



Mansfield YACHTSMAN

March/April

L 40° 45' N Lo 82° 30' W

2020

From the Wheelhouse

Cdr Mike Siwek, SN

Spring is in the Air



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I have some daffodils on the south side of the house which are starting to come up, the birds are singing, and the squirrels are chasing each other on the trees, and its time to get your new fishing

license. That's a sure sign of spring. I believe it was Dick Goddard, the Cleveland weatherman who said that spring starts in central Florida on February 15 and moves northward 15 miles each day, so start counting the days!

I know I am looking forward to some warm weather so I can get the kayaks out.

Please plan to attend the upcoming functions of our Squadron.

Lynn Fortman will be hosting a Euchre party at her house on March 10th. The Annual meeting is scheduled for March 14th at the Lexington Senior Center, and the Change of Watch is scheduled for April 25th at the Cabin Restaurant.

If you have any ideas for activities for our Squadron, please bring them to the Annual Meeting so we can get them on the calendar for the year.

In the February 4th issue of the Mansfield News Journal, there was

(Continued on page 2)



2019-2020 Bridge

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a photo of a young man in a kayak on Clear Fork Lake paddling past some geese standing on the ice. The water temperature had to be in the mid 30's with some ice on the lake. The guy in the kayak had no life jacket on! Had he fallen into the water, he would have been in serious trouble. Obviously, he was not aware of hypothermia. If he had fallen into the water, he would have only minutes to get rescued. He could be classified as an ID-10-T which put together spells idiot. He is very lucky nothing happened.



If you read my last article in the Yachtsman, you may recall the riddle which I assume everyone got the answer, if not, the answer is "NOTHING".

Wishing everyone a happy Easter!



The Mansfield Yachtsman is published every other month.

The editor reserves the right to edit any articles submitted for size, clarity, spelling and grammar. The editor also reserves the right to omit any submitted article due to space limitations.

Please submit articles either as a Word document or in the body of an E-mail.

Send your articles and pictures to Irene Rodriguez at rodriguezri@artistirene.com

Deadline for the Yachtsman articles is the 15th of Dec, Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct.

From the Education Officer

Lt/C Shirley Fort, SN



Accomplishments

Looking back, the Education Department recorded the successful completion of a spring Public Boating Class at Madison High School and a one-day Boating Class at Bay Point Yacht Club. The Yacht Club event was a new venture initiated by our member and BPYC Commodore, Don Plotts, and his wife, Glenna. Don and Glenna handled the publicity, classroom set-up, and food. Dan and Lynn Fortman, Mike Siwek, Garry Schroeder, Jim and Andrea Lutz, and an ODNR officer handled the registration, teaching, testing, and grading. NEO Craig Fraiser was on hand to present certificates to the students. A whirl-wind day but it shows what can be accomplished with a good team, preparation, and, yes, a fair bit of luck!

With the help of Jay Wells, a determined group of MPS members worked their way through Marine Electrical Systems and Marine Communications, two of three classes previously included in Marine Electronics. Two members self-studied Weather with a bit of tutoring by Tom Etwiler.

Looking forward, a Boating Class is underway at Madison and is scheduled to finish by March 31. A repeat of last summer's one-day class is scheduled for BPYC in early June. The third portion of electrical related classes, Electronic Navigation, will begin as soon as the snow birds return from Florida, probably early April. We are asking for registration NOW so that course material can be ordered. Please e-mail or phone ASAP if you are interested.

Stay safe, keep learning.

Shirley



From the Safety Officer

P/C Daniel Fortman, N

BOAT LAUNCHING LUNACY

There is a reason that ordinary, calm and stable people become raving lunatics at launch ramps. My moonstruck friend from the 60's, who reads UFO TODAY, tells me its because boat launch ramps collect the beams of full moon, and suspend them in the atmosphere above the ramp area, to be sucked into the lungs of unsuspecting boaters who then go berserk. I believe him.

If, on a hot and sunny weekend day, you're starved for entertainment, or would simply like to pick up some material for that horror novel you've been promising to write, then pack up the family, a cooler and a couple of folding chairs, and head for the nearest launch ramp. Situate the family where they have a good, unobstructed view of the ramp, and get set for the educational experience of a lifetime. In fact, before you even get your chaise lounge unfolded, your kids may already have increased their vocabulary of cusswords at least tenfold.

For you "wannabe" trailer boaters, I will give you the benefit of some collective research on the subject. The term "launch ramp" is derived from the Phoenician word "panic", which, loosely translated means, "Lynn, if we don't get this @@##/\$\$&%% boat in the water, start the &*(%/\$# motor and get away form this *&^&%% ##@* ramp in the next 30 seconds, we're gonna be dead meat.

A reCent observation of mine was with a man, his wife and two kids with a brand new boat. For some reason – probably the moon dust hanging in the air – "he" delegates the job of backing the boat into the water to "she" and then verbally insults her driving skills all the way to the water's edge. The kids were excited beyond belief at the prospect of their first boat ride. They add to the mayhem. Wife's heartbeat rate exceeds 180. Rear wheels, back bumper and tailpipe now submerged. Man and kids pushing frantically to disengage the boat from trailer. Boat will not disengage from trailer because towing strap is still securely fastened from one side of trailer, over both gunwales, and down to the other side of the trailer. Effort to dislodge the boat from the trailer interrupted only briefly by scratching of head.

Another... Elderly man and wife were launching their 32 foot boat. The wife gets out to direct the backing husband. Forgetting that the safety hook and line was slack, he proceeds to back down the ramp. The ramp



being steep, and the boat being unsecured, suddenly slid off the trailer, down the ramp and into the water. Then, when the attaching strap reached it's end, it then proceeds to pull the pickup truck into the water with it. All the while, the husband is swearing at his wife as if it is totally her fault.

Another steep ramp... Elderly man and middle-aged son launch runabout. Elderly man parks car at top of ramp and sets handbrake with all the strength he can muster. Strength mustered not adequate. Boat pulls away from ramp. Moments later, occupants of the boat and I watch helplessly as car and trailer roll down the ramp and slip silently into the water with only the antenna remaining above the surface, imitating snorkel. More cusswords.

Did I really witness all of these events? No, but I have done some pretty stupid things. To be honest, I once launched a small boat, with the plug out...only once. And as long as I am being cathartic, I'll admit to leaving my trailer straps secured to the boat and wondering when it wouldn't release from the trailer.

Most boaters at a busy launch ramp do feel a slight sense of panic, whether they admit it or not. Will I make a fool out of myself? Did I disconnect the trailer lights? Will I back up straight or zig zag all over to get the boat aligned well? Is the plug in? What if the engine doesn't start?

The boater who is cool and confident about using a launch ramp, as opposed to the one who finds the experience a living hell, has learned several simple lessons:

Patience. Slow down and take time to think about what comes next.

Patience. If you are not familiar with the area or the ramp, watch a couple of launches before you back in. Get a feel for the wind, current, and water depth.

Patience. Back the boat slowly to the water, and if you feel uncomfortable with what is happening, stop smoothly, set the handbrake, get out and take a look around.

I guess you get the idea. The key to boat launching is **patience**. As you gain experience and get a little practice, you'll see that launching your boat is just another fun part of the day on the water.



P/C Dan Fortman, Safety Officer

Administrative Officer

P/C Lynn Fortman, N



Coming Events

As we look forward to our Annual Meeting on March 14, please remember to RSVP ASAP if you haven't already done so because your main course will depend upon it! All reservations are due by 10 March to fortmanlynn@gmail.com or 419.975.9724.

Upcoming events for April include the District Conference that will be held 3-5 April at the Crowne Plaza, Cleveland South. At the Icebreaker on Friday evening, April 3, you will have an opportunity to meet C/C Mary Paige Abbott, SN who will be the first woman to hold the position of Chief Commander. There will be a pasta buffet and Jam Machine will offer music for dancing during the evening. Later members will congregate at the D/7 Hospitality Room for continued fellowship. Saturday will be our officers' meetings and presentations by guest speakers as well as the Change of Watch after dinner on Saturday night. Dinner entrées will include Bistro Beef Tenderloin, Stuffed Chicken Breast, or the Chef's Signature Salmon. All members are encouraged to bring an item for the D/7 Raffle which will help to offset the cost of the meeting to the district. Mansfield Power Squadron will also be providing a raffle basket from our squadron. Sleeping rooms at the Crowne Plaza are \$95 plus tax; you should make your reservation by calling 866.840.0582 and mention that you are with USPS District 7 for the reduced rate. Reservations for the D/7 Conference should be made online through our district website.

Saturday, April 25 will be the date for our Change of Watch. We are fortunate to have P/C Jay Wells, AP as our future commander. In addition to teaching multiple classes on Electronics/Radio/GPS over the last year, Jay is also a very active member with his church. If you'd like to see him in action with his supportive wife, Ellen, you can plan to visit the Ashland County Fair this summer where they work for a week in the food truck- rain or shine, hot or cold! We are also happy to welcome back our "master of the skies" Weather instructor, and past commander, Tom Etwiler, SN. Tom has served as our on-call assistant secretary and newsletter mailer for many years, but has now committed to the entire responsibility of Secretary. This will give his wife

Ruth additional time to work on her interest in watercolor painting where she is active with local artistic groups in Richland and surrounding counties. Last but not least is our dedicated Education Officer, Shirley Fort, SN. Although the leadership, organization, and social skills needed to lead this organization are at her command, she has chosen to continue to provide education to any and all that have an interest. If you'd like a class, grab a friend or two, and ask Shirley to find an instructor. She went all the way to Florida to find one for us while we were on vacation so don't be shy...ask. Just a reminder too that our Squadron Change of Watch will be held at The Cabin Restaurant. We are very fortunate for the support that Kevin and Char have given to Mansfield Power Squadron over the years. They have offered a great meal, at a fair price, in a relaxing setting, at NO ADDITIONAL COST to use their facility! We look forward to seeing you all at The Cabin on April 25. (A memo to announce this event and our meal choices will be sent out later in March.)

We will also have some new graduates of our ABC Class to congratulate on Thursday, May 7 at our Spring Education Awards Banquet. This event will begin at 1700 as we enjoy fellowship at Charles Mill Marina. Please bring your own table service, a covered dish to share and your favorite beverage. We are fortunate to have the support of Bob Schraedly at Charles Mill Marina to allow us to host this event again this year at his facility. Hamburgers/buns and appropriate condiments will be provided by MPS. We hope that you can attend this event that celebrates the hard work of our students and their instructors!



The Spirit of Boating... Education, Friendship and Fun

Crowne Plaza Cleveland South
5300 Rockside Rd
Independence, OH 44131
866-840-0582

Registration for D7 Spring Conference, April 3 - 5, 2020

Important Dates:

Registration form and payment must be received by **March 24, 2020**.

Hotel reservation must be made by **March 24, 2020** to secure this rate.



Certificate Number	Rank	First Name	Last Name	Grade	Squadron

Address _____ City, State Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Is this your first conference? Yes No



Registration Fee	\$10	x	=
Required for each person attending any event or the entire weekend			
Ice Breaker	\$20	x	=
Lunch Selection			
Turkey & Ham Croissant	\$25	x	=
Shaved Roast Beef Sandwich	\$25	x	=
Chicken Salad Croissant	\$25	x	=
Vegetarian	\$25	x	=
SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS			
Please explain:			
Dinner Selection			
Stuffed Chicken Breast	\$42	x	=
Chef's Signature Salmon	\$42	x	=
Sliced Bistro Beef	\$42	x	=
Vegetarian	\$42	x	=
SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS			
Please explain:			
Total Amount Due			\$

Make your check payable to **District 7 - USPS** and mail with this form to:

Tom Hancock, 426 Emerson Ave., North Canton, OH 44720-2308.

Questions please contact:

Wayne Spraggins at wgsboat@cox.net or Kathy Barber at kmckenna@bw.edu

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Crowne Plaza at 866-840-0582.

Please identify yourself as a member of D7-USPS to receive the special rate.

Room rate: \$95/night + taxes.

District Spring Conference

3-5 April 2020

Crowne Plaza, Cleveland South

Independence, OH .



EVENT SCHEDULE - MANSFIELD POWER SQUADRON



2020

March

- 10 Social Outing - Euchre night - Fortman's
 14 Annual Meeting/Exe, Meeting and Potluck Dinner at Lexington Senior Center, 1700

April

- 3-5 D/7 Spring Conference - Independence, OH
 14 Executive/Membership Meeting at Red Cross Building at 1830
 25 Change of Watch - Cabin Restaurant, Miffin

May

- 7 Education Awards Banquet - Charles Mill Marina

* See the Administrative Officer article in this newsletter for more information about activities.

** Contact your Administrative Officer, Lynn Fortman, at 419-631-4842 if you are interested in a venue for a rendezvous.

*** Members with email addresses will be reminded of upcoming events. If you have questions about an event, please call.



NOTICE

Mansfield Power Squadron has some clambake equipment and roasters which are no longer needed.

If interested, please let the Commander know.

For a donation to our Squadron, this equipment
 Could be yours!

Yachtsman Donor

If you are interested in helping to support the printing and mailing cost, a \$10 or \$20 donation is always appreciated. Please send your contribution made payable to Mansfield Power Squadron to: P/R/C Tom Etwiler, SN 2581 Millsboro Rd. E. Mansfield, Ohio 44903-8784.

AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB
 For Boaters, By Boaters™





Mansfield Power Squadron
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