

THE CHAMPLAIN BREEZE

WINOOSKI VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON INC.
VERMONT UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS, INC.®

OCTOBER 2006

Winooski Valley Hosts District 19 Fall Conference

November 3-5, 2006
Rutland, Vermont

Deadline for reservations:
October 15, 2006.

Winooski Valley Squadron is proud to be hosting the District 19 Fall Conference at the Holiday Inn in Rutland in November. We need the help of all squadron members to make this a successful conference. Squadron members from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine will be coming to our lovely state for this conference. There are many ways for each of us to be involved and it is also important to support your fellow members by attending the conference while it is right here in your backyard.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn on Route 7 just south of Rutland. All functions of the conference will take place in the hotel. The hotel has a bar and lounge as well as a restaurant, swimming pool, fitness center, wireless internet and computer printing on the house computers in the lobby.

We have obtained special conference rates for both rooms and meals. The rooms are \$85.00 per room regardless of whether there are one or two guests staying in the room. There is ample parking all around the hotel. There is bus service called "The Bus" from The Holiday Inn to downtown Rutland, Diamond Run Mall, and Killington Ski Resort to name a few destinations.

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Holiday Party December 9th

A joint holiday party is being planned with the Champlain Power Squadron from Plattsburgh for Saturday, 9 December. The party will be held at The Ice House in Burlington from 1:30 – 4:30 pm. Children are invited to attend! We will be ordering from the restaurant's menu and a children's menu will be available. A cash bar will also be available.

Please contact Commander Bob Baker at 802-235-1285 to let him know that you plan to attend. Checks should be made payable to Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron and mailed to Bob Baker at 159 Garron Road, Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757.

Deadline for reservations: December 1st.

Join us in welcoming the holiday season and meeting new friends from our neighboring squadron.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I hope that the summer went well for everyone. I know that my summer went very fast. I got some things done around the house, got out on the water with my boats, and took a group of friends to northern Maine for a short, but very successful fishing trip. The days went too fast to finish all the things I wanted to do around the house and on the water. In late August, Elaine and I took a week long trip down to Middletown, New York. Elaine wanted to learn to drive a carriage. We spent a week living on our boat in a campground. Elaine spent her days getting up close and personal with several ponies and their carts. She enjoyed "tickling the ribbons" while she learned to communicate with the pony who was pulling the cart.

The raft-up and picnic at Kingsland Bay had to be canceled because of the weather. We had frontal showers and thunderstorms in the forecast but the wind was the deciding factor. The weather forecast was for high wind advisory from the south, then after the frontal passage it was supposed to be from the north. An "on the water" report from one of our boats on Lake Champlain indicated that the night had been rough and the wind was building from the south. We all decided that the wind would be too high to try to battle so we reluctantly decided to cancel. It was apparently a "good call" since there were waves three to four feet high inside the breakwater at Westport Marina during the afternoon.

The squadron needs more communication. We have several alternatives to try to improve communication. We could send out more "mailings". I did some very crude calculations and came to the conclusion that the cost for a single sheet printed on one side would cost the squadron at least \$40 dollars to get it ready to mail. When the cost is added to the time it takes to prepare and mail, the process becomes prohibitive. The cost of post cards would reduce the content we could send and reduce the cost. The card idea deserves further study, but my reaction at this point is that it would not work because of the cost of postage to the squadron. I have started working with a phone list/call chain. The squadron needs several individuals to help with the call chain. The concept is to have

enough individuals so that everyone who makes calls has fewer than ten calls to make. The calls should be mostly local. The bridge is currently using a calling list to obtain accurate email addresses. Email is the best method of communication we have. The method is fast, no postage is involved so there is no ongoing cost to the squadron, we do not have to pay someone to print anything, and we do not have to stuff envelopes. We will not distribute the email addresses to any other organization. The objective is to communicate with you so that you know what your power squadron is doing. You will also receive reminders of events and deadlines for registration etc. In short you will receive the information that you need to be an active member in your squadron. We have a web site set up already to keep you posted.

District 19 Fall Conference is coming up on November 3, 4, 5, 2006. **IT SHOULD BE FUN AND YOU DO NOT NEED A UNIFORM TO ATTEND!!!!** Your commander is wearing a sport coat and slacks and I am sitting at the head table. We want you to come out and see what is happening at a district meeting. The Saturday program should be interesting. See a complete list on page 3.

Christmas is coming. This year we will have a combined party with Champlain Squadron. It will be a weekend event and will be timed so that Champlain Squadron will be able to use the ferry to "cross the pond and return". Next year Champlain squadron will host the event.

Cdr. Bob Baker



District 19 Fall Conference in Rutland, VT 3-5 November 2006

The Chief Commander's representative for the conference will be **R/C Robert J. Sweet, SN, Assistant National Educational Officer, and his wife Judy.**

R/C Bob Sweet, SN has served in a number of positions in Buzzards Bay Sail and Power Squadron and National. In 1998, he joined

BBPS, quickly becoming SEO while retaking some courses and completing all of the requirements for SN. Afterward, he then moved to Squadron Executive Officer and Commander. Concurrently, Bob joined the National Basic Education Committee and shortly thereafter was elected Assistant Chairman and Staff Commander.

While a member of the Basic Public Education Committee, Bob led the effort to create the GPS Seminar. He was able to draw upon his professional background leading the business unit of a company developing the original GPS system. He subsequently was tasked with coordinating the development of the new Piloting and Advanced Piloting courses, establishing the Paddle Smart™ web site, and leading the effort to incorporate digital charts in USPS courses. Bob also was instrumental in developing USPS partnerships with Maptech, McGraw-Hill, and C-Map leading to discounts for members and significant technical support for our educational programs.

In January 2006, Bob was elected to the position of Assistant National Educational Officer and Rear Commander. He has spent much of the past few years helping then NEO, Spencer Anderson, and ANEO, Dick Kyle, with a variety of initiatives leading to cooperative programs with the Canadian Power Squadrons, restructuring of courses, strategic planning for the department, and plans for seminars and boat operator certification.

DISTRICT 19 FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Friday November 3, 2006

1500 – 1700	Commanders Workshop
1500 - ?	Room check in
1500 – 1900	Conference Registration
1730 – 1830	District Hospitality Suite
1830 - ?	Dinner - pay as you go

Saturday November 4, 2006

0700 – 0830	Breakfast
0830 - 1000	Conference Registration
0900 – 0930	Welcome
0930 – 1000	Coffee break
1000 – 1045	On-line reporting system for boating classes and competitions – Presented by Cdr. Stuart Thro
1045 – 1130	USPS University – What is it? How can we use it? Presented by R/C Robert Sweet, SN
1000 - 1130	Trailers and boats – A “show and tell”. What I learned in 50 years towing boats. Presented by Cdr. Bob Baker
1130 – 1230	Lunch
1230 - 1330	Canoeing in the North presented by Northern Forest Canoe Trail
1230 – 1330	Clean Water Act – Presented by Cdr. Lee Chase
1330 – 1500	Open panel discussion Presented by Commander Al Johnson, Recreational Boating Safety, USCG First Coast Guard District, Boston; Lt. Dan Begiebing Vermont State Police and State Boating Law Administrator; Rod Halsted, USCG Auxiliary Vermont State Liaison Officer
1330 – 1500	Vessel Safety Checks Presented by P/D/C Everett Stebbins
1500 – 1700	District Council Meeting
1700 – 1800	Squadron Hospitality Suite
1800 –	Banquet with speaker Lt. Dave Schaefer presenting <u>Sailing to Hemingway's Cuba</u>

Sunday November 5, 2006

0700 - 0830	Commander's breakfast
0845 - 1000	District Conference

Registration information is included in this issue. Please send your registration to Cdr. Baker and join us for this important conference. We need your support!

WINOOSKI VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON CONTACT INFORMATION:

COMMANDER

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Remember to mark your calendar – we need your support and participation!



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