



Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron

SeaChest



Monthly Publication



October 2018

Volume 63 Issue 9

District 6

Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron Instrumental in Rock Bottom Dam Signs!



Our Susquehanna river is safer now thanks to the efforts of our Squadron, and especially P/C Dave Olds, AP. There are now warning signs in the rock bottom dam area. See inside for details.

	<h3>On the Horizon</h3> <h4>Susquenago Events</h4> <p>18 October Executive Meeting Time and Location TBD</p> <h4>District Events</h4> <p>09-11 November District/6 Fall Conference Hyatt Place 310 Rainbow Blvd. Niagara Falls, NY</p>
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Details of our October Executive meeting will be e-mailed to our members when the information becomes available.





SeaChest



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Commander's Column

Fall came on Friday, 21 September at 2145 give or take, and the weather also turned cooler. Another boating season is coming to an end and the Holidays are on the way. I hope everyone had a great boating and summer season and are ready to start our fall and winter meeting agendas with renewed gusto.

I have to complement D/Lt/C Nancy Bieber, P, for organizing a wonderful rendezvous and to her and Lt Ron for the use of their camp for our Friday night dinner and camp fire. The activities and schedule were top notch. Many thanks to P/C Dave Olds, AP, Lt Missy Olds, S, Lt/C Linda Rought, P, and Lt Carol Herz, S, for pulling the Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch together for Nancy and Ron while they returned to Binghamton for Ron's heart surgery. We are all very happy that Ron's procedure was successful and that he is recovering nicely and has started physical therapy.

We are all thankful for P/C Tony Lenzo's, P, successful lung transplant and that he is recovering nicely. We also send prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Carol Herz and Dave Olds after receiving medical procedures over the past week. And we send our condolences to the family of Grace Penny a former member who passed away this month.

There are many activities for our members over the next three months. You are invited to attend the Vestal Museum 13 October at 8:00 PM for coffee and music by Milkweed. Please see inside this SeaChest for the details. Then "Friends helping Fiends" will be held Tuesday 16 October at Boscov's. The Squadron is contemplating entering a float in the Boscov's Holiday Parade on 17 November. There will be more to come on that next month. The date and venue for our annual Christmas/Holiday party in December will be posted in the next issue. Nancy Bieber and Linda Rought are working hard to keep the membership activity list as full as possible.

Merit Mark time is here. I ask the Bridge and Committee Chairperson's to send me and P/D/Lt/C Jack Young, AP, their time and activity reports so that their names can be submitted for a merit mark. Submission to National is due 15 November 2018.

The D/6 Fall Conference will be held at Hyatt Place, 310 Rainbow Blvd, Niagara Falls, NY Friday, 9 November through Sunday, 11 November 2018. Room and meal reservations can be made to Bridgett Arieno, 139 Shore Drive, Rochester, NY 14622. The forms and schedule are available by PDF being sent to our Susquenago SeaChest mailing list.

Until we meet again — God Bless
Commander Mike



Our next District Commander, P/C Nancy Bieber, P, at the 2018 Governing Board Meeting at the reception for First Timers.

Membership Involvement

On Saturday, 13 October 2018, we will be visiting the Vestal Coffee House from 8:00 – 10:00 PM to listen to the sounds of Milkweed. Milkweed is a band that was born on Main Street in the quiet post industrial city of Binghamton. It is the collaboration of three artists: Joseph Alston, Jacqueline Colombo and Peter Lister. Without committing to one genre, Milkweed has pulled from many of the great aspects of American music and created their own brand of song and story telling. Whether it is blue grass guitar picking, Chicago blues harmonica, Irish ballads or Jersey shore folk songs, they weave together the sounds that make up the rich tapestry of American music history. The root of the bands' sound is in the use of three part harmony to impact a sense of importance and depth to their lyrics that will bring you into their songs and make you feel invested in it. If you would like to join us, contact Nancy Bieber at 518-813-7888, or nancybieber@twc.com and we will have an enjoyable night together. A donation of \$10 is suggested, but feel free to tip the performers additionally if you wish. (Submitted by Nancy Bieber, Member Involvement Chair.)

Our New Name Tags

This is the new name tag that has been selected for our Squadron members. Lt Carol Herz, S, will order the tags and needs to have the exact spelling of the name you want on the tag, and the size and the type of fastener. Please contact Carol at cjsheerz43@gmail.com or call her at 607-722-2739 or 607-222-7144.



In Memoriam

Former Susquenango Member Grace Penny recently passed away. She and her Husband, P/R/C Frank Penny, SN, resided in Land O Lakes Florida, but were long time members our Susquenango Squadron.

The Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron members send their deepest sympathies to Frank Penny and the Penny Family.

2018 Name Tag Pricing

Tag Sizes	Fastener Types			
	Pin Back	Ribbon Bar	Standard Magnet	Power Magnet
1" x 3"-3-1/4"	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$8.00	\$9.50
1-1/4" x 3"-3-1/4"	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$8.50	\$10.00
1-1/2" x 3"-3-1/4"	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$9.50	\$12.50



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Rock-Bottom Dam Warning Signs Installed



I am pleased to report that our Squadron's goal has been achieved. There are now warning signs placed upstream of the deadly, Rock Bottom Dam, located near the Park Diner in Binghamton. This dam is classic low head dam that can trap a capsized boater in the swirling backwash after unsuspectingly going over the dam. The Susquehanna River, near the Rock bottom Dam, is a popular spot for small boats and especially paddle craft. In 1975, three local firemen lost their lives during a rescue attempt at this dam. This normally picturesque dam can turn into a killer when conditions are right.



At the 2015 D/6 Spring Conference, presenters from the Binghamton Fire Bureau told us about this deadly incident and demonstrated the new methods now used to attempt safer water rescues. We were all surprised to learn from Asst. Chief Sam Santoni, that there were no warning signs above the dam to alert a boater to the danger! Despite the efforts by the Binghamton Fire Bureau to have the signs replaced after the demolition of the Rock Bottom Bridge, bureaucratic red tape and funding issues had virtually killed the plan.

At our meeting, on 20 May 2015, it was proposed and accepted that our Squadron consider a project to further research installing new warning signs above the dam. We're about boater safety and many of us felt

this was an opportunity for our squadron to spearhead the effort to get the "*Danger- Low Head Dam Ahead*" warning signs replaced. Unfortunately, we ran into the same bureaucratic quagmire, however, our research did positively determine the signage responsibility falls with the City of Binghamton because they originally built the dam to create a storage basin for the city's water supply.

After several rejections and exhausting all our attempts to move the project forward, I was surprised by a call from Captain Daniel Vail, who is currently Captain of the Binghamton Rescue Squad. Dan informed me that he had discovered an old entry in the city's charter mandating the city to place warning signs above the dam. This was brought to the City Council who, fearing legal liability, immediately authorized the signs to be made by the city's sign shop. Captain Vail then contacted the NYS Department of Transportation and was able to arranged for the signs to be permanently mounted on the Tompkins Street Bridge, which is the first structure crossing the river above the dam.

This summer the signs were installed after nearly three and a half years on the project. In addition to authorizing the signs, the Binghamton City Council also added a further incentive to reinforce the dam warning making it "*Illegal to Operate Watercraft 600' Above the Dam and 20' Below the Dam*". These signs are placed along the shore above and below the dam.



In September of 2016, a decade after a Binghamton City Council resolution was passed, work on a memorial to three fallen Binghamton firefighters was officially begun, 42 years after their deaths. The monument cost about \$36,000 and was completed and dedicated 27 April 2017. The memorial sits at the Southside Park on Conklin Avenue, near the Park Diner. It is situated along the south bank of the Susquehanna River with a view of the dam where the men were drowned.



Submitted by P/C David L. Olds, AP

Susquenango Rendezvous 2018



Our Rendezvous Group



Singer Castle

Tour



Farewell Dinner at Edgewood Restaurant



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