

# THE HELM



## Ventura Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

Sail and Power Boating – District 13

*Dedicated to **SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION***

May 2011

*Boating is Fun...Let Us Show You How!*

**Volume 54 No.5**



### Commander's Comments

*Cdr Don Roy, AP*

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Schedule!

### June 7, 2011

#### 0930 – Ventura County

#### Board of Supervisor's Proclamation

Ventura County Administration Building  
Gather in "Rotunda" - Main Entrance  
800 South Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009  
Board of Supervisors present a Proclamation  
to the Ventura Power Squadron – All Invited  
will be photographed together. Uniform A ,  
jacket and tie, or VPS logo golf shirt requested,  
(no shorts or sneakers).

### June 11, 2011

#### 1400 - Fleet Parade

Gather outside Ventura Harbor  
At Red Buoy V2  
and proceed into Ventura Harbor  
led by Ventura Harbor Patrol's Fireboat.  
Parade will proceed into main channel  
and move counter clockwise around the harbor.

Boats will then be assigned overnight slips  
so please reserve ASAP through Port Captain  
Greg Shank ([gregory.shank@gmail.com](mailto:gregory.shank@gmail.com))  
to guarantee a slip.

#### 1830 – Island Packers Harbor Cruise

Pot-Luck Appetizer and Desert Party  
aboard Island Packers. Drinks available aboard  
a cash bar.

#### Join us for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

As I sit in Past Commander Jan Lawson's Sea-  
manship class, I am excited to see over 20 Ventura  
Power Squadron members enjoying the lecture and  
Jan's wonderful on-the-water stories. I think back to  
what it must have been like 50 years ago when the  
newly formed Ventura Power Squadron held its first  
Seamanship class, the introductory course for every  
new member. Back then there were no GPS, radar or  
Loran devices to help figure out where you were, so  
smart boaters knew they had to learn the nautical skills  
of seamanship, piloting and navigation to safely travel  
off shore.

The original VPS members were an adventurous  
group of boaters who had been associated with the  
Santa Barbara Sail and Power Squadron, but they had  
over fifty members who wanted to begin their own  
squadron so they applied to the U.S. Power Squadron  
and received their charter on June 12, 1961.

The rest is history. Fifty years of friendships  
and taking classes, of venturing out to the Channel Isl-

ands for weekend cruises and even a wedding at Frenchy's Cove.

We've have taught thousands of boaters on safe boating and nautical skills in Ventura Power Squadrons' history. How many lives were saved or injuries avoided is impossible to say, but even in our recent history VPS members saved a boater's life on Lake Casitas.

We have an opportunity to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next month in very special ways. First, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors will be presenting a Proclamation to the Ventura Power Squadron on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the regular Board of Supervisor meeting. We want everyone who can attend to meet at 0900 at the Ventura County Government Center in the rotunda of Hall of Administration, 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura.

We will enter together for a 1000 (10am) presentation and photograph. Uniform A, a blazer or collared shirt with your VPS name tag is appropriate, though no shorts please.

Secondly, on June 11<sup>th</sup> we start our celebration with a Fleet Parade at 1400 in Ventura Harbor. This parade harkens back to our roots as an organization and in honor of that, we will form up at V2 red buoy outside Ventura Harbor and then be led into the harbor by the Ventura Harbor Patrol fireboat with canon salutes from the yacht clubs. We will circumnavigate the harbor and then dock our boats and gather for our evening event. At 1830, we board the Island Packers for a 90 minute cruise around the harbor with an Appetizer and Dessert Pot Luck. A cash bar is available onboard and \$10 per person fee for the event.

This is a once in fifty year event, and I am encouraging every Squadron member to join in these fun activities. The more members we have at the June 7 Proclamation the better. We can have 110 people on the Island Packers, so RSVP right away to [venturapowersquadron@gmail.com](mailto:venturapowersquadron@gmail.com) to reserve your spot in the Fleet Parade and the Island Packers harbor cruise on June 11.

Finally, I want to thank all the hard-working VPS volunteers who have given their time and efforts to the Ventura County community over the past 50 years. I am honored to be your commander during this milestone and I look forward to seeing you all at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.

Safe Boating,  
Commander Don Roy

## COMING EVENTS

### May 2011

<b>2</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting @ 1930</b> <i>Coast Guard Recruiting Station, Oxnard</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Safe Boating Expo</b> <i>Coast Guard Station, Channel Islands Hbr</i>

### June 2011

<b>6</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Executive Committee Meeting @ 1930</b> <i>Coast Guard Recruiting Station, Oxnard</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Board of Supervisors @0930</b> <i>800 South Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Fleet Parade @1400</b> <i>Outside Ventura Harbor Red Buoy V2</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Island Packers Harbor Cruise @ 1830</b> <i>Island Packers dock- Ventura Harbor</i>

More information on each event can be found at [www.usps.org/ventura](http://www.usps.org/ventura) and in The HELM 2 months prior to the event.

### May Birthdays

<b>1</b>	<b>Gaye Clanton</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Damien Fabre</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Dennis Oellers</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Gary Bednorz</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Steven Nagelberg</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Shauna Bingham</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Judy Wang</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Barbara Giltner</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Robert Hample</b>

The best birthday wishes to everyone this month!



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## Education Station

*Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP*

The Education Department has finished up most of our work on the winter and spring courses, and we are now busy finalizing our fall offering. Look for two Advanced Grade courses this fall: **Piloting** and **Junior Navigation**. We will also be offering **Advanced Piloting** in early 2012. Regarding elective courses, we will offer **Weather** this fall and **Cruise Planning** in early 2012. As I mentioned last month, why not set a goal to advance at least one grade this year? If you are a Seaman, Pilot or Advanced Pilot, we are offering the course you need to advance to the next level.

### USPS Seminars

A relatively new focus for the USPS is the development of the **Seminar** series. Over 15 seminars are now available, creating new opportunities for both students and instructors. These short seminars are targeted to specific boating topics and needs with a **two-hour** format, and valuable take-away guides. We will be polling the membership, via the new email system, to determine overall interest in the seminar concept as well as which ones would be of most value to you. I'm particularly interested in the brand new **Basic Weather and Forecasting** seminar.

You are aware that, over the past few months, I've been encouraging members with some interest in teaching to think seriously about getting involved. I've suggested being a Proctor for the America's Boating Course as a great starting point. If you are looking for a little more challenge, but many not feel you are ready to teach a full course, seminars may offer another avenue for you to get involved in teaching. Since most seminars are based on a one-time, two-hour format, the preparation and presentation time are only a fraction of what is needed to teach a full 8-week course.

### New Marine Weather Forecasting Webinar

As a heads-up, a new seminar—**Marine Weather Forecasting**—will be offered on the internet as a webinar on 14 June 2011 at 2000 EDT. With its emphasis on the 500 mb chart, the webinar, a USPS Educational Department first, will appeal particularly to coastal and offshore cruisers. Watch for details as we get closer the webinar date.

### Winter Courses a Success

The **Engine Maintenance** started in February and finished up April. Instructor **Alan Gosselin, AP** had one of his largest classes in recent years, and the students are all now anxiously awaiting the results of their exams.

The **America's Boating Course** also finished up in April, with 19 students successfully completing the course and passing the final exam. See additional information on this class elsewhere in this issue of the *Helm*.

### Spring Courses Starting Now

#### *Advanced Grade Course*



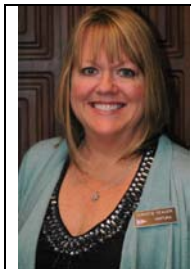
The first Advanced Grade course of the year, **Seamanship**, started on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Ventura Campus of Santa Barbara Business College. This course is being taught **Jan Lawson, S**. Jan has a large group of students for this class, with a nice mix of current members and students who just finished the ABC course. Seamanship is the first step in the sequence of advanced grade courses. If you have not completed Seamanship yet, give us a call as we can get a few more people in our large classroom.

#### *Elective Course*

Our second Elective Course of the year is **Sail**. This classroom course was recently updated by the USPS, and it is great step for those with little or no time in a sailboat. It will be taught by **Earl Buck**, who is an experienced sailing instructor. All members should have received an email from us inviting you to take this course. This course will start on May 11<sup>th</sup>, so if you missed our invitation, you still have time to sign-up. Just call 805-876-4VPS and leave us a message.

Course: Sail  
 Start Date: 11 May 2011  
 Start Time: 6:30 p.m.  
 Duration: 8 weeks  
 Location: Ventura Harbor District  
 Ventura Harbor Patrol Office  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom  
 1603 Anchors Way Drive  
 Ventura, CA 93001  
 Instructor: Earl Buck

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions regarding the Ventura Power Squadron education program.



**Christie's  
Corner**  
*Lt/C Christie Yeager, S*

Stormy seas, high winds, possible rain all threatened; but the hardy and hale of Ventura Power Squadron would not be deterred. Fortunately the winds were milder and the sun did shine and although the seas prevented a strong showing of vessels a good time was had by all. The Fleet Review, Commander's Cup and BBQ were enjoyed by thirty-four of us more resilient, not to miss the activities due to a little harsh weather types and a dozen of our four legged friends. Good times commenced as we set up lawn chairs in no particular order on the green grass overlooking the channel next to the dock ramps and watched the occasional ocean going craft glide peacefully past our vantage point. Check out our "group" photo!



**The group at the Blessing of the Fleet**

Always being prepared; **Will Fryman** set up a canopy to shield us from the elements and provided tables for our delicious spread which was contributed to by many. **Alan Gosslin** and my guy, **Tracey**, barbecued beef and chicken kabobs; Alan strategically placed his trailer at the edge of the parking lot so it was on hand if needed. Ev's contributions of tabbouleh, hummus and pitas were delicious. Very scrumptious assortments of goodies were available and I think everyone enjoyed the fun and food. The Young's are the best people to have in your corner and I want to thank them specifically for pulling this event off along with all of you who came and to those who were unable to attend but helped none the less; a big thank you to all.



**All the VPS dogs in their VPS scarves and their people!**

On a more serious note Vessel Safety Inspections were provided by **Dave Williams; Roger Morris** brought the ship's store with our new burgees and a slew of other Power Squadron merchandise for sale before he headed over to the *Bill of Rights* to volunteer to crew for its Sunday sail. The Commander's Cup was awarded to the beautiful Sea Ray Sundancer *Vive Bene* owned by Greg Shank.



**Winner of the Commander's Cup, Greg Shank And Commander Don Roy**

I hope those of you who were unable to attend will make a point to mark your calendar and be present at our next event that fits your schedule whether it be by land or sea.

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*Lisa Rizzo*

# America's Boating Course

Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP

The first America's Boating Course of 2011 was successfully completed in mid-April, with 19 students taking the final exam and graduating.

Thanks to the Instructors, Proctors and Bridge Officers for your commitment and contribution to this course. The graduates are: **Erika Alegar, Paul Baptiste, Emily A. Barany, George L. Barany, Edwin Belarmino, Miles Brohammer, Matthew S. Ehret, Stephen M. Ehret, Sharon A. Fitzmorris, Hector R. Garcia, Greg Kircher, Dale A. Morris, Gary Ohst, Anthony T. Porter, Ron L. Somogyi, Eric Suzow, Spencer Tedford, Wayne Williamson, and Eric Wolf.** Congratulations to each of you!

Each of these students have been given their free 6-month temporary memberships in the Ventura Power Squadron and are now eligible to take additional boating courses. In fact, a good number of them have already signed up for either Seamanship or Sail, which is a pretty good indicator that they found the course helpful.

I want to particularly thank Proctors **Craig Watkins, Eva-Maria Harre, Kimberly Morris, Richard Cudworth, AP** and **William Giltner, P** who were asked to show up each and every week. Your work is very much appreciated! As I've mentioned before, having a "coach" at every table is a differentiating feature of our public boating courses. We are consistently told by our students that Proctors enhance the learning and make the course much more valuable. The instructors for the course this spring were **P/Lt/C Alan Gosselin, AP, Cdr Don Roy, AP, Lt/C Ev Ashworth, AP, P/C Janet Lawson, S** and **P/Lt/C John Young, AP.** Thank you all for the great job teaching and representing the VPS.

I'd also like to give special thanks to two people: **1<sup>st</sup>/Lt Fred DeLamarter, P** Assistant SEO—for managing all aspects of the course week to week and doing a great job of keeping everything running smoothly and **P/Lt/C John Young, AP**—for helping plan the course, lecturing, proctoring the exams and for mentoring Fred and I through our first course.



**Dale Morris, Paul Baptiste, Edwin Belarmino, Proctor- Richard Cudworth**



**Fred DeLamater ASEO, Spencer Tedford, Greg Kircher, Russ Williamson, and Ron Somogyi**



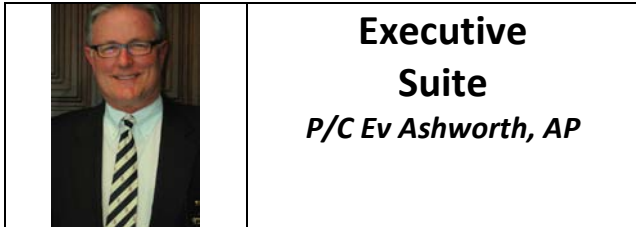
**Proctor Bill Giltner, Anthony Porter, Hector Garcia, Mark Ehret, Stephen Ehret, and Erika Alegar**



**P/Lt/C John Young, P/C Jan Lawson, P/C Dave Williams, P/C Ev Ashworth, ASEO Fred DeLamater, SEO Gary Hubler, and Cdr Don Roy**

**Editor's Note:**

If you didn't see Ev's column last month, check it out this month, or for those who are like me and forget things, *News Flash! Safe Boating Expo!*



**Executive Suite**  
*P/C Ev Ashworth, AP*

## Safe Boating Expo

The US Power Squadrons are committed to safe boating through education – for which the US Squadrons provide the best, most cost effective curriculum and suite of services to the recreational boater - period. As part of the Ventura Power Squadron's commitment to this ethic, we are participating in the 6th annual Safe Boating Expo. The Safe Boating Expo is a coordinated effort among all manner of safe professionals that include the US Coast Guard, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Ventura County Fire, Port Districts, Red Cross, and the Squadron. The 6th Annual Channel Islands Harbor Safe Boating Expo this year will be held on Saturday, May 14th, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. at the US Coast Guard Station, 4201 S. Victoria Avenue, Oxnard. Once again, the Squadron will staff our booth, which is an illustrated tour of what not to do on the water, and why participation in *America's Boating Course* is vital for any recreational boater. I encourage all of our members to come down, visit the booth, and participate in the day's activities, which will include:

- Air, sea and fire rescue demos
- Tours of USCG vessels
- Safety demonstrations including fire extinguisher, flares, life jackets and more

The Red Cross, USCGA, fire extinguisher specialists, and chandleries also have booths where you can stock up on much needed safety supplies and goodies. This year, should you wish, you can bring down your outdated flares for safe disposal. The USCGA will also be offering vessel safety examinations for any trailered boats at the launch ramp. As we did last year last year, the Squadron will put on a whoopdeedoo PFD (personal flotation device) fashion show, where we shang-high members of the public and convince them to strut their stuff in the latest PFD offerings from West Marine.

Over the past four years that I've been associated with the Safe Boating Expo, what's been

most rewarding is speaking directly to Coasties assigned to the US Coast Guard Station Channel Islands Station. A more dedicated, competent, professional group of professionals you'll not find anywhere. Coasties back up their commitment to safe boating each time they put themselves in harm's way to protect those in peril on the sea. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe Boating Expo is the perfect time to come down and thank the Coasties, check out safety supplies for your boat, and enjoy the camaraderie among the USCG, USCGA and the Squadron.

### Our 2010-2011 Bridge

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## The Name of Our Boat is:



We bought our boat in March of 2010. It didn't have a name before we bought it. Vive Bene is what we decided to name it; which means live well in Italian... and we do!

*Greg Shank and Janine Nesbit*

## Getting Boarded by the USCG

by Greg Shank, Port Captain

Just as we exited the north breakwater from Channel Islands Harbor on our way to Ventura Harbor for a little lunch on 21 Feb., our daughter, sitting facing the stern, noticed a bright orange boat with blue flashing lights hot on our tail at about 22 knots. I immediately slowed down and wondered why I was being stopped by the USCG. They pulled up and asked if there were any weapons on board. I replied in the negative so they asked if they could board and perform a safety check. Being a member of the Ventura Power Squadron, I welcomed the opportunity to show off all my safety equipment, knowing I was in complete compliance.

They were very nice, and allowed me to proceed at a nominal speed to our destination while they checked for PFD's, signaling devices, waste water containment, oil and trash discharge sticker, ownership and insurance documents. When I finally asked why they stopped me, the senior officer stated they were just board, and that it was part of their job to perform random safety checks.

I passed with flying colors, except for my boat horn. It didn't work, but I had a hand held compressed air horn next to me! Whew! I asked, but they didn't want to hear it work! I was issued a citation of compliance. I asked them if they were buying us lunch since they delayed us by 45 minutes....they said no, however they allowed us to continue on our way. This event alerted me to the significance of having the correct safety equipment on board at all times, and thanks to the Ventura Power Squadron's educational classes, I was spot on.



Photograph by Donna Hendricks on Island Packers trip!

## The Tall Ship *Bill of Rights*

Moored in Channel Islands Harbor, at the Marine Emporium Landing on Harbor Boulevard is the tall sailing ship *Bill of Rights*. This ship was built in 1971 as

a replica of a double-masted, gaff-rigged, Gloucester fishing schooner. 137 feet long, with a beam of 23 feet and depth of 10 feet, she is the largest vessel in the harbor. Beautiful, it's worth your while to just go down and look.

But *Bill of Rights* is much more than beautiful. Owned and operated by the American Tall Ship Institute, she is being used as a tool for the education and recovery of local at-risk youth. Also, programs provide for Boy Scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs. She connects with, and serves the Ventura County schools. As a non-profit, ATSI, through Island Packers, funds these activities by taking paying passengers offshore in the Santa Barbara Channel for a 3-hour cruise on most Saturdays and Sundays. Once a month they go on a longer cruise across the channel to Anacapa Island and back. From the mainland you see the north side of Anacapa, but aboard *Bill of Rights* you can also see the south side. Perhaps you will also come upon whales, dolphins, seals, and sea lions. While under sail alone, with no engine noise, these creatures often pass close by.



As with any activity associated with the Pacific Ocean, all schedules are subject to change at the last minute. (You wouldn't want it any other way.)

The ship is operated by a mostly volunteer crew, and when underway, an invitation is offered for passengers to join in, handling lines, or taking a turn at the wheel steering the ship. It offers a wonderful opportunity for picture taking. For more information on the many programs on the *Bill of Rights* and sailing schedules, go to <http://americantallship.org>.

## Ventura Power Squadron

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

*May 2011*

