

HEAD LINES

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

Volume 28 Issue 1
March 2010

From the Helm

Cdr Dan Himes, AP

Although I wouldn't mind a couple of more skiing days, the melting snow and ever-brightening skies have turned my mind to the phase of H2O that I prefer: water. It's the Marblehead Sail and Power Squadron off-season activities that keep me optimistic through the long, dark winters. The camaraderie of our fellow members gathering and exchanging stories from the season past helps me plan (fantasize?) about the season upcoming. And I fully expect the season upcoming to be spectacular.

I can sense the optimism and excitement about the power squadron in every venue I attend. The past year we had an excellent assortment of speakers and activities, and I believe that this year will be even better (and, yes, we will try the beach party again – this year the weather shall cooperate!). Those of you who have shown your commitment to the squadron over the years will be interested in the Spring Conference on 20 March. It's being hosted by Broad Sound, and will address many of the changes in our organization that are causing some emotional conversations. We are also increasing our community visibility, which is giving our members a renewed sense of pride in our organization's standing in the community and in our mission. One nice side-effect of this is that the rate at which new members are joining is accelerating.

As a national organization, we have built an unparalleled reputation for our theoretical courses. It's wonderful to see that we are now moving swiftly to add the practical elements of boating to the theoretical. Our on-the-water training and certification will result in interna-

tionally recognized credentials for boat operator training, and will be among the highest rated credentials in the world. You should take a deep pride in being a member of such an organization.

As a reflection of our new practical direction we hope to organize some on-the-water activities this summer. It's been a while. It's time we got back to them.

With growth brings growing pains, and some of ours will be addressed at the D18 conference on Saturday, 20 March. This Spring Conference will have sessions on the new directions of the United States Power Squadrons, including the decision to teach all - even advance grade- courses to the general public, as well as the decision to end all email from HQ and make SailAngle.com their primary means of communication. Both of these moves are highly controversial, and in my judgment it's the SailAngle.com issue that will require the most work to mend. You'll find a brief indication of the problem elsewhere in this issue, but suffice it to say that there are important members of our community who simply refuse to use it as things stand. Since the original plan is to have it in full use by April, this issue is filed under Urgent. The President of SailAngle.com will be at the conference, so if you have any questions (or simply want to understand the issue better and weigh in) be sure you come to this conference.

Our Squadron is organizing the Fall Conference this year, and the plan is to put on a joint conference with D12. Joint conferences can be excellent, as



we get high-power speakers, and often get difficult to arrange demonstrations that aren't really worthwhile to do for a small audience (putting out a fire, flares, etc.). They also tend to be just better all-around boating get-togethers, with better food and better parties. As of this writing the date isn't set, but as soon as I know it I'll send you an email so you

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2010 Executive Committee

Commander commander@marblehead-usps.org
Dan Himes, AP 781-990-3001

Executive Officer xo@marblehead-usps.org
Mike Merriman, JN 508-524-7724

Administrative Officer ao@marblehead-usps.org
Julie A. Gassler 781-639-9431

Assistant AO asst-ao@marblehead-usps.org
Kevin Maguire

Educational Officer seo@marblehead-usps.org
Gin Osman, SN 781-631-1327

Treasurer treasurer@marblehead-usps.org
Timothy Mouradian 617-388-8021

Secretary secretary@marblehead-usps.org
Beth Wolfe, AP 978-744-1575

Members at Large
members-at-large@marblehead-usps.org
Skip Whittaker, AP 781-639-1935
Richard B. Culliton, P 781-599-0518
Douglas P. Hurd, AP 781-631-9847

Past Commander ipc@marblehead-usps.org
Dan Shea, AP 781-631-1716

Seminars seminars@marblehead-usps.org
Jerry A. Zanni, S 781-592-8844

Audit Committee auditing@marblehead-usps.org
William M. Griffin, P 781-631-4245

Rules Committee rules@marblehead-usps.org
James H. Cooke, SN 781-631-0750
Charles M. Belmer, Jr., AP 781-631-9527

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 editor@marblehead-usps.org

SEO Message

Gin Osman, SN

Here's a thought. Attend our ABC-3 (America's Boating Course) class at Marblehead High School to get familiar with the material we offer to our students. Then take the Instructor Development course and be a "certified instructor". MSPS needs YOU! The ABC (formerly the Sqd Boating Course) is a seven week course (4 presentations on core material, exam, and 2 presentations on navigation) with GREAT Power-Point slides. Let me know if you're interested in helping!!

Please advise me of your interest in any of the USPS courses and seminars (when you would like to take it; spring/fall/winter, day of week, time of day, etc). We need your input for planning (see the list below)! ALSO, if you're interested in teaching a public course, then contact me for more information. We need MORE instructors. Perhaps you're interested in taking an online course? See what USPS is offering at the following link: www.usps.org/national/eddept or www.usps.org/national/eddept/s/online_sea.htm for information on "online Seamanship course". Here's the current course/seminar offerings:

Public Courses:	Adv.Grade:	Electives:
ABC3 (Fall & Winter)	Seamanship (Fall & Spring) Piloting (Fall & Spring) Adv.Piloting (Fall) J.Navigation (as requested) Navigation (as requested)	Cruise Planning Engine Maintenance Instructor Development Marine Electronics Sail Weather

Seminars:

Anchoring	Paddle Smart
Boat Handling Under Power	Knots, Bends, & Hitches
How to Use a Chart	Using VHF/DSC Marine Radio
Hurricanes & Boats	Onboard Weather
Marine RADAR	Sail Trim
Trailing	Using GPS

Photos from the Change of Watch Meeting



Commander Dan Himes



District Commander, Arthur Yarranton

Upcoming Courses

Gin Osman, SN

Here's some 2010 courses being scheduled.

Advanced Grade:

Start Date	Course	Instructor	Location
Mar/April	Advanced Piloting*	??	Gin's House

Public Classes:

Feb.	Sqd Boating (ABC-3)	Gin Osman, Ch	Marblehead HS
May	Sqd Boating (ABC-3)	Gin Osman, Ch	Salem Willow YC

Seminars:

March 31	How to Use a Chart	Brian Schanning	Abbot Public Library
April 7	Using GPS	Mike Merriman	Abbot Public Library
April 21	Onboard Wx Forecasting	John Bedrossian	Abbot Public Library

*still working on this class

Advanced Piloting. This all-new course continues to build coastal and inland navigation skill, allowing the student to take on more challenging conditions – unfamiliar waters, limited visibility, and extended cruises. GPS is embraced as a primary navigation tool while adding radar, chartplotters, and other electronic navigation tools. As with Piloting, the course includes many in-class exercises, advancing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning. Topics covered include:

- Review of skills learned in Piloting
- Advanced positioning techniques such as advancing a line of position
- Other electronics: radar, depth sounders, autopilots, chartplotters, laptop computer software, etc.
- Hazard avoidance techniques using electronics (e.g., “keep out” zones in GPS)
- Collision avoidance using radar and GPS
- Working with tides: clearances, depth, effects of current
- Piloting with wind and currents
- The “Seaman’s Eye” – simple skills for checking that one is on course

To register for AP class, go to www.marblehead-usps.org, or contact Gin Osman, 781-631-1327 or ginonrocks@hotmail.com. Payment will be collected at first class meeting. Student materials will be ordered PRIOR to class, so there will be a limited number of students. IF you want to take a particular course, then contact me – otherwise it may NOT happen.



Swearing in: Tim Mouradian, Beth Wolfe, Gin Osman, Mike Merriman



Some of the attendees during the meeting

Kayak Safety Program

The Marblehead Yacht Club and the Marblehead Sail and Power Squadron are teaming up to sponsor the Kayak Safety Program. This seminar will be held Sunday, 18 April 2010 @ 1:30 PM at the Abbot Public Library's Lower Meeting Room in Marblehead. Mr. Robert Clarke, a Certified Kayak Instructor, will brief us on Safety Issues of Ocean Kayaking. This seminar is free to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Women's Sailing Conference

Corinthian Yacht Club , June 5, 2010

A day-long conference for women designed to introduce them to and/or enhance their skills in recreational sailing through seminars on water and on land. Topics include, but are not limited to, introduction to sailing and racing, understanding the wind, reefing sails, sail trim, night sailing, knots, hands-on charting, crew overboard, boat systems, diesel engine troubleshooting and suddenly single-handed. A continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, raffles, and a guest speaker complete the day. Guest speaker: Kathy Parsons of Hallettsville, Texas, an experienced cruiser, liveaboard for over 20 years and language teacher. More than 140 women attend.

For more information, contact:
Joan Thayer: joan_thayer@comcast.net

Marcia Bennet: marcia.bennet@comcast.net

From the Helm *Dan Himes, AP*
(cont. from page 1)

can keep it open. Of course, you'll see more about it in this space as the time draws near.

If we can get our issues with SailAngle.com worked out it promises to be an excellent pipeline for information and for sharing among members. For instance, Bob Sweet (author of textbooks and our National Education Officer) has an upcoming webinar titled "Maneuvering in Tight Quarters." If more content like this can be developed, so that we have a central repository of best-practice educational content available to our members at their convenience then we will be taking advantage of the leverage afforded by online social networks. I personally am looking forward to this.

I'm also looking forward to putting our "public face" forward once again. As I write this our America's Boating Course (ABC) is about to start and we have three excellent seminars planned for the spring. The ABC is the course to take for new boaters, young boaters, or people who are going to be boating in waters where a boating certification is required (such as the lakes and coast of New Hampshire). In addition to basic boat operation and safety, the course includes elementary principles of piloting and using a chart. We feel that basic navigation is essential in coastal boating and are pleased to be offering it as part of the ABC again.

Our seminars are excellent introductions and overviews of topics that are often included in our advanced courses, but they don't require the time commitment. They do, however, count for progress towards your boat operator certification.

Our public face also involves kicking off Safe Boating Week. We'll be offering vessel safety checks at Tucker's Wharf as we did last year, and perhaps we'll be at more stations as well this year. We will also be present at the Salem Maritime Festival again this coming August. Last year the Salem Maritime Festival was a lot of fun, and we met our speaker for last year's Holiday Dinner there. So it's time to get involved with our Squadron activities. It promises to be an outstanding boating season.

Photos from the Change of Watch Meeting



Commander Dan Himes swears in new members Bill Sert and Ernie Needham



Immediate Past Commander Dan Shea

District 18 Spring Conference, Saturday 20 March 2010

(with a pre-conference dinner Friday)

You'll receive a brochure announcing this also, but here is a quick preview. It should be excellent.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

V/C RICHARD PEOPLES, SN of Indialantic, FL, is a member of Banana River Sail and Power Squadron. He joined Mansfield Power Squadron in 1972. He served on several committees before beginning his journey up the bridge to commander in 1981. In District 7 he was D/7 secretary and D/7 newsletter editor. Since moving to Florida he has been D/23 Finance and Leadership Development Chairman. With Banana River he is Rules and Leadership Development Chairman and has served on the Executive and Finance Committees. He has taught Boating, Seamanship, Piloting, AP, LD, IQ and Junior Safe Boating. On the national level he has been an aide to two Chief Commanders and served on the Ensign, IQ Committees. He has served on Budget Committee for nine years, the last three as Asst. Treasurer/ Budget Officer. He is a life member with 32 merit marks.

GUEST SPEAKER

DAVID SMITH, ESQ is a partner at Ouellette and Smith PA, Attorneys at Law & Proctors in Admiralty. This partnership provides a broad range of legal services to individuals and small businesses. They are located on Eastern Ave in Gloucester, and the practice covers: Litigation Services, Fisheries, Admiralty and Maritime Law, Personal Injury, General Business and Corporation Advice and Employment Law.

Specifically, David will be speaking to us about towing and salvage - how they differ and what the consequences can be if you don't know "what to sign before taking their line".

SPECIAL GUEST

Randy White, President and Founder of SailAngle.com, will address your concerns about switching USPS communications to their platform.

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Chuck Mara of Marblehead Yacht Club discusses the Kayak Safety Course



Commander Dan Himes gives Lenora Churchill the 25 Year Pin

Want to become a friend of MSPS?

See back page for details!

The four levels of Boat Operator Certification

Cdr Dan Himes, AP

Certification Level	Inland Navigator (IN)	Coastal Navigator (CN)	Advanced Coastal Navigator (ACN)	Offshore Navigator (ON)
Boating Waters	Rivers, canals, small lakes, and protected waters within 2 nm of shore	IN plus local coastal waters (within 5 nm of shore), including the ICW	CN plus extended area, but within 50 nm of shore	All (except for certain extreme conditions)
Boat Types (Non commercial)	Member's Own Boat up to 8M (26.2 Ft.)	Any up to 12M (39.4 Ft.) (within endorsements)	Any up to 20M (65.6 Ft.) (within endorsements)	Any up to 20M (65.6 Ft.) (within endorsements)
Boating Conditions	Fair weather, good visibility, daylight	Fair weather, good visibility, daylight	Any within limits below (except for certain extreme conditions)	Any (except for certain extreme conditions)
Maximum Winds	Force 4 (16 Kt, 18 mph)	Force 5 (21 Kt, 24 mph)	Force 6 and sometimes above during brief storms (27 Kt, 31mph)	Any (except for certain extreme conditions)
Maximum Waves	1 meter (~3 Ft.)	1.8 meters (~6 Ft.)	3 meters (~10 Ft.)	Any (except for certain extreme conditions)
Applicable Endorsements	IW, PAD, SA	CAN, IW, MEX, PAD, SA	CAN, EURO, IW, MEX, PAD, SA	CAN, CAR, EURO, IW, MEX, PAD, SA
UN 40 Compliant (International Cert)	No	No	Yes	Yes

Extreme conditions include things like the arctic and greater than Class III rapids. Within endorsements means that you have the endorsements for the type of boating you do, e.g., sailing. More information (including detailed notes) can be found at the Boat Operator Certification page at <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/boc/main.htm>, where you will find the chart upon which this one is based.

Issues with SailAngle.com

Cdr Dan Himes, AP

The major problem that folks are having with SailAngle.com seems to stem from this paragraph of their terms of service:

3.2. You agree that any material, including any Intellectual Property Rights contained in such material, including but not limited to material sent via Chat Rooms, Forums, Customer Feedback, bulletin boards, Classified Ads, Destination Reviews, or any other material submitted for publication on the Website, or connected to use of any of the Website features ("User Gener-

ated Content") may be retained as the property of SAC and SAC shall have no obligations with regard to the User

Generated Content to monitor the User Generated Content to ensure that it complies with applicable laws or regulations.

It appears that if you upload content to their website, it's theirs.

From SailAngle's "Legal" link:

4.3.3 Unwanted or misleading content, multiple postings of the same content on

multiple Forums, advertisements, URL's and hyperlinks, chain letters, personals, make-money schemes, sexual requests, requests for personal information, phishing, fraudulent or harassing posts are prohibited.

Does "personals" include any personal classified advertising, even a request for a boat-partnership or a mooring?

We'll see what Randy White, the President of SailAngle.com, has to say when he addresses us at the D18 Conference.

Why Take a Seminar?

Why Take an "Onboard Weather Forecasting Seminar"?

In less than 2 hours, you will learn why and how:

- Basic weather knowledge
- What causes weather
- Understanding clouds and winds
- Advancing weather systems
- Refining your own forecasts
- Using your eyes and senses
- PLUS ... a Waterproof guide included with essential information!

Everything you need to know about:

- Recognizing early signs of approaching weather
- What the sky, clouds and winds are telling you
- Anticipating storms

Why Take an "Using GPS Seminar"?

In less than 2 hours, you will learn why and how:

- To operate your GPS
- What the buttons do
- What the screens show
- To use the functions
- Navigate a safe course
- Tips on choosing a GPS that's best for you
- PLUS ... a Waterproof guide included with essential information!

Everything you need to know about:

- What GPS does
- Waypoint Navigation
- Running your GPS

Why Take a "How to Use a Chart Seminar"?

In less than 2 hours, you will learn why and how:

- To plan a safe course on your chart
- What's above / below water
- What obstructions are you approaching
- What those chart numbers /symbols mean:

Depths and Heights

Aids to Navigation

Chart features

More from Gin...

"The National By-Laws have been amended to remove the restriction against instructing courses to the public. Now, you have the option of instructing any USPS program to anyone." from an email from Bob Sweet, our National Education Officer

How do you feel about this change in policy? At our next D18 conference (20 MARCH at Lynn Yacht Club), there will be a discussion of this change, so you might consider attending to see what members think. In my mind THIS could be a very exciting boost to our educational programs. What do you think?

Other topics:

- should we follow the Canadian PS policy of offering Public Boating at a high price but include the cost of first year membership
- how to manage the Co-op advertising money
- problems with the merit mark process (a DB2000 issue).
- a discussion on national's decision to terminate direct email in April and route all communication through SailAngle. (Randy White of SailAngle will address the conference and answer questions).

IF you can't attend, pass along your thoughts to Commander Himes or myself, Gin Osman. Otherwise, we'll see you there!



www.marblehead-usps.org

HEAD LINES

Marblehead Sail & Power Squadron – District 18
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Upcoming Events: Mark your calendar

March

20 District 18 Spring Conference

31 How to Use a Chart Seminar

April

7 Using GPS

21 Onboard Wx Forecasting

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 \$150 – 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.hrps@comcast.net for more details and to renew your "Friends" status or become a new Friend.

Head Lines Boosters

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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.