



Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron



SeaChest

Monthly Publication



May 8, 2016

May 2016

Volume 61, Issue 5

District 6

General Membership Meeting and BBQ Chicken Dinner

18 May 2015

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

Town of Binghamton Fire Station #1
967 Hawleyton Rd., Binghamton NY

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

(Pennsylvania Ave turns into Hawleyton Rd.)

Dinner - 6:00 PM Meeting - 7:00 PM
Cost - \$12.00

Dinner catered by Phil's Chicken House

Menu:

BBQ Chicken, Cabbage Salad, Baked Beans
Potato Salad, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Tea
Brownie Dessert
BYOB

Advance Reservations Required by 10 May - Linda Rought-687-3506

Note: The restaurant will charge the squadron for the number of meals ordered. Persons failing to cancel reservations prior to the deadline date will be expected to pay for their dinners.

Commander Dave will demonstrate a new virtual on-the-water trainer



May 21, 2016



May 30, 2016

Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron Winter 2016 Class Schedule

Course	Start Date	Number Sessions	Person Responsible/Phone
Seamanship	10 May 7 to 9 PM	Tuesdays for 5 weeks	Les Smith 797-7391

All classes are held at the Johnson City High School

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SeaChest



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Commander.....	Cdr David L. Olds, AP	(669-4482)	Lt Mary Kucharek	(722-5136)
Executive Officer.....	TBD		P/Lt/C Kenneth W. Boll, P	(757-0072)
Education Officer.....	Lt/C Leslie J. Smith, AP	(797-7391)	P/Lt/C Donna M. Gould	(258-0023)
Adm. Officer.....	Lt/C Linda G. Rought, P	(687-3506)	P/C Nancy Bieber, P	(775-4952)
Secretary.....	Lt/C Ann Smith, S	(797-7391)	Editor	P/D/Lt/C John J. Young, AP
Treasurer.....	P/D/Lt/C John J. Young, AP	(729-4205)	Assistant Editor	Lt Karl W. Oakley, P
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	Lt Ronald Bieber, S,	(775-4952)	Staff	Lt Catherine E. Young, S
	P/C Robert E. Gould, AP	(258-0023)		P/Lt/C Donna M. Gould
	D/C William A. Herrick, JN	(723-4818)		(775-0950)
	P/C Anthony J. Lenzo, P	(754-0975)		(729-4205)
				(278-0023)

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Address communications to **The Editor, 8 Schiller St. Binghamton, NY 13905-3931**, (607)729-4205, e-mail - jjyoung6@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

Our Squadron's Education Department is off to a good start having just completed the second ABC-3® class and setting a date for a Seamanship class later in the month. Kudos to our SEO Les Smith, P/Lt/C Ken Boll and to all the assistants and proctors who help with our program.

Several of us recently returned from attending the interesting and informative District 6 Spring Conference in Auburn, NY. Some of the conference highlights are the new experimental use of eBooks by some squadrons for Seamanship for what is termed "blended learning." The future use of eBooks is expected to save with both printing costs and shipping expense. There is also the potential for the squadrons to profit from their sale.

On a sad note for our district, we learned Niagara Squadron has dissolved and Red Jacket has surrendered their charter. Some of their members are transferring to other squadrons.

On the good side, Niagara contributed \$8500 and Hamburg \$500 of their cash assets to our District. The three Buffalo area squadrons are considering combining into one new squadron.

Saturday afternoon we learned that the Sea Tow Foundation, that is dedicated to saving lives on the water, has a free life jacket (PFD) loaner program available to organizations and marinas. It typically consists of a tree kiosk at a marina or launch ramp that provides free PFD's for use by the honor system.

We also enjoyed an excellent presentation on the reasons leading to the sinking of the Costa Concordia and the loss of 32 lives. The fantastic presentation was given by CPS-ECP P/D/C Andre Dubois who is from Kingston, Ontario.

Of great interest to me was the demonstration of a unique alternative to the Boating Simulator Virtual Trainer developed for National. Tampa Power Squadron has produced a more affordable trainer costing a fraction of the price of the USPS BSVT. I believe this may be something our squadron can use to attract more students to our classes. With our Squadron not on a major body of water, we could offer this virtual on-the-water training as part of our classroom educational programs. Having this capability would set us apart from the other competing courses offered online and in our community. I hope to demonstrate this concept at our next meeting on 18 May.

R/C William Selden V, AP, was the Chief Commander's Representative for the Spring Conference. Bill was an interesting and knowledgeable speaker who brought us many facts about the happenings with National. He reported that recently there was an increase in United States Power Squadron total membership. It appears the new marketing strategy has helped and we're off the bottom plateau and gaining new members again. Let's hope it continues.

D/C Bill Herrick, JN, informed us that once again there may be some interest in trying to re-establish a squadron on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. Bill will be at an open house at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum in Oswego on 21 May to test the waters. Bill can use some help, so if you're available, give him a call today.

I hope to see you all at our next Membership/Chicken BBQ meeting on 18 May. **(Note location change)**
The season begins - please be safe.

Warmest Regards,

Dave

Commander David Olds, AP

Highlights of the 20 April 2016 Executive Meeting

Commander David Olds, AP, called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Lt/C Mary Kucharek, reported that there was a quorum present. The minutes from the 19 March 2016 meeting were accepted as distributed.

P/D/Lt/C Jack Young, S, indicated that the Squadron is solvent.

Lt/C Les Smith, AP, reported that the February ABC class is complete with all students passing. The next class begins on Monday, 25 April. Lt Ken Boll reported that he has proctors for the classes.

Les also reported that a Seamanship class is set to begin on 10 May.

Lt/C Mary Kucharek reported that she attended an information session at Boscov's and our Squadron will once again participate in the "Friends Helping Friends" event.

P/C Bob Gould, AP, reported that the squadron currently has 64 members, including 15 Life Members.

Cdr Dave Olds reported that member P/C Robert Reinhart had recently passed away.

SeaChest-John Young, AP, thanked Bob Kucharek and Nancy Bieber for their recent SeaChest articles.

Lt Linda Rought, P, reported that our next meeting will include a Chicken BBQ dinner on 18 May at the **Town Of Binghamton Fire Station #1, 967 Hawleyton Rd. Note: This is a location change.**

P/C Bob Gould, AP, reported that he has received an email from District to update the VSC report and that P/C Anthony Lenzo has completed one VSC so far this year.

Lt/C Nancy Bieber, P, submitted the following report:

Money for the 20 August, Skaneateles Lake excursion is due to Nancy by the May Squadron meeting. The cost is \$26.00 (gratuity included).

Members should mark their 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. More complete information can be found on page 5.

Awards and Presentations:

Lt/C Mary Kucharek was installed as Secretary by D/C Bill Herrick, JN. Cdr Dave Olds presented her with a pennant and pin.

National recognition was presented to the SeaChest Committee in recognition of Distinctive Communications for the Susquenango SeaChest in 2015 and to Dave Olds for our Squadron Website.

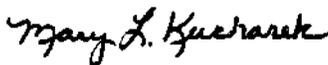
Additionally-Cmd. Dave Olds and member, Grace Penny, attained Life Member Status.

Commander's Comments:

Cdr Dave attended the D/6 Spring Conf. last weekend and shared his experience with us in his *Commander's Column* on page two.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lt/C Mary L. Kucharek

Guess Where They Are Now?



Former SPS members P/C John and Suzanne Salt, now members of the Hilton Head Squadron. Active in our Squadron and still active USPS members. We miss you guys.

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Lt/C Mary Kucharek is sworn in as Squadron Secretary by D/C William Herrick, JN.



Cdr Dave Olds, AP, presents the Distinctive Communicator Award to the Staff of the SeaChest.



D/C William Herrick, JN, presents the award for Susquenago Squadron web site to Cdr Dave Olds, AP.



In Memoriam

P/D/Lt/C Robert Reinhart, JN

Gibson Island, MD

Commander of the Susquenago Power Squadron—1970

MEMBERSHP INVOLVEMENT

Skaneateles Lake—An excursion on Skaneateles Lake on the Mail Run Boat is planned for Saturday, 20 August. We will meet at the Mid-Lakes Navigation boat by 9:30 A.M for the 10 A.M. departure 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. 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 Brockville, the Aquatarium, 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

The Bagpiper

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life. As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years." Apparently, I'm still lost....it's a man thing.



On the Horizon

Susquenango Events

05/18/2016
Wednesday
6:00 PM

General Membership Meeting &
Chicken BBQ Dinner
Town of Binghamton Fire Station #1
967 Hawleyton Road (Note this change)
Binghamton, NY

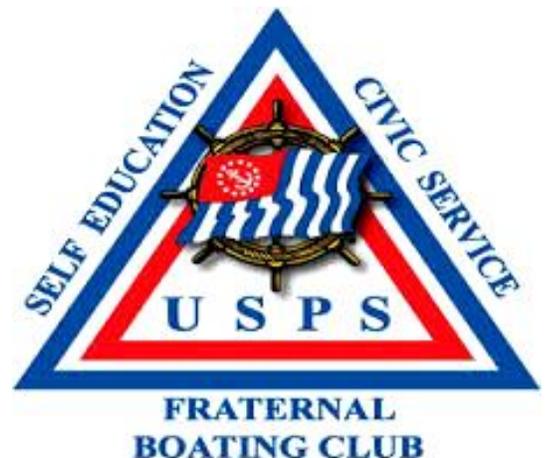
Future Squadron Events to Watch for

08/20/2016
Saturday

Excursion on Skaneateles Lake on the Mail
Run Boat

09/16-18/2016

Susquenango Rendezvous at the 1,000 Islands
to coincide with the Tall Ships™ Festival in
Brockville, Canada



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