



# Susquenago SeaChest



Monthly Publication



May 2019

Volume 64 Issue 5

District 6

## May General Membership Meeting and Chicken Dinner

Wednesday, 15 May 2019

Town of Binghamton Fire Station #2  
2220 Pierce Creek Rd.  
Binghamton, NY

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

Dinner catered by Phil's Chicken House  
Menu:

Chicken, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, and Baked Beans  
Rolls and Butter, Brownies.  
BYOB

**Advance Reservations Required by 8 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.**

### Welcome Aboard!

Members of America's Boating Club® - Susquenago, welcome the following new members:

Leonard Lindenmuth  
Nancy Lins  
Jacqueline Shipose  
Timothy Shipose

Audrey Tyler  
Jacob Tyler  
Jered Tyler

Please Join us at our meetings and social activities. All members are welcome at all our meetings and we look forward to meeting with you and hearing your comments and suggestions.

**Mark Twain** : "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore! Dream! Discover!"

### Our Past and Present Commanders Receive Their Flags



Squadron Commander Mary Kucharek, S, displays her Commander's Flag and P/C Mike Acciai, AP, and P/C Dave Olds, AP, display their Past Commanders Flag at our Easter Dinner Meeting at the Elk's Lodge in Kirkwood.

# SeaChest

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|                              |                          |                |               |                              |            |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Commander.....</b>        | Cdr Mary Kucharek, P     | (722-5136)     |               | P/D/C William A. Herrick, JN | (723-4818) |
| <b>Executive Officer....</b> | P/C Michael Acciai, AP   | (296-3482)     |               | P/Lt/C Donna M. Gould        | (258-0023) |
| <b>Education Officer....</b> | Lt/C Leslie J. Smith, JN | (797-7391)     |               | P/C Robert Gould, AP         | (258-0023) |
| <b>Adm. Officer.....</b>     | Lt/C Linda G. Rought, P  | (687-3506)     |               | P/C David Olds, AP           | (669-4482) |
| <b>Secretary.....</b>        | Lt/C Margaret Acciai, S  | (296-3482)     |               | P/Lt/C Anna M. Smith, S      | (797-7391) |
| <b>Treasurer.....</b>        | D/Lt/C Nancy Bieber, P   | (518/813-7888) | <b>Editor</b> | P/D/Lt/C John J. Young, AP   | (729-4205) |
| <b>Executive Comm.</b>       | Lt Robert Kucharek, P    | (722-5136)     | <b>Staff</b>  | Lt Catherine E. Young, S     | (729-4205) |
|                              | Lt Ronald Bieber, S,     | (518-813-7888) |               | P/Lt/C Donna M. Gould        | (258-0023) |

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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](mailto: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

From the day back in July 2018, when D/C Nancy Bieber, P, asked me if I would be the Susquenago chairperson for the District Six spring conference, I knew it would be a challenge, but one I looked forward to taking on. At our September 2018 meeting a committee was formed, which turned out to be the best committee EVER!! What a pleasure it was to work alongside Nancy Bieber, P/C Mike Acciai, AP, and Lt/C Peg Acciai, S, P/D/C Bill Herrick, JN, P/C Dave Olds, AP, and Lt Missy Olds, S, Lt/C Linda Rought, P, and P/Lt/C Ann Smith, S. Our meetings began in October of that year and continued until just days before the conference. My deepest appreciation to this group of people for all their ideas and hard work making this a great conference. Nancy made an excellent choice to have the Conference held at Tioga Downs Resort. The staff and the accommodations were top notch. The most fun was the Easter egg "raffle". Thanks to our members who so generously donated items for prizes and participated in the event. Special thanks to P/Lt/C Donna Gould for all her help with this activity. A full report of the conference is included in this SeaChest.

This is what it's all about – joining in and participating with our fellow boaters and having fun. Remember....  
**"America's Boating Club...is YOUR Boating Club"**

Commander  
Mary Kucharek, P

## National Pretzel Day

National Pretzel Day is observed annually on April 26. A bag of nice crunchy, salty pretzels or a big, warm, soft, cinnamon pretzel is the question of the day. Either one is an excellent choice. There are a few different accounts of the origin of the pretzel. Most people agree that it does have a Christian background, and they were developed by the monks. According to *The History of Science and Technology*, in 610 AD, "an Italian monk invents pretzels as a reward to children who learn their prayers. He calls the strips of baked dough, folded to resemble arms crossing the chest, *pretiola* (little rewards)."  
Another source puts the invention in a monastery in southern France. The looped pretzel may also be related to a Greek Ring bread from the communion bread used in monasteries a thousand years ago. In the Catholic Church, pretzels had a religious significance for both ingredients and shape. The loops in pretzel may have served a practical purpose: bakers could hang them on sticks, projecting upwards from a central column, as shown in Job Berckheyde's (1681) painting. The Pennsylvania Dutch immigrants introduced pretzels to North America in the 19th century. At this time, many hand-made pretzel bakeries populated central Pennsylvania, and their popularity quickly spread. It was in the 20th century that soft pretzels were very popular in areas such as Philadelphia, Chicago and New York.

- Today, the average Philadelphian consumes about twelve times as many pretzels as the national average.
- Pennsylvania is the center of American pretzel production for both hard and soft pretzels, producing 80% of the nation's pretzels.
- The annual United States pretzel industry is worth over \$550 million.
- The average American consumes about 1.5 pounds of pretzels per year.
- Philadelphia opened a privately run "Pretzel Museum" in 1993.

**Hard pretzels originated in the United States in 1850.**

*When I was a young boy my friends and I would watch the ladies in the pretzel factory, in the "flats" section of Scranton, twist dough strips into the pretzel shapes and lay them on the oven conveyor belts. They were always positioned close to windows so they could be observed. What a glorious aroma from those baking pretzels. (Editor)>*

## **Report of the USPS® District 6 Spring Conference 12-14 April 2019 – Tioga Downs Resort**

From the moment we arrived until our final farewells, the District 6 Spring Conference was an experience that will live in our hearts forever. We renewed many friendships and made some new ones too. Below is my report of the conference.

The first event on Friday, 12 April, was the Spring Council where the slate of officers was announced. Following Spring Council was the Town Hall Meeting with National Education Officer V/C Craig D. Fraser, SN, who gave us insight to new USPS initiatives such as “Hub and Spoke” where there is a main squadron (or chapter) with officers. Other nearby squadrons can be part of that group, but do not need to have officers.

He also stressed that advertising is the key to getting class participation. He suggested that once a person signs up for a class, the SEO should deliver the student book to them and collect the class fee. He gave an example of what the Akron, Ohio squadron does – on the first class night the membership chairman attends and discusses the merits of Squadron membership; on the third class night continuing education opportunities are discussed and on the fifth class night an ice cream social is held and social programs such as dinners and other Squadron social activities are discussed. This provides the students with an oversight of Squadron membership.

Craig also mentioned that 95% of recreational boats in the USA are less than 26 feet in length and towable, and the average age of a boater is 58 years.

On Saturday, 13 April, the Conference Meeting was held. Due to D/C Jeff Freedman’s laryngitis, DXO, Nancy Bieber conducted the meeting. Introductions of additional 2019-20 officers were as follows: Secretary, P/R/C David Daniels, SN, and Asst. Secretary, D/1st/Lt Al Carmon, JN. All PDCs, PSEOs and life members were introduced. The minutes and treasurer’s report were approved.

Once again we enjoyed a presentation by NEO Craig Frasier who introduced us to the “Jump Start” program where members do a free two-hour on the water training with new boat owners. He suggested offering information on this to insurance agents and marine dealers. He also spoke about the status of the America’s Boating Club branding effort and the slogan “*Learn, Engage, Connect*”.

Next, District committee reports were given. Certificates of merit were awarded to two squadrons for their contributions to the USPS Education Fund – Seneca (36 years) and Iroquois (37 years).

Membership Chair P/R/C Pricilla Clark, AP, mentioned that we should apply for Member Involvement and the Chapman Award.

Nancy Bieber said she is working on the Tall Ships event scheduled for 30 August – 1 September in Brockville, Ontario. More information will be in future SeaChests.

Following a delicious luncheon, where many people received their Easter egg prizes, we reconvened with a very interesting presentation about the RMS Queen Mary, by P/D/C André DuBois, (CPS), also member of St Lawrence Sail & Power Squadron. He spoke and showed many beautiful slides of the interior of the ship which is docked in Long Beach, CA, and used as a floating hotel.

The afternoon continued with D/1st/Lt Thomas Alley, SN, giving us a presentation on the public mini seminars which are one hour and available through USPS. These could be used at boat shows & outdoor events. They are AIS, Anchoring Techniques, Weather, Radar and VHS-DSC.

That evening found us enjoying the Change of Watch Banquet where our very own Nancy Bieber was sworn in as D/6 Commander. Along with Nancy, David Daniels was installed as D6 Secretary and Lt/C Les Smith, JN, as Asst. District Education Officer. Another Susquenango highlight was P/D/Lt/C John Young, AP, being honored with the District Member Achievement Award. Both Friday and Saturday events were followed with refreshments and good times in the hospitality room, which was so ably manned by Peg & Mike Acciai.

On Sunday morning I attended the Squadron Commander’s Meeting with the D6 Bridge Officers. Conference Chair, D/1st/Lt Bridgett Arieno, JN, reported on the conference statistics and thanked everyone for their help. We then went around the table and introduced ourselves. There was some discussion about the fall conference which will be held 8-10 November at the Craftsman Inn in Fayetteville (near Syracuse).

I don’t know about anyone else, but I’m already looking forward to it!!

Respectfully submitted by  
Cdr Mary Kucharek, P



**USPS® District/6 Spring Conference and Change of Watch - 2019**



Susquenago Squadron Member D/Lt/C Nancy Bieber, P, takes the oath of office as 2019/2020 District/6 Commander, from NEO, V/C Craig Frazier, SN. Nancy is accompanied by her Husband Ronald.



V/C Craig Frazier SN administers the oath of office to the new 2019/2020 District/6 Bridge Officers. Susquenago Squadron now has three members serving on the District Bridge: Nancy Bieber.-Commander: Leslie Smith - District Educational Officer: David Daniels - Secretary.



District Commander is presented with her Commander's flag by P/D/C Jeffery Freedman, SN.



P/D/Lt/C John Young, AP, was presented the District/6 Member of the Year award.



DEO Les Smith, JN is congratulated by Neo Craig Frazier, SN



**Remember Safe Boating Week is 18-24 May 2019.**

## Executive Meeting and Easter Dinner at the Elk's Lodge in Kirkwood, NY



Past Commander Michael Acciai presents Commander Mary Kucharek with her Commander's flag.



D/6 Commander Nancy Bieber discusses the District COW with Squadron members.



Lt/C Anna Smith displays pamphlets promoting Susquenango's educational programs.



### We Made the Ensign

The Spring issue of the USPS® *Ensign* contains the article about the Low Head Dam warning signs written by P/C Dave Olds, AP, and posted in the October 2018 issue of the *SeaChest*.

Congratulations Dave, the river is safer now thanks to all your efforts.



DEO Les Smith explains the spring education program.

### On the Horizon

#### Susquenango Events

15 May 2019

6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Meeting

General Membership Meeting and Chicken BBQ Dinner  
Twn of Bgm Fire Station #2  
2220 Pierce Creek Road  
Binghamton, NY

#### District Events

TBD

D/6 Rendezvous Cruise Fleet Departure, Watkins Glen (Seneca)



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