Year 2014 at a glance
RED items are not settled.

May
07 Exec meeting
28 Regular meeting
31 VSC Hays Haven and Pattaconk

June
07 VSC Indian Neck Yacht Club
20-22 D1 Council meeting & District Rendezvous, Pequonnock Yacht Club
20 New Haven 100th, Union League Café, New Haven
21 New Haven 100th, Dinner Cruise on the Mystique
25 Pot Luck picnic-PYC

July
04-06 West Neck
11-13 MPS Rendezvous at Burrs Marina
12 District Sail Race, Branford YC
20 District Fishing Derby
26-8/2 MPS Extended Cruise Block Is

August
08-10 D1 Mini cruise - CG Academy
30-1 Sept MPS Anchor out at Three Mile Harbor

September
03 Exec meeting
20 D1 Poker Run
24 Regular meeting

October
22 Regular meeting

November
19 Meeting-Bell’s Pie Night

December
?? Holiday party

Editor: Ed Gonzalez
Publisher: Joe Fernandes

Commander’s Report

We are about to begin our 2014 Boating season as our boats are getting closer to the water. However we are not just about boats. We offer many opportunities for education, civic involvement and social activities. Just ask any bridge member or better yet come to a meeting.

At our May meeting on 5/28 we will have a speaker who will describe what it’s like to have your boat sink from under you. As Judge Judy might say “this is a real story about real people”.

The Change of Watch at the Manor Inn went well and we had several D-I members in attendance. The food and service was great. D-1 CDR George Gilbert swore in the new Bridge which consists of:

**Commander:** Roger Breunig
**Executive Officer:** P/C Ken Bell Sr.
**Squadron Education Officer:** Bill Podlinsky
**Assistant Squadron Education Officer:** P/C Ken Bell Jr.
**Secretary:** Paul Bailey
**Treasurer:** Bob Luby
**Assistant Treasurer:** Paul Casarella

**Members at Large:**

As you can see from the list we have a great nucleus to guide our squadron and continue our heritage.

Please see the summer activities listed in this edition. As P/C Ken Bell Jr has many events planned.

We are hoping to expand the list to include daytime events to encourage non boat owners to buddy up with us and enjoy the social side of USPS. Suggestions are welcome. Any kayak folks out there?

CDR Roger Breunig AP

Next MPS Meeting on 28 May 2014
1900 Hrs. in the Yankee Gas building at 56 Cooper Street in Meriden, CT.

Meriden Meetings: Except for special occasions, Meriden Power Squadron Meetings are held at 1900 in the Yankee Gas building at 56 Cooper Street in Meriden, CT.
**Executive Officers Report**

Last month I was writing my last commander’s report, and this month I am writing my first exec officer’s report. With the weather finally feeling more like summer, the excitement of getting the boats in the water and planning for the summer activities is getting greater. These activities are not only fun, but if you are new at boating it’s great to be with other boaters, not only for the fun, but for the safety and experience. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any bridge officer if interested in joining. Check the summer activities report elsewhere in this publication.

Our next regular meeting, 28 May, at Yankee Gas, will feature Jim Moran who will be speaking on his experience with a well maintained boat that developed a through hull fitting failure and sank within minutes. A very interesting story. Also meet the new bridge officers and enjoy the refreshments.

Our 25 June meeting will be our annual pot luck at Pattaconk Yacht Club in Chester starting at about 1700. Bring an appetizer, dish, or desert to share. Hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be furnished. The ship’s store will be open so you will be able to order shirts, burgees, and other squadron articles. The Nathan Greenbacker Scholarship award will also be presented that evening.

Looking forward to seeing you at these events.

P/C Ken Bell Sr., AP

**Education Officers Report**

The weather has finally broken enough to get our boats back on the water. I hope everyone remembers the skills they have learned in the classroom and puts them to good use on the water.

We are looking for suggestions for fall classes and seminars that people would like to see offered.

While heading out over the next few months remember it is never too early to get the young people interested in boating and fishing.

Bill Podlisny
SEO Meriden

Ken Bell Jr
Asst. SEO Meriden

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**How to Anchor in a Crowded Anchorage.**

Do a pass through the harbor looking for the biggest gap, ascertaining that it’s not a gap because of shoaling or the presence of a rock. Beware of sailboats, which may swing differently than your boat. Ask the skippers around the gap—either by VHF or hollering over to them—how much scope they have out on their anchors. That must be your scope, too. Now head toward the stern of the windward (or up-current) boat most centered on the gap. Drop your hook about 60 to 70 feet behind that boat. Set your hook and, if you are at least 60 to 70 feet ahead of the boats behind you, you may be good. Set an anchor alarm using your electronics, and make sure to check your interval if the wind shifts or when the tide turns.

**Update Your First Aid Kit**

When fitting out, don't forget your first-aid kit. Replace expired items and make sure tape and adhesive-backed dressings haven't lost their stick. Don't forget to update your kit to reflect changing medical conditions.
**MPS Summer Activities**

Just a reminder of what we have planned for this summer:

**20-22 June** – District 1 rendezvous and New Haven Squadron 100th Anniversary celebration at the Pequannock Yacht Club! If you choose to come by boat, please contact Steve Mullen at 203-376-3162 or wever101@gmail.com for reservations. $3.00 a foot per night. There will be a dinner cruise on the vessel Mystique on Saturday as well as many other events. Please look for more info in the Sounds of 1 or go to www.usps.org/localusps/d1

**04-06 July** – MPS Rendezvous at West Neck Harbor, Shelter Island NY. Come anchor out in the beautiful harbor or call for reservations at The Island Boatyard. Call Wade the dock master at 631-749-3333 and mention you are with the Meriden Power Squadron. Dockage is $4.50 a foot. Daily dinghy passes are available for those anchoring out and wishing to use the facilities. Enjoy the pool, restaurant and famous “Shipwreck Bar”, not to mention beautiful views of one of the most beautiful cruising destinations in our area! Fireworks will be going off all weekend in every direction!

**11-13 July** - MPS Rendezvous at Burrs Marina, New London CT. Come enjoy the awesome fireworks in New London Harbor and join the crew for dinner at On The Waterfront Restaurant Saturday evening. Come by boat or by car and join up with our MPS members and guests. Contact Lt/C Dave Distasio if you are interested in either making reservations at Burrs for the weekend or just for the dinner and fireworks Saturday evening. distasio7@comcast.net

**26 July-02 August** – MPS extended cruise to Block Island. Come experience what you’ve all heard about over the years. Fun times and great company at the “Bermuda of the Northeast”! Pick your place to stay or anchor out. Forms are available for Block Island Boat Basin or first-come-first served at Payne’s Dock. It doesn’t matter where you stay, we’ll find you! Please contact me if you need more information for dockage or about traveling together.

**08-10 August** – District 1 mini cruise to the United States Coast Guard Academy. If you plan on coming by boat, please contact D/Lt/C Charles L. Marino, District Admin Officer at bluenoseii@sbcglobal.net ASAP! There are 30 slips available but are going fast. No charge for slips or moorings. Look for more info in the Sounds of 1 or go to www.usps.org/localusps/d1

**30 August-01 Sept.** - MPS Anchor out at Three Mile Harbor, Long Island NY. Come join the fun and relaxation in the quiet and beautiful harbor in the Hamptons. Come for a night or stay the whole weekend, it’s up to you! Contact P/C Ken Bell Jr. for more information or to arrange a raft-up. kbelljr@cox.net

P/C Kenneth Bell Jr.

kbelljr@cox.net

860-836-4907

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**Friends of the Masthead**

This has been created to help defer the ever-rising postal expenses. There’s always plenty of room at the tables. Anyone interested in joining the Captain’s/Barnacle’s Table- please use the form below.

Memberships are for the Calendar year 2014:

**Captain's Table**: George Griffin, Robert Thompson, Christine Casarella, Paul Casarella, and Al Lucitti

**Barnacle’s Table**: Ellie Lucitti

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<th>Membership Form for the Friends of the Masthead</th>
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<td><strong>Amount Enclosed:</strong> ___________________</td>
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<td><strong>Mail to:</strong> Paul Casarella</td>
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<td>103 Wynding Brook Drive</td>
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Squadron logo polo shirts ($25) can be ordered through Lt Ann Steele annsteele@sbcglobal.net or 860 628-8588

Name tags can be ordered – Joe Fernandes, jfernades8@cox.net or 860 276-9407
Safe Boating Display and Vessel Safety Exams
Provided by members of the Meriden Power Squadron.
Safety display at Hays Haven Marina
Inspections also available at Pattaconk Yacht Club, Castle Marina, Chester Point Marina
Saturday, 31 May 2014
11 AM until 2 PM

A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of your vessel to verify the presence and condition of certain Safety Equipment required by State and the Federal regulations.

The Vessel Examiner (VE) is a trained specialist and is a member of the United States Power Squadrons or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

This is not boarding or a law enforcement issue, it is a courtesy examination. No citations for non-compliance will be given as a result of this encounter.

Vessels that comply with all requirements will be able to display our distinctive VSC decal. This does not exempt you from law enforcement boarding, but you can be prepared to make this a positive encounter should it occur.

Some of the major items we check are:
- Proper display of numbers
- Registration/Documentation paperwork current
- Personal Flotation Devices (quantity and general condition of life jackets & throwables)
- Visual Distress Signals (condition and expiration dates of flares)
- Fire extinguishers (sufficient charge, placement, and mounting of units)
- Ventilation (blowers operable)
- Backfire flame control
- Sound producing devices (horn operating, bell, whistle)
- Navigation lights (properly operating)
- Onboard sanitation equipment (heads, holding tank systems, and required lockouts)
- State requirements
- Overall vessel condition (deck hazards, pollution issues, and other general conditions of concern).

In addition, the vessel examiner will discuss with the recreational boater the purpose of specific marine safety equipment, will clarify various federal and state regulations, will discuss certain safety procedures and practices, and will answer any boating related questions.
Directions: Yankee Gas Building

From 84 E/W:
- Take exit 27 for Rt. 691 toward Meriden/Middletown.
- Take Exit 4
- At end of ramp, take a right onto Meriden/Waterbury Rd., which turns into W. Main St.
- Turn right onto Cook Ave. (at Dunkin Donuts)
- At your 2nd light, take a left onto Cooper St.
- Yankee Gas Building is on your right.

From 91 N/S:
- Take Exit for Rt. 691
- Take Broad St. Exit
- At end of ramp, take a left
- At monuments, take a right onto E. Main St.
- Continue straight on road through center of Meriden until you reach the Dunkin Donuts, bear left.
- At 2nd light, take a left onto Cooper St.
- Yankee Gas Building is on your right.

Please visit www.usps.org/meriden for updates