

SeaChest



Happy
Thanksgiving

A Publication of the
**Susquenago
Sail & Power Squadron**

of the United States Power Squadrons

Safe Boating Through Education

November 2015

Volume 60, Issue 11

District 6

Thanksgiving Turkey Party

and

General Membership Meeting

**Town of Binghamton Fire Station
2120 Pierce Creek Road
Binghamton, NY**

18 November 2015

6:00 PM (Don't be late) See page 6 for schedule



Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to pass and indulge in the various cuisines of fellow members. What better way to get to know our squadron members and enjoy a tasty treat besides. It's an inexpensive and enjoyable night out.

Linda Rought—687-3506 or 760-6388 will coordinate the variety of food dishes. Please call her and let her know what you intend to bring so we minimize duplications. It is absolutely essential that you inform Linda if you are going to attend so clue distribution (Mystery Dinner) can be coordinated.

Turkey, ham, coffee, tea and rolls are supplied by the squadron. Bring your own place settings and drinks, including alcoholic beverages, if you wish. Price is \$3.00 to cover squadron expenses.

The Firehouse Mystery

A fun interactive clue-based (tongue-in-cheek) adventure with a surprise ending.

Oh-Oh! I understand that this is not just a normal Thanksgiving dinner, there is tom foolery afoot. People are disappearing not to be found anywhere. Best be prepared to assist our CSI investigators in solving these crimes.

See page 6 for all the details.



Christmas Trivia
or other holiday
party game

Holiday Party

Saturday 5 December, 2015

**Owego Treadway Inn
Owego Room**

See page 3 for the details.



Optional
Holiday Gift
Exchange
\$8.00 to \$10.00

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SeaChest



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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 Comments



I trust by now you have your boats ready for winter and you have turned your efforts to more mundane things like the neglected honey-to-do list and raking leaves.

I just returned from the District 6 Fall Conference in Auburn, NY. Susquenago had a fantastic showing with 14 members attending, including our own D/AO Nancy Bieber, P, and D/C Bill Herrick, JN, at the helm.

There is so much of interest to report to you from the conference that I can only scratch the surface in this column. I'll save the details to cover at our meetings and in future *SeaChest* articles. I will touch briefly on the significant highlights:

Our own Lt Bob Kucharek, P, was honored by the USPS Governing Board and presented with an elegant plaque and pin for his 50 years of membership. On behalf of the Squadron, I wish to thank Bob for his long service and dedication.

A 21st century internet webinar method was used for the first time at a D/6 conference to connect us with our Chief Commander's representatives, V/C Bob Miller, National Treasurer and V/C Bob Brandenstein, National Education Officer. It worked quite well and many good questions were answered directly from these two ultimate USPS authorities. Several questions were posed concerning dues and the new marketing and branding standards. We learned that although USPS cannot afford national television advertising, they are considering a more affordable nation-wide targeted mailing campaign. We were informed that this webinar method may be available at the district level as a way of teaching Advanced Grades, or other courses, to individuals who do not have a local course or instructor.

Sadly, due to declining membership, two more squadrons in our district, Niagara and Hamburg, were dissolved. All is not lost, however; some of their members have transferred to other squadrons.

On Saturday afternoon an interesting program was presented by Jeff Gritsavage, the Navigation Program Manager for the NYS Canal Corporation. Jeff spoke about the canal system's past, present and future. Jeff is a boater himself and a recreational boating advocate. He is not the typical bureaucrat and was truly interested in our suggestions to help the canal system be more attractive to traverse by the typical boater.

Some Squadrons have developed a Strategic Plan outlining their current and long-range goals. Considering such a plan may be beneficial for our squadron. I have requested copies from the other squadrons and will review them with you at a future meeting. With regard to the plan, DEO Tom Shuell, reminded us that "education is our main mission".

I would like to suggest that you read the expanded district newsletter [The Deep 6. \(link\)](#) You will find several very interesting articles by our district's movers and shakers, including our own Susquenago members serving on the district bridge. Note the details about the District 6 Summer Rendezvous to be held in the Finger Lakes next July.

I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and invite you to join us for our Turkey Party-Mystery Supper on 18 November, and our Holiday Party on 5 December. Details of both events are in this issue.

Respectfully,

Commander David L. Olds, AP

Holiday Party



Saturday 5 December, 2015

**Owego Treadway Inn
Owego Room**

Cocktails (cash bar) 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM

Appetizer—Swedish Meatballs

Entree: (Select one with reservation)

Prime Rib Stuffed Flounder

**Chef's choice of appropriate Starch, Vegetables, Rolls with Butter, Coffee, Tea, and Soda
Garden Salad and Carrot Cake Dessert**

Price: \$29.00 per person (including tax & gratuity)

Advance Reservations Required - Linda Rought-687-3506

Deadline for Reservations - 27 November 2015

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

Highlights of the 21 October 2015 Executive Meeting

Commander David Olds, AP, called the meeting to order at 1840.

Lt/C Ann Smith, S, reported that a quorum was present. The minutes from the September General Membership Meeting were accepted as distributed.

P/D/Lt/C Jack Young, AP, distributed the treasurer's report for the period 31 August – 30 September, 2015. Jack also stated that a Certificate of Deposit (CD), which matures next year, will be cashed in at maturity.

Lt Mary Kucharek, reported that \$265.00 was raised for the squadron during the Boscov's Department Store Friends Helping Friends fund raising event on 20 October. The squadron keeps the amount collected. The two highest sellers were Ann Smith (14 passes) and Mary Kucharek (10 passes). Mary thanked Vonda Oakley and Linda Rought for their help with this event. She also expressed gratitude to those who sold and purchased the passes.

Commander Dave Olds reported that the squadron currently has 66 members and 15 Life members. He also announced that P/Lt/C Bob Kucharek, P, is celebrating his 50th membership year with the squadron. Bob currently has 46 merit marks. Submissions for merit marks are due by 15 November to National. Those members who believe they contributed adequate time and effort to squadron activities to qualify should submit their names for a merit mark.

P/D/Lt/C Jack Young, AP, reported that there were many articles for the October Sea Chest and he and the committee received good comments about it. Vonda Oakley reported that the funds for the Sea Chest are running low due to reduced amount of advertisements. A motion was made by D/C Bill Herrick, JN, that \$150.00 of the funds recently raised in the Boscov's event be allocated to the SeaChest to alleviate the situation. The motion carried.

Lt Linda Rought, P, announced that the next General Membership Meeting will be accompanied by a Turkey Party and Mystery Dinner held on Wednesday, 18 November at 6:00 P.M. at the Town of Binghamton Fire Hall on Pierce Creek Road.

P/C Nancy Bieber, P, announced the following events for members to attend:

Wednesday, 4 November, Cider Mill Playhouse at 7:30 P.M. "*You Can't Take It With You*" dress rehearsal performance.

Friday, 20 November, Watters Fine Arts Theatre (Binghamton University campus) at 8:00 P.M. – "*Spring Awakening*", a musical set in 1890's Germany

Contact Nancy Bieber if you are interested in attending any of these events.

Nancy also brought to our attention that a book titled *The Gathering Wind* by Gregory A. Freeman (Penguin Random House, \$16.00) is listed as recommended reading in the Ensign magazine. It is the story of the final voyage of the wooden tall ship *The Bounty* that sunk during Hurricane Sandy off the North Carolina coast.

Old Business:

Regarding the Rock Bottom Dam Warning Sign Project; Dave Olds reported that he made contact with Robert "Bob" Murphy, Director of Economic Development for the City of Binghamton. (Contact information provided by Ann Smith.) Mr. Murphy agrees with our project and will add it to the proposal he has to present to the City of Binghamton regarding increasing the usage of the rivers. One option proposed is to attach the warning sign to the Tompkins Street bridge pilings using epoxy.

New Business:

Nancy Bieber announced that she was able to digitize the logos for District 6 and the Susquenango Power Squadron to embroider on shirts, sweatshirts and tote bags using her machine. She displayed sample items to be embroidered and circulated order forms. Bill Herrick suggested that it would be good to add a ship's wheel design on the items.

Commander's Comments:

Commander Dave thanked the members who attended the evening's Halloween Party.

Excerpted from the minutes submitted by Ann Smith, Secretary

Recognized for 50 Years Membership



Life member Lt Robert Kucharek, P, was honored at the 2015 District 6 Fall Conference in Auburn, for being a Susquenango Squadron member for 50 years . Bob was presented the award by D/Lt/C Nancy Bieber, P, and D/C Bill Herrick, AP. Many of our Squadron members were also in attendance to honor and congratulate Bob.



Bob is currently our Squadron Historian and regularly proctors students at our public boating courses. This year he will also earn his 46th Merit Mark for service to the Squadron.

Do You Know What Time it is?



It's Holiday Time



and time to wish your fellow squadron members a happy holiday season. In the December issue of the SeaChest we offer our members the chance to extend holiday tidings to squadron members either by having their name on the festive cover of the SeaChest or by having a personalized card included inside the SeaChest. We have a selection of holiday graphics that can be personalized with squadron member names.

One of the SeaChest staff will be collecting for the greetings at the Turkey Party or you can call or send a note to Jack Young, 8 Schiller St., Binghamton, NY 13905, Phone (607) 729-4205, e-mail jyoung6@stny.rr.com by 22 November. If you have a special graphic, please let Jack know and he'll try to scan it into the SeaChest.

Your name on the cover-\$5.00

Select cards within the SeaChest-\$10.00

All proceeds benefit our monthly publication: **SeaChest.**

**Merit Marks
Last Request**

Committee Chairmen: I need your merit mark recommendations ASAP. They are due to National by 15 November.

Members: If you believe you deserve a merit mark contact your committee chairman and request submittal. Remember, after 25 merit marks, membership is free.

Everyone has been sent a submission form via e-mail.

Submit to Jack Young at jyoung6@stny.rr.com



On the Horizon

Susquenango Events

18 November General Membership Meeting
Wednesday Turkey Dinner & Mystery
Dinner 6:00 PM Dinner
Night Mystery After Dinner

5 December Holiday Party
Cocktails 6:00 PM Owego Treadway Inn
Dinner 7:00 PM Owego, NY

Mobile Device While Driving

As most of you know (or should), in New York State it is illegal to operate your vehicle while using a handheld mobile telephone or portable electronic device. New York State Vehicle & Traffic Law Section 1225 -C, 1225-D. New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has also recently increased the penalties for violating that section of the Vehicle & Traffic Law. For Adults it is now a five point violation (the same as for Reckless Driving - which is a misdemeanor crime - and Failing to Stop for a School Bus). For probationary and junior drivers the first conviction will result in the suspension of the drivers license for 120 days. A second conviction for those drivers, within six months of restoration, will result in a one year revocation of the permit or license.

As you may also know if any driver acquires six or more points in an 18 month period you must pay an annual assessment to New York State Department of Motor Vehicles of \$100.00/year for three years. Acquiring 11 points in an 18 month period can result in your license being suspended by the DMV.

Some local jurisdictions, like Broome County, generally will refuse to recommend a "plea bargain" to a lesser Vehicle and Traffic violation if you are accused of operating your vehicle using a cell phone or mobile device so you'll be stuck with the charge.

More eye-opening should be the trend/concern that because there are now more and more studies that show distracted drivers are causing injuries and fatalities, if you are unlucky enough to be in an accident, you need to be in fear of being sued - not only for negligence - which is normally covered by your car insurance - but also for punitive damages - which are not.

Punitive damages have historically been allowed and/or imposed when the act in question was committed with malice, moral turpitude, wantonness, willfulness, outrageous aggravation, or in reckless indifference to another persons rights. (think driving while intoxicated.)

It would seem at this point operating a vehicle while using a mobile device would fit squarely in the category where you could open yourself up to a claim for punitive damages. Avoid that possibility by driving undistracted by your device.

Article provided by Law Office of Paul M. Price, Esq., 25 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905 and 131 Southside Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his

Friends Helping Friends



Thanks to everyone who helped in anyway to make our first adventure with the Boscov's Department Store **Friends Helping Friends** event a great success. Special thanks to Linda Rought and Vonnie Oakley for accompanying me at the store and selling passes. Proceeds were divided between the SeaChest and the Squadron regular account.

Say Your Prayers

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.
"Johnny wait until we say our prayer."

"I don't have to," The boy replied.
"Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We say a prayer, before eating, at our house."
That's our house," Johnny explained.
"**But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!**"

The Firehouse Mystery

A fun interactive clue-based (tongue-in-cheek) adventure with a surprise ending.



Synopsis:

The community has been plagued with numerous slayings for some time. The identity of the perpetrator and the weapon used has eluded the authorities for months. Another victim has recently disappeared and the body has yet to be found. Several leads point to a common connection with a local firehouse. Special teams of investigators have been brought in to search for evidence. These teams will look for clues at the firehouse and collaborate on their findings over dinner.

The authorities hope this will lead to the discovery of the weapon used in the slayings and ultimately lead to the perpetrator and the missing remains.

Organization:

Costumes: No special costumes are required but wearing Lab Coats or Sherlock Holmes type garb would add to the fun of the event.

Teams: CSI Teams are comprised of 6-8 guests per group, seated together at a single table. Each group will be given an evidence collection kit, consisting of rubber gloves, swabs, tweezers and collection bags,

Rounds: There are three (3) Rounds, two for Evidence Gathering and a final round for summery and discovery.

Round 1 -Teams gather evidence from clues and tips provided to each group. These direct them to places where the evidence is located. Some clues are the same for all, however, there is one clue that is different for each team. The teams must collaborate to solve the mystery. Each team should appoint a team leader to report their findings to the entire group at the end of each round.

Round 2: The second round is similar to the first but with fewer clues.

Round 3: This short round is used for final summery and collaboration of all the evidence. Team leaders will use this information to reveal the perpetrator, find the weapon and the location of the remains. Team members look on as captains make their discoveries.

Approximate Evening Schedule

6:00 PM—7:00 PM	Drinks (BYOB) and Dinner.
7:00 PM—8:00 PM	Mystery Rounds 1&2 for evidence gathering & dessert after round 2.
8:00 PM—8:30 PM	Mystery Round 3 Summery & Final Discoveries.
8:30 PM—9:00 PM	General Membership Meeting

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Happy Halloween!



He got his "dear"!



Serve it up Dave. I know it will be delicious.



Go Team!!!



And girls will be girls.



I agree!



How can they stand the excitement?



Honestly Karl, I was just kidding. I knew you were not in costume.



It's impolite to play with your food.



This Ninja looks mean.



Pocahontas and her braves. I think???

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