

# ANCHOR WATCH®

**Stamford Sail and Power Squadron --- Stamford, CT--- April 2011**

<http://www.usps.org/localusps/stamford/>

## Commander's Message

This year's Change of Watch Dinner and Ceremony was just completed with D2 Commander Frank DeBaggis inducting the new bridge. Once again this year Stamford Sail and Power Squadron has not been able to present a full staff of Bridge Officers. We are living in challenging times for the USPS and for the whole nation. Life seems to just be getting harder for everybody. Because of that fewer people are stepping up to serve in any public venue, citing their personal work and family obligations as reasons not to serve. But these hard times also gives us an opportunity to excel and show the world the stuff we are made of. These are the times that heroes rise. This is our chance to make a difference.

Despite our shortcomings we managed to carry out the squadron's missions with honor to us all. For that I want to thank those of you that really are our heroes and made the difference!

Sid Blum for doing merit marks, being a board member and helping with the budget.

Ellen Blum for being our treasurer and being on the board.

Pam Flaherty has stepped up to join the Board and become our law Officer.

Al Hebert for being the club secretary for now the 5th year in a row (who is better than you?), and teaching all year round.

Bob Nelson has been the great communicator of this club, publishing the Anchor Watch for more years than I can remember. He is a gifted and advanced teacher always ready to pitch in and has been our race Officer for years too.

Immediate Past Commander Leo Nelson continues to serve on the board and teach. She also takes on special projects like writing reviews and articles for the AW.

Tommy Benedetto continues to serve despite feeling we are going in the wrong direction with the squadron. Now that is saying something. He didn't just quit, he continues to try and make it right for all of us. He disagrees with the way national has changed the ABC class and how we

teach it. Frankly, I think he is right but I also believe that national and all USPS is doing their best to make it work. We will take some false steps along the way, but in the end I believe we will come out better and stronger.

John Gardell continues to teach JN and N.

Jack Alexander continues to teach too.

Anne Peskin continues to be an active force on the board, head of the Rules committee, and lead teacher and liaison to the Young Mariners Foundation.

Bill Linke continues to serve on the board, on the Audit committee, and serving on the District level too. I think Bill and Anne started at the very beginning of the squadron, but they are still going strong.

*(Continued inside.)*

**Next Meeting  
April 21 – 7:30 PM**

***(Note change of date!)***

## **What's New in Marine Electronics**

Duncan Nevard of Intrepid Marine Electronics (who installs equipment bought from Landfall Navigation and other retailers) will join us to explain what new advances in electronic equipment can make your boat safer or in other ways improve your boating experience.

Halloween Y.C. – 10 Seaview Ave. Stamford

## Education

To sign up or get more information on any of our classes, contact George Hallenbeck at [gwlk@aol.com](mailto:gwlk@aol.com) or 203 348 7121. Descriptions of courses can be found at <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept>.

**ABC – 8Hr.** For those who need a Safe Boating Certificate, the one-day basic class will be held at Halloween Yacht Club April 9. Registration at 8AM.

**JN** This class is in Progress, meeting Wednesday nights 7PM at the Senior Center, Stamford Gov't Center. Instructors John Gardell and Bill Cavers.

**Inland Certification** This is a new program where an applicant is awarded the certification upon demonstrating a number of boat handling skills. This is still in the set-up and planning stage; if you are interested in the certification, or would like to help with the program, please contact George Hallenbeck.

**Teachers needed for the Children's safe Boating Program** We need help. George and Ann are overwhelmed with requests for the program at different schools. We need teachers. To be a teacher you need to follow the course material, have studied it beforehand, and go with Anne or George at least 2X's for mentoring. Please consider this important function for the kids.

If you can spare a few hours to make the next generation of boaters safer, please contact Ann Peskin at 203 322 6641.

-Cdr. Gino Bottino

## We Need Your E-mail!

If you received your Anchor Watch on paper, you could get it faster, and in color, and save the squadron some money. (And help save some trees, too!) To do that, we need your e-mail address. (To be used only for Sail and Power Squadron business.) If you're not receiving your Anchor Watch electronically, please send a message titled "Anchor Watch" to [rdnelson@interserv.com](mailto:rdnelson@interserv.com).

## COOP Charting Moved to June

New Schedule: We will gather on Gino's RAVEN HAWK at 10 AM, June 25 for this function. For more information or to sign up, contact Cdr. Gino Bottino, 203 357 8964 or [gbottino@aol.com](mailto:gbottino@aol.com). Since it has been a long time since our squadron has participated in this, you editor includes the following description, from the National USPS web site:

*Cooperative Charting Program of the United States Power Squadrons is conducted in close coordination with the Marine Chart Division, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Program is a major public service of USPS. Under it, members supply information to the Marine Chart Division of NOS/NOAA leading to corrections to nautical charts, small craft charts, and Coast Pilot publications. They also supply data on depth surveys, range status, and formerly, geodetic marks and aeronautical charts. The Adopt-A-Chart subprogram provides for individual squadrons to assume responsibility to keep a chart or a portion of a chart in their local boating area up to date and get recognition on new editions for their work. We have been told that the Cooperative Charting Program is recognized as the most effective user-participation program in all of the Federal services.*

## Anchor Watch

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### Bridge

Commander	Cdr. Gino Bottino AP
Executive Officer	Lt/C Chester Lowe
Education Officer	P/C George Hallenbeck AP
Treasurer	Lt/C Ellen Blum AP
Secretary	Lt/C Alvin Hebert AP

### Executive Committee

Mary Howland AP	William F. Linke SN
Anne Peskin SN	Robert D. Nelson JN

Immediate Past Commander      Debbie Benedetto

Web Site: <http://www.usps.org/localusps/stamford/>



### USPS Courses Offered in 2010 – 2011

01/16/2011

This Consortium has arranged to present ALL of the Advanced Grade and Elective courses in the catalogue at least once a year. For information, e-mail the contact listed below for each course, or telephone Susan Ryan at (203) 698 – 0441.

#### Advanced Grades:

Course Name (BOC <sup>®</sup> )	Offered by	Start Date	Location	Contact
Scamanship 1	Norwalk Darien	Jan 8 2011 Sat - Aft. Apr 11 2011 Monday	First Cong. Ch. - Norwalk Middlesex Middle School	reddog_captain@yahoo.com Leah_beckman@mac.com
Piloting 2	Greenwich Norwalk	Feb 8 2011 Tuesday Feb 12 2011 Sat - Aft.	Greenwich High School Norwalk Library	Robert.Henry@pharma.com reddog_captain@yahoo.com
Advanced Piloting 3	Stamford	Spring / Fall 2011	*See Note	gwlk@aol.com
Junior Navigation 4	Stamford	Feb 23 2011 Wednesday	Sr. Ctr. @ Stamford Gvt. Ctr.	gwlk@aol.com
Navigation 4	Stamford	Fall 2011	*See Note	gwlk@aol.com

#### Electives:

Course Name	Offered by	Start Date	Location	Contact
Cruise Planning 3	Greenwich	Fall 2011	Greenwich High School	Robert.Henry@pharma.com
Engine Maintenance 1	Greenwich Norwalk	Sep 16 2010 Thursday Oct 5 2010 Tuesday	Greenwich High School Norwalk City Hall	Robert.Henry@pharma.com reddog_captain@yahoo.com
Marine Comm. Systems	Darien	April 12 2011 Tuesday	Middlesex Middle School	leah_beckman@mac.com
Marine Electrical Sys. 1	Greenwich	Feb 28 2011 Monday	Greenwich High School	Robert.Henry@pharma.com
Sail-classroom based	Darien	Jan 10 2011 Monday	Middlesex Middle Sch.	leah_beckman@mac.com
Sail-w/on water classes	Norwalk Stamford	Feb 12 2011 Sat - Aft. Apr 20 2011 Wednesday	First Cong. Ch. - Norwalk Stamford Government Cntr.	reddog_captain@yahoo.com gwlk@aol.com
Weather 3	Norwalk	Oct 6 2010 Wednesday	Grace Epis. Ch. - Norwalk	reddog_captain@yahoo.com
Instructor Development	Norwalk	Feb 19&26 2011 Sat - Aft.	Grace Episcopal Ch-Norwalk	reddog_captain@yahoo.com

\*NOTE – Course to be presented "On Request" once a minimum number of students is available

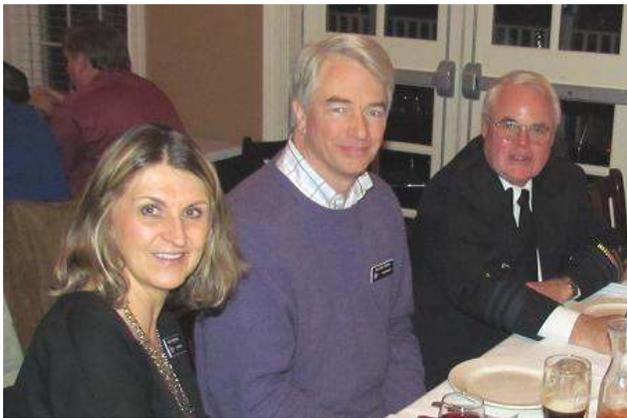
Courses Required for BOC Levels: 1= Inland Navigator 2=Coastal Navigator 3= Advanced Coastal Pilot 4= Offshore Navigator

## Recent Events

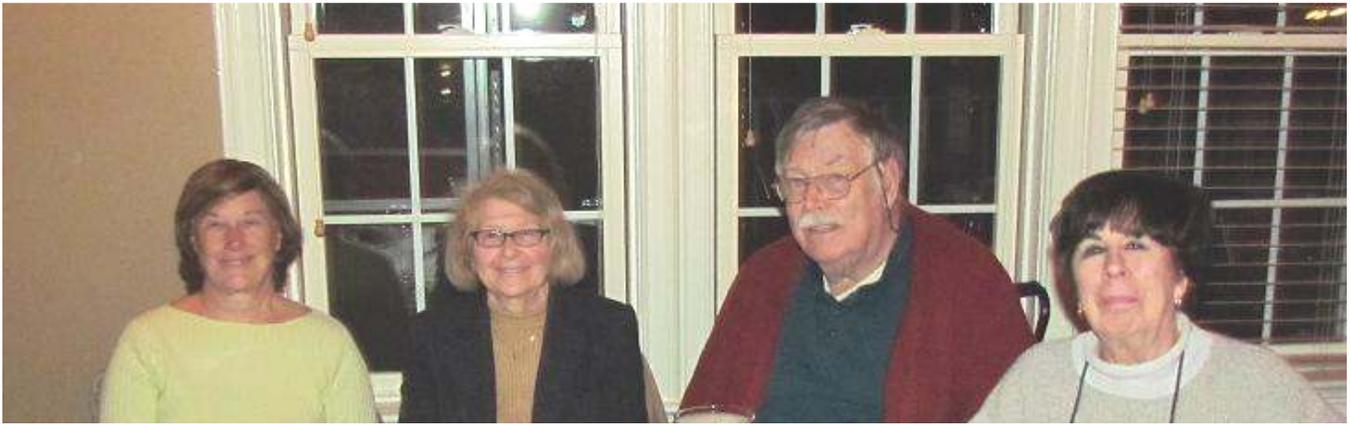


**Feb. 10 General Meeting:** Anne Peskin (at left) explains how sailors found their way at sea, long before the invention of Loran, GPS, the compass, or any of the other devices we now rely on. *(Photo R. Nelson.)*

**WinterFest:** Mother Nature seemed to be conspiring against us with snow on every attempted date. But, as the pictures below show, we finally had our dinner party on February 24. *(All photos except as noted Al Hebert.)*



## More WinterFest!



## Change of Watch



On March 24, at the Stamford Yacht Club, we installed our bridge officers for the coming year. Here Commander Gino Bottino is sworn in by District 2 Commander Frank DeBaggis.

## More Change of Watch

Below right, from left to right, Education Officer George Hallenbeck, Executive Committee Member Anne Peskin and Treasurer Al Hebert take their oaths of office. Unfortunately, Executive Officer Chester Lowe, and Treasurer Ellen Blum could not attend. Below right, Past Commander Debbie Benedetto receives the St. David's Light award for her service to the squadron in almost every function over the past several years.



Running a Squadron isn't just work, work, work. We also talk, eat, drink and generally try to have a good time, as can be seen in the pictures of the Change of Watch dinner below and on the following page.





*(Photo R. Nelson.)*



*Stamford Sail & Power Squadron*

*Fiesta Gathering*

*Cinco de Mayo*

*May 5<sup>th</sup> 2011*

*Zody's at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole*

*Gaynor Brennan Golf Course  
Stillwater Road  
Stamford, CT*

*Time 6:00 P.M.*

*Cash Bar*

*Heavy Appetizers*

*\$15.00 PP*

*Included Tax & Gratuity*

*RSVP BY April 28, 2011*

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*Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_*

*Make checks payable to Stamford Sail & Power Squadron*

***Reservations must accompany with check***

*Please mail check to: Deb Benedetto  
17 Sprucebrook Trail  
Monroe, CT 06468*

*Any questions please call me at 203-452-8341*

## Commander's Message

*Continued from front page*

Nellie Guernsey served this organization for many years. Due to health issues she has had to resign from being our Administrative Officer during my last 2 years as commander. At the Change of Watch I announced the creation of the new Nellie Guernsey Trophy that will be a perpetual trophy in Halloween Yacht Club, given each year to the person who has served the most (not racing) on the HYC-SSPS Race committee to make the race the best event possible. I am sorry Nellie was not able to make it to the COW, but I bet she will get a kick out of reading this!

George Hallenbeck continues to be our Education Officer as well as the District Education Officer. George's relentless and tireless efforts on behalf of the Squadron make what we achieve possible! All can say is thank you George.

Finally, I want to thank this year's winner of the St David's Light Trophy that was presented at this COW. This Trophy is not always presented, last year it was not. The winner has to be someone that has in the opinion of past winners, a major driving force for SSPS over a lifetime of achievement! No one deserved this award more than this year's winner Debbie Benedetto! She has held every position in the squadron, served on the Board for years and continues to do so. This year she has agreed to be the host of the Squadron's WEB page and continue to be Ship's Historian and Squadron Event planner. Year after year Debbie continues to serve in any position she is asked to, without any hesitation. Congratulations Debbie on this well deserved trophy and recognition!

We had a lot of activities and accomplishments over the year that I discussed at the meeting but will not rehash here. What I do want to take about is what will be new for 2011.

We have already started out the year with something quite new and exciting: supporting the new Stamford High School Sailing Team. We are giving them on the water assistance and hopefully will give them some education too!

This year we will re-introduce the 8 hour ABC classes, starting at Halloween Yacht Club, Stamford Yacht Club, and Brewer Yacht Haven. Because of the issues I discussed at the start of this message, people just are not signing up for the "long course" anymore. Our hope is that they will realize that they need more education and continue on to take higher level educational courses. This should be helped by our new BOC Certification Program and the new 2 day "on the water" Boating Class. Three things enable us to provide this class: Insurance provided by the USPS, the new Brunswick Marine Group-USPS association, and our joint Southern CT Squadrons Education Consortium.

Last year we were the first squadron in the U.S. to have an approved On the Water Sail Class and this year we plan on expanding this "on the water" Class. I fully continue to believe that the on the water programs will become the backbone of all teaching and the spine of the USPS. No one else can provide this beside commercial ventures which charge significant amounts to pay their teachers.

This season I plan on revitalizing COOP Charting by teaching its purpose and offering cruises to accomplish the mission while getting some of you on the water and having some fun! After all, having fun is also a key ingredient to a vibrant and healthy squadron. If we have fun while doing our missions, we will succeed. In that same vein, we are planning more parties and social events for the squadron membership. Let's try to get you out to have fun. Let's also try to get you out on the water more with some "on the water" rendezvous with host boats.

Vessel Safety Checks will also be instituted this season again for the first time in a long time. I am doing this myself and hope to meet many people in marinas, bringing them up to speed on safety issues and also to encourage further education for safety.

We are moving forward. Join us.

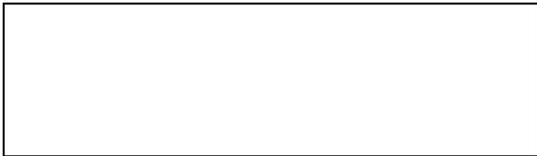
Commander Gino C. Bottino AP

Stamford Sail and Power Squadron

**Stamford Sail and Power Squadron**

R. Nelson  
217 Bouton St. West  
Stamford CT 06907  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Next Meeting:  
Duncan Nevard  
*What's new in Marine  
Electronics*  
Apr. 21



April 2011

# ANCHOR WATCH

## Calendar of Coming Events

- Apr. 9 America's Boating Course - 8Hr. – Halloween Yacht Club
- Apr. 11 Board Meeting
- Apr. 21 General Meeting: Duncan Nevard presents  
*New Advancements in Marine Electronics*
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo party - Zody's at the 19th Hole – RSVP by April 28
- May 9 Board Meeting
- May 18 General Meeting. (Topic to be announced.)
- May 29 Stamford's Memorial Day Parade
- Jun. 6 Flares and Extinguishers
- Jun. 25 Coop Charting Rendezvous