

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***

April 2011

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

Volume 54 No.4



Commander's Comments

Cdr Don Roy, AP

One goal of mine this year is to burn into every unused synapse within each and every one of our Ventura Power Squadron members the word "PARTICIPATION." There. That's my first crack at your short term memory where the idea of "PARTICIPATING" with the Ventura Power Squadron, at least once this year, will last but a few seconds. Unless I can reinforce the concept of "PARTICIPATION" with a happy emotion, fear or other strong context it will be tossed out of your gray matter like a drunken sailor out of a bar. If I have any chance of getting you to "PARTICIPATE" at least once this year, I need to sear this five-syllable concept deep into your long term memory; that area of our consciousness we use to do our everyday business.

I can already hear your excuses why you haven't taken a class or attended one of our fantastic events. You haven't been to a VPS event in so long you forgot where your name tag is ("my dog ate it" is not an acceptable excuse to this hound loving band). You want to take Seamanship starting on April 26th, but your pencil sharpener is broke and you can hardly tie your shoelaces yet alone a bowline. Never mind that

the last time you saw your boat, the Coastal Commission had a tag on it and declared it a marine sanctuary! Nice try with all your excuses but this year I'm going to give every single one of you many reasons to "PARTICIPATE".

First, you will need to search the back of the desk drawer and find the old VPS name tag and bring it to our next event at the Fleet Review and Commander's Cup. Why? Because you will receive a stick-on 50th burgee pin to attach over your burgee on your name tag. It looks great and it allows us to update the name tags at a reasonable price.

Secondly, you can purchase a new 50th anniversary burgee for your boat and show everyone what a cool cat you are with the new VPS colors. I have to tell you, these are beautifully constructed burgees and they will spruce up every single VPS vessel.

The third reason to "PARTICIPATE" is because it's fun and the Squadron members are a great bunch of boating enthusiasts. We have so many interesting people who make up our group that it takes only a few minutes to find someone with common interests. Just on our bridge alone we have one person who worked for Amgen and another worked for a hologram manufacturer. I challenge you all to figure out who I am talking about.

Lastly, I happen to be taking Engine Maintenance right now and the camaraderie in the class is invigorating. We all bring up specific

engine issues and discuss them and I've met a whole bunch of great Squadron members in the process. That's "PARTICIPATION". So check out our Education Officer Gary Hubler's column and join in on the next class. You won't regret it.

I'd like to see everyone at our Fleet Review and Commander's Cup on April 9th starting at 1030 with food, games, and cheer. RSVP to Christie Yeager at sailgirl854@gmail.com right away. Remember to BYOB, \$6 per person for food and kids under 12 free. Safe Boating!

COMING EVENTS

April 2011

4	Mon	Executive Committee Meeting @ 1930 <i>Coast Guard Recruiting Station, Oxnard</i>
9	Sat	Commander's Cup & BBQ <i>Channel Islands Boat Launch- Oxnard</i>

May 2011

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

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

April Birthdays

1	Ev Ashworth
11	Fred DeLamarter
15	Donald Acosta
18	George Vye
19	Lance Holt
19	Denise Stumbough
19	Tom Toumi
26	James Bates
27	Julie Leonard

The best birthday wishes to everyone this month!

If your birthday has come and gone and was not mentioned in the Helm, please email me at floating-helm@aol.com and let me know the date!



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**TWO TRAVELIFTS
HAUL OUTS TO 160 TONS**



**Education
Station**
Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP

The United States Power Squadron is an organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable. That dedication is realized in the Ventura Power Squadron, in large part, through our educational offerings. In 2011 we have a full complement of courses available to members, and now is the perfect time to develop your education plan for the year. 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.

How to Expand Your Social Network without Facebook or Twitter

Want an incredibly effective method for meeting new people and enhancing your boating skills and knowledge? Teach a class! We all learn something from every course we take, but we can raise our skills to a completely new level when we teach a class. Yes, it takes some work to properly prepare to teach a course. But ask those who have done it, and you'll find that the rewards are

substantial. The obvious benefit is seeing people grow in their boating knowledge under your tutelage. Less obvious, but no less a benefit is that your subject knowledge will also grow substantially as you prepare for and teach a class. It's one thing to understand something well enough to pass a class, but it's another thing to understand something well enough to teach it to others. And guess what...teaching is a fundamental way to actively participate in the Ventura Power Squadron and a great way to meet other people who have a common interest in boating.

I know there are many members who have thought about teaching but haven't taken the plunge yet. We are planning an **Instructor Development and Initial Certification Course** to be held this spring or early summer. This is THE course you need to get started as an instructor. If you've ever thought you might like to try teaching, I want to hear from you!

Winter Courses in the Homestretch

The annual spring **America's Boating Course** started on February 15th and is progressing well under the guidance of Assistant SEO **Fred DeLamarter, P.** We expect to graduate about 25 students in mid-April.

The **Engine Maintenance** course also started in February, and instructor **Alan Gosselin, AP** has one of his largest classes ever. I've had the opportunity to speak to some of Alan's students and the feedback has been outstanding. If you have not taken Engine Maintenance yet, make sure it's on your plans for 2012!

Seamanship Course Starts April 26th—Sign Up Now!



The next advanced grade course on our schedule this year is Seamanship, and it will be taught by **Jan Lawson, P.** This course is scheduled so that students who completed the public boating course last fall or who will complete it this spring will have this course available to continue their boating education. After America's Boating Course, Seamanship is the next step in the se-

quence of advanced grade courses. We will generally offer this course only once each year, so now is the time for all public boating course graduates to sign up.

Location: 3639 East Harbor Blvd., #109
Ventura, CA

Dates/Time: Tuesdays
April 26th thru June 28th
6:30 p.m.

Register: 805-443-8404
jlawsonlawyer@gmail.com

Additional 2011 Courses

We have a full complement of course offerings for this year and early 2012:

Advanced Grade Courses

- Piloting—Fall 2011



- Advanced Piloting—Jan 2012



- Junior Navigation—Fall 2011



Elective Courses

- Weather—Spring 2011
- Sail—Spring 2011
- Instructor Development and Initial Certification—Spring 2011
- Cruise Planning—Spring 2012

Seminars

- Radar—Summer 2011

Second Call to All Advanced Pilots

In our fall program this year we intend to offer the advanced grade course, **Piloting**. As everyone who has taken this course knows, it is THE course that takes your navigation skills to a totally new level and is, I think, the key navigation course offered by the United States Power Squa-

dron. This course has been ably taught for the Ventura Power Squadron by many excellent instructors over the years. If you are an Advanced Pilot and have an interest in teaching, we have an instructor opening for the fall Piloting course.

Give me a call NOW (805-306-9027) and let's discuss the teaching role for this course.

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

Spring is here and the beginning of a new boating season. The changing weather also brings our Annual Fleet **Review** Saturday, 9 April from 1030 – 1400. Additionally we will be holding Commander's Cup competition. Lunch will be provided for a modest cost of \$6.00; all pot luck contribution are most welcome. If you haven't submitted your R.S.V.P. please do so A.S.A.P. so we can firm up the number of attendees. Please send me an email to sailgirl854@gmail.com with the number of people in your party and if you are coming by land or by sea. We'll be at the Channel Islands Boat Launch- Oxnard. Dave Williams will be on hand to provide Vessel Safety Checks; Roger Morris is bringing the Ship's Store; cash and check accepted. Fun, **friends** and food, don't miss out!

To schedule your Vessel Safety Check, contact P/C David Williams at dawiandann@verizon.net or call him at 805-482-0429.

The Name of My Boat is:



I bought my boat in October of 1987. It was previously names Kathy Ann after the owner's wife. KISS stands for Keep It Simple Sir (some people say Stupid). Debbie changed the graphics when she moved aboard to include the lips, but I figured "whatever keeps you happy honey"!

Our 2010-2011 Bridge

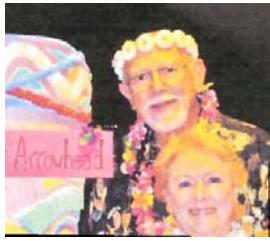
<u>Commander</u>	(818) 439-3211
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<u>Executive Officer</u>	(805) 643-7446
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<u>Administrative Officer</u>	(661) 623-0800
Lt/C Christy Yeager, S	Sailgirl854@gmail.com
<u>SEO</u>	(805) 306-9027
Lt/C Gary Hubler, AP	glhubler@sbcglobal.net
<u>Treasurer</u>	(805) 707-2804
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<u>Secretary</u>	(661) 623-0800
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<u>The Helm Editor</u>	(805) 407-4777
Lt Debbie Braun-Lawson, P	FloatingHelm@aol.com

Our Host Room at the D13 Conference

My responsibility for the Host Room was to have the food ready for guests from the other squadrons who were attending the District 13 Conference who would be visiting the VPS room. The room was delightfully decorated. I would like to say a special 'thanks' to those who contributed tasty treats to make the VPS host room a success. Our hard working cooks were Hat Young, Marian and Elliott Breslar, Ev Ashworth, Janine Nesbit and Jan Lawson. Not to be forgotten is Pat Metheny

who gave us the beautiful flower arrangements for our food table. Many thanks to all.

Janet Shultz



Marian and Elliott Breslar



P/C Ev Ashworth



Our Fearless (obviously) Leader

	<p>Executive Suite P/C Ev Ashworth, AP</p>
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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 recreation-

al 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 6th 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.

WHY FLY FLAGS?

P/C Hal Wilder

FLY YOUR ENSIGN PROUDLY.

Flags, banners or pennants are probably the oldest form of communication in the history of mankind. Battles were fought or Peace was continued because each group understood the meaning of the banners the other group was waving. If you travel to other waters and fly the USPS Ensign properly, local natives will recognize you as a knowledgeable member of a great organization. I know that each time we cruised the San Juan or Gulf Islands off the Washington/ British Columbia coast, we enjoyed great success because our USPS Ensign flew from our starboard spreader.

Your copy of Chapman's Piloting [you do have one, don't you] has a great section on FLAG ETIQUETTE. It's well worth reading. I feel that whatever I do, I'd like to do it well. I know that when I do something well, it draws approval and acknowledgment from folks. This has been the source of a number of new friendships. I remember when we had just tied up along the wharf at Friday Harbor when a fellow called out "What Squadron are you from?". It turned out that he was also USPS, a Member from Boston. He had a summer home on Blakely Island. He had first seen our American flag at the transom, then spotted our ensign. Of course, he didn't recognize our Burgee at the bow, and so he asked. He was a golden source of local knowledge. He had checked out literally all the local eateries, for price and quality. That saved us having to do so on our one-night stop at Friday.

On another occasion, sailing the North end of Lake Michigan, we had pulled in to the harbor at Manistique, Michigan. We walked to the grocery, and returned to the boat with supplies. There we found a man waiting for us. He too, was a USPS Member, up from the heat of Mobile, Alabama to a cool summer cottage. He

had seen our Ensign, wanted to meet and exchange stories. He stayed for a drink, and when Bill suggested dinner, went and got his wife. We had a good time, picked up a lot of local knowledge.

On the other hand, flying the Ensign from the spreader while in our slip at Ventura Isle Marina, brought me three of my best friends. Ed Rich, a P/C from Olympia, Washington, had just moved into a live-a-board slip, when he saw my ensign. Dick Copeland, newly arrived from Long Island, saw our Ensign and left a message at the office. One thing led to another and wonderful friendships developed.

Ventura West added some slips along the south side of the basin. Passing them on our way home one afternoon, I saw an ensign and a foreign Burgee flying on a beautiful sloop. There was a vacant slip beside her, so we pulled in there, knocked on the cabin top, and met Larry Knoll. He was a Member from Balboa Squadron. He, Noie and their daughter Kalan had just moved to Ventura. As I said these three became special friends with Rosie and me, but of course they transferred to VPS and proved valuable Members. Ed took over the Helm when I moved on. Larry worked on our training aid on anchoring. He was serving as Admin on our bridge when he was transferred back to Orange County. He later served as Commander in Balboa Sqdn.

So I say to all of our boat owners, Get a USPS Ensign of the appropriate size, Read up on the protocol [nothing shouts "BEGINNER" louder than doing it wrong] and fly it where people can see it. It will serve the Squadron and serve you well. While we owned a boat, we flew ours with pride.

Ventura Power Squadron

Lt. Debbie Braun-Lawson, Editor

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

April 2011

