



Orion



A unit of the United States Power Squadrons®
District 12
Sail and Power Boating

America's Boating Club®

Worcester County Sail
And Power Squadron

Power Squadron Makes The Grade

Volume 58, Issue 4
January 2012

Larry Gruppi, S

My son Tim had just purchased a used 26 ft sailboat and we both knew very little about boating. We attended the Worcester RV & Boating show this past March. We stopped by the Power Squadron booth and talked to Bruce (Arey) and decided to sign up for the ABC Course.

It was so much fun meeting the other students and sharing everyone's stories. The instructors had years of experience to share along with the text books and class material. Every week it seemed someone new would visit our class to teach a lesson and share knowledge.

We studied the material and thought we did okay, but what did we learn? In late May the boat went in the water. Of

course we had so much to learn, but Tim and I agreed that somewhere, buried in our heads was a knowledge that helped us survive. By observing other boaters we understood what we were taught and how it all seems to work. Without the course I don't think we could have understood the "How to's."

I decided to take the Seamanship course in the fall of 2011. Tim had a scheduling conflict, I was on my own. It was nice to see the same instructors again. I picked up a few more tips that I passed along to Tim, which he put to use. It is these small tips you learn that saves time and energy. There is no doubt that without Power Squadron Education our boating experience would be twice the work with half the fun.

Thank you!

- ◆ **The Executive Committee meets on the second Wednesday each month at 1900.**
- ◆ **If you wish to participate, and we hope that you do, contact Cdr Bruce Arey, JN for the location of the next meeting.**

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6 Members Earn Merit Marks

Congratulations to the following Worcester County Sail and Power Squadron members who earned Merit Marks for the year 2011.

P/D/C Warren Hawkins, JN—31
P/D/Lt/C Dick Winski, AP—24
Lt/C Jill Winski, AP—18
Cdr Bruce Arey, JN—2
Lt/C Stephen Mullen, JN—2
Lt/C Richard Kozlowski, JN—1



Worcester County Sail & Power Squadron

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46 Torrey Road
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Calendar of Events

- 17 Jan '12 **WCSPS Executive Committee Meeting**
- 19 Jan **WCSPS Piloting Course begins — 10 weeks of instruction**
- 19 Jan **D/12 Council Meeting**
- 25-29 Jan **USPS Annual Meeting Jacksonville FL**
- 1 Feb **WCSPS Dinner Meeting At Tweed's Pub**
- 8 Feb **WCSPS Executive Committee Meeting**
- 23 Feb **D/12 Council Meeting**
- 14 Mar **WCSPS Change Of Watch**
- 16-18 Mar **Worcester RV Boat & Camping Show**
- 24 Mar **D/12 Spring Conference**
- 29 Mar **ABC/3 Public Boating Course — 4 weeks of instruction plus exam**
- 11 Apr **WCSPS Executive Committee Meeting**
- 9 May **WCSPS Executive Committee Meeting**
- 2-9 Sep **USPS Governing Board Detroit MI**

Orion is published 7 times a year by the members of:

Worcester County Sail And Power Squadron

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Deadline for the next issue of *Orion* is

14 February 2012

Please send your articles, stories, and photos so they might be included in your newsletter.

Dick & Jill

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Got The Midwinter Blahs? Cabin Fever? Going Through Boat Withdrawal?

Come Join Us For Dinner At Tweed's Pub, Worcester Wednesday, 1 February

Mr. Charlie Russell Of New England Yacht Rigging Is Guaranteed To Help Get You That Boating Fix You Crave!

Agenda:

1830 (6:30 P.M.) Attitude Adjustment
(with cheese & crackers)
(cash bar available)

1900 (7:00 P.M.) Dinner

2000 (8:00 P.M.) Presentation

Address:

231 Grove Street, Worcester

Lat: 42°16.9' N Lon: 71°48.3' W

Menu Choices:

Baked Haddock

Baked Stuffed Chicken or

Breaded Baked Pork Chop

Cost: \$25.00 per person. Checks may be
made out to WCSPS

RSVP: To Lt/C Steve Mullen, JN with menu
choice(s) no later than 31 January
508-269-3848

sp.mullen98@gmail.com

New Opportunities In The New Year

Cdr Bruce Arey, JN

I would like to sincerely wish all the members of our Squadron a happy and prosperous holiday season.

Let us all celebrate the New Year; it is a new beginning with new opportunities for forming new friendships and rekindling old friendships with members of your squadron.

Membership in an organization is infinitely better and more rewarding

for members who volunteer. In this season of giving, consider making a goal of giving of yourself in 2012 to support your squadron.

Reviewing the calendar of events coming up in the first few months of 2012, there are many opportunities for volunteering such as helping with the Piloting Course which begins 19 Jan, or how about volunteering a few hours at the Worcester RV, Boat and Camping Show

that runs from 16 to 18 March.

Don't forget about the Dinner meeting at Tweeds on 1 Feb where we always have an interesting speaker and share the good old times with fellow members.

I wish to thank all of the members who helped make 2011 a successful year for our Squadron. With your help, we can make 2012 even more successful.

Piloting Course Begins 19 January 2012 At Regatta Point State Park

P/D/Lt/C Dick Winski, AP

It has been quite a while since our squadron has offered the Piloting Course to our members.

Well, our squadron will present the "Piloting" course for 10 weeks, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. starting Thursday, 19 January 2012 at Regatta Point State Park. The only prerequisite for this course is that you be a member of United States Power Squadrons.

This course has been completely updated and improved since I taught it a few years ago. It now incorporates... Well, you can check out the course description below.

Most piloting material has been excluded from the basic "America's

Boating Course". Electronic navigation is wonderful, but when it fails you want to know how to determine where you are and how to get home! When it does not fail, you want to know how it works and how to make the most of it.

New members with no navigation education should seriously consider taking advantage of this opportunity. More seasoned members, and those who completed Piloting in the past might want to refresh their skills and learn the newest navigation techniques.

The course materials include: "Piloting Student Text", "The Weekend Navigator", and a Digital Chart CD. These materials will cost \$65. A second student sharing the

materials will be charged \$20. Additional useful instruments, which students might already possess and therefore need not buy but are available from our squadron include a 4 X15 Course Plotter for \$5, and dividers for \$10. Still other helpful equipment include: a calculator, a personal computer, a GPSr, and a hand bearing compass (hopefully, you already have these).

To register for this first step in navigation, or, if you have any questions about this course or your USPS membership, please contact me as soon as you can, so our squadron can order sufficient materials for all who wish to attend.

wcsps-rw@charter.net

Note: Since the time that some of our members were first notified about the upcoming course presentation, the Piloting Course has been updated again and includes new plotting standards and an increase in costs which we must pass along to our students. Course materials will cost \$65. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Piloting Course Description

Piloting is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find his/her way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student's skills through hands-on practice and learning. Ten classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition the students have seven days to complete the open book exam.

- Charts and their interpretation
 - Navigation aids and how they point to safe water
 - Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
 - The mariner's compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route.
 - Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning
 - The "Seaman's Eye" – simple skills for checking that one is on course.

Education Is The Key To Our Growth

*P/D/C Warren Hawkins, JN
Squadron Educational Officer*

The Seamanship course ended 10 November with 2 graduates. Next on the schedule is the Piloting course, to begin on 19 January. It will run for 10 weeks. All members who have not yet taken this course should plan to attend. Seamanship is not a pre-requisite, so this is an opportunity to get started on your advanced courses, even if it will be the first one.

Following the Worcester RV and boat show in March, we will again be offering the public boating course, the America's Boating Course (ABC). Any member is welcome to assist in this course, by helping in registration or by attending as observers, offering comments from experience to augment

the course material. To teach a section, you need to be certified, meaning having completed Instructor Development, our instructor training course, or have experience teaching adults. Please contact me if you are qualified and are interested in helping in the course.

Our courses are our primary vehicle for attracting new members and for encouraging members to become active in the squadron. Experience has shown that members who have started their advanced course progression are the ones who are more likely to become involved in the squadron, usually motivated to "give back" after realizing the benefits in terms of boating skills and knowledge derived from our educational programs. As has been mentioned many times recently, we need more new mem-

bers and more active members if our squadron is to continue to exist.

Therefore, I urge each member to actively recruit other boaters they know or meet to take the ABC course in March and to become members. I also urge all members to try to find the time and energy to become involved in the squadron. At the moment there are only 6 people who are carrying out the functions of the squadron. This is not nearly enough, and most likely we can continue in our present condition only through 2012. After that it will probably be "curtains", for us, as the old gangster movies had it, unless more members become active.

Friends Of WCSPS

The following is a list of companies and organizations who have supported our squadron

Eastern Mountain Sports

Shoppes At Blackstone Valley
70 Worcester Providence Turnpike
(Rt. 146)
Millbury, MA 01527
508-865-6776
www.ems.com

Manchaug Pond Association

*Promoting the welfare and correct
use of Manchaug Pond*
www.manchaugpond.org
www.manchaugpondassociation.blogspot.com

Regatta Point Community Sailing

Sailing for all
10 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01605
508-757-2140
www.regattapoint.org

Up And Running Technology

Satisfying Your Technology Needs
3 Sutton Avenue
Oxford, MA 01540
508-444-8778
www.uandrt.com

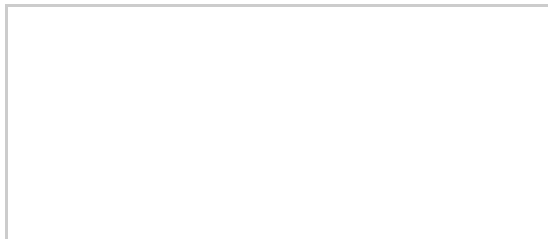


Worcester County Sail And Power Squadron

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Piloting Course Starts 19 January. Dinner Meeting 1 February At Tweed's

Boating Is Fun... We'll Show You How!
