

the Bilge Pump

BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON

A UNIT OF DISTRICT 1

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON

Volume 86 Issue 5

January 2024

“Long narrow fingers, warmer weather, and docks humming with boaters”

William Waseleski

Schedule of Upcoming Squadron Activities

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09 January	Executive Committee Meeting - Century Spring Mfg 6pm	3
23 January	Members Meeting- Olympia Diner Newington, CT 6:30pm	
18 May	Marine Swap Meet & Craft Show West Marine parking lot Old Saybrook, CT	

Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities

18-21 January	Hartford Boat Show Mohegan Sun Uncasville, CT
03-12 February	USPS Annual Meeting Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando, FL
16 March	District Spring Conference Pequabuck Golf Club Terryville, CT

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At the Helm

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

Ahoy All,

I hope you all had a Happy Holiday Season. We're off to a Great New Year!

Our Holiday Party at the Middletown Elks Club was a big success.

We had the best turnout in several years, nearly 60 people in attendance. Chef Mike served us an excellent buffet dinner. Kara's Meatballs were exceptionally good, there were no leftovers! Steve Kazlauskas entertained us with "Echoes of Sinatra". The YETI coffee mug was the prize to be had at our Yankee Swap- it was stolen & passed around several times!

We have lots of activities in the works. Our squadron will have a booth at the Hartford Boat Show at the Mohegan Sun Casino, January 18-21. Come on down, check out the new boats and accessories & say hello.

We are doing our Trivia Contest once again at our January 23rd Member Meeting at the Olympia Diner. Steve Petty will be our host, with Boating, General Knowledge, & Musical Trivia questions. Come enjoy a nice dinner and evening of fun. The festivities will start at 6:30PM.

At our February 20th Member Meeting, Rhea Drozdenko from the Connecticut River Conservancy will be speaking about the work that they do.

Our Marine Swap Meet & Craft Show is on May 18th in the West Marine parking lot in Old Saybrook. We pushed the date out a month, to May, for warmer weather. We were generously offered the new location by Heather Moher, the West Marine store manager, also a member of the New Haven Squadron. The new location has easy access and is well known by the boating public. Vendor spaces are still only \$25 and the Hartford Squadron will be "doing the cooking" this year.

This year's meet will be better than ever. It's free to attend, but if you have a Boat, Marine Accessories, or craft items you would like to sell, go to our website (www.hartfordpowersquadron.org) and get a space now .

We'll be running our ABC classes again on March 9th and again on May 4th, at the Bristol Library. The class will be FREE for any person who joins our squadron as a New Member at the class and \$60 for nonmembers. Please tell your friends. Members can audit the class, just to brush up on their boating knowledge. Any member interested in auditing the class should contact Cliff McKibbin (cliff15.mckibbin@comcast.net) or Pat Pabouet (Argus06108@aol.com). The cost to audit the class is \$10 as lunch will be provided.

We will also be offering the Marine Navigation Course for the first time in several years. We are doing it in "3-Saturday classes" at our new instructor, Captain Rich Fortunato's, place of business, 99 Old Brickyard Rd., Kensington, CT. The first class will begin 3/30/24, 9:00AM – 3:00PM.

Our District Spring Conference will be held on March 16, 2024, at the Pequabuck Golf Club, in Terryville, CT. We have an excellent presentation lined up about the sinking of the Research Vessel "Sea Survivor". The Mulligans Grill will be providing a top-notch buffet lunch. Stay tuned for more details in the Sounds of One.

You know, you can't buy happiness but you can go Boating!

May you have fair winds and following seas!

Happy New Year!

Cdr Bill Waseleski, AP

Education Department

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We are excited to announce our 2024 Spring course schedule that includes both ABC and Marine Navigation (formerly Piloting). All of 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, is currently a NASBLA BOAT Program Instructor and a 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 on-line 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 BOAT SHOW BOOTH

The Hartford Squadron has signed up to sponsor a booth at the **2024 Hartford Boat Show**. It will be held at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT Thursday, January 18th through Sunday, January 21st, 2024.

Booth participants get in free. If you are interested in signing up for a 3-4 hour time slot, or have any questions regarding the show, please contact Hartford Cdr Bill Waseleski at commander@hartfordpowersquadron.com.



DISTRICT HOLIDAY PARTY! 09 DECEMBER, 2023



Toys for Tots Donations



Great Conversation



Yankee Swapping



Entertainment



Elf



Although we are not in mid-summer, the following article gives us a heads-up for the ‘rules of navigation’. A good time when there is less stress and time to ‘refresh’ in the winter months.



America's Boating Channel Reminder: Knowledge of the Navigation Rules Helps Prevent Boating Accidents



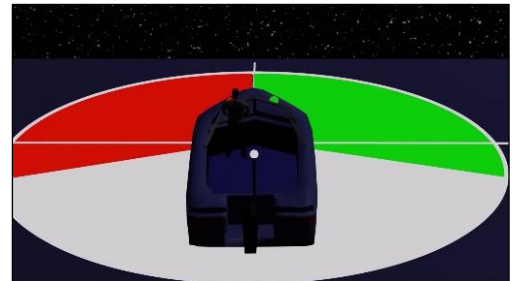
As we prepare to celebrate July Fourth, don't forget that knowledge of the rules of navigation helps prevent boating accidents. If you need a refresher before getting out on the water, you can access an invaluable library of videos produced by America's Boating Channel. These videos are available to USPS members to view and download for free at bit.ly/USPSABC. There is an index to help you find exactly what you need, which is very convenient for

instructors who want to use these videos in the classroom without the need for an internet connection.

For example, Season Four's "[Behavioral Consequences](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWq-jshx8yU&t=44s)" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWq-jshx8yU&t=44s>) video covers the importance to recreational boat operators of having a working knowledge of the navigation rules. Viewers learn about the dangers of not following the rules of the road. Also featured are tips for responsible boating. Boating responsibly can lead to lasting memories, while bad boating behaviors can cause issues ranging from mere embarrassment to major catastrophe.

America's Boating Channel™ produced a sequel to this video in Season Five titled "[Collision Avoidance](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cXv6s7wqjE&t=1s)"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cXv6s7wqjE&t=1s>), which covers the most basic and essential navigation rules. Viewers learn how to determine stand-on and give-way vessels in various circumstances. It also features tips for steering clear of potentially dangerous situations. For example, at night not using navigation lights or not learning how to interpret them can lead to incidents with more serious outcomes than during the day. Again, these two videos are good refreshers before visiting your local waterway at a time of year when it will be most crowded.



You can follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which also are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel on-demand app on Roku or FireTV. [America's Boating Channel™](https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

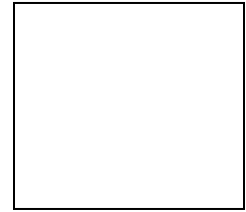


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United States Power Squadrons



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**01-23-24 HPS Member Meeting
Trivia with Steve Petty**

Join us at the Olympia Diner Newington, CT
Cost: \$20 for Dinner with a Cash Bar at 6:30p.

Challenge your knowledge of Boating, General Knowledge, and Musical Trivia!

Reservations: Contact **Jim Salvatore** at jimsal1@comcast.net
Trivia starts at 7:15p

