



Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron



SeaChest

Monthly Publication



April 2016

Volume 61, Issue 4

District 6

Executive Meeting & Spring Fetch Supper

Town of Binghamton Fire Station #2
2120 Pierce Road
Binghamton, NY

Date: 20 April - Time: 6:00 PM

Ham, rolls, coffee and tea supplied by the Squadron
Deserts supplied by bridge members

Bring a side dishes to pass such as potatoes, coleslaw, vegetables and casseroles

Bring your own tableware and BYOB and beverages

Cost \$3.00 per person

Coordinate what you're bringing with Linda Rought-687-3506-so we have a complete menu

Entertainment

After the Fetch Supper, there will be a short video presentation demonstrating the new USPS Boating on-the-water simulator, followed by funny boating mishaps and bloopers.
(Program will be about 30 min and presented by Dave Olds)

Essential Spring Boat Maintenance



Before you hit the water at the first sign of spring, it's essential to conduct proper boat maintenance to keep your boat performing at its best. You'll want to catch any mechanical faults before you're on the water.

Set aside a day before launch to complete these boat maintenance steps or have them checked by a professional:

Get your boat running.

Charge the battery. After sitting idle all winter, the battery may be low – or even dead. Plug it in overnight to charge it, or purchase a new battery if necessary.

Top off the fuel tank. You don't want to be stranded in the middle of the water.

Check the brake lights. If you're hauling your boat on a trailer, make sure the brake and signal lights are working.

Inspect the engine. Make sure all parts are in good condition.

Look for loose hose clamps. Replace the spark plugs if necessary

Inspect belts, cables and hoses to make sure they aren't cracked or brittle.

Check the impeller to make sure it's not too worn. Impellers typically need to be replaced every two years or after 200 hours of use.

Clean the exterior. Use a mild detergent to wipe it down, then add a coat of wax.

Prep other essentials.

Don't forget life jackets. Make sure you have enough on board and that they are all in good condition, easily accessible and sized appropriately for passengers you will have.

Review other safety gear. Store safety items, such as a first-aid kit, flares, fire extinguisher and flashlights, in a water-proof container.

Excerpted from State Farm Learning Center. Submitted by Nancy Bieber

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Commander's Column

It has certainly been a strange winter with little snow and now the daffodils are poking through to welcome the Spring sunshine. Soon your boats will be going back in again and hopefully ready for another wonderful season on the water.

My wife Missy and I recently returned from a three week trip to the warmer climates down south. I must say it was a shock to come back to 20 degree temperatures and snow flurries, when just a few days before I was in shorts and a tee-shirt. Our time down there was shorter than we had planned, but we made the most of it and we enjoyed the time we had. We were able to visit friends and relatives we had not seen in many years and also tour the great southern towns of Charleston, Savannah and Atlanta.

Our Change of Watch on 19 March went smoothly with a nice evening and a good meal. We appreciate District 6 Secretary, D/Lt/C Al Carmon, JN, coming down from Syracuse to be our District Representative. I would like to thank our Bridge and Executive Committee, most who have generously agreed to stay on for yet another

term. Thanks to Mary Kucharek for stepping up to be our new Secretary and to Ann Smith for taking on PRO. I would also like to thank the members for nominating me again as your commander. I will continue to do my best.

I'm pleased that our Squadron Education Department is going strong. Our SEO, Les Smith, reports that our first public boating class of the season was a success with all students passing. He also indicated that some students are interested in joining and progressing on to take Seamanship. Our appreciation and congratulations go to Les, Ann, Ken, and the proctors, for a job well done.

The next ABC^{®3} class will be starting 25 April, so help spread the word and please contact Ken Boll (kenskubota@gmail.com) if you would like to proctor or help out. He needs your help for the all-day Saturday class.

I recently read an article about the late cartoonist, Charles Schulz. Of course, he is best known for the *Peanuts* comic strip; however, he is also famed for his philosophy of life that he often expressed through his characters. Here's a quote that I believe would apply to our squadron friends. **"The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money...or the most awards."**

"They simply are the ones who care the most."

I believe this relates nicely to the squadron experience and the reason for our new tag line: **Come for the Boating Education Stay for the Friendssm**

We hope you will all plan to attend the district 6 Spring Conference on 15- 17 April, in Auburn, NY

Our next Executive Meeting and Fetch Supper will be 20 April at the TOB Fire Station #2 on Pierce Creek Rd., Binghamton, starting at 6:00 PM. All are welcome.

Spring has sprung-enjoy the season.

Warmest Regards,

Dave

Commander David Olds, AP

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING YOUR MARINE ELECTRONICS

TIPS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT MARINE ELECTRONICS WILL WORK BEST FOR YOUR BOAT

How big is your boat?: Size determines how much space you have to mount electronics. With limited dash space, a smaller combination unit (chart plotter and sonar combined). Larger boats, over 26 feet, generally offer plenty of space for electronics, with enough room to mount dual flush-mount multi-function displays (MFDs). Mid-size center consoles generally offer adequate dash space to mount electronics, while bay boats and skiffs may require the smaller, bracket-mounted versions of chart plotters and sonar. The amount of available space on your boat should steer your first set of decisions

Where and how you fish dictates what you really need: If most of your fishing is nearshore and inshore, a sophisticated state-of-the-art sonar may be of limited use, however, a side-scanning sonar may be invaluable. Look at just what you need to determine what to buy. A. VHF Radio—This is an essential item for everyone. Whether you choose to use a handheld model or a full-sized radio depends on how much space you have available. B. Chart plotter – The plotter is the heart of any system. It's a set of electronic charts that lets you navigate effectively and is essential for every fishing boat. C. Fish finder – This is the second consideration, as described above, the way you fish will help determine your needs. Consider that sonar relies on a transducer, which may be a transom-mounted bolt-on, or the type that is permanently embedded in the bottom of the boat, which may require drilling through the hull to install it. Trailer boats need a transducer that sits flush with the bottom, or a transom mount. Boats that live in the water have more leeway in the type of transducer.

Features vs Simplicity: With technological advances, marine electronics are constantly incorporating new features into their products' latest models. While certain features, like touch-screen on chart plotters, fish finders and multifunction displays, are very user friendly, others can be quite complex and increase the difficulty of operating a piece of equipment. Remember that new features usually come at a premium, so unless you feel confident dealing with new technology, or don't mind working your way through an extended learning curve, the latest top-of-the-line unit may not be your best choice. A more basic unit, often a prior generation, is bound to be simpler and save you some money as well.

Which brand is best for you?: Marine electronics companies use different platforms and operating systems, so using one brand of chart plotter or fish finder can seem considerably more difficult to you than another. If you favored a particular brand in the past, it makes sense to look for the new gear you need within said brand's product line. It's also a good idea to attend a boat show in your area for some hands-on product demos. Then you can short-list the two or three candidates that most appeal to you and check into each a bit more in-depth. Online reviews can help you determine not only the brand's track record of quality and customer support, but also how a product compares to similar units from competitors. (See THINGS, Page 5)

Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron Winter 2016 Class Schedule

Course	Start Date	Number Sessions	Person Responsible/Phone
ABC ³ Public Safe Boating Must attend all sessions	25 April 7 to 9 PM	Monday	Les Smith 797-7391 Ken Boll 757-0072
	30 April 8 AM to 4 PM	Saturday	
	02 May 7 to 9 PM	Monday (Final Exam)	

All classes are held at the Johnson City High School Main Cafeteria

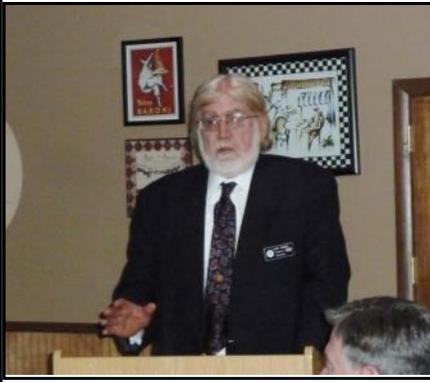
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Change of Watch—2016



Commence Fire

It has been brought to my attention that some of our Squadron members are gun owners and shooters. Some belong to one of our local shooting clubs.

As an activity for our squadron firearm enthusiasts would anyone be interested to have a match or just a day of fun shooting at one of our clubs. I, personally, like to shoot hand guns. Others might like to shoot rifles. We can work with any type of fire arm. I think it could be a fun activity.

In addition, if anyone is interested in learning how to shoot or just become familiar with firearms, it might be possible that some of our experienced shooters could give some lessons or demonstrations.

Please let me know if you're interested.

Jack Young (jyoung6@stny.rr.com) or 729-4205

MEMBERSHP INVOLVEMENT

Cider Mill Playhouse—The next performance at the Cider Mill Playhouse is “RED” on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 P.M. Master abstract expressionist Mark Rothko has just landed the biggest commission in the history of modern art, a series of murals for New York’s Four Seasons Restaurant. In the next couple years, he works feverishly with his assistant, Ken, in his studio on the Bowery. Ken soon gains confidence and challenges him, and Rothko faces the agonizing possibility that his crowning achievement could also become his undoing. “RED” is a searing portrait of an artist’s ambition and vulnerability. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at the box office prior to the performance. We will meet in the lobby at 7:00 P.M.

Skaneateles Lake—An excursion on Skaneateles Lake on the Mail Run Boat is planned for Saturday, 20 August. We will meet at the Mid Lake Navigation boat by 9:30 A.M for the 10 A.M. launch for our 3-hour ride. The boat ride is \$26 (gratuity included). Reservations must be made early and prepaid as seating is limited and the boat fills up fast, so Nancy Bieber needs to have your payment by the May membership meeting.



Susquenango Rendezvous—Mark your calendars for the weekend of 16-18 September for Susquenango’s Rendezvous at the 1000 Islands to coincide with the Tall Ships™ Festival in Brockville, Canada. There will be a parade of about 20 Tall Ships prior to their landing. Once moored, you will be able to board and tour as many ships as you like. Rides (with or without dinner) will also be available. Reservations for events must be made early. There will be numerous activities and demonstrations at the Festival, as well as many food vendors. A delightful event like no other. We will also have the opportunity to visit the newest attraction in Brock-

ville, the Aquarium, which provides the history of the 1000 Islands, and all of the fish and wildlife native to the St. Lawrence River area. Since much of our Rendezvous will take place in Canada it is necessary to have a passport or an enhanced New York State driver’s license when we cross the border.

Be prepared for an extremely entertaining weekend. More information to follow in the coming months. Submitted by Nancy Bieber

THINGS (Continued from Page 3)

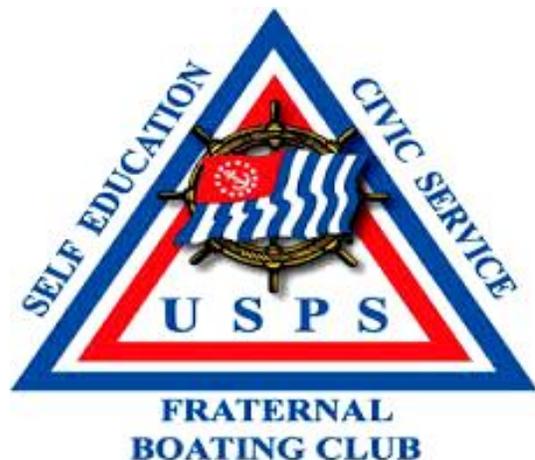
Should you opt for standalones or an integrated system?: The trend in marine electronics leans towards integration, which can be as simple as a plotter/sounder combination unit, or as sophisticated as black-box processors for every function, wired into a network. Combos are simpler, but may will limit your future options. Networked systems are the most streamlined, but you’ll generally pay more for a system like this. However, the expansion options are nearly unlimited.

How do you get the best bang for your buck?: First of all, buy a well-know reputable brand that offers good customer support. Marine electronics are competitively priced, and there won’t be a big variation in price between most retailers. What does vary is the support you can expect. You can buy mail order and save a few bucks, but then you’ll need to have the gear installed, and the dealer who makes the sale is much more likely to take good care of you on installation, trouble-shooting and any eventual repairs. Service is important and having a shop behind you is worth a lot more than the few bucks you’ll save up-front on the purchase. Besides the searching online and ordering catalogues, try attending a boat show to learn about the latest and greatest.

Submitted by: Lt Robert Kucharek, P

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	On the Horizon Susquenango Events
20 April 6:00 PM	Executive Meeting & Fetch Supper Town of Binghamton Fire Dept. 2120 Pierce Road Binghamton, NY
	District Events
15 -17 April	District 6 Spring Conference Holiday Inn-Auburn-Finger Lakes 75 North St. Auburn, NY



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