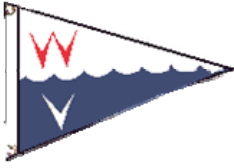


THE CHAMPLAIN BREEZE



Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron Inc.
Vermont Unit of
United States Power Squadrons, Inc.®

APRIL 2008

IMPORTANT LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

Dear Fellow Members of the Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron,

Your squadron has come to a critical point in a history that spans nearly 50 years. We must decide whether or not we can commit to revitalizing the squadron. The alternative is to surrender our charter and disband the squadron or merge it with another squadron in the region.

The core of the problem is simple: lack of participation and commitment by members of the Squadron in the social events and our volunteer efforts, particularly in leadership activities.

Quite frankly, we need new blood. The same core of people has served as officers for several years and, through attrition and term limits, this is not sustainable. We face a leadership crisis right now. The future of the squadron is at stake.

This is especially troubling at this time when our current Basic Boating Course enrollment is at capacity and we have initiated several successful new two-hour seminars being held at West Marine. Our Vessel Safety Check program is active during the spring and summer, and our participation in last month's boat show drew several prospective new members. Our mission of boating safety and education is being fulfilled now, but it is in jeopardy.

Soon you will receive a call from one of the Executive Committee members listed below to determine how you feel about the future of the squadron and your own role as a member. Perhaps we have been remiss in not contacting you personally on an individual basis to encourage your participation, so this is a step in that direction.

The next step will be a Change of Watch meeting to install new officers and review the findings of our membership phone survey. **It will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Holiday Inn in South Burlington.** We urge you to attend this important meeting. We have specific needs for chairpersons of the Safety and Membership Committees, a Squadron Education Officer and assistant, as well as course instructors and Vessel Safety Check inspectors. Training is available. We hope you will consider what the squadron has done for you, and what you might now do to sustain it for future generations.

Sincerely the Executive Committee:

Robert E. Baker, Jr., Commander
Gerry DesMarais, Executive Officer
Richard Lednicky, Education Officer
Michael Benoit, Administrative Officer
Dave Schaefer, Secretary

Ron Senecal, Treasurer
Millie Armstrong, Member at Large
Jim Spencer, Member at Large
Everett Stebbins, Member at Large
Peter Brownell, Computer Systems



United States Power Squadrons Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron

19 March 2008

To: Members of Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron
Subject: Slate of Squadron Officers for 2008-2009 Calendar Year

The Nominating Committee of Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron submits the following candidates for election:

Commander:	Richard Lednicky, AP
Executive Officer	Gerry DesMarais, P
Educational Officer	Unfilled
Administrative Officer	Michael Benoit
Secretary	David Schafer, P
Treasurer	Ronald Senecal, S
Executive Committee Members at Large:	Millie Armstrong, P Everett Stebbins, AP James Spencer Jr, SN
Assistant Educational Officer	Unfilled
Assistant Treasurer	Unfilled

Respectfully submitted,

Nominating Committee

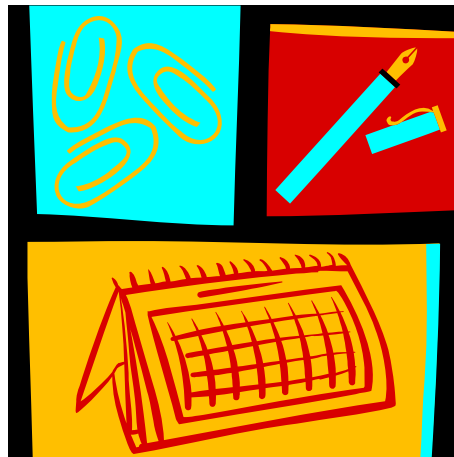
Seamanship Class to be Offered

The Educational Department will be offering the Seamanship Course beginning May 15th. Class time is from 7pm to 9pm at Coast Guard Station Burlington. Please mark this on your calendar. Please contact our SEO, Lt/C Dick Lednicky for further details. Advanced registration is appreciated.

Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Examiners Needed

As part of our service to our boating community, USPS offers VSC boat examinations. This is a free confidential service, but we need volunteers to become examiners. Please contact P/D/C Everett Stebbins at (802) 862-2760 for more details.

Mark Your Calendar



Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron Change of Watch

Saturday, May 10, 2008
South Burlington Holiday Inn

6:00 pm for cocktails
7:00 pm for dinner – Order from the Menu

After dinner there will be a Change of Watch ceremony, followed by a short member meeting and a guest speaker. Our guest speaker will be from Coast Guard Station Burlington.

Please contact Gerry DesMarais at (802) 878-5959 to reserve your space. We need your support – please plan to attend this important event.

**WINOOSKI VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON BRIDGE OFFICERS
2007 – 2008**

COMMANDER:	Robert E. Baker, Jr., S	802-235-1285	creweldragon@yahoo.com
EXECUTIVE OFFICER:	Gerald DesMarais	802-878-5959	gdlesmarais@comcast.net
EDUCATIONAL OFFICER:	Richard J. Lednicky, AP	802-985-8151	lednicky.vanhoven@mac.com
SECRETARY:	David A. Schaefer, P	802-864-3131	dschaefer267@comcast.net
TREASURER:	Ronald J. Senecal, S	802-483-4351	ronofvt@verizon.net



Inside this issue:

Important letter to Winooski Valley members regarding the future of our squadron. Please take a moment to review this issue.

P/D/Lt/C Jannette Spencer, JN
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