

Fall

2020

Schedule of Upcoming District Activities

Page

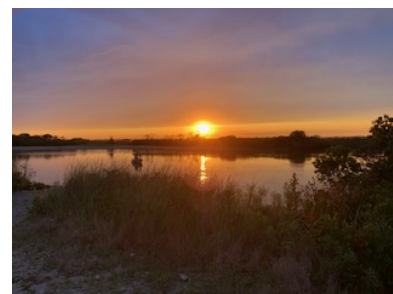
21 November	District Fall Conference has been cancelled	
December	District Holiday Party has been cancelled	4
January	Hartford Boat Show Booth-The Boat Show is on hold	4
Also in this Issue	From the Helm, District Cdr Charles F. Greenbacker, JN	2
	CoOP Charting	2
	Vessel Safety Check	2
	Our Summer Activities	1, 3

A summer of boating alone or in small groups.

District 1 was forced to cancel its Spring and Summer meetings as well as most of its summer activities. The Corona Virus has made many people reluctant to meet in groups.

Some squadrons were able to put on a few small group boating events and everyone enjoyed getting out on the water.

Sunset after clamming in Charlestown, RI.
Photo by Lt/C Charlotte Gregory of the New Britain Squadron.



P/C Nancy Miller, SN and D/Lt/C Peter Jenkin, SN on Puffin II, their Nordic Tug 32, at Battleship Cove in Fall River, with USS Massachusetts in background. It was on the annual NENTOA (Northeast Nordic Tug Owners Association.) cruise in late July.

Photo by Richard Paul.



Continued on Page 3.



From the Helm: Cdr Charles F. Greenbacker, JN

The 2020 boating season was certainly unique! I hope you were able to enjoy your time on the water despite the health concerns and restrictions. For many of us, time spent on or near the water restores our body and soul. This season we needed to be creative boaters. District cruises and get togethers were replaced with small, individual boating activities. It wasn't easy but we did what we needed to do in order to keep our family and friends safe. Hope springs eternal and I hope the 2021 season brings us all back together to enjoy our usual activities.

While Connecticut's Corona Virus positivity rate is better than most states, we are still susceptible to the virus. We had planned to hold the 2020 Fall Conference at Pattaconk Yacht Club with all health concerns properly addressed. While speaking with members and past Commanders, it became clear that many of you were apprehensive to attend. The decision was made to cancel the conference since we probably would not have had a quorum.

The COVID health crisis make planning District activities a nightmare. Indoor social gatherings continue to be restricted to 50% capacity which makes it difficult to secure a venue for the annual Holiday party. It is difficult to enjoy a social occasion indoors while maintaining social distance and wearing masks so the Holiday party will have to wait until December 2021.

The new year 2021 will be here before we know it. Stay positive and let's look forward to better days when we can once again enjoy each other's company on and off the water. Stay safe and be well.

CoOp Charting is a joint effort of the US Coast Guard and the US Power Squadron to help identify issues with Aids to Navigation on America's waterways. The Hartford Power Squadron checked the ATONs (both fixed and buoys) on the CT River on July 18. We kept our masks on, even on the boats, and had no ill-effects from the outing.

We found a dangerous log in the river, 2 buoys that needed paint and 2 that needed numbers repainted. In addition, a leaning fixed ATON on a pole that was reported last year was again reported this year. All of these were reported to the USCG. In general, the buoys were in much better shape this year than they were last year. All of those with missing numbers had been renumbered. No buoys were found to be out of position. In total we reported on 57 ATONs. Fixed ATON's that didn't have a problem are not reported.

If your Squadron would like to get involved in CoOp Charting, please contact P/C Roger Breunig, AP/LM at rsbreunig@sbcglobal.net. It's a lot of fun and helps out the USCG maintain our navigation aids.



The group that surveyed the river L to R: P/Lt/C Roy Bergeron, AP, Lt/C Pat Pabouet, P, Lt/C Tom Berlandy, AP, Lt/C Cliff McKibbin, SN, Carrie Letendre, Ken Letendre, Lt/C Bill Waseleski, AP. Photo by Lt/C Cliff McKibbin, SN.

Vessel Safety Checks

Our National Vessel Safety Check Committee reported earlier in the year that the U.S. Coast Guard issued a "Stand Down Order" for both Auxiliary and USPS examiners. The USCG has subsequently authorized a release of that order on a district-by-district basis. To date, not all districts have been released.

While some Districts did examinations, USPS has waived the requirement that vessel examiners complete five inspections to retain their qualifications for 2020. This one-time amnesty ensures that vessel examiners will not be penalized for complying with the stand down order.



District Summer Activities

District Sail Race, Branford, YC

D/Lt/C Art Andrea, AP and D/Lt/C Peter DePascale, AP participated in the “Branford Invitational” which is part of the ECSA (Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association) race series, held at the Branford YC on 11 July. Art placed first from the District and Peter second.

“TreScooch” with Art at the Helm.



While the Sail Race was the only District Activity that we planned, a lot of you enjoyed the water and took trips. Here are a few of the small group or individual activities.



Left: The Norwich Bridge meeting was ‘socially distanced’.

Right: P/C Peter Collins, AP of the Norwich Squadron with his 1st ever Skipjack Tuna.

Photos by: Cdr RuthAnne Collins, P



Left: Visit to Portland Head Light, in Cape Elizabeth, Maine while camping in Maine. Photo by Cdr Paul Bialecki, P of the New Britain Squadron.

Right: Paul and Charlotte’s “Pelican’s Pouch” ready for its winter cover at Chester Point Marina. Photo by Lt/C Charlotte Gregory.



The Waterbury Power Squadron enjoyed its traditional Memorial Day Rendezvous at Hamburg Cove. Poor weather at the beginning of the weekend plus Corona Virus concerns held down the attendance somewhat but members enjoyed rafting up while observing social distancing.

Some of the boats in attendance. Photo by P/C Wes Quigley, III, AP

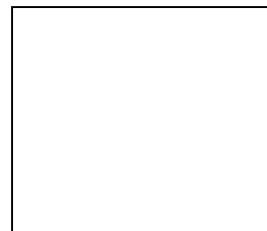


Major CT Marina chain changes hands

D/Lt/C Art Andrea, AP provided an article reporting that Sun Communities, a real estate trust based in Southfield, MI has announced the purchase of 104 marinas in 22 states, including 18 marinas across CT and RI. The marinas were previously owned and operated by Dallas based Safe Harbor Marinas and we know many of the CT and RI Marinas as the former Brewer marinas.

River Potts, chief operation officer of Safe Harbor and the former president and CEO of Brewer Yacht Yard Group in Essex said that ‘They’re going to let us run the company in the way that we’ve done in the past few years but that we will have more capital for buying marinas and improving the ones we have.’”





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Photos: Cdr Bill Bonney, AP

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Hartford Boat Show Booth

Currently, the management of the Hartford Boat Show is unsure whether they will hold the annual boat show next January. Corona Virus is the 1st issue and supply is the second. They tell us there are far fewer boats available to show and parts are impossible.

As we get more information on the show we will broadcast via email the additional information including our plans and how to sign up to help out.

D/C Charles Greenbacker, JN opens the 2020 Booth.
Photo by Cdr RuthAnne Collins, P



District Holiday Party

We were hoping to hold our annual Holiday Party but as the infection and hospitalization rates are increasing again in Connecticut, we are going to have to hold off on scheduling the party.

We had a big turnout last year.
Photo by P/D/Lt/C Cliff McKibbin, SN

