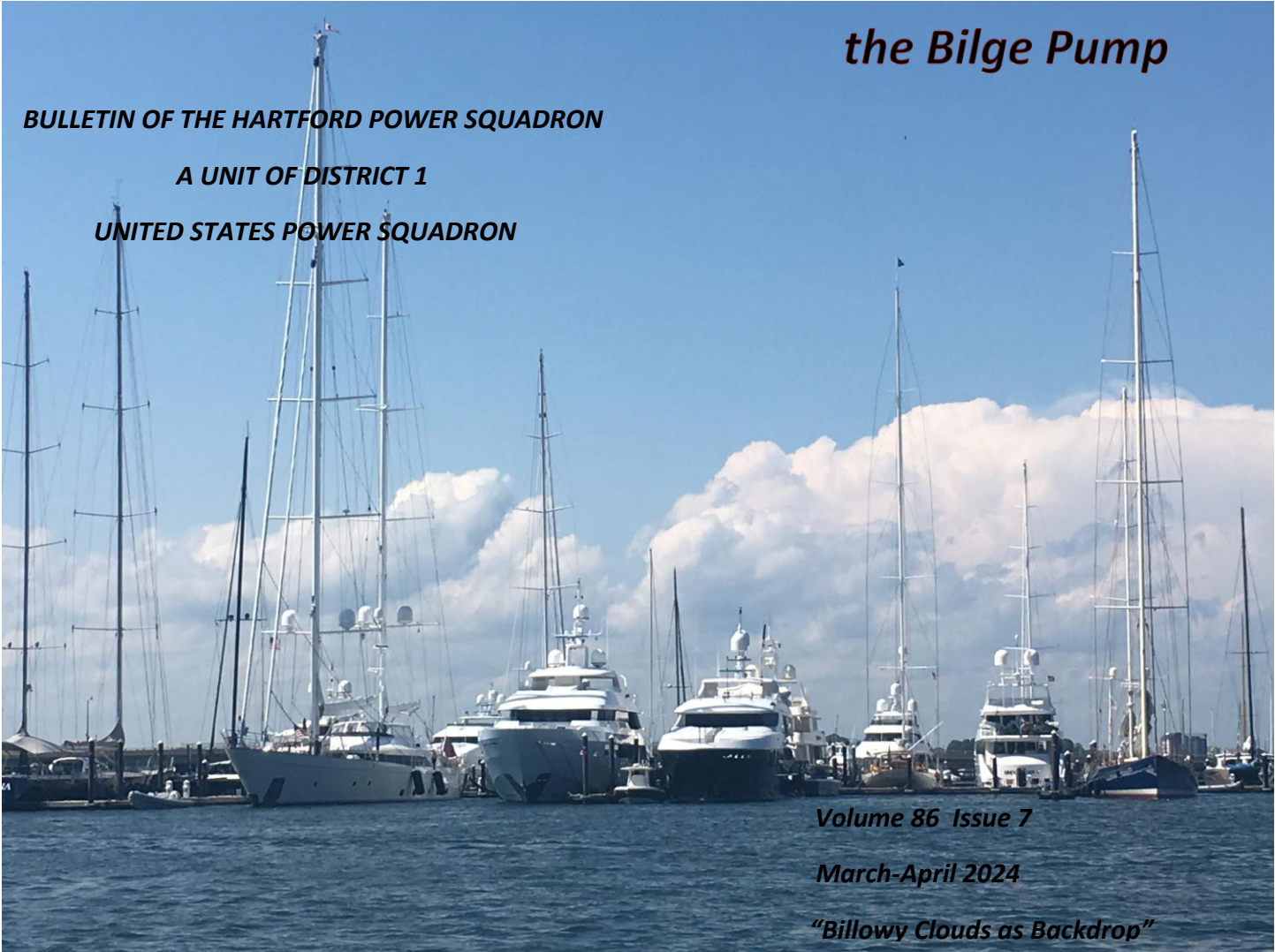


the Bilge Pump

BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF DISTRICT 1

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON



Volume 86 Issue 7

March-April 2024

“Billowy Clouds as Backdrop”

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12 March	Executive Committee Meeting - Century Spring Mfg. 6 pm	
09 March	ABC Class- Bristol Library, 5 High Street, Bristol, CT	3
30 March	Marine Navigation Course, 99 Old Brickyard La, Kensington, CT	3
26 March	Annual Meeting/Election of Officers – Olympia Diner, Newington, CT	4
18 May	8th Annual Swap Meet & Craft Show-West Marine, Old Saybrook, CT	6
Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities		
16 March	District Spring Conference Pequabuck Golf Club Terryville, CT	
20 April	Change of Watch: Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, & New Britain Squadrons Westbrook Elks Club 142 Seaside Avenue, Westbrook, CT	5
31 May-2 June	June Rendezvous, Middlesex Yacht Club, Chester, CT	
1 June	District 1 Council Meeting, Middlesex Yacht Club, Chester, CT	
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At the Helm

Cdr. William Waseleski | (860) 212-2636 | wwaseleski@centuryspringmfg.com

Ahoy All,

March is finally here, daylight savings time starts on Sunday, March 10th. By the end of the month the sun doesn't set until 7:15PM. Lot's more time to get our boats ready for the 2024 season!

There is a lot going on this spring- we are doing an ABC Class at the Bristol Public Library on March 9th and again on May 4th, just in time for the boating season. A new member, Captain Eric Lundin, will be helping out with the May 4th class.

We are offering, for the first time in several years, the Marine Navigation Course. We are doing it in 3 Saturday sessions. It is being taught by Captain Rich Fortunato at his facility, 99 Old Brickyard Lane, Kensington, CT.

We've moved our Marine Swap Meet/Craft Show to the West Marine parking lot in Old Saybrook, CT. We also pushed the date out a month to May 18th, in hope of better weather. If you have anything to sell, get your spaces early. There are only 45 spaces at this new, high traffic location. They're going to go fast. Just click on <https://usps.org/localusps/hartford/> to buy a space.

Even if you don't have anything to sell, you should plan to attend. Our Squadron will be cooking hot dogs & hamburgers. We'll also be doing the drawing for our \$500, \$300, \$150 raffle. Purchase tickets from any ExCom member, or contact our raffle chairman Tim Tyler, at otimtyler@gmail.com. It's going to be a great day to shop, see old acquaintances, and make friends.

We're doing our Change of Watch Dinner a little differently this year. The Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, & New Britain Squadrons will be celebrating their Changes of Watch at the same time.

It's also the Meriden Squadron's 70th Anniversary. The combined event is being held at the Westbrook Elks Club: 142 Seaside Avenue, Westbrook, Connecticut on April 20th. Enjoy cocktails, Buffet dinner, & Dance 'til you Drop, for only \$35pp. See the article below to make your reservations.

Our District Spring Conference is on March 16th at the Pequabuck Golf Club in Terryville, CT. This is a District event, and all members are invited. Come learn what is going on in other squadrons & help in planning District events. Bring a guest. This is a perfect opportunity for a fellow boater to learn about what we do and join us!

You can find the agenda & details to register for the Spring Conference in the Spring edition of the Sounds of 1.

Our February member meeting was excellent. Rhea Drozdenko, River Steward in the Connecticut River Conservancy, showed us what is being done to clean up and protect our Connecticut rivers.

That's all for now, hope to see you soon at one of our events.

May you have fair winds and following seas!

Cdr Bill Waseleski, AP



Education Department

Education Officer (SEO)
Asst Education Officer

Lt/C Patrick A. Pabouet, P
Dave Pero

860-209-1776 argus06108@aol.com
860-680-8880 dpero58@gmail.com

We are excited to announce our 2024 Spring course schedule that includes both ABC and Marine Navigation (formerly Piloting). All our recent ABC students (especially new members) will want to sign up for this course taught by one of our new members, Captain Rich Fortunato. Rich is a highly experienced boater who holds a USCG 50-ton master license with towing. Rich runs four boats for 2 companies as well as private charters. He also provides individual on-the-water instruction. Rich's wealth of experience will add a lot to the new course.

Marine Navigation-3-Saturday course at 99 Old Brickyard Lane, Kensington, CT

Begins Saturday 3/30/2024 9:00 to 3:00

Cost includes one manual and one set of plotting tools

Members: \$95, Second family member \$20

One-Year Membership: \$80

One-Year Family Membership: \$120



You must be a member to take our advanced courses.

We, of course, will be continuing our one-day ABC classes and are very fortunate to have another new member join our ABC team. Captain Eric Lundin has been teaching the equivalent of our ABC course since 1997 for the State of Connecticut. In addition, Eric was recognized by NASBLA in 2022 as its 'Instructor of the Year'. Eric brings exceptional experience to our teaching program. He is a Connecticut EnCon Police Captain – Retired, holds the USCG 50-ton Inland Master Mariner Credential, and is currently a NASBLA BOAT Program Instructor and an NSBC On-Water Instructor Trainer.

ABC-Bristol Public Library (one-day course) 5 High St. Bristol, CT 06010 [860-584-7787](tel:860-584-7787)

Saturdays: Offered 3/9 and 5/4/2024 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Cost: \$60 includes Manual/Coffee/lunch

This is an 8-hour course meeting the requirements of the State of Connecticut DEEP for its Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operations.

The final exam will be given at the end of the day and after passing the exam the student will receive the Hartford Power Squadron's Certificate attesting to the passing of the NASBLA test which can be used in any State to apply for a License or Certificate to operate a power boat.

The Connecticut student will then be able to apply online for the State of Connecticut DEEP Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operations.

Please email Cliff McKibbin at cliff99.mckibbin@comcast.net to register or to get more information.

Would you like to teach one of our courses? If you have taken a course and would like to teach it, please contact Pat Pabouet.



Call to the Annual Meeting

Secretary, Lt/C Cliff McKibbin, SN
Cliff15.mckibbin@comcast.net

The Annual Meeting of the Hartford Power Squadron will be held Tuesday, 26 March, 2024, at the Olympia Diner in Newington. The meal will begin at 18:30 and the meeting will begin at 19:30. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting. Elections will be held for the new Bridge, to take office at the “Change of Watch” meeting on Saturday, 20 April 2024 at Westbrook Elks Club. 142 Seaside Avenue, Westbrook, CT 06498. See below for details.

The report of the nomination committee is below. As a member, you can also nominate members to these positions by petition. To do this, please contact the Secretary 15 days prior to the Annual meeting (by 11 March, 2024). We will then make the petition nomination available to the members 7 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Please call the Secretary if you are interested in becoming active in your Squadron and participating in committees or learning more about the organization of the squadron.

Hartford Power Squadron Report of the 2024–2025 Nominating Committee

Bridge

Commander:	Cdr William J. Waseleski, P
Executive Officer:	Lt/C Thomas H. Berlandy, AP
Education Officer:	Lt/C Patrick A. Pabouet, P
Assistant Education Officer	Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN
Administrative Officer:	Lt/C James Salvatore, AP
Assistant Administrative Officer	Lt/C Thomas H. Berlandy, AP
Secretary/Treasurer	Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN

Executive Committee Members at Large

Elaine L. Cleary
P/Lt/C Frank Pascucci, Jr., AP
P/C Theodore J. Wurz, P

Elected Committees

Nominating Chairman:	P/C Timothy Tyler, SN
Nominating:	Elaine L. Cleary
Nominating:	P/Lt/C Frank Pascucci, Jr., AP
Auditing Chairman:	P/C Theodore J. Wurz, P
Rules Chairman:	P/C Timothy Tyler, SN

Respectfully Submitted, P/C Timothy Tyler, SN, Chair
Elaine L. Cleary
P/Lt/C Frank Pascucci, Jr., AP

Change of Watch Dinner

This year's Change of Watch (COW) dinner will be a little different than our usual COW. We are going to join the Meriden Squadron to celebrate their 70th anniversary and have a combined COW with all of the squadrons participating. It will be at Westbrook Elks Club. 142 Seaside Avenue, Westbrook, CT 06498. See below for details on the 'COW'.



If you are not familiar with the COW, it is an annual time-honored formal event preserved by a rich naval tradition heritage. The COW allows squadron members to witness the transfer of responsibility of bridge assignments and recognize both outgoing officers' and squadron members' accomplishments. Members elected at the Annual Members' Meeting held in March are also sworn in.

All squadron members are encouraged to attend this event to show appreciation to those who do so much to keep the squadron viable and to meet other members, make friends, and, most importantly, have an enjoyable time.

If you are only able to attend one event all year, this should be the one! The Change of Watch dinner is always memorable, so why not make your reservations now and join us at what is sure to be another fun-filled event.

Event Details

- Time:** 20 April 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Place: Westbrook Elks Club. 142 Seaside Avenue, Westbrook, CT 06498
Menu: A cash bar will be available. We will have an extensive buffet and there are complimentary wine glasses and wine.
Cost: \$35 per person, including tax and tip. The squadron is subsidizing this meal to encourage more members to attend.
Dress: Uniform A, with a bow tie, or equally suitable civilian attire.
Reservations: Reservations are required and must be made by 10 April 2024. To make your reservations, please visit the Ticket Tailor app at: <https://buytickets.at/hartfordpowersquadron/1115478>

February Member Meeting Program Featured Rhea Drozdenko “Protecting Clean Water, Restoring Health Rivers”.

Rhea Drozdenko of the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) gave us a talk on their efforts to maintain a healthy Connecticut River all the way from the top of New Hampshire to the Sound. CRC has offices and staff in all four states touching the river.

The CRC was founded in 1952 and has been a strong advocate for the river as well as actively monitoring and cleaning up the river. Among its current chief concerns are water quality and invasive species.

Its quality initiatives include monitoring for sewage, excessive nutrients, micro plastics, PFAS, and pesticides. It has especially been active in advocating for cities to separate their sewage from their street runoff. When these are combined into the same sewage system, excessive rainfall can force the city to release any overflow into the CT river resulting in obvious sewage pollution of the river.

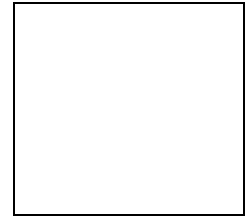
Its Clean Up initiatives include an annual clean up in September with volunteers cleaning banks and removing some invasive species. She described two invasive species that they are seeing a lot more of: Water Chestnuts and Hydrilla. Both can grow up to 20' from the floor of the river or lake and produce dense foliage at the top that some boats cannot even power through. In the case of the Hydrilla, the long vines can become entangled in our props.

One of their current advocacy efforts is to establish a 'Paddle Trail' which would join overnight camping sites along the river so that paddlers could traverse long lengths of the river much like hiking the Appalachian Trail. They are always looking for volunteers and if you would like to get involved, please email Rhea at: rdrozdenko@ctriver.org . Their website is www.ctriver.org .





United States Power Squadrons®



Hartford Power Squadron

c/o 44 Copplestone Rd., Avon, CT 06001

Commander	Cdr William J. Waseleski, AP	(860) 212-2636
Executive Officer	Lt/C Thomas H. Berlandy, AP	(860) 678-1069
Educational Officer	Lt/C Patrick A. Pabouet, P	(860) 781-7106
Asst. Education Officer	David E. Pero	(860) 680-8880
Admin. Officer	Lt/C James Salvatore, AP	(860) 346-0680
Secretary	Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN	(860) 655-4623
Assistant Secretary	Susan M. Chenard	(860) 830-1281
Treasurer	Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN	(860) 655-4623

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Editor: Lt Jeanne Waseleski (860) 302-2451
auction46@comcast.net

Records: D/Lt Clifford W. McKibbin, SN

Address Service Requested

Hartford Power Squadron's 8th Annual Swap Meet and Craft Show

The Hartford Power Squadron will be hosting its annual boat show and swap meet at West Marine, 1667 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT on Saturday, 18 May 2024.

This family-friendly event will feature cookout-style food as well as items for sale. Not restricted to boats and boating equipment/services. Vendors can showcase locally made crafts, unique jewelry, one-of-a-kind gifts, clothing, tools, and much more!

Vendor reservations are available at only \$25 for a 9x18-foot space.

For more information or to reserve a space, goto:

<https://usps.org/localusps/hartford/>

Free Admission! Eighth Annual

MARINE SWAP MEET & CRAFT SHOW

presented by
HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON

8 A.M. TO 3 P.M. Saturday, May 18, 2024
West Marine, 1667 Boston Post Rd, Old Saybrook, CT
Rain Date: Sunday, May 19, 2024

Bring the kids and have a fun time at this outdoor event!

This family-friendly event will feature cookout-style food as well as items for sale. Not restricted to boats and boating equipment/services. Vendors can showcase locally made crafts, unique jewelry, one-of-a-kind gifts, clothing, tools, and much more! Vendor reservations are still available but going fast at only \$25 for a 9x18-foot space.

For more information or to reserve a space, email: swapmeet@hartfordpowersquadron.com today!

Additionally, members of the Hartford Power Squadron will be available to help boaters access information on our courses, including the basic water safety class that qualifies students to obtain their required certification from the state of Connecticut.

All proceeds will benefit the Hartford Power Squadron's mission to advance boating education, safety, and the camaraderie of recreational boating.