

# UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS/ABC



THE

# JIB SHEET

A Publication of the Middletown Power Squadron

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VOL 66

NUM 7-8

## FROM THE HELM

As we witness the day's getting longer hopefully Winter is now behind us and we can look forward to Spring. We are planning on having a MPS Bridge meeting on 25 April at Farrell's Restaurant in Portland. Please note the information in the Jib Sheet on Page 2 regarding the D1 Conference.

It is with sadness that I report P/C Bill Houghtby, a long standing member and educator of the MPS has passed away on February 11 in North Oaks, MN. Bill was 99 years old. I had the opportunity of knowing Bill in my teens since I was friends with his two sons Bruce and David. Bill served in the Navy during WWII and after the war he worked at the UTC Fuel Cell division in South Windsor. I visited him there on several occasions. Bill was an aeronautical engineer and inventor who helped develop hydrogen fuel cell technology. I knew Bill when gas prices jumped from twenty-five cents a gallon to thirty-eight cents a gallon and the trend was trying to save money by riding motorcycles. Bill had an early 60's vintage BMW R/60 that he rode for transportation, I had a Triumph. Those days were a lot simpler. Bill stopped riding many years ago. Bill maintained his friendship with fellow squadron members Joe and Rob Seiferman right up until he moved back to MN. We spent many a Sunday morning at the Riverdale working on squadron business.



*Bill and Elizabeth Houghtby enjoying a nice afternoon at Donna Emmon's change of watch, 4 May, 2004 at the Westbrook Elk's Club. Bill and Elizabeth were married for 68 years before she passed.*

We thank Bill for his past contributions to Middletown Power Squadron. Our condolences to Bill's family. May he rest in peace.

The United States Power Squadron teaches and promotes boating safety through education.

*P/C George M Gilbert, JN  
Editor*



## District 1 / National News

United States Power Squadron  
Sail and Power Boating



For more detail on the D1 Activities refer to the  
"Sounds of 1"

### CALL AND AGENDA FOR DISTRICT 1 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE

**DATE:** Saturday, 16 March, 2024

**HOST:** D-1 bridge

**TIME:** 0900

**PLACE:** Pequabuck Golf Club  
Bristol, CT

**DRESS:** Uniform F or other appropriate attire

### D1 Spring Conference Luncheon

The menu will be a buffet of: salad of mixed greens, penne with sauce, roasted red potatoes, vegetables, bread and butter, coffee, and tea and two entrees: sausage & peppers and oven roasted chicken. Beer & wine 'donation' bar will be open for "Attitude Adjustment". Please send check for \$25 per person, made out to "USPS-D-1" by March 9th to: Peter Jenkin, 26 Essex Glen Dr, Essex, CT 06426. Please make your reservations, as walk-ins may not be served a meal.

**Pre-Conference Dinner:** Farrells Restaurant, 245 Marlborough St., Portland CT. 15 March at 6:00pm. Please contact Bill Waseleski at [wwaseleski@centuryspringmfg.com](mailto:wwaseleski@centuryspringmfg.com) to make a reservation. Please join us to meet the Chief's Representative.

**Raffle** - Bridge Members and each Squadron is asked to bring a raffle item. Thank you.

### Mandatory Vessel Safety Examiner Workshop

The National Vessel Safety Committee has put together a workshop with important updates to your Vessel Safety Check procedure. They have made this workshop mandatory by 30 June 2024. If you don't take

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## SQUADRON NEWS

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

Middletown and Hartford Squadrons 90<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebration

The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner of the Hartford and Middletown Power Squadrons was held on Saturday September 17, 2022 at Middlesex Yacht Club in Chester CT. There were 12 members and guests present from the Middletown Power Squadron.

Middletown State Representative Quentin "Q" Williams read and presented Citations from the Connecticut House of Representatives and Senate to the Hartford and Middletown Power Squadrons in recognition of our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary's.

District Education Officer, D/Lt/C George Gilbert read a message from District Commander, Art Andrea, who was unable to attend.

The members of the Hartford and Middletown bridges were introduced by Commander Bill Waseleski and Bob Borden respectively. D/Lt/C George Gilbert and Lt/C Cliff McKibbin gave brief histories of the Middletown and Hartford Power Squadrons. MPS Executive Officer Liz Johansmeyer gave the Benediction.

An excellent dinner was provided by Farrell's Restaurant and Steve Kazlauskas entertained us with the Sounds of Sinatra.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Olsen, AP  
Secretary*

### +++ NOTICE OF MEETING +++

The next meeting of the Middletown Power Squadron will be held on Thursday 25 April at Farrell's Restaurant on Route 66, Portland. Dinner at 1800 and meeting to follow. This will be our 2017 Annual Meeting. We remind all Officers, Department heads, and Committee Chairs that their presence is requested. SEE YOU THERE.

### THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON 8TH ANNUAL BOAT SHOW / SWAP MEET 18 May, 2024 0800-1500

West Marine Parking lot, 1667 Boston Post Road,  
Old Saybrook, CT

### Secure Your Space Now!

Boats, Marine Accessories, Craft items are easy to sell! To register go to the Hartford Power Squadron Website and register. Only \$25 for a 9' x18' Booth.

This family friendly event will feature cookout style food as well as items for sale. Not restricted to boats and boating equipment/services. Vendors can showcase locally made crafts, unique jewelry, one of a kind gifts, clothing, tools, and much more!

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*The "Jib Sheet" is a monthly publication of the Middletown Power Squadron. Articles for the "Jib Sheet" are welcome and encouraged by the general membership on any topic of interest. The deadline for an article to enter the following publication is to be submitted by the beginning of the last full week of the month. Articles may be faxed to George Gilbert at 860-832-8499, or E-mailed at [geomgilb@aol.com](mailto:geomgilb@aol.com),*

the workshop by then, you will no longer be certified to do VSCs!

D/Lt/C Art Andrea, AP will be giving the workshop at the spring Conference on 16 March 2024 during the morning 'Break-Out' sessions. We welcome all VSEs to his presentation for an in-depth discussion of the new requirements.

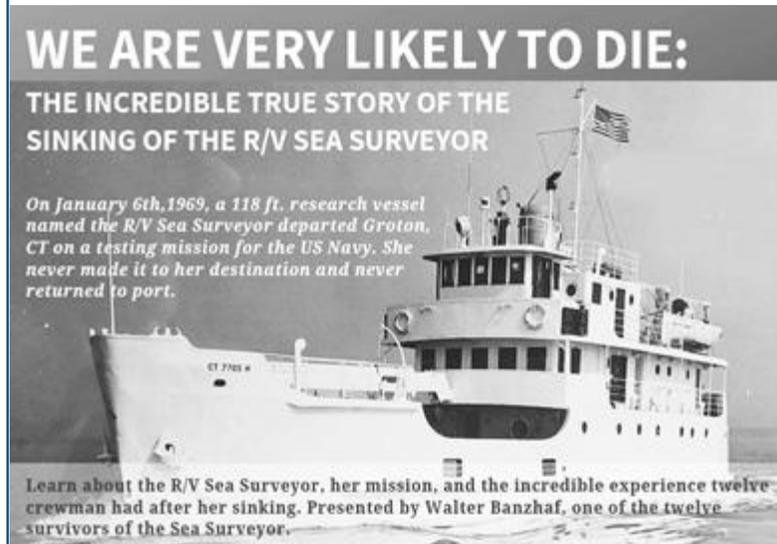
As an additional option for those unable to come to the spring Conference, VSEs can read the requirements at the link below.

[https://www.usps.org/images/Exec/Safety/vsc/VSC\\_Workshop/2024\\_VE\\_workshop\\_FINAL3a1.pdf](https://www.usps.org/images/Exec/Safety/vsc/VSC_Workshop/2024_VE_workshop_FINAL3a1.pdf)

Once you have read the requirements, you will need to report that to Art Andrea at:

[Trescooch@yahoo.com](mailto:Trescooch@yahoo.com) so he can add you to his report of our District 1 members taking the workshop.

**Spring Conference Program Features: 'We are very likely to Die'. Walter (Wally) Banzhaf will describe his harrowing experience surviving the sinking of the research vessel 'Sea Surveyor' in 1969.**



Wally earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

1968 was a great year: he left Troy NY, married Mattie, and began working at the Navy Underwater

Sound Lab (NUSL) in New London. Wally started in Submarine Sonar and quickly moved to the Submarine Antenna Branch of NUSL.

In contrast, 1969 did NOT start well. 6 months after beginning work at NUSL, as the "new guy" he was "**volun-told**" to go to sea on a Research Vessel from Electric Boat in early January 1969.

Electric Boat was testing a new "classified" receiving system that would allow subs to know everything about all RF signals nearby. Instead of meeting the submarine USS Greenling 270nm south of Nantucket, 12 men watched their ship sink, spent 27 hours in a life raft in January in a gale (Beaufort 9-10) and nearly died of hypothermia. **Come to the Spring Conference to hear the whole story!**

## HOW TO AVOID OPERATOR LOOKOUT ERRORS

According to [recreational boating statistics](#), operator lookout errors are among the top contributing factors to injury or death on the water. When it comes to keeping a better lookout, you can improve your skills by learning to read the water before leaving the dock and while underway.

**Know your water before you leave the dock.** As a responsible pilot, you need to anticipate problems and carefully watch for dangers while underway. In addition to studying the chart for your route, you should make a broader analysis of the area, paying attention to the current, tide and wind. Make a list of dangers to watch out for. The pilot who looks for trouble may very well avoid it.

**Learn to read the surface of the water.** The water's surface provides a rich source of information for pilots. It lets us know the direction and speed of the current. A short chop can indicate the wind's direction and intensity and exposes floating items you should avoid. Odd-angled broad-V patterns on the surface warn of hidden underwater debris. For example, a solitary exposed reed provides the only indication a pilot gets that his boat is about to run aground on an uncharted Hudson River mudflat. No GPS or Internet connection can compare to a trained pilot's eye continuously interpreting the water's surface ahead. — *Daniel Fannon*  
*The Compass*



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[www.usps.org/localusps/middletown](http://www.usps.org/localusps/middletown)

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

15	March	Fri	1800	Pre- Conference Dinner	Farrell's Restaurant 245 Marlborough St, Portland,
16	March	Sat	0900	District 1 Spring Conference	Pequabuck Golf Club Bristol, CT
25	Apr	Th	1800	Middletown Power Squadron	Farrell's Restaurant 245 Marlborough St, Portland,
18	May	Sat		HPS Boat Show / Swap Meet	West Marine Parking lot, 1667 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT
8	June	Sat		District 1 June Rendezvous	Middlesex Yacht Club Chester, CT
8	June	Sat	1300	District 1 Council Meeting	Middlesex Yacht Club Chester, CT