

Norwalk Sail & Power Squadron



## America's Boating Club of Norwalk For Boaters by Boaters



### Volume 83 No.1

After a six-year hiatus Tar Talks is back bi-monthly to serve the boating community of greater Norwalk.

#### Officers:

Jim Dobbs,  
Commander  
Barry Bosworth, Exec  
Fred Zinsser, Admin  
Les White, Treasurer  
Karl Wagner,  
Education

#### Objective of this Publication

We hope to provide useful education and information pertaining to boating on LI Sound.

#### Table of Contents:

- How to tie a special knot
- What's ahead for NSPS
  - a. Hands-on boat training
  - b. Education courses in April and May
  - c. Fire Extinguisher...Aging
  - d. Club News, need some help

#### Painter Hitch. (no, not that kind of paint)

A long time ago I learned this knot to successfully tie up my dinghy to pilings and other vertical or horizontal objects that were hard to reach around or over from a dinghy. It is incredibly useful as it slips away without needing to pull the working end around the object when freeing it. It lets you keep one hand for the boat and one for the painter as it avoids entanglement. Practise this one at home! Amaze your friends at the dinghy dock with your nautical skills as you pull up.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUwSJ\\_56Sol](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUwSJ_56Sol)



We will be conducting [Hands-on Boat Training later in the Spring](#) for folks who want to practice the various skills necessary to feel confident to either get or use a boat. To date we have trained over 30 people with our 20' outboard in the 3 years we have had this program. Do not worry, it is an old boat and used to dock dings! Take the opportunity to scratch up our boat so you do not scratch yours.

NOTE: The picture shows one of our less-promising students practicing launching.

[Dates: Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>](#)

Contact: Karl Wagner  
[nspseducation@gmail.com](mailto:nspseducation@gmail.com)

### Education Department:

#### BE LEGAL IN CONNECTICUT!

We will be holding two 8-hour sessions of basic boating instruction leading to a CT Safe Boating Certificate which is like a CT license for driving an auto. Enroll your spouse and kids.....it's good for all to know boating.

Classes will be held at STAR, 182 Wolfpit Ave. Norwalk, beginning at 9AM.

Dates are:

- May 7th (Saturday)
- May 21st (Saturday)

### The Progression of Boating Education with America's Boating Club:

Many members are not familiar with the progression of our course offerings so here is a logical sequence of courses for the average boater:

ABC course: leads to CT boating certificate

Followed by:

On-the-water-boat handling: see page 1

Marine Navigation: Basic chart reading and course plotting both paper\pencil and GPS.

Several courses that cover boat\engine\ electrical maintenance. Take your pick!

Advanced courses in all disciplines

### Club News:

We can use some additional help with instructors for the upcoming 2023 Winter Season. If you took a course and enjoyed it, why not teach it and prove the old phrase.....to get to really know a subject, teach it.

It's not as hard as you might think, there is no formal training involved, and it is great for retired or semi-retired folks who want to be active in the Winter months. Keep your brain on its toes! [Help teach.](#)



Sunrise from Calf Pasture

[Give us some feedback.....please!](#)

We are sending this to our membership in the hopes of stimulating participation in operating our club. Please let us know what interests you have that would help this effort to stimulate members after this long COVID drought.

[Let me know by email to jdob3542@aol.com](mailto:jdob3542@aol.com) with your ideas.

### Boating Tip of the Month:

**OK.....Here is something you should be aware of this Spring!**

#### Check your fire extinguisher for age!

Like all things old, they tend to malfunction, (do not ask how I know). The Coast Guard, in its infinite wisdom, has concluded that if your on-board hand-held fire extinguisher is **more than 12 years old** it is no longer considered serviceable.

Each unit will have a two- digit manufacturing date stamp and must also state "Marine Type USCG"**AND** be appropriate for your vessel type and length.

Check for the correct type and number of extinguishers required on the U.S. Power Squadrons or Coast Guard web sites.

Any **Vessel Safety Check (VSC)** will call out this requirement whether done by marine police or Coast Guard....\$...applies if failed. **Get a VSC with us no ....\$.... applies.**