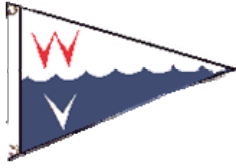


THE CHAMPLAIN BREEZE



Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron Inc.
Vermont Unit of
United States Power Squadrons, Inc.®

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007



“A Mariner’s Weekend” Four District Conference Held at The Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA

Since the mid 1990’s there have been three previous multi-district conferences in the northeast involving Districts 12, 14, 18 and 19. All of these conferences were hugely successful and well attended. The Woods Hole Four District Conference, held from 9-11 November continued that tradition with a plus.

We are all aware of recent changes in our National organization’s structure to streamline and reduce expense. One such expense is the conduction of Operational Committee or OCOM meetings. This is analogous to squadron and district executive committee meetings, but on a national scale. Traditionally, district conferences have had attendance from one OCOM person representing the Chief Commander. Our Four District event allowed OCOM to schedule their regular meeting in Woods Hole and the entire Operating Committee to attend our conference and to interact with members at the conference from four northeast districts.

Saturday’s seminars included such programs as “Global Warming – Fact or Fiction, Naval Architecture – Perspectives for the Recreational Boater, Trends in Digital Charting, Navigation through the Ages, Biological Camouflage – Nature’s Way of Hiding, and Boat Operator Certification.” On Sunday, there was a town meeting style gathering where the entire national bridge and the remaining members of OCOM addressed member questions in an open forum. Many of us who have had the opportunity to attend national meeting know that our national officers are simply members like us. This open forum allowed many members who previously had been unable to attend a national meeting to meet the national bridge members face to face and a wonderful opportunity to hear from them and to share ideas.

At District 19’s Conference meeting, our amended District bylaws were discussed and with minor adjustments, accepted. A mission statement was also adopted.

District 19 was one of only four districts in the whole of USPS to be awarded the Bowsprit for achieving several nationally set goals.

- Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron, along with the other nine squadrons in D/19 received a certificate of achievement in recognition of this award.
- Winooski Valley also received our 14th certificate in recognition of our participation in the Education Fund.

Check out D/19’s web page for photos at: www.usps.org/localusps/d19/gallery1.html

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Holiday Greetings

Let me wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season. Everyone is rushing around with too much to do and too little time to do it. Try to remember that the season came and went last year and most everything that needed to get done did get done. Stop once in a while and look up, look around and enjoy the sight, sound, and smell of the season.

This year we will have our Holiday Party during late January. The information that I have at this time indicates that it will be a weekend party, either Saturday or Sunday and it will be held in the Plattsburgh, New York area with the Champlain Squadron. They rent a room at a hotel/motel with a pool. Activities during the day include contests such as throwing a life ring for distance and accuracy. LET'S SHOW CHAMPLAIN SQUADRON THAT WE CAN TURN OUT IN RESPECTABLE NUMBERS. Winooski Valley will hold the party next year. **Watch our web site for details and times.**

Between January and April, we are planning to teach the USPS seminars Using VHF Radio and DSC/VHF Radio, Using GPS, Onboard Weather Forecasting, and Boat Handling Under Power. The first series will be at West Marine and the second series will be at the boat show in February. We need help this year to staff our booth at the boat show and teach the seminars. Both of these events expose our squadron to the general public. Remember our main message is "We are the largest group offering marine education." There will be additional courses for our members offered this year, so watch for announcements from our education department.

The pot luck dinner in October went very well. Look for the report about all the activities on our web site. The squadron decided to adjust our membership dues to reflect the pattern established by National. We will have two categories of dues: Single, for those needing it and Family for all others. We want to include all family members in our activities and the family membership will help do that.

We will have a tri-fold display for the boat show(s) etc. The center section will be 4x4 and the two sides 2x4. The color will be blue felt. All information will be attached using the hook and loop or sandpaper. Our booth will include the large Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron burgee, the USPS flag, the banner, and additional announcements and folders. This year West Marine will be donating an inflatable boat for our raffle.

Cdr. Bob Baker



DID YOU KNOW?

The Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron website has an amazing amount of information for you right at your fingertips?

Did you know that you can find:

- Links to the Lake Marine Forecast and Wind and Temperature forecasts
- Links to yacht club web sites
- Links to USPS National web site
- The Port Captain's Guide
- A Virtual Self Evaluation for Vessel Safety Checks and contact information for VSC examiners
- Activities Calendar for the squadron
- Links to the US Coast Guard web site
- Vermont Boating Rules and Regulations
- Photo Album
- EPIRB Usage
- Descriptions of USPS courses that are available.
- Current and past issues of The Champlain Breeze.

Our web master, Peter Brownell has produced an award-winning website to help keep members informed. Check out the site at:

www.wvsps.com

Winooski Valley Sail & Power Squadron Awarded the Roger Upton Award at the Norfolk National Meeting

Let's face it, Winooski Valley squadron and USPS seem to be unknown in our community in spite of our attempts to turn that around. In Vermont, we are fortunate to have a Public Access television opportunity where local, non-professionals can receive air time. Our Executive Committee was receptive and supported an idea to create a video to be viewed on public access TV across Vermont. LCATV was contacted and helped with equipment, technical, copy and distribution support.

We used this opportunity to create a script and engage members of Winooski Valley as players. Utilizing the USPS 2nd National Safe Boating Test video as a backdrop, WVSPS content was created and added to introduce the USPS video and to follow up at the end with more description of USPS and WVSPS. A DVD was created and mailed to 19 Public Access station across Vermont. It played on many of them and you may have seen it.

National's PR Committee annually evaluates contributions from across USPS and our video was entered in the video competition know as the Roger Upton Award. **Our squadron entry was awarded first place** at the Norfolk Governing Board meeting. There is another such opportunity we may need help with in spring 2008.



Jim and Jan Spencer with the Roger Upton Award.

October Pot Luck Dinner Program

Erick Tichonuk, Museum Replica Coordinator, for the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum was the guest speak for our Pot Luck Dinner at the Champlain Marina. His presentation described the Grand Canal Journey of the Lois McClure from Lake Champlain, through the Champlain Canal and the Erie Canal. It was a wonderful program and as always the food was amazing!



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

We have an exciting year ahead of us. First, is the Boat Operator Certification Program. The program would certify USPS members at various levels of recreational boating proficiency. The United States Coast Guard has asked Congress to pass legislation that would effectively require all boaters to be certified. Also, although the United States has not yet signed, the United Nations has passed Resolution 40, *International Certificate for the Operation of Pleasure Craft*, which would require the same for all boaters in international waters. The USPS program would meet or exceed the Coast Guard or United Nation requirements.

There are four levels of certification: Inland Navigator, Coastal Navigator, Advanced Coastal Navigator, and Offshore Navigator. To be certified, a member must be at least 16 years of age, be mentally and physically capable of operating a boat, and have sufficient visual and auditory sensory ability to do so. Holding a drivers license will suffice to certify meeting these requirements.

The other requirements are completion of USPS courses prescribed for each level, completion of USPS seminars prescribed for each level, and a skill demonstration showing that the individual has demonstrated prescribed skills on the water or in certain cases, on land.

For example, an Inland Navigator certifies the member for:

- Boat operations in rivers, canals, small lakes, and protected waters within 2 nm of shore
- Using the members own boat up to 8M (26.2 feet) LOA
- Operation during daylight hours with good visibility and fair weather
- Winds not to exceed Force 4 (16 Kt or 18 mph)
- Waves not to exceed 1 meter (3.1 Ft)

As an Inland Navigator you would need to complete the following courses and seminars:

- A NASBLA approved boating course
- Seamanship
- Engine Maintenance
- The Marine Electrical Systems or completing Marine Electronics 101

- How to Chart seminar or completing Piloting
- Onboard Weather Forecasting seminar or completing Weather
- Using GPS seminar or completing Advanced Piloting
- Using VHF and DSC/VHF Radio seminar or completing Marine Electronics 102

And, an Inland Navigator must also demonstrate on the water skills and the use of fire extinguishers. There are also optional endorsements such as: IW (navigating rivers, dams, and locks), PAD (paddling), and SA (sailing).

Jim Spencer and I have been trained as certifiers. So, we can certify you right here on Lake Champlain as soon as you are ready. If interested in this program please fill out the enclosed survey.

Secondly, we are offering four seminars on the third Tuesday of the months of January, February, March, and April at West Marine from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The seminars are:

- "Using VHF Radio and DSC/VHF Radio" (January)
- "Using GPS" (February)
- "Onboard Weather Forecasting" (March)
- "Boat Handling Under Power" (April)

Again if interested in any of these seminars please fill out the enclosed survey.

Thirdly, we are offering "Seamanship" in May to be followed by "Piloting" in the fall 2007 and "Advanced Piloting" in the spring 2008. In the summer of 2008 we are offering "Sail" 101 and 102. Once again, if interested fill out the survey.

Fourth, we are offering "Instructor Development" or "ID Recertification" in January and February. Fill out the survey if you are interested.

Lastly, all of these courses and programs are contingent on membership interest. So please fill out the enclosed survey. It is very important for you to do so, so we can continue to offer the best for our membership.

Lt/C Richard J. Lednický, SEO

**Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
SURVEY**

Name: _____ Current Rank: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

This survey is in five parts. Please complete all parts (A,B,C, D & E)

A. Please circle all the courses you would like to take:

Advanced Grades Courses:

Seamanship and Boat Handling

Piloting

Advanced Piloting

Junior Navigation

Navigation

Electives:

Cruise Planning

Basic and Advanced Engine Maintenance

Instructor Development

Marine Electronics

Basic and Advanced Sail

Basic and Advanced Weather

B. Please circle all the seminars you would like to take:

Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio

Using GPS

How to Use a Chart

Onboard Weather Forecasting

Boat Handling Under Power

Sail Trim and Rig Tuning

Available Soon:

Knots for Mariners

Onboard Emergencies

Using Digital Charts

Heavy Weather Sailing

C. Please circle all the courses or seminars that you are willing to teach:

Seamanship and Boat Handling

Piloting

Advanced Piloting

Junior Navigation

Navigation

Cruise Planning

**EDUCATION SURVEY
CONTINUED:**

Basic and Advanced Engine
Maintenance

Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine
Radio

Instructor Development

Using GPS

Marine Electronics

How to Use a Chart

Basic and Advanced Sail

Onboard Weather Forecasting

Basic and Advanced Weather

Boat Handling Under Power

Sail Trim and Rig Tuning

NONE

D. Do you want a Boat Operator's Certificate?

Yes _____

Maybe _____

**E. Please note any other interests or comments relating to participation in Winooski
Sail and Power Squadron activities: (i.e., more rendezvous, serving on the
Bridge, more programs, etc.)**

Please detach this page and return this survey to:

**Lt/C Richard J. Lednicky, AP, SEO
P.O. Box 787
Shelburne, VT 05482**



USPS MEMBERSHIP What's in it for you?

The Education Department survey talks about the breadth of courses available to members. Do you know about the other membership benefits that are yours as a member of USPS? The following information is taken from the USPS member benefits flyer. As you will see, the cost savings in boat insurance alone, may be enough to cover the cost of your membership dues!

Members save Money . . .

... **Up to a 23% discount ON YOUR BOAT INSURANCE** (20% based on courses completed and another 3% for a Vessel Safety Check)

Enjoy Special Organizational Discounts on valuable services:

- Boat U.S. Membership
- Infocus LCD
- Ensign Magazine
- Discountech/Microsoft Software
- Dell Computer (10%)
- C-Map
- West Marine
- McGraw Hill On-line Bookstore
- John Hancock Long Term Care Insurance
- Rosepoint Navigation Software
- Maptech® Software and Charts
- Nobeltec® Software, Charts, Tides & Currents
- Soundings Magazine
- USPS® Port Captains
- Tax deduction on dues and some travel expenses
- Hamilton Marine

Members Helping Members

Port Captains Program provides members with travel tips & local information when traveling in unfamiliar areas.

Opportunities for FUN

Participate in on-the-water activities, Cruises & Rendezvous with special friends. Enjoy social events, potluck dinners, picnics, parties and interesting meetings with special guest speakers on topics of interest to boaters.

Involve your Children & Grandchildren

Youth web at www.USPS4Kids.org

- Kids Crew Program
- Youth Activity Poster Contests
- Water Safety Kids Games
- Youth Program Partners such as the BSA-Sea Scouts

Support Safer Family Boating

A FREE Vessel Safety Check Program

for members certifies your watercraft as meeting all current U.S. Coast Guard regulations for boating safety.

Member's Credit Card Program

Chase VISA Card with competitive interest rates and No Annual Fee
Call (800) 347-7887

Opportunity for Community Leadership Service through the Cooperative Charting Program Web Site:

Web Site: WWW.USPS.ORG
Or Telephone: 1-888-FOR-USPS

New benefits are always being added to the list. For example you now have access to:

- Chase Preferred Mortgage Program for Members
- Discount prices on Rigid boats
- Moving Day Boxes – discounts on moving supplies
- Airline and car rental discounts

For details on any of these benefits, go to the USPS website under member benefits.

USPS ANNUAL MEETING

19-24 FEBRUARY, 2008

HYATT REGENCY

DALLAS, TEXAS

See the USPS web site for program and reservation information.

www.usps.org

WINOOSKI VALLEY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON BRIDGE OFFICERS

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TREASURER:	Ronald J. Senecal, S	802-483-4351	ronofvt@vermontel.com



We need members to volunteer:

1. The Nominating Committee is looking for members to serve in bridge positions, as chairmen for committees, and as committee members.
2. We need members to help with Winooski Valley's booth at the Boat Show.

Please contact Cdr. Bob Baker at 802-235-1285 or by email at creweldragon@yahoo.com to learn more about these positions and to volunteer some time.

Remember, this is a volunteer organization and if we are to be successful, we need your help.

P/DLt/C Jannette Spencer, JN
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