

the Bilge Pump

BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF DISTRICT 1

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON



Volume 86 Issue 6

February 2024

*"A Surprise Rainbow
on the Horizon"*

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13 February	Executive Committee Meeting - Century Spring Mfg. 6 pm	
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18 May	Marine Swap Meet & Craft Show - West Marine parking lot Old Saybrook, CT	4
Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities		
03-12 February	USPS Annual Meeting Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando, FL	
16 March	District Spring Conference Pequabuck Golf Club Terryville, CT	
08 June	June Rendezvous Middlesex Yacht Club Chester, CT	
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At the Helm

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

Ahoy All,

We just finished working our booth at the Hartford Boat Show at the Mohegan Sun Casino, and I'd like to thank all who helped set up and staff this event. The list includes Pat Pabouet, Gene Lewis, Henry Mikuki, Don & Joan Leal, Tom Berlandy, Peter Berlandy, Ken Letendre, Rob Goldstein, Capt. Rich Fortunato, Jim Salvatore, Mike Salvatore, & Jeanne Waseleski. We set up the Boating Simulator at our booth this year & it attracted a lot of attention. We had many visitors, and invited them to our Boat Show/ Swap Meet in May; to take our ABC classes; and the new Marine Navigation Class. We're on course to have an outstanding year!!

The Trivia Contest at our January 23rd member meeting at the Olympia Diner unfortunately had to be canceled due to inclement weather. We will reschedule it for a future meeting.

Rhea Drozdenko from the Connecticut River Conservancy will be our presenter at our February 27th Member Meeting. She will tell us more about their work bringing people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote the enjoyment of the river and its tributary streams.

Our Marine Swap Meet & Craft Show is on May 18th, located in the West Marine parking lot in Old Saybrook. It is moving full steam ahead! Get your space now before they are sold out. Just Google "Hartford Power Squadron" and click on <https://usps.org/localusps/hartford/> to buy a space.

Tickets for our "All Cash Raffle" will go on sale on February 18th. First prize is \$500. You can purchase tickets from any ExCom member, or contact our raffle chairman Tim Tyler, at otimtyler@gmail.com.

The District is planning activities for 2024, let me know any ideas you have. We need your input to make our squadron better.

Remember "Life Is Better on the Boat"

May you have fair winds and following seas!

Cdr Bill Waseleski, AP

JANUARY 18 –21, 2024

Thank you to all Squadron Members who helped staff our Booth!



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 tour 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.

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, email: swapmeet@hartfordpowersquadron.com today!

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.





Member Meetings and Events

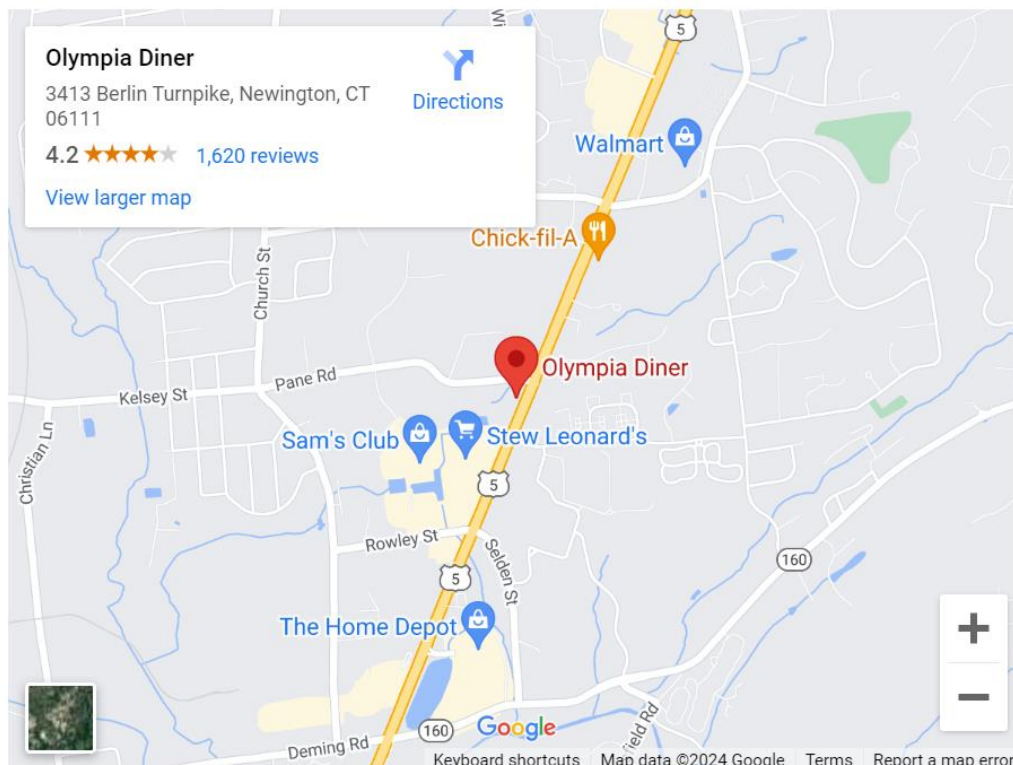


The Hartford Power Squadron holds seven member meetings during the year. These meetings are primarily social with each having a program of general interest to boaters. Members get to talk with fellow boaters about their boating experiences and many life-long friendships have been kindled among our members.

The Annual Meeting in March is an important meeting for all members. It includes reports by the outgoing Bridge officers, the approval of the budget, and the election of officers for the coming year. All members are encouraged to attend to help set the direction of the squadron for the new year.

The Change of Watch gives us a chance to celebrate the past year and install the new Bridge Officers. We give out awards to the outgoing Bridge and other members who have contributed their time and effort over the year. We always enjoy an excellent meal and a lot of fun.

The meetings are open to all members, guests, and prospective members and are generally scheduled at 6:30 on the 4th Tuesday of selected months. The meetings are held at the Olympia Diner in Newington.





Hartford Power Squadron
 c/o 44 Coplestone 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

February 27, 2024 Members' Meeting “Protecting Clean Water, Restoring Healthy Rivers” with Rhea Drozdenko

Please join us and our presenter Rhea Drozdenko, River Steward in the Connecticut River Conservancy, to learn what is being done to clean up and protect our Connecticut rivers.

This is sure to be a fun and informative night out!

About our presenter:



Rhea joined the CRC team in August 2022. Before joining CRC, she worked as a community engagement professional in higher education – getting students more involved in the community and creating programming for local K-12 students. Community engagement has been an integral part of both her personal and professional life – and she tries to volunteer whenever she can.

Rhea holds a BA in Sociology with a Civic Engagement Certificate, as well as a MALS in Social Sciences from Wesleyan University. She has lived in Connecticut for most of her life, and she loves exploring the lovely gems this state has to offer. She can often be found reading a book in a hammock along the Connecticut River, experimenting with different baking recipes, or listening to live music.

Meeting time and place:

Cost: \$20 for dinner with a cash bar at 6:30 pm. The meeting starts at 7:15 pm

Place: Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT

Reservations: Contact **Jim Salvatore** at jimsall@comcast.net.