

SEO Report

The Squadron taught three Boat Smart courses this summer and held three sessions for ABC exams as well. Boat Smart students totaled 105 with 95 passing. ABC students testing totaled 52 with 44 passing.

Two students chose to join Niagara Squadron. Welcome to Earl Meacham and Guillermo Alvarez.

Six Squadron members took the Marine Electronics course as a self study group this spring.

Fall schedule

Boat Smart	9/28 – 10/19 completed
GPS Seminar	10/26 – 11/16 completed
Instructor Development	Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, Buffalo, Hamburg, and Swiftwater squadrons also are participating—to be held at the Elks Club, North Tonawanda
Engine Maintenance	Study – started with 4 people participating

Winter Schedule

Boating Course—GI High School	— Jan 30 – Mar 20
Sail	Jan – need head count
Seamanship or AP	TBD

Spring Schedule

Boat Smart	May 20 (Part of national Safe Boating Week) Summit Park Mall
April 25, 27, May 2, 3	Anchor Marine
June 13,15,20,22	Bob Weaver Motorsports

The January boating course will be the 8 week Squadron Boating Course. The longer course will be given to allow membership recruiting to have a key role. This is part of a National program being piloted in District 6 to attract more boating-oriented students to the course who may be more interested in joining USPS.

P/C Scott Wallace, JN

2005 Solar Splash®

Several Niagara Power Squadron members volunteered to help out at The ASME International SOLAR SPLASH® An Intercollegiate Student Design – Solar/Electric Boat Competition this past June in Delaware Park, Buffalo.

"Solar Splash® is an international intercollegiate competition that involves students designing, building, and sailing their boats and undergoing a series of competitive evaluations. Those evaluations include technical reports, visual displays and workmanship. On-the-water competitions include a sprint and a maneuverability qualifier, followed



by the 'Solar Slalom,' which is a combination of speed and maneuverability. The final events are sprint and endurance tests."



Our sunburned members were "on guard" in small row-boats—just in case they were needed to help out a stranded competitor.

People are shocked to find out that the solar boat championship chose Buffalo. Part of the reason is that we have one of the highest percentages of sun in June of North

North American cities capable of handling an event like this.

The winning team from Cedarville University, Ohio, is pictured above.

Our squadron has volunteered our services again when this event returns to Buffalo.

Fall Conference - Utica, NY

The District 6 Fall Conference 2005 was held in the beautifully restored Hotel Utica in Utica, New York, November 4-6.

Our hats are off to the Utica Power Squadron for a job well done in hosting this event!

We were honored to have a representative from the USPS Chief Commander, R/C Darrell

Allison, AP, who flew in from California to attend as well as CPS members, V/C Katherine McLeod and R/C William Barthorpe, both of Peterborough Squadron (Quinte District), Canada.

Meetings and presentations were held on Saturday. The Power of One membership campaign is going strong. Nationally 3,500 new members

were gained!

For those members and guests who wanted a break from the meetings, a tour of the FX Matt Brewery was set up. Schultz & Dooleys were everywhere!!



P/C Charles N. Bennett

Sometimes during the past two months, our Past Commander Charles N. Bennett, was written up in a Sunday Niagara Gazette article under the title "Grandparents Head Back to School Again."

Chuck is doing two tasks: one, a Pre-Kindergarten Program and the other, at the Center for Joy where he works with third graders.

Chuck definitely enjoys his tasks, especially when he meets

the children at a mall and they acknowledge him.

To help the children have a better future, Chuck tries to teach them patience and understanding. Through being a foster grandparent, Chuck hopes the children will learn a better way of life—through gravitas and maturity.

Spring Council

February 3-4

Geneva, NY

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Spring Conference

March 31-April 2

Grand Island, NY

Message from the Executive Officer

It was good to see Charlie & Pat Carr at the General Meeting on Saturday, 22 October. Those who attended enjoyed a talk on the Erie/Barge Canal by Mr. David McDonald. His talk was accompanied by a very impressive 3D slide show.

It would be great to have more members attend General Meetings. New members are especially welcome even to the Bridge Meetings at the LYC, 1930, each first Thursday of the month. Check your

schedule in the roster. Our small squadron does well with teaching classes. The Bridge needs membership support.

EXO Jane Hibsher, S



Design A Better Life Jacket And Win \$5,000 (BoatUS News)

Innovation in Life Jacket Design Competition is Calling for “Out-of-the-Box” Entries

Current models of life jackets save lives everyday, however, a 2004 BoatU.S Foundation study found that many boaters often don't wear them because they are uncomfortable. So what would a life jacket look and feel like if there were no government guidelines?

To encourage innovative ideas and new technology to design a life jacket that the majority of boaters might wear, the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water and the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA) are sponsoring an “Innovation in Life Jacket Design Competition,” which seeks entries that embrace new technologies and out-of-the-box thinking to solve the age-old problem of why certain boaters won't routinely wear life jackets.

Entries are being encouraged from armchair inventors to high school science clubs and collegiate design programs. The winning designer will receive a \$5,000 award.

“We believe that out-of-the-box thinking may lead to the next generation of life saving devices,” said BoatU.S. Foundation President Ruth Wood. “By opening the competition to the widest audience of professionals and amateur tinkerers, we anticipate designs that will be creative and unconventional.”

PFDMA Executive Director Bernice McArdle said, “Today's life jackets are well designed but follow a defined and somewhat controlled set of guidelines. Our hope is that this competition will open up the playing field and encourage entries that will ultimately influence greater use of life jackets among boaters.”

The competition will be judged based on four criteria: wearability, reliability, cost and innovation. “Wearability” relates to the level of comfort. “Reliability” will take into account the chances for potential failure, while “cost” will look at the affordability of the design. “Innovation” will take into account originality or the employment of new technologies.

There are no rules regarding types of materials to be used or whether the design meets any current U.S. Coast Guard or Underwriters Laboratory standards. However, certain entries may be submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard to review for possible financial assistance towards gaining full USCG approval.

Entries do not have to include a working model or prototype, as detailed drawings will be accepted. For more information including an entry form and contest rules, visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/lifejacketdesign> You may also contact Ruth Wood at 703-823-9550, x3204/RWood@BoatUS.com or Bernice McArdle at 312-946-6280/BMcArdle@NMMA.org

Entries will be accepted from March 31, 2005 to December 15, 2005, with the winner announced at the Miami International Boat Show in February, 2006.

The BoatU.S Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research organization primarily funded by the voluntary contributions of 580,000 members of BoatU.S., the nation's largest recreational boat owners association. The Foundation operates more than a dozen programs including the only accredited, free, online general boating safety course, a low-cost EPIRB rental program, the “Help Stop the Drops” clean fueling campaign, a free kid's Life Jacket Loaner program, and awards grants to nonprofit groups for boating safety and environmental projects.

- The Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association is an affiliate of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the leading trade organization representing the recreational boating industry. NMMA member companies produce more than 80% of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories and gear used by boaters and anglers in the United States. The association is dedicated to industry growth through programs in public policy, market research and data, product quality assurance and marketing communications.

Niagara Power Squadron — Info

Website Information:

Our website has been up and running for some time now. With the help of his son, Matthew, P/C Scott Wallace created our squadron's website. You can access it through the National United States Power Squadrons office website or as follows:

www.usps.org/localusps/niagara/main.html

It is chock-full of information on the public courses offered through our squadron, the courses offered to members only, upcoming events, past squadron newsletters, and links to helpful boating websites. The website is updated on a regular basis.



Newsletters:

This is the first newsletter being emailed to members who have supplied their email addresses to the Squadron. If you do not wish to receive it by email, please let me know, and we will remove you from the email group. If you did not receive it by email but wish to in the future, please send me your email address, and you will be added to the group.

Lt. Shirley Darin, Squadron Newsletter Editor
Email Address: sdarin@aol.com



Mark Your Calendars:

Notice to all Niagara Power Squadron Members:

Our squadron, in a cooperative effort with the Southern Tier Power Squadron, will host the Annual District 6 Spring Conference to be held at the Grand Island Holiday Inn on March 31st–April 2nd, 2006.

This is a great opportunity for members who have never attended a District Conference before to be a part of this impressive event. Niagara Power Squadron will be involved in the planning stages of the Conference. All 18 squadrons in District 6 will be represented. On Friday, March 31st, the Hospitality Rooms open at 8:00 p.m. This is a casual “ice breaker” with many squadrons decorating their hospitality room in the theme of the event and sharing plenty of food and drinks. Our squadron plans on hosting our own room. There is no cost to attend Friday night and all are welcome.

Any member can attend the Saturday general meetings and/or presentations. There is also a luncheon in the afternoon. You can reserve a spot in advance or join in that day.

The highlight of the weekend is, of course, the dinner dance / installation of new District Officers. Our own P/C Scott Wallace will be installed as Executive Officer of the District. It would be great if we had a large contingent of our own Niagara Power Squadron members attending to show our support for his active involvement in the District. There will also be many members of the Canadian squadrons attending and representatives from National. Please watch for details in upcoming issues of the “Deep 6.”

We will also need Squadron members to volunteer to man the “Ships Store” and registration desk. Any volunteers to help with the actually planning phase will also be greatly appreciated. Our Squadron receives a share of the profits generated by sales at the “Ships Store.”

Call For Annual Meeting

Commander Dan Flynn, AP announces that the Executive Board in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws has called the Annual Meeting of the Niagara Power Squadron. The meeting will be held January 21, 2006, 1900 at the LaSalle Yacht Club. The meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- 1) To hear the report of the nominating committee, which is incorporated with and made part of this call, and to elect, in accordance with the by-laws, officers and members of the Executive Board.
- 2) To consider and act upon any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

The nominating committee in accordance with the provisions of the Niagara Power Squadrons by-laws submits the following nominees to be voted on at the annual meeting:

Commander	Karen Wallace, S
Executive Officer	Karen Williams, S
Squadron Education Officer	P/C Daniel Flynn, AP
Administrative Officer	P/C Jane Hibscher, S
Secretary	Shirley Darin
Treasurer	Robert T. Darin, P
Executive Committee	P/C Thomas F. McNamara, <u>N</u>
	P/C Charles Bennett, P
	P/C Scott Wallace, JN
Nominating Committee	P/C Scott Wallace, JN
Auditing Committee	Open
Rules Committee	Open

Founders Day 2005



Sponsored by the Buffalo, Hamburg, Lockport, Niagara and Swiftwater Power Squadrons

Saturday, 25 February 2006

Banchetti by Rizzo's

550 North French Road

Amherst, New York

(716) 691-4045

Program	Dinner Selections
Cocktails 1830 – 1915	Prime Rib \$27.00
Colors & Introductions 1915 - 1930	Chicken Wellington* \$25.00
Dinner 1930 – 2030	Glazed Salmon** \$25.00
Program 2030 – 2100	
Dancing 2100 - 2300	Dinners include Soup du jour, Salad, Potato, Vegetable, Rolls & Butter, Cake & Ice Cream, Coffee
	* filled with fresh vegetables and mozzarella in a pastry puff and covered with a basil cream sauce
	** grilled fillet with honey teriyaki marinade

Merit Marks will be awarded during the Program.

Dress Code is Uniform A with bow tie or business suits and dresses.

Please make checks payable to "Niagara Squadron" and send your reservation prior to **27 January 2006** to the following address:

P/C Scott Wallace, JN
124 Gregory Pl
Grand Island, New York 14072
716-773-2140

Name _____ Mate's Name _____

Chicken Wellington _____ #Prime Rib _____ #Salmon _____



CURRENTS is published by the Niagara Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons

Commander-----**Daniel J. Flynn, AP**-----754-4159
Executive Officer-----**Jane Hibsher, S**-----283-9532
Education Officer-----**Scott Wallace, JN**-----773-2140
Asst. Education Officer-----**Robert C. Heintz, JN**-----434-2235
Administrative Officer-----**Karen Williams, S**-----696-6111
Secretary-----**Karen Wallace, S**-----773-2140
Treasurer-----**Robert T. Darin, P**-----773-5020
Newsletter Editor-----**Shirley J. Darin**-----773-5020



