.

Who ya gonna call?

Dan Himes, AP

The United States Power Squadrons is the strongest service organization for the marine community in the country. Bringing boating education and safety to the public, our local squadrons are capable of providing recreational boaters with the skills and knowledge to any level they desire. From our revamped courses, to the (very hot) seminar series, to the USPS University and on the water Operator Certification, we offer the best civilian training anywhere. And National (headquarters) is going to make sure that the whole country knows it.

After all, how can we help if people don't know we're here? The drive to increase the profile of the USPS and our services will take place at all levels of the organization: national, district and squadron. National is exploring many avenues for increasing our visibility as a resource for the public and other service organizations.

One avenue you can expect to see is an increased production of press releases and public service announcements, both at the National level and at the local level. We don't want to keep our events and accomplishments a secret from the world. And if we publishing them only in our own internal information streams, we rely on personal contact between our members and the public for making them known. So we can anticipate seeing and hearing promotional material announcing both upcoming events and accomplishments more broadly in the media.

But we can do more than press releases and announcements. We can make ourselves available as expert resources on marine safety and boating news.

As National explores this option for the organization as a whole, we should give serious consideration toward putting this in place within the Marblehead Sail

and Power Squadron. We have many folks who could be valuable speakers for other organizations and media outlets. With the abundance of true experts in our organization, we can truly provide a service to the boating public.

We also think we can have high-impact interactions with the boating public at boat shows. National is exploring how to have a larger, stronger and more effective presence in these venues by revamping our show booth capabilities and making best practices known to the local squadrons. These will also carry over to other maritime events where we may have a presence.

National is also looking at a stronger presence online. "Social media" sites like YouTube, chat rooms, forums... even our own electronic forums are being considered as a way to reach and engage the boating public. Social media uses technology like the Internet and mobile phones to reach audiences, and is usually much less costly than traditional "industrial" media (newspapers, television, and so on). It is also more interactive than industrial media, so we can engage the members directly online and form a community of users who engage in conversation. Small sub-communities can easily form, each carrying on in a way that interests its members. And membership to the communities is usually fluid: you can join and leave as you like.

This is not to say that we are going to neglect the industrial media. We hope you will see USPS articles in your favorite boating magazines, talking about our programs and making widely known the availability of our USPS University. This effort includes an emphasis on women's magazines and articles emphasizing boating safety issues with which women may be especially concerned.

But any marketing campaign or any



Commander Creighton Maynard

service that reaches out to its members is doomed to fail if it doesn't know who its members are. For that reason, there is a new emphasis on understanding the data behind what we do. This includes tracking the shifting demographics of the boating population. We can get valuable information by working closely with marine retailers. It also includes information on the boating public and our existing members as to their preferences for receiving information and taking courses. Power Squadron members who are also yacht club members may be key players in the drive for information. Also, anybody working in marinas or marine retail can help.

What does all of this mean to you? Your organization is going to refurbish its public profile, stepping in to fill a void in the public's access to maritime educational information. No longer content with just being a classroom group, we want to expand our roles into all forms of public education, including media. Most importantly, this initiative is expected to be emphasized not just at the national level, but also at the district and squadron levels. We're revamping our efforts to make ourselves known, and if you have a gift or talent or even just an interest in this, please let us know. We could use your help.

Southbound to the Bahamas: A Cruising Odyssey

Cdr Daniel W. Shea, AP

Ever daydream about extending your boating season by heading south in the fall? Take a break from winter, and come to the Abbot Public Library in Marblehead on Sunday afternoon, January 25 at 2:00 PM to hear about Brian and Sue Schanning's voyage south on the IWC and east across the Gulf Stream to the Bahamas last fall and winter.

MSPS is pleased to sponsor this presentation with the Marblehead Yacht Club. Brian and Sue have put together a colorful slide show illustrating both the excitement and the challenges of an eight-month voyage covering Chesapeake Bay, port cities in South Carolina and Georgia and the much-anticipated crossing from Florida to the Bahama Islands. It won't be all clear blue waters, white sand and fried conch – In addition to lessons learned during the cruise, they will also share tips on planning, boat preparation and leaving their Marblehead home for two thirds of a year.

This is a great opportunity to virtually enjoy a "dream trip" with experienced cruisers, and in the process pick up practical lessons and tips that could benefit any of us greatly on any extended cruise. Pencil in 1/25/09 now on your new calendars to save the date!



This is Sogno, our Gozzard 37 moored in Little Harbour, Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas. This was a popular cruisers hangout thanks to nearby Pete's Pub.



As we passed through North Carolina on the ICW in early November, we were definitely in search of warm weather. This commercial tug and barge helped us out by forcing an early opening at the Wrightsville Beach drawbridge.



Valentines Day in the Bahamas was a "day at the beach" for us on Thomas Cay, in the Exuma islands group. We also managed to find a special luncheon at the marina in nearby Sampson Cay.



Sue enjoys a cup of coffee on Christmas morning as we were crossing from Key Biscayne, FL to the Bahamas. We had perfect winds from the south as we crossed the Gulf Stream during the day. We decided to continue across the Great Bahama Bank and arrived in Nassau the following day.



On May 12, in Greenwich, NJ off Delaware Bay, we had our first collision – while tied to a marina fuel dock! A 28-foot power boat broke free during a storm and with no one on board managed to make a perfect landing at our stern. Our inflatable dinghy performed perfectly as an improvised air bag, protecting Sogno, the crew and the power boat!

Thank you to our Friends of MSPS:

**WILLIAM C. BURKE, JR.
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**
Personal and Business Insurance
18 Brown Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970-3830
CLAIRE M. GERRISH
claire@burkeinsagecy.com
Work (978) 741-7810
Fax (978) 741-7805
"Steering you in the right direction"

**95 Ocean Avenue
at Devereux Beach
Marblehead, Ma. 01945
(781) 631-3368
(781) NEW-BOAT
MARINE STORE
EVINRUDE
AQUASPORT
JOHNSON
PRAMS
LOAD RITE TRAILERS**

If you are a business owner or manager, please consider supporting MSPS through a partnership. The "Friends of MSPS" program allows you to place an ad in our newsletter "Head Lines" for an entire year and it only costs \$220 – this program has been vital in paying for the newsletter, and MSPS depends on your support going forward. If you are willing to extend discounts to MSPS members, we are also interested in featuring your business on the MSPS website – please contact Dan Shea at dshea.hrs@comcast.net for more details and to renew your "Friends" status or become a new Friend.



www.marblehead-usps.org

HEAD LINES

Marblehead Sail & Power Squadron – District 18
a Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

Volume 26 Issue 5
January 2009

Upcoming Events: Mark your calendar

| Jan | | Feb | |
|-----|--|-------|----------------------------------|
| 6 | Piloting | 2 | Cruise Planning |
| 13 | Marine Electronics | 8 | Change of Watch – Annual Meeting |
| 15 | Sail | | |
| 15 | Get over the Winter Blues- Join us at the Brewery | April | |
| 25 | Southbound to the Bahamas: A Cruising Odyssey | 22 | Seamanship |

Head Lines Boosters

Alexander Falk

Robert Sant Fournier

Howard M. Knight

Susan & Brian Schanning

Joan Thayer

Skip Whittaker

Show support for our Safe Boating Courses! Your \$10 contribution goes toward the cost of Head Lines for our SBC students. Checks, payable to MSPS, can be sent to the editor.