



Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron



**SeaChest**

Monthly Publication



June 19, 2016

June 2016

Volume 61, Issue 6

District 6



**Executive Meeting**

**(all welcome)**

and

**Education Recognition**

and

**Merit Mark Appreciation Picnic**

15 June 2016

6:00 PM

Grippen Park (on South Grippen Avenue), Endicott, NY  
(free park admission)

The Squadron provides hamburgers, hotdogs and rolls.  
Bring your favorite dish to pass and your own beverages.

Bridge members provide the dessert.

Cost: \$3.00 per person

The \$3.00 is waived for members who took, taught, lectured or proctored a course  
Or received a merit mark.

Reservations required by 13 June - Linda Rought—687-3506



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# SeaChest



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## Commander's Column—June 2016

I'm sure by now many of you have your boats back in the water and are enjoying the warmer weather. Did you ever wonder why boating and other water activities have become so desirable to us? Phycologists tell us that most of the human body is made up of water and without it we cannot exist. Perhaps this unconscious need is why we are attracted to water. I'm not sure I buy that philosophy completely, but I do know I am happier and feel more relaxed when I'm on or near the water. I also know that while we're out in a boat there is a need to focus on operating the boat and maintaining a course, which forces us to take a break from thinking about the list of mundane work back home. Well, whatever personally floats your boat, (pun intended) we can all appreciate the pleasure we derive from our experiences on the water. I believe the confidence we feel while enjoying our boats comes, in a large part, from the knowledge we gained from the Squadron courses we took over the years.

A friend recently sent me an article about his Lodge and their struggle to maintain and find members. The issues sounded nearly identical to ours. Several chapters of his civic organization have lost the fight and are now defunct. Or, they're reduced to old folks sitting around, reminiscing about the good-old days. The article, unfortunately, went on to say this has become a critical problem for a large number of other civic and fraternal organizations across the country. We're not quite there yet, but I do have some serious concerns for the future of our squadron. We continue to slowly lose members through attrition with few new members to replace them. Several attempts in recent years have been made to recruit new members through public events and seminars with little success.

On a positive note, our core membership is still strong and devoted, however, we continue to face the challenge to fill key bridge positions with candidates who are willing to move up to become Commander. None of us want to see the termination of our Squadron that we all enjoy so much, but we need to face the reality that USPS will not permit us to continue without a Commander. It's time now to think seriously about what we all can do to keep us going. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

I would like to express my appreciation to our members for the great attendance we had for the Chicken BBQ dinner and Membership meeting on 18 May. The food and fellowship was good and the meeting productive, including offers from some senior members to help us.

Nancy Bieber, our Membership Involvement Chairperson, has been working very hard on the summer activities including the Skaneateles Mail Boat Run on 20 August and our Susquenago 1000 Islands Rendezvous to coincide with the Tall Ships™ Festival in Brockville, Canada, on 16-18 September. Please mark your calendar and join us for these fantastic events.

Our next meeting will be on 15 June at 6:00 PM for the Education Recognition and Merit Mark Appreciation Picnic with Executive Meeting to follow at 7:00PM at Grippen Park, Endicott, NY  
Have a wonderful and safe summer.

**Dave**  
**Cdr David Olds, AP**

## Highlights of the 18 May 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.

**P/D/Lt/C Jack Young, AP**, distributed The Treasurer's report that indicated the Squadron is solvent.

**Lt/C Les Smith, AP**, reported that all eight students in the **ABC<sup>3</sup> Public Safe Boating** class passed, with two of them getting a perfect score. One 10 year old received a 96 on the test. Two of the graduates are taking the Seamanship class, which has 3 students, and, two are interested in continuing on into the Piloting class to be held in September.

**Lt/C Ann Smith, S**, mentioned that she believes the Seamanship class should be promoted more enthusiastically at the **ABC<sup>3</sup>** classes. Cdr Dave recommended we print more informational brochures. P/C Jack Young made a motion to update and print 500 copies of the brochure at a cost not to exceed \$200. Motion seconded by D/C William Herrick, JN, and carried. Dave, Jack and Ann will work on the updates.

**P/C Bob Gould, AP**, Cdr Dave, reporting for Bob Gould, indicated that we have 62 members which includes 16 Life Members.

**P/D/Lt/C Jack Young, AP**, reported that he appreciated receiving articles for the SeaChest.

**Lt Linda Rought, P**, reported the next meeting will be our Education Appreciation and Merit Mark Recognition Picnic on 15 June at 6:00 P M at Grippen Park in Endicott.

**P/C Anthony Lenzo, P**, reported that he has completed one VSC this year.

**D/Lt/C Nancy Bieber, P**, reported on the excursion on Skaneateles Lake on the Mail Run Boat, 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. Reservations and payment were given to Nancy at the meeting.

She also reminded everyone of the Susquenango Rendezvous- 16-18 September in the 1000 Islands to coincide with the Tall Ships™ Festival in Brockville, Canada. More information to follow in the coming months.

**Old Business:** Cdr Dave reminded us of the information he had presented at a previous meeting concerning the consideration of strategies for a Membership Recruitment Plan. It was stated that we must have an Executive Officer and a new Commander for the coming year in order to continue as a squadron.

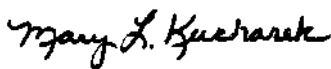
### **New Business: None**

D/C Bill Herrick, JN, informed us that there again may be some interest in trying to re-establish a squadron on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

There will be at an open house at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum in Oswego this Saturday, 21 May, and some of our members will be helping out there.

Squadron Rendezvous - Save the date 16-18 September in conjunction with the Brockville, Canada *Tall Ships Festival*. Activities planned on both sides of border. (Passport or enhanced drivers license required)

Respectfully submitted,



Lt/C Mary L. Kucharek  
Secretary

 <h3>On the Horizon</h3> <h4>Susquenango Events</h4> <p>06/15/2016 Wednesday 6:00 PM</p> <p>Executive Meeting and Education Recognition &amp; Merit Mark Appreciation Picnic Grippen Park Endicott, NY</p> <h4>Future Squadron Events</h4> <p>08/20/2016 Saturday</p> <p>Excursion on Skaneateles Lake on the Mail Run Boat</p> <p>09/16-18/2016</p> <p>Susquenango Rendezvous at the 1,000 Islands to coincide with the Tall Ships™ Festival in Brockville, Canada</p>	 <p><b>AKZO Nobel Coatings</b></p> <p><b>Meguiars Marine Care Products</b></p> <p>3104 Ash Road Vestal, N.Y. 13850 (607) 798-9343</p>
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## May 2016 General Membership and Chicken BBQ Dinner



It was very nice to see some of our senior members at our Chicken BBQ dinner and General Membership Meeting such as Dr. Richard and Margy Hobart. We were happy to see Don Rumrill looking well and anxious to get back into the business of the Squadron.

It was enjoyable to see Donna and Dan DeWitt. They visited us during their trip from South Carolina. We always appreciate to see our former members.

Dave Olds' sister, Faith, and her husband, Wolfram Fleigel, from Minnesota joined us for the evening.

### Omission

Last month's story about "The Bagpiper" was submitted by Donna Gould. Sorry I forgot the acknowledgement.

The editor

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## 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.

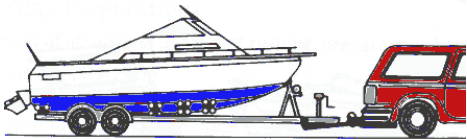
Susquenango Rendezvous—Mark your calendars for the weekend of 16-18 September for Susquenango's Rendezvous at the 1000 Islands to coincide with the Tall Ships™ Festival in Brockville, Canada. There will be a parade of about 20 Tall Ships prior to their landing. Once moored, you will be able to board 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

## Ramp Courtesy



Those of you who have a slip are very fortunate indeed. Your boat is always ready to go, and in the water. But for the rest of us, who have to dry sail, we have to tow our boats to the water, and launch and recover them for every outing.

Nothing ruins a day afloat like some person hogging up the ramp. At the beginning of the trip, it is an ominous omen that things may be not going right, or we have just picked a lake that has too many boaters on it. At the end, it may just be the last frustration in a bad day of fishing, either way, you feel that the boating fraternity has let you down. Let's see if we can eliminate the hard feeling between fellow boaters.

First, when you get to the ramp to launch, park away from the ramp. Walk down to the ramp, and check it out, for jetty locations, things which may hamper your launch or recovery like a drop off, or other obstruction underwater. Next, prep your boat to launch. Get everything ready, from the gas in to the straps off, and most of your gear in. Don't forget to pull your light connection apart so you don't have hot lights hitting cold water. This will eliminate one source of lights not working. When the ramp is clear, back in, and prepare to launch. Set your parking brake, and if necessary block the front wheels to prevent rolling into the lake. Get your boat into the water, and away from the actual ramp, either bringing it to the other side of the jetty, or moving it further out so others can move in when you pull out. Tie up, pull your truck and trailer out and into the parking lot. Bring the rest of your gear, be sure you have enough PFD's and other things, and shove off for a day of fun on the water, knowing that you didn't tie up the ramp.

When you return at the end of the day, remember that people are coming and going all the time. Approach the jetty and ramp on a disengaged side, that is away from the action, either again on the opposite side of the jetty or at the end of the jetty. Tie up here, and go and get your trailer and truck. When the ramp is clear, back in and set your parking brake and if necessary block the front wheels. Once your trailer is ready to recover, go get your boat, and recover it to the trailer with the least amount of time spent doing it. Leave your gear in the boat till you have recovered it. Winch onto the trailer, pick up your blocks if you have them out, release your parking brake, and pull out steady, and pull ahead to clear the ramp. Now that you are away from the ramp, remove your gear, set your motor for towing, pull any drains, strap it down to the trailer, hook up your lights, test them, and you are on your way.

A simple bit of ramp courtesy will make for an enjoyable day on the water, and if your fishing trip didn't go so well, at least you had a good time, and getting in and out was pleasurable.

Excerpted from boatsafe.com

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