



# RAG-POT

*Kennebec River Sail & Power Squadron's monthly newsletter  
Unit of the United States Power Squadrons*

**FEBRUARY 2016**

## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Winter has finally arrived, and with it the tendency to want to hibernate. But we have things to do! It's time to think about taking a class or attending a dinner, encouraging your bridge to take on new ideas and plans for the coming year. Our year ends at the end of February and with March comes the Change of Watch (no change of officers is anticipated this year, however.) Is there a program that you might want to suggest for a future dinner meeting? Is there a summer activity that you think we should undertake? Be active: contact the commander at [gfiidler@roadrunner.com](mailto:gfiidler@roadrunner.com) and share your thoughts.

Winter is also the time to consider the maintenance and preparation of your boat for the summer season. Is there a long-avoided maintenance issue that needs to be tackled? This is the perfect time; she's out of the water and you are not as busy as you are during the boating season. If it is too cold for your project, this would be the time to plan the timing and supplies that you will need when it does become warm enough to work on her. I find that I forget many of my maintenance items if I don't make a detailed list and this is the time of year that I begin to think about starting it.

And finally, winter is the season to look back at the fun that you had last summer. ....our February program at dinner is positioned to provide the stimulus for those memories. When we have been together on the water, we've had good times!

*Gini Fiedler, Commander*

## **KRSPS CALENDAR**

### **Monday, February 1, 2016**

Exec. Board Meeting  
East Coast Mortgage  
316 Center St. Auburn

### **Friday, February 12, 2016**

6 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner  
Gardiner Lions' Club  
Rt. 201, Gardiner

### **Monday, March 7, 2016**

Exec. Board Meeting  
Hayes Law Offices  
One Weston Ct. Augusta

### **Friday, March 11, 2016**

6 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner  
Rolandau's Restaurant  
755 N. Washington St.  
Auburn

**CHANGE OF WATCH PLUS  
AN  
INTERESTING PROGRAM!**

**DETAILS NEXT MONTH.**

**FUN WITH YOUR FRIENDS AT DINNER FEB. 12!**

## **SAILING IN GREECE** AND OTHER ADVENTURES BY LYNN MECHAM

Back in 2009 a group made up of Kennebec River P.S. members took a little trip across the pond to Athens Greece, this is a chronicle of their adventure. The crew consisted of Bill and Gini Fiedler, John and Lori Horton, And yours truly Lynn and Julie Mecham.

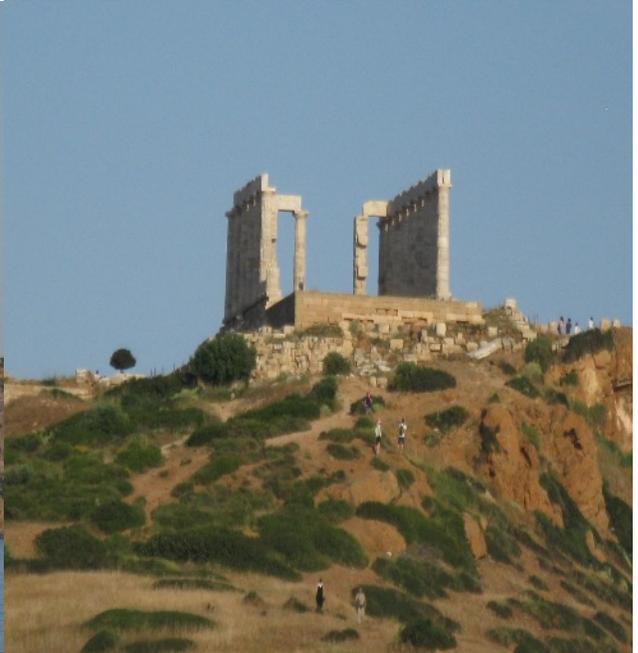


Our trip began the previous week with a land-based tour, so we were in vacation mode before we even got to the boat.

We were taxied to the port from our hotel and dropped off on the dock with little fanfare. The charter company was awaiting our arrival and while the guys did the difficult task of boat orientation, the girls were whisked off to the local super market for provisions. They returned in a short amount of time with a bunch of stuff none of us recognized.

The *Captain Stathis* would be our home for the next week and we planned to use every minute of the time available.

Casting off from a stern tie up is a much easier task than tying up is, but more on that later. Leaving the port of Piraeus at about 1600 we headed out around the breakwater on a SSE course to points yet to be determined. Time and tide limited us to about a 20 mile sail down the coast to a fairly open but well protected harbor for the night. Saunion just happens to be where the temple to the god of the sea, Poseidon, is located on the point overlooking the harbor. One of our crew who has never claimed to be overly religious proclaimed that would be his church of choice. Quiet evening, and beautiful views all around, a beautiful night was had by all. Oh yes and we drank a little bit of Ouzo. More to follow next month.....



## ED'S DOCK BOX

By Ed Jones, AP/IN-C

Do you have a “new” project to attempt on your boat? Do you know how to do it correctly? Most of us don't, so a good source of information is “DIY for Boaters,” complete with videos of HOW TO! Check it out on YouTube/DIY or DIY at [boatingmag.com/how-to/diy-project](http://boatingmag.com/how-to/diy-project). This could save you a lot of aggravation, headaches and \$\$\$\$\$.

Some boaters are cleaning their rub rails (rubber or plastic) with acetone. Beware!! Acetone will break down and destroy the rub rail. To clean it, use Dawn dish liquid or a degreaser applied with a Scotch-brite pad. You may need to apply a little “elbow grease.”

Planning to paint your boat? Apply paint from the keel to the chine so you never need to work under wet paint. This saves you from colored hair, too!

Keep your old shifting cable or gather one from your marina's service center. The old cable makes a great “snake” for routing wires on boats. The cable is flexible, but stiff enough to push through tight areas and can easily makes turns. Sprinkle a little talcum powder on the cable and wires to make the job even easier.

## SAFETY UPDATES

By Ed Jones, AP/IN-C

### **Beware:**

Check your fire extinguishers even when the gauge shows “green.” They may NOT BE SERVICEABLE, even if you have never used them. On the bottom of the cylinder, there is a manufacturer's date. If that date is 10-12 years old, you need to replace the extinguisher. It is your boat—do you want to take a chance? Vessel Safety Examiners will be looking for the dates when inspecting your boat this year.

## EDUCATION UPDATES

By Phyllis Jones, AP/IN

The USPS and State of Maine and NASBLA have approved the State's 10 question test to be included in our ABC 3 classes. The mandatory test will be administered by our ABC instructors, in addition to the ABC 3 exam.

There will be a Power Point presentation for Chapter 2, Section 8 of our ABC 3 course, and I will forward it to the instructors as soon as I receive it.

***IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN THE WEATHER COURSE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.....WE HAVE ONE STUDENT SO FAR.***

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## ***DINNER - FEBRUARY 12, 2016***

**SOCIAL HOUR: 6-7**

**DINNER AT 7**

**BYOB**

**\$15**

**GARDINER LIONS' CLUB**

**(Route 201, behind the Armory)**

**CONTACT HAROLD WOOD FOR YOUR RESERVATION: 623-1926**

**HRWOOD@ROADRUNNER.COM**



**PROGRAM by GARY BAIN:**

**A slide show from our summer cruise  
plus photos from earlier exploits**