

HEAD LINES

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

Volume 26 Issue 2
May 2008

From the Helm

Cdr Dan Shea, P

Calendar spring arrived at the chilly and blustery end of March, but there are signs of true spring as I write this column in mid-April. Soon, serious and concerted pre-launch work will be done on our boats in eager anticipation of the beginning of our New England boating season.

This season of renewal in our environment applies to our Marblehead Sail & Power Squadron as well. Elsewhere in this issue you will find notice of our upcoming Spring Dinner Meeting at the Corinthian Yacht Club, featuring some delicious menu items and an excellent speaker with a most interesting topic.

Another harbinger of renewal will be the membership notices from USPS that we all will soon be receiving. We urge you to respond promptly by sending your payment without delay.

But in a larger sense, writing a check, while important to maintaining our volunteer, not for profit organization as a viable entity, is not the only vital contribution we can make. MSPS needs volunteer help from all members in order to continue and to improve our educational programs for our members and the public, conduct vessel safety checks, work on cooperative charting projects and help with our social meetings and outings.

There are many reasons for volunteering in our organization to further its mission of promoting boating safety and knowledge. For example:

Return the Favor – Many of us are better and safer boaters by reason of the knowledge we have learned from USPS



certified instructors over the years. What a great way to say “Thanks” it would be to contact our Squadron Educational Officer, Robert Sant Fournier and volunteer as a teaching assistant for one of our programs, or learn how to become a Certified Instructor for future courses!

Enhance our Programs – “New blood” and new ideas are always welcome, with regard to boating education, civic activity (e.g., Cooperative Charting and Vessel Safety Checks) and social programs.

Get Satisfaction from Full Participation – Most of us know from experience that it is those members of any organization who participate who gain the most in terms of knowledge and enjoyment from interacting with and helping others.

Finally, please keep in mind that in order for MSPS to survive and accomplish its mission, it must be a dynamic organization, not a static one. We benefit from new membership as well as from retention of our current members. Please help us this spring to renew MSPS by reaching out to someone you know who might benefit from becoming a member, and bring him or her to the attention of Jack Connelly, our Membership Chairperson, to myself or any of the Squadron officers.

Common Cents

... from the Treasurer’s desk
Mark Peters, P

It is that time of year once again. It is time to pull off the tarp, air out the cabin, scrape the bottom paint, put on a fresh coat of varnish, and renew your MSPS membership. Membership renewal not at the top of your list? Say it ain’t so!

As Treasurer, I need to inform you that you need to drop the paintbrush for a moment and pick up your checkbook (or renew online). Our squadron is in decent financial shape. However, our ability to provide education, promote safe boating, and foster collegial discussions and social gatherings depends directly on your involvement.

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SEO Message

Robere Sant Fournier, P

Itry not to have selfish thoughts. However, not only can I tell you when I have had selfish thoughts, I can predict when and where I will have them this summer. The entrance to Beverly Harbor, anytime between 1600 and 1900 on a Sunday afternoon, these selfish thoughts descend upon me.

This is the time for wave formations that have to be seen to be believed. There have been times when I thought my boat had no visible means of support. Boats are being funneled into the entrance buoys, but all are determined to maintain flank speed till the buoy proclaiming 5 mph (yes it is mph) is abeam, and throttles are chopped back rapidly to please the strategically placed Harbormaster boat.

If you are in the cockpit of a 25-ft sailboat, spreadeagled for dear life, and manipulating the tiller like a sweep oar on a white raft voyager, thoughts tend to drift to the dark side. Because boats are passing close aboard you do get to see skippers sitting way up on the fly bridges. It does become apparent very rapidly that they have no idea what a stand on vessel is from a standpipe. One whistle indicating on my part that I will be passing port to port is greeted with much waving and good cheer, but for me, I could be better off in mid-Atlantic in the confines of a winter storm.

Where are the selfish thoughts, well, maybe they are not that selfish, but at times like the above I just wish everyone could or would take a boating course. I am sure you have seen bumper stickers or signs that say “Share the Road”, well, the Power Squadron is dedicated to educating boaters to “share the water”.

Naturally I have a mission to teach as many boaters as possible, and I am happy to report that our Spring SBC produced another complement of students who not only were introduced to boating concepts, but several of them went on to become members of the Squadron and showed a passion for wanting to learn more.

We are moving to offer more. Hopefully by the next newsletter Seamanship will not only be offered in Fall, but will have dates, and a venue. Of course we are also looking for teachers and teacher assistants to bring the very best to our students. Also of course, will be the Fall SBC ever hopeful to spread the educational net.

Looking ahead we are certain that “Cruise Planning” will be offered in February next year. I had the pleasure of attending the District 18 meeting and as SEO I was interested to know what the latest is in seminars and workshop offerings, and how they are being modified. There is no doubt that there is a rich variety of educational opportunities being offered by National, and we will have an increasing list on offer for the winter months. I firmly believe taking courses over the winter makes summer come faster, almost like a vessel heading for Beverly Harbor.....well never mind, I am sure you have the picture!

Safe Boating Program for Kids a Big Success

On the weekend of April 26 - 27, MSPS Members Mike Mentuck and Capt. Ed Wolfe sponsored an 8 Hour Safe Boating Program for young boaters at the Boston Yacht Club. The Safe Boating Program was developed by the Massachusetts Environmental Police to enable boaters aged 12 through 15 to obtain the Massachusetts certificate that allows them to operate a power boat legally without an adult on board. MSPS Commander Dan Shea also participated in the event in order to represent MSPS and to tell the 25 youngsters and their parents about the many additional boating education opportunities that MSPS makes available to the public and its membership each year.

Below is an email that was sent by Mike Mentuck, in recognition for the great results of the exam which was taken and passed by all 25 of the young boaters, plus a number of their parents.

“On behalf of Captain Ed Wolfe, Commander Dan Shea and the Boston Yacht Club I would like to congratulate all of you who attended and passed this week-end’s Safe Boating Class. What started out as an idea to promote safe boating for a few interested kids turned into a wonderful experience for all of us.

We had a great group of interested and attentive kids (which was our goal) and a dedicated bunch of parents, many of whom sat through the course and many of whom actually took the final exam!

We had a dedicated teacher in Capt. Ed Wolfe who was assisted by Dan Shea of the Power Squadron and Ed’s wife Beth; and we were fortunate enough to have been able to hold the course at the BYC which I think all would agree was a great place to have such a course. The fact that all of you passed speaks volumes about Capt. Ed’s talent and expertise.

Now that you kids have your State Permit I hope that each of you will get a chance to “sail on your license” as they say in the Merchant Marine. I also hope that this course will spur you and your family on to want to join the Marblehead Sail & Power Squadron and continue your education.

To all of you, thanks for attending and when you are out on your own enjoying your well-deserved privilege to operate a boat on your own, please be careful and have a great time!

Mike Mentuck”



Upcoming Events

Annual Spring Dinner Meeting: Diving the Titanic



Corinthian Yacht Club, Friday, May 30, 2008. Mr. Stephen Gagin of Winthrop, Massachusetts will be the speaker this evening. Steve accompanied a team of Russian divers on their descent to RMS Titanic. Steve has a very interesting DVD on this expedition, which he will narrate as the visuals are running. For more information, and to RSVP for this exciting evening, see page 5 of this newsletter.

Fall On-the-Water Activity

Things are very tentative, but we are planning a trip to a Boston Harbor island on the weekend of October 4. Stay tuned.

General Meeting November 13 at MYC

Group discussion of Caribbean charters. If you are planning or thinking about chartering, or have something to share, come and join in.

Holiday Party December 4 at Boston Yacht Club

We have lined up local author Eric Jay Dolin, author of Leviathan, History of Whaling in America. Put this Thursday night on your calendar.

A Brief Chat with Marblehead Harbormaster Charles Dalferro

Dan Himes, P



As the man responsible for about 2400 moorings, Charlie Dalferro is very busy this time of year. My interview scheduled at 0800; I was at least second in line for the day (and the person behind me elected to come back later). Mr. Dalferro has been harbormaster since 2005, having been Assistant Harbormaster for 18 years prior. He has served the town since he was 20 years old.

Beyond the moorings, he is empowered to enforce the bylaws of the town's waterways (which are online at www.marblehead.org/index.asp?nid=546). He has 2 full time assistants and 4 extra assistants hired for the summer season.

DH: I have a zone-3 mooring that's due for inspection. What do I do?

CD: Your mooring company should be doing regular inspections at the required times. They inspect, repair what is needed, and fax a report to our office. We update our records accordingly.

DH: What do you see, in terms of boaters' behavior, on the water that you like?

CD: Well, education is our biggest issue in that regard. I go to meetings of the Massachusetts Harbormasters Association (<http://mass.harbormasters.org/>) and in all communities, educating boaters is the biggest issue. People can get a boat and go out on water without a clue as to what they are doing, and when things go bad out there they go bad fast.

The Power Squadrons, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Environmental Police all have good courses for teaching boating safety.

Off the water, [our office] is too-often dealing with scams people come up with to try to circumvent the mooring waiting list.

DH: If educated boaters is what you like to see most on the water, what is the boating behavior that you see out there that you don't want to see? (What drives you nuts?)

CD: Kids riding on the bow of a boat with their feet hanging off and the boat just flying across the water. If that kid falls, she or he could go under the boat and get hit by the prop. I don't want to see that.

DH: Under what conditions should a boater call you on channel 16?

CD: We answer calls of distress, or if you see an oil slick or see wildlife that is in trouble. We can make sure the appropriate authorities are notified. We also take calls for people about docking, especially if they're visiting and are asking about the 30 minute tie-up limit. That's all part of our job.

DH: When do you want people to not call you?

CD: Don't call me on channel 16 for a radio check. Call one of your buddies on channel 9.

DH: Thank you very much for being so generous with your time, Mr. Dalferro. Do you have any special advice or requests for boaters for this upcoming season?

CD: Safety is the whole issue. Safety, education, and common sense are the keys to whether you have a good summer or a bad summer.



Marblehead Harbormaster, Charles Dalferro

Emergency response on the water is limited. When you have a problem on land, you have three police cars, two fire trucks and an ambulance on the scene if you need it. On the water, you get two guys on a boat. People don't realize that.

Often, when we reconstruct the events of accidents we find the deceased made some error in judgment, like not wearing a life jacket, that resulted in his (or her) death.

If we can prevent that with safe boating and using common sense, everything else – moorings, docks and so on – we can deal with.

Annual Spring Dinner Meeting

Corinthian Yacht Club
Friday, May 30, 2008

Reservations and payment are requested by Monday, May 26, 2008

Members and their guests are invited to our traditional
Spring Dinner Meeting

Our evening will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a social hour
(cash bar) in the Trophy Room

Dinner will be served in the Fantail Room at 7:30 p.m.

Dinner Entree Choices:

Roast Prime Rib of Beef au jus

Boneless Breast of Chicken Picatta

Baked Haddock with Seafood Crumb Topping

Entrees include rolls, house salad, vegetable, dessert and coffee or tea.

Price per person: \$35, including gratuity and tax

Following dinner, our speaker will be Mr. Stephen Gagin of Winthrop, Massachusetts. A graduate of The Citadel, Steve was commissioned in the US Navy and became a Diving Officer, stationed in Hawaii. Subsequently, he was invited by a team of Russian divers to accompany them on their descent to RMS Titanic. Steve has a very interesting DVD on this expedition, which he will narrate as the visuals are running.

*** Reservations and Payment Requested by May 26, 2008 ***

For each Member and Guest, please include Name and Dinner Choice, \$35 per person (Please use blank sheet for additional guests and their entree selections)

Name: _____

Circle One:

Beef Chicken Haddock

Name: _____

Circle One:

Beef Chicken Haddock

Please send your reservation form and check, payable to MSPS, to:

MSPS Treasurer Mark Peters
108 Village Street
Marblehead, MA 01945

Information for Members

Congress Considering Permanent Water Discharge Exemption for Recreational Boats

The EPA has exempted recreational boats from obtaining a discharge permit to release water into the ocean. This includes cooling water from inboard and outboard engines as well as grey water (cleaning decks, washing dishes). Because of this exemption, only large commercial vessels have been required to have such a permit. The courts have ruled that the EPA overstepped its authority in granting the exemption and starting September 2008 (that's this Fall!) all recreational boaters must apply for and obtain a permit to run engines, wash dishes or wash a boat.

Congress has reacted with several pieces of legislation and Senate Bill S2766 is considered to have the best chance of passage. If passed this bill will make the exemption permanent. If not passed by the September 2008 deadline, the permit program will go into effect and you'll need to obtain a permit for each boat owned.

New Hampshire Boat Licensing Affects All Boaters

The phased age based cut in of boater certification in New Hampshire has now run its course. Regardless of your age, if you plan on boating less than 15 miles off the coast of the "Live Free or Die" state in a vessel of greater than 25 horsepower you must carry a Safe Boater Education Certificate. Of course the USPS basic boating courses qualify you for this certificate.

Once you obtain one, don't lose it. The Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary are volunteer organizations and may not keep records of students passing courses. If you lose it you may have to take the course again.

continued from page 1

We don't just need your dollars. We need you, along with your family and friends, to get involved and take advantage of what the organization has to offer.

As the Visa commercials say, the benefits of being a member are "priceless", and far too numerous to list in a page or two. How do you put a price on a fall cruise with good friends, or specific knowledge you gained that enriches your sailing experience?

Free Education

Need I say more? You can take courses on such topics as seamanship, piloting, navigation, cruise planning, engine maintenance, marine electronics, and weather. Not only that, but you can learn from some of the best and most experienced folks in these areas – folks that have sailed on the North Shore and around the globe for years.

Fellowship

One major benefit of the MSPS is the camaraderie. Whether it is a dinner at the yacht club, a slide show by a sailor that has attempted to break a transatlantic speed record, or a cruise to identify aids to navigation, there are many opportunities to socialize, learn, and share your experiences and knowledge.

Port Captains

When you are traveling along the coast, or along the intracoastal waterway, you can take advantage of advice and guidance from Port Captains during your trip (or better yet, give them a call in advance during your planning stage).

Port Captains stand ready to provide advice and assistance to USPS members. Most importantly, they can share their knowledge of local waters and unmarked hazards to safe navigation. They might be able to share a perfect anchorage. They can also recommend mechanics, sailmakers, and repair yards in the area, as well as medical or dental facilities. If you are weary, they can direct you to local restaurants and motels. In addition to providing friendly advice, they are just nice people that enjoy meeting others, and enjoy serving their fellow USPS members.

Tax Deduction on Dues

Did you realize that your dues may be tax deductible? And if you volunteer for MSPS functions, and incur expenses (such as travel expenses), some of these expenses may also be deductible. Of course, I am not your accountant, so consult an expert before you file your return.

THE ENSIGN® Magazine

As a member, you receive six issues of The Ensign magazine, as well as six issues of the USPS Compass, a new electronic newsletter, and of course this wonderful newsletter as well. If you don't receive the Compass, you can subscribe at USPS.org. If that isn't enough reading material, you can also get a 40% discount from Soundings Magazine on a subscription to their magazine.

Discounts Discounts Discounts

You may not realize how many discounts are available to USPS members. To list a few, you can get discounts from West Marine, C-Map, Maptech, McGraw Hill (check out their GPS for Mariners publication), Weems & Plath, Nobeltec, Dell Computers, Rose Point Navigation Systems, and many more.

USPS Boat Insurance Program

The USPS Boat Insurance Program is available to most USPS members. Pricing is based on the premise that USPS members represent a class of "preferred risk" boaters by the virtue of their formal education in the care and operation of boats.

Now that you are sufficiently inspired, you can set aside that boat project for a moment longer, and renew your membership!

One more thought

Once you have renewed your membership, it doesn't have to stop there – you might volunteer some of your time, or volunteer additional financial resources. Consider a tax deductible donation to the Century Fund, the Education Fund, or a direct donation to our Marblehead Sail and Power Squadron. Your donations create extraordinary opportunities, and will support the USPS as it promotes safe boating for years to come. You might ponder this thought as you get back to working on your boat – "how can I fit the MSPS into my planned giving?"

Now, where did I put that brush...

National Women's Sailing Association Conference

Shawna Gauthier, S

Don't miss the opportunity to participate in the 7th annual National Women's Sailing Association conference held here in Marblehead on June 7th, 2008 at the Corinthian Yacht Club. This year's conference promises to offer more learning events and "hands on" experiences than ever before. This event offers both on the water sessions and "classroom" courses.

SESSIONS

Charting
Knots
Safety on Board (*I'm teaching this course*)
Diesel for Damsels
Heave Ho
Suddenly Singlehanded
Spinnakers
Docking Techniques
Galley Cuisine
Crew Overboard
Intro to Sailing
Take the Tiller
Using Spring Lines
Boat Systems
Intro to Racing
Take the Wheel

SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Registration and breakfast
9:30 - 10:55 a.m. Workshops
11:05 - 12:30 p.m. Workshops
12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:40 - 3:05 p.m. Workshops
3:15 - 4:40 p.m. Workshops
4:45 - 5:45 pm Cash bar, buy raffle tickets
5:45 - 7:15 p.m. Dinner
7:15 - 8:00 p.m. Award presentation.
Keynote Speaker: Moe Roddy*
8:00 - 8:30 p.m. Raffle drawings and auction winners

As you can see, it is a day packed full of learning opportunities, useful information, as well as socializing with other women that you have something in common with. I encourage you to sign up as soon as possible as the different sessions are filling up quickly. Visit www.womensailing.org/womensailconf.htm and complete the form online. I look forward to seeing you at the 7th annual conference.

Sorry guys, this one is for women only.


** Maureen (Moe) Roddy is a world-class sailor, mother and cardiac surgical nurse who launched the Red Dress Racing Campaign to raise awareness about cardiac disease and inspire women to take control of their lives, their health and to dream big.*

Thank you to our Friends of MSPS:

To all our friends and shipmates in MSPS,
We wish you all ---
Fair winds,
Calm seas,
Safe passages, and endless
Warm and Rose-colored sunsets.
Cathy Mae Tomasello and Al Goldstein, P



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Tim Green
President

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HEAD LINES

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

Volume 26 Issue 2
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Upcoming Events: Mark your calendar

May
30 Annual Spring Dinner
Meeting: Diving the Titanic
See page 5 for details and
reservation form!

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.