



Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron

SeaChest



Monthly Publication



January 21, 2019



January 2019

Volume 64 Issue 1

District 6

16 January 2019
General Membership Meeting &
All You Can Eat
Pizza, Wings and Salad
\$13.00 Inc. tax & tip
Elk's Lodge
1 Trim Street
Kirkwood, NY
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Meeting



Merit Mark Recipients for
2018

Change of Watch

Reserve this date
23 February 2019

More details to follow
in later issues.

A merit mark is awarded by the Chief Commander to a member for substantial effort in personally furthering the interests, programs and objectives of USPS, its districts and squadrons. It is the only official recognition a member receives for his/her efforts. Only one merit mark per member may be awarded in a year, no matter how extensive the contribution.

Recommendation for a merit mark is made by one's superiors. A member who earns 25 merit marks is awarded lifetime membership without the need to pay membership dues.

This year's merit mark recipients are:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Margaret Acciai | Daniels, David | Kucharek, Mary | JoAnn Rohde |
| Michael Acciai | Gould, Donna | Lenzo, Tony | Rought, Linda |
| Bieber, Ron | Gould, Bob | Olds, Dave | Smith, Anna |
| Bieber, Nancy | Herrick, William | Olds, Missy | Smith, Les |
| Boll, Ken | Kucharek, Bob | Park, Justin | Young, Katie |
| | | | Young, Jack |

Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron extends appreciation to these merit mark recipients for the extra efforts they contributed keep our Squadron active and operational. Thank you all.

How to Care for Poinsettias

To rejuvenate your poinsettia for next year's holiday season move it outside when night temperatures are not apt to fall much below 50°F and prune to keep it bushy and compact. To initiate flowering, the poinsettia needs long nights in complete darkness starting in early October. Cover the plant with a cardboard box or keep it in a closet from about 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and water sparingly. When buds form in early December stop the dark treatment.



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Visit our web site at Susquenango.org



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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Commander..... | Cdr Michael Acciai, AP | (296-3482) | | P/Lt/C Donna M. Gould | (258-0023) |
| Executive Officer..... | Mary Kucharek, P | (722-5136) | | P/Lt/C Kenneth W. Boll, P | (757-0072) |
| Education Officer.... | Lt/C Leslie J. Smith, JN | (797-7391) | | P/C David Olds, AP | (669-4482) |
| Adm. Officer..... | Lt/C Linda G. Rought, P | (687-3506) | | P/Lt/C Anna M. Smith, S | (707-7391) |
| Secretary..... | Lt/C Margaret Acciai, S | (775-4952) | Editor | P/D/Lt/C John J. Young, AP | (729-4205) |
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| | Lt Ronald Bieber, S, | (775-4952) | | | |
| | P/D/Lt/C John Young, AP | (729-4205) | | | |
| | P/D/C William A. Herrick, JN | (723-4818) | | | |
| | P/C Anthony J. Lenzo, P | (754-0975) | | | |

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 Address communications to **The Editor, 8 Schiller St. Binghamton, NY 13905-3931**, (607)729-4205, e-mail - jyoung6@stny.rr.com. Material for a particular issue must be received before the fifteenth day of the prior month.
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Commander's Column 19 Dec 2018 Executive Meeting & Holiday Get Together

The time was 1700 (5:00 PM to land lubbers) at 3801 Country Club Road. The fire in the fire pit was going strong, the gazebo and patio lights were shining and the front porch decorations were all aglow. The weather was 36 degrees and the driveway was dry. A good night for our Squadron members to visit for a holiday get together prior to our monthly Executive Meeting. Now quickly, run over to Taft Avenue, grab the pizzas and get home before the company begins to arrive.

Having a meeting in one's home is different from going to a restaurant with a free room. No waitresses, no one jammed in chairs at tables and no bar bills. As the membership began to arrive, we hung coats, greeted each other, poured libations and sat in the family room sharing fellowship and good times. No hurry to eat, no one pushing menus or drinks. Everyone brought a dish to pass so we had an abundance of food and with seating for 22 we enjoyed a good relaxing meal with a lot of laughing and sharing stories of times gone by.

A highlight of our meeting was being able to present John Langill with his 50 year plaque. The members of our Squadron thank John for continuing his dedication to our Squadron.

Eventually we did have to adjourn to the dining room and have a meeting. Business as usual, but no background noise to shout above. Again, different, but nice. At the close of the meeting everyone pitched in to clean up and we bagged the excess food for all to take home. Good byes and Christmas wishes were made and then we helped each other get out of the driveway. The holiday get-together and the meeting were done.

Many of our members wished they could have spent time at the fire pit and on the deck. But with all our patio furniture under wraps in the gazebo for the winter it was standing room only. But, we have a summer picnic meeting in June, and Peg and I are open to hosting that here if the membership would like.

Please read the meeting minutes for information on December's business and the SeaChest for information on our next two meetings. We did vote to combine our 20 February Executive meeting with the Change of Watch being held 23 February at Nirchi's on the Avenue.

At this time on behalf of Peg and myself, I would like to wish each and every member of the Susquenago Sail and Power Squadron the happiest of holidays. May your holiday season be filled with peace, joy, family and friends.

Until we meet again, God Bless,
Commander Mike



JANUARY



Named for the Roman god Janus, protector of gates and doorways. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Make Some Noise

- In ancient Thailand, guns were fired to frighten off demons.
- In China, firecrackers routed the forces of darkness.
- In the early American colonies, the sounds of pistol shots rang through the air.
- Today, Italians let their church bells peal, the Swiss beat drums, and North Americans sound sirens and party horns to bid the old year farewell.

Eat Something Special

Many New Year traditions concern food. Here are a few:

- In the southern United States, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune.
- Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a donut) symbolizes “coming full circle” and leads to good fortune. In Dutch homes, fritters called *olie bollen* are served.
- The Irish enjoy pastries called bannocks.
- In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity.
- Apples dipped in honey are a Rosh Hashanah tradition.
- In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come,

are dropped on the floors (and allowed to remain there!).

Drink a Beverage

Although the pop of a champagne cork signals the arrival of the New Year around the world, some countries have their own traditions:

- “Wassail,” the Gaelic term for “good health,” is served in some parts of England.
- Spiced “hot pint” is the Scottish version of wassail. Traditionally, the Scots drank to each other’s prosperity and also offered this warm drink to neighbors along with a small gift.
- In Holland, toasts are made with hot, spiced wine.

Give a Gift

- New Year’s Day was once the time to swap presents.
- Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome.
- Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians.
- Early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks.
- In Scotland, coal, shortbread and silverware were traditionally exchanged for good luck.

Excerpted from the Old Farmer’s Almanac

Looking for Prize Items

Planning for the Spring 2019 District 6 conference, to be held at Tioga Downs in April, is well underway. Our very own Nancy Bieber will be installed as District 6 Commander.

We’re looking for items - large and small - to be used as prizes for attendees. You may bring items to our Squadron meetings now through February, or contact Mary Kucharek (marykuch47@gmail.com) or 722-5136 for information or to make other arrangements.

Help us make this a successful project.
Lt Mary Kucharek, P



On the Horizon

Susquenango Events



16 January
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Meeting

General Membership Meeting and
Pizza, Wings & Salad Dinner
Elks Club
Kirkwood, NY

National Events

17-23 February

Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL

GREAT SEA STORY

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought Captain John D. S. Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LONG 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line". Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favor. At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and in the middle of summer.

The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.

In the bow (forward part) it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in:

Two different days,

Two different months,

Two different years,

Two different seasons

But in two different centuries - all at the same time!

Submitted by P/C Dave Olds, AP



Holiday Party at Nirchi's on the Avenue



Holiday Party at Nirchi's—continued.



December Meeting and get-together at Commander Mike's Home



Commander Mike Acciai presents John Langill with his 50 year Plaque.

Congratulations John and thank you for your service to our Squadron



A Refresher in some Boating Requirements

Motor Boat Education Requirements

Operators born on or after May 1, 1996 must have a boating safety certificate and be at least 10 years of age.

Operators who are younger than 18 years of age must be accompanied by a person who is at least 18 years of age or older and is the holder of a boating safety certificate or not required by law to hold a certificate.

The operator is the owner of a recently purchased motor boat, if required by law to hold a boating safety certificate may operate the vessel without the required certificate for up to 120 days from date of purchase. Persons 18 years of age or older may rent a motor boat without a boating safety certificate provided that the operator of the livery holds a certificate, demonstrates the use of the vessel and safety equipment, and the person renting demonstrates their understanding of the vessels operation and safety equipment. Those under the age of 18 must have a Boating Safety Certificate in order to rent a boat.

Personal Watercraft Mandatory Education Requirements

New York requires that anyone operating a personal watercraft complete an approved course in boating safety or otherwise be accompanied, on board, by someone 18 years of age or older who is the holder of an approved boating safety certificate. Certificates are required to be carried at all times when operating the personal watercraft.

Minimum Age for Operation

In order to operate a personal watercraft within New York the operator must be a minimum of 14 years of age and hold an approved boating safety certificate or is accompanied by a person over 18 years of age who is the holder of a boating safety certificate. It is strongly recommended that small children not be permitted to ride forward of an adult as it may lead to serious personal injury. It is also strongly recommended that no person be permitted to ride a personal watercraft if he or she can not hold on to the person in front (or hand holds) and can not keep both feet on the deck in order to maintain balance during operation. have a boating safety certificate in order to rent a vessel.

Excerpted from NYS Boating Requirements Manual—Latest Issue (2014)

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