

ANCHOR WATCH ®

Stamford Sail and Power Squadron --- Stamford, CT--- November 2012

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

Commander's Message

We need your help to restore our 501(c)(3) status

Hello Members, Colleagues and Friends of SSPS

I must inform you now about a significant problem our squadron is facing this fall.

In July we were contacted by the IRS about our tax filings. Even though we filed last year, and it was accepted, the IRS seems to have lost the paperwork and The IRS has revoked our Not-for-Profit status giving us just weeks to respond. We wrote back with documentation which they have scrutinized with a fine tooth comb. In the course of our communications with the IRS, they have notified us that we must amend our charter to reinstate our 501c3 status.

Our Law Officer Pam Flaherty, has been nothing short of a god-send to us. She and her firm have taken on our case pro-bono, just for the expenses incurred by them. Pam's firm is one of the premier law firms in the country and has much experience dealing with federal and state Not-for-Profit corporations; they (Blank Rome LLP) are owed a deep debt and my / our thanks should go out to them.

We are one of four squadrons in USPS that have come under this scrutiny, which represents about 1% of the squadrons in the USA. Why us? Well why not us? Is this a "test" of the squadrons by the IRS, or did we do something wrong to incur this problem; I do not know. We, the Executive Committee including Pam, can see no reason that we were selected out, having filed all the proper forms in all prior years.

So how do we fix this and get back our status as a 501c3? Pam has drafted an amendment to our state charter that will change the language and add what is needed for the IRS. This is included as "Appendix A" here with. We will be sending this to National also for approval.

(Continued inside)

Please Send Us Your Proxy

We ask all members, even if you plan to attend the December 6 meeting, please send the following proxy. Fill in your name and address, sign, date and fax to Al Hebert at 203 322 5694. Alternately, you can mail it to:

Alvin Hebert
290 Red Fox Rd
Stamford CT 06903

Or you can copy the following text (with your name and address) into an e-mail, and send it to fourbears@aol.com.

I _____
Residing at _____

hereby appoint Alvin Hebert, Secretary of the Stamford Sail and Power Squadron, or his appointee, to act as my proxy at the meeting of members to be held December 6 to vote (check one)

in favor of
 against

the amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation of Stamford Sail and Power Squadron, as detailed in Appendix A of the November 2012 Anchor Watch. If no voting direction is given, the proxy will vote in favor of the amendment.

Signed _____

Date _____
(We will accept an e-mail from a known member's e-mail address as an electronic signature.)

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF

STAMFORD SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON, INC.

The following is the text of the proposed amendment to Article 2 of the Squadron's Certificate of Incorporation to set forth the purposes of the Squadron:

2. Purposes

- a. The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code ("Code").
- b. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Code.
- c. Notwithstanding any other provision set forth in this Certificate of Incorporation, at any time that the Corporation is a private foundation within the meaning of section 509 of the Code, the Corporation will not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in section 4941(d) of the Code, will distribute its income for each tax year at a time and in a manner as not to become subject to the tax on undistributed income imposed by section 4942 of the Code, will not retain any excess business holdings as defined in section 4943(c) of the Code, will not make any investments in a manner as to subject it to tax under section 4944 of the Code, and will not make any taxable expenditures as defined in section 4945 of the Code.
- d. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, assets shall be distributed to the United States Power Squadron for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or to another organization that qualifies for tax exemption (under section 501(c)(3) of the Code) as selected by the Executive Committee or other comparable body of the Corporation. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.
- e. The period of duration of the Corporation is perpetual.

An amendment to the Squadron's Certificate of Incorporation will be voted on at the December 6 dinner meeting. Any member wishing to attend the meeting without having dinner may do so at no cost.

Stamford Sail & Power Squadron



Holiday Party

December 6 2012

Knights of Columbus

Stamford, CT

Time 6:00 P.M.

Cash Bar

Family Style Dinner

*Salad, Green Beans Almandine, Mashed Potatoes
Skirt Steak, Scrod*

\$35.00 per Person

Included Tax & Gratititude

RSVP BY Monday November 26, 2012

Name: _____ # ____ @ \$35.00 _____

Make checks payable to Stamford Sail & Power Squadron

Reservations must accompany with a check

Please mail check to: Deb Benedetto

*17 Sprucebrook Trail
Monroe, CT 06468*

Any questions please call me at 203-452-8341

Education

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

America's Boating Course (Basic Boating)

In progress, meeting Tuesdays at Rippowam at 7:30 PM.

The next ABC course is scheduled to start January 22; it will meet at Rippowam at 7:30

Practical on the Water Training

Scheduled to start April 26, this 8-hour seminar provides the perfect balance of classroom instruction and practical on-the-water training. Through this hands-on approach, you'll learn how your boat handles and why. In addition to expert instruction, video clips will allow you to visualize the maneuvers prior to attempting them yourself. The seminar covers the use of lines and the intricacies of docking, anchoring and mooring, including pivot turns.

Learn a variety of steering techniques, including how to operate in a channel, hold a course, slalom, and steer a range. Our Instructors will also teach you how to back a boat, perform a quick stop, and more.

This Seminar includes:

2 hours preparation in class

4 hours on the water in a center console outboard boat

2 hours analysis in class

Book: Powerboat Handling Illustrated

Seminar DVD and Student Manual



Anchor Watch

Published approximately 10 times per year by the Stamford Sail and Power Squadron. Vol. 112 No 3, November 2012.

Bridge

Commander
Secretary
Education Officer

Cdr. Gino Bottino AP
Lt/C Alvin Hebert AP
P/C George Hallenbeck AP

Executive Committee

Mary Howland AP
Anne Peskin SN

William F. Linke SN
Robert D. Nelson JN

Immediate Past Commander

Debbie Benedetto

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

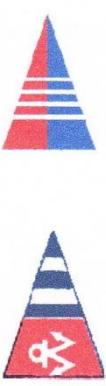
Ship's Store Online

Commodore Uniform & Nautical Supplies has set up an online store where you can order shirts, hats, jackets and sweatshirts with our Squadron's logo. Take a look:
<http://www.commodoreuniforms.com/stores/stamfordsps/index.html>

Learning the Ropes

Below, instructor George Hallenbeck shows students at our current ABC class how to use a Lifesling to recover a man overboard.

(Photo R. Nelson)



USPS Courses Offered in 2012-2013

9/04/2012

Advanced Grades:

| Course Name | Offered by | Start Date | Contact |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| Seamanship | Greenwich Westchester Darien | Fall, 2012 Sept. 19, 2012 Wed. April 2013 Mon. | Andy Cummings: Frank Palmieri: Leah Beckman: acummings13@optonline.net frankp56@optonline.net leah_beckman@mac.com |
| Piloting | Darien Stamford Norwalk Greenwich | Sept. 10, 2012 Mon. Sept. 19, 2012, Wed. Jan. 5, 2013 Sat. Winter 2012 | Leah Beckman: George Hallenbeck: Karl Wagner: gwlk@aol.com npseducation@optonline.net acummings13@optonline.net |
| Advanced Piloting | Darien | Jan. 8, 2013 | Leah Beckman: gwlk@aol.com |
| Junior Navigation | Stamford Norwalk | Jan. 16, 2013, Wed. March 2, 2013, Sat. | George Hallenbeck: Karl Wagner: npseducation@optonline.net |
| Navigation | Stamford | Fall 2013 | George Hallenbeck: gwlk@aol.com |

Electives:

| Course Name | Offered by | Start Date | Contact |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Cruise Planning | Darien | Sept. 25, 2012 Thurs. | Leah Beckman: gwlk@aol.com |
| Engine Maintenance | Westchester Stamford | Sept. 10, 2012 Winter 2012 Wed. | Frank Palmieri: George Hallenbeck: gwlk@aol.com |
| Marine Comm. Systems | Stamford | Winter 2012, Wed. | George Hallenbeck: gwlk@aol.com |
| Marine Electrical Sys. | Norwalk | Sept. 24, 2012 Mon. | Karl Wagner: npseducation@optonline.net |
| Sail | Darien Norwalk | Jan. 9, 2013 Tues March 2, 2013 Sat | Leah Beckman: Karl Wagner: npseducation@optonline.net |
| Weather | Stamford Norwalk | Sept 19, 2012 Wed Jan 5, 2013 Sat. | George Hallenbeck: Karl Wagner: npseducation@optonline.net |

Commander's Message

Continued from front page

Next we have to call a General Meeting for a vote to approve this change to the state charter. That Call for Meeting on December 6th is now in the current Anchor Watch.

By state law (not our by-laws) we need a two thirds approval of all voting members to enact this change to the charter. Pursuant to state law, in order to vote you must be present during the meeting in person or by proxy. We request you send your proxy even if you plan on attending. You can let the secretary vote in favor or you can direct your proxy vote. The proxy is included in the anchor watch and will also be included by hard copy for each member in your household, with a stamped return card that requires your signature, for your convenience.

The Executive Committee has decided to not just ask for your response through the Anchor Watch, but also by email, and further by regular mail. So you will be hearing about this by multiple means. Also, by law and regulations, we need to ask for your signed proxy if you cannot or will not attend the general meeting. We need this proxy in writing, by you, and we must have it by the meeting date. So, if it seems like we are hounding you, we are! For those that do not respond we will start a telephone calling campaign to get the proxies we need.

I will also reach out to the other squadrons being looked at by the IRS and national to inform them of what we have been going through and update them as to our response to the IRS.

I, and the Executive Committee, look forward to your participating in this vote to correct our charter and retain our not-for-profit status. Please respond as soon as possible and send us your written confirmation of proxy. The Executive Committee recommends strongly that you vote in favor of this amendment.

Cdr. Gino C. Bottino, AP

Safety Officer Message

I believe that you cannot have fun if you do not feel safe. Safety is a biologic need.

Having stated this mandate, I want to cover several import aspects of safety in this message; starting with Seamanship and safety at sea.

Seamanship and safety practices are not the same. It could be said that SAS is an important subset of seamanship, but usually not included in basic seamanship courses (as the USPS and USCGAUX courses on seamanship).

Seamanship is the art of operating a ship or boat.

It involves a knowledge of a variety of topics, and the development of specialized skills including: navigation, international maritime law; weather, meteorology, forecasting; watch standing; ship-handling, small boat handling; operation of deck equipment, anchors, cables; rope work ,line handling; communications; sailing; and engines; areas is dependent upon the nature of the work and the type of vessel employed by a mariner. However, the practice of good seamanship should be the goal of all. The deep meaning of the word seamanship derives from the word seaman & ship. Thus it is the seaman who makes a good ship through his qualifications.

Above all, Seamanship means skills to make Safety onboard, and a safe ship, which is managed through continuous training and implementation of good working practices.

At USPS we separate the 2, with a Seamanship training class, and then Safety Issues, individually. Unfortunately, we do not offer specific Safety at Sea training. US Sailing does throw a seminar series.

In the SAS seminars we cover the following: characteristics of boat-materials and righting. crew prep for offshore work, watches, leadership, equipment for safety, boat prep for sea, personal safety, life rafts, man overboard, medical issues on board, weather, electronics, flares, fire, medevac and rescue by Helo or ship.

As many of you know I am past chair and current Vice-chair of the Safety at Sea Committee for US Sailing.

The Safety at Sea COM also looks at all incident reports and rescues in the US. We spend countless hours reviewing the ISAF Offshore Special Regs and our own prescriptions to the OFF-shore Special Regulations. We run safety studies like man overboard studies and retrieval. I do not think that the USPS mandate is to try and match what safety at sea does, nor should it. Recently the US Coast Guard has worked with US Sailing to create and impose regulations on recreational boats leaving port for an off shore voyage.

Our teaching for personal and a ship's safety at sea preparation is extensive, and usually is a 2 day course (16 hours) on its own; which just scratches the surface of what needs to be done and learned for offshore racing. It would be difficult to do seamanship and SAS together. I believe that the safety at sea training be left to US Sailing.

My point here is that we all need to take Seamanship and Safety at Sea education. Our USPS Seamanship course is excellent, especially with the new "On the water" Training. However, we all need to take training and educational courses in safety at Sea also.

I want to encourage all members of the squadron to consider taking a US Sailing Safety at Sea Seminar. They are publicized in Cruising World magazine and on the US Sailing WEB page.

I also want to us to emphasize the importance of Seamanship training again. I think recently we have not been pushing the importance of seamanship as we have become complacent. We should be concentrating on basic seamanship issues for cruising members and our younger members. Let's go out of our way to get a new great seamanship class going this spring with offering on the water training as part of it.

Finally I want to cover PFD's as the USCG is trying to impose a new law on us all. US Coast Guard is trying to mandate PFD use at all times while on board! The USCG mandate is to have PFDs used on all vessels of every size. I understand the good intent to save lives, and this may be heresy, but I disagree! I think this is a violation of personal rights and this mandate will never fly. As Tom Edison said "The road to Hell is paved in good intentions."

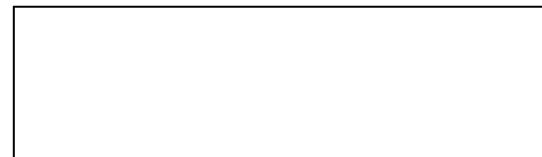
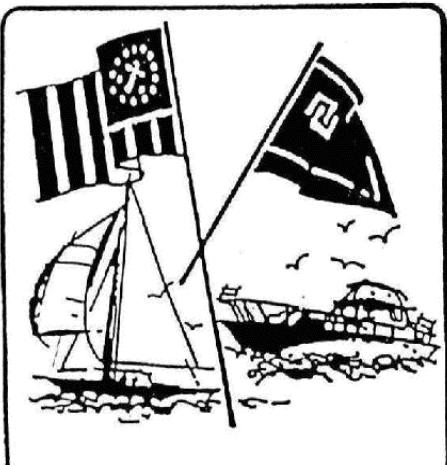
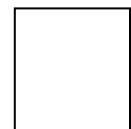
On the other hand we need to educate the public on just how important the use of PFD's is, and how it can save lives. Each crew and skipper should have a well fitted PFD that is readily assessable to wear if needed. What we should be pushing for, and educating the public on is that: each crew has to have a Fitted PFD and accessible. When we inspect boats this should be addressed in detail.

-Squadron Safety Officer Gino Bottino

Stamford Sail and Power Squadron

R. Nelson
217 Bouton St. West
Stamford CT 06907

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



November 2012

ANCHOR WATCH

**Urgent: Please help us restore our 501(c)(3) status.
Read the details inside, and send in your proxy!**

Stamford Sail and Power Squadron Calendar

December 6 Dinner meeting, vote on Certificate of Incorporation Amendment. Please send proxy if you cannot attend.

January 22 Next America's Boating Course begins.

Save the following dates: More details to follow

March 16 D2 Winter Council

March 21 Change of Watch Dinner

April 19-21 D2 Spring Conference