

THE CHAMPLAIN BREEZE

WINOOSKI VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON INC.
VERMONT UNIT OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS, INC.®

MAY/JUNE 2006



Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron Summer Picnic

Saturday, June 17
Button Bay State Park
11:00 a.m.

Join us for our summer picnic at Button Bay State Park on Saturday, June 17 – RAIN OR SHINE! This is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends and spend time with old friends in a relaxed, family setting. Please invite family, friends and potential members to join us. The menu includes hamburgers, hot dogs, soda. Utensils and condiments will be provided by the squadron. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share.

Cost: \$5.00 per adult
\$2.00 per child

To reach Button Bay State Park:

Follow Route 22A through Vergennes. Just past the bridge, turn right onto Panton Road. It becomes Sand Road. Turn right at Jersey Road (Webster Road). Bear left onto Button Bay Road. Watch for the park on your left. There are directional signs along the way.

Check in with the Park Ranger and come to the pavilion at the end of the road. The park has a \$2.50 admission fee and a B.Y.O.B policy. You can drink your own, but you cannot give any to anyone else.

We need a head count for ordering food. Please contact Commander Bob Baker at 802-235-1285 to let him know that you plan to attend. Checks should be made payable to Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron and mailed to Bob Baker at 159 Garron Road, Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757.

Deadline for reservations is May 31st.

Hope to see you at the picnic!

A complete schedule of Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron events through March 2007 is inside this issue. Please support your squadron and attend as many events as possible. We need your help to be a successful squadron.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

By this time everyone should be almost finished with pre-launch preparations. Have a happy and safe boating season.

The Squadron is a team. If every member will help with one event we can all have fun and all events will be well organized. We are asking you to spend several hours to help with one event per year so that all events are well attended and fun for everyone.

Every member should have received the invitation for our first get together The Squadron Picnic on June 17 at Button Bay State Park is a family affair, so don't be bashful about bringing guests, children and potential members. Those who've volunteered for set-up assistance should arrive at least 30 minutes early and of course those assisting with clean-up will be extending their stay to complete clean-up.

New larger burgees are on the way. The first time we will use/display the new burgee is June 17, 2006. We will take orders and sell the first 5 at the picnic. Come out to the picnic and look for the Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron burgee.

The Squadron Raft-up is July 15, 2006 at Kingsland Bay. Bring a picnic lunch and join the group. All size boats are welcome.

What is a "predicted log"? Can you predict the time it will take you to navigate a given course? Can you navigate the course accurately according to your prediction without a clock, watch or GPS, etc? The boat that navigates the predicted course (log) closest to the predicted time is the winner. We need a small committee to set up the course, distribute the information to all interested parties. We will need an observer for each boat participating in the event and a small committee to calculate the winner(s). Is there any interest in a predicted log?

Winooski Valley is hosting the District 19 Fall Conference, November 3, 4, 5 2006 at the Rutland Holiday Inn on Route 7. If you've never attended a district conference, this is an ideal time and location to do so. Enjoy meeting with

other boating enthusiasts after the "toys" have been safely stored for the winter. This is a big event for the Squadron to sponsor. We certainly want it to be successful. The conference is an ideal time to offer your help. Perhaps you could handle registration on Friday night or Saturday morning. Can you help with decorations for the evening dinner or perhaps with the hospitality suite on Saturday afternoon. Items suitable to raffle are needed. Beverages of all types are needed for the hospitality suite. Please contact me if you would like more information or want to volunteer to help us with this conference.

Cdr. Bob Baker

WHEN THE CAPTAIN IS DOWN --- THE ADMIRAL MUST TAKE OVER



A conversation with a sailing couple at the recent Vermont Boat Show revived a topic that comes up frequently among serious boaters, but is usually relegated to the bilges during the short boating season here. The topic is this:

If the captain falls overboard or is incapacitated, what does the crew need to know how to do?

Interviews with boaters reveal that all too often the sole crew is the woman on board, who may have left most boat operations to the captain.

A few years ago the Cruising Club of America, which operates a Suddenly Alone seminar, sent questionnaires to 1,100 women members asking wives about their main concerns. These were experienced sailors with many basic skills, not beginners. As a result, here is a suggested list of skills the "suddenly alone" crew member should master:

1. Locate a life jacket and put it on.
2. Clip on to a jackline or strong point that will hold your weight if you fall or are

thrown overboard. Sailors are more likely to “clip in”, especially at night or during rough passages.

3. If a sailboat, know how to raise, lower and reef sails.
4. Start and run the engine.
5. Use the autopilot, if there is one.
6. Locate an appropriate place to anchor, know appropriate scope, and know how to handle ground tackle, particularly on larger boats with a windlass.
7. Deploy and retrieve the anchor.
8. Rig fenders and docking lines, including bow, stern and spring lines.
9. Dock the boat, including backing it, in various conditions.
10. Know how to use the VHF radio and procedures for calling for help.

Based on my own worst experience as a single-hander -- a Mayday in Georgia while water was pouring into the hull because the prop shaft had fallen out, and a violent thunderstorm was hitting -- it is also a good idea to know how to read the latitude and longitude of a GPS aboard (or find your position on charts). The first question the Coast Guard asks is: Are you wearing your personal flotation device? Soon after they'll want to know your position, so help can be dispatched.

This story had an okay ending. The rescue helicopter showed up, and so did a tow boat. It pumped the bilges—the floorboards were floating by now—and we were able to crawl below and pound a wooden plug into the hole.

One woman at the Suddenly Alone seminar raised this question: If he has a heart attack, what do I do first? Administer CPR, lower the main, or call the Coast Guard?

Food for thought.

Dave Schaefer, Secretary

USPS offers a Learning Guide entitled, “Skipper Saver”. This helpful guide will help you prepare for emergency situations and feel better prepared to deal with them. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact our Educational Officer, Richard Lednicky at 802-985-8151.



The award of a Merit Mark by the Chief Commander, a sincere “Thank You”, sometimes even a pat on the back and the satisfaction gained from helping others are generally the only pay received for services rendered to the squadron, district and/or USPS®.

It arrived a little late this year but, Pay Day did arrive. I have been advised that the Chief Commander approved recommendations for Merit Marks for the following members of our squadron:

Robert E. Baker, Jr.
Ron Deane
Franklin R. Fisler
Paul A. Leible
Robert S. Sanford
Ronald J. Senecal
James W. Spencer, Jr.
Sylvia B. Stebbins
Laurence E. Thomson

Peter C. Brownell
Gerry DesMarais
Richard Lednicky
John D. Mitiguy
David A. Schaefer
Jannette Spencer
Everett W. Stebbins
Roderick M. Tarte
John L. Vergin

Again, my sincerest thanks and those of our members to each of you for your willing participation, contribution of talent, time and in several cases, considerable travel and expense for the squadron. All are greatly appreciated.

P/D/C Everett W. Stebbins, AP

SAFE BOATING WEEK DVD CREATED BY WINOOSKI VALLEY MEMBERS BROADCAST IN VERMONT

Members of the Winooski Valley Squadron created and distributed a DVD to 19 public access stations across Vermont to be aired during Safe Boating Week. The DVD opens with an introduction of USPS and the Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron and information about our Public Boating Course. The 2nd National Safe Boating Test is then given.

Congratulations to the following squadron members who worked on this video: **Jim and Jan Spencer, Everett Stebbins, Larry Thomson, Bob Baker, and Peter Brownell.**

DISTRICT 19 SPRING CONFERENCE PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE

The District 19 Conference was a very successful and enjoyable event. Members from Winooski Valley who traveled to the far northeast corner of our district were treated to the sightings of moose and bears while driving home!

Winooski Valley received several awards at the conference. The photos on this page show us accepting the awards for:

- Distinction in Journalism for 2004-2005 The Champlain Breeze
- 2005 Website Award for website design, information, ease of use, content and the dissemination of the spirit of the United States Power Squadrons. Special thanks to **Peter Brownell** for his hard work on our web site.
- Muster Bowl – the first time that Winooski Valley has received this award in its 50 year history.

The Muster Bowl is awarded to the squadron in the District who exhibits the greatest number of functions during the year with the highest number of participants based on a percentage of membership.

Programming at this spring conference included breakout sessions on constructing and presenting Power Point presentations, forecasting weather, digital cameras, cooperative charting, homeland security discussions with Capt. Stephen Garrity the Vice Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern New England, and vessel safety checks. Several conference attendees had the opportunity to tour the Caribou, Maine weather station.

The highlight of the evening program was a live auction facilitated by Steve Richard of the Aroostook Valley Sail and Power Squadron. His sense of humor and lively

interaction with the group had many of us in tears from laughter. It was truly a wonderful conference.



Stf/C James Spencer and P/D/C Everett Stebbins with the Muster Bowl won by Winooski Valley.



Stf/C James Spencer, P/D/Lt/C Jannette Spencer, P/D/Lt Sylvia Stebbins, and P/D/C Everett Stebbins with the awards for journalism and the website presented at the District 19 Spring Conference in Presque Isle, ME.

The next conference is being hosted here in Vermont by our squadron. This will be a tough act to follow so we need the support of our members to both develop the program and to help host the event.

Please volunteer to help with some aspect of the fall conference. To learn more, contact Cdr. Bob Baker or P/D/C Everett Stebbins. There will be many jobs – large and small – that will need our attention.

Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron Schedule of Events for 2006-2007

- June 17, 2006** Squadron Picnic at Button Bay State Park under the pavilion. 11 am – 4 pm
Rain or shine. A family event – invite families, friends and potential members.
- June 19, 2006** Executive Committee Meeting – Coast Guard Station Burlington “Mess” at
7:00 pm. All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.
- July 15, 2006** Squadron Raft Up. 11 am – 4 pm at Kingsland Bay State Park.
Joint event with the Champlain Power Squadron from New York State.
- August 15, 2006** Predicted Log – to be determined by member interest.
- September 9, 2006** Fall Rendezvous/Picnic/Raft Up. Location to be determined. Possibly
Kingsland Bay. Wooden boat show location. Family event.
- September 20, 2006** Executive Committee Meeting at 7 pm. Rosie’s Restaurant and Coffee Shop,
Middlebury. Dinner meeting at Table 30. Members and spouses are invited.
- October 14, 2006** Last Hurrah! Dinner and cruise on the Ethan Allen or the Northern Lights.
Deadline for reservations will be September 1 because of cruise ship
reservation requirements. Children and friends are included in the invitation.
- October 7, 2006** Executive Committee Meeting – Coast Guard Station Burlington at 7:00 pm
All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.
- November 21, 2006** Executive Committee Meeting at 7 pm. Rosie’s Restaurant and Coffee Shop,
Middlebury. Dinner meeting at Table 30. Members and spouses are invited.
- December 9, 2006** Christmas Party – combined event with Champlain Squadron from New York.
Alternately host with Champlain—held in Vermont one year, New York the next.
- December 19, 2006** Executive Committee Meeting – Coast Guard Station Burlington at 7:00 pm
All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.
- January 2007** Boat Show Trip to New York City. Joint event with participants from Winooski
Valley, Champlain Squadron and Lake George Squadron if enough interest.
- January 16, 2007** Executive Committee Meeting at 7 pm. Rosie’s Restaurant and Coffee Shop,
Middlebury. Dinner meeting at Table 30. Members and spouses are invited.
- February 3, 2007** Founder’s Day. We will recognize those who have completed courses or
worked very hard for the squadron during the year. Location TBD.
- February 20, 2007** Executive Committee Meeting – Coast Guard Station Burlington at 7:00 pm
All members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.
- March 17, 2007** Change of Watch – Location to be determined.

[Directions to Rosie’s Restaurant and Coffee Shop – Take Route 7 south through Middlebury.
Rosie’s is on the right as you leave Middlebury.]

WINOOSKI VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON CONTACT INFORMATION:

COMMANDER

Robert E. Baker, Jr., S (802) 235-1285 email: creweldragon@yahoo.com

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

Richard J. Lednicky, AP (802) 985-8151 email: a.andizam@verizon.net

TREASURER

Ronald J. Senecal (802) 483-4351 email: ronofvt@vermontel.com

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Remember to mark your calendar – we need your support and participation!



P/D/Lt/C Jannette Spencer, JN
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