



Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron



SeaChest

Monthly Publication



Veterans Day 11 November 2016

November 2016

Volume 61, Issue 11

District 6

Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner

and

General Membership Meeting

Town of Binghamton Fire Station

2120 Pierce Creek Road

Binghamton, NY

16 November 2016

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.

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.

Holiday Party

Friday

9 December 2016

Red Roof Inn (Formerly Owego Treadway Inn)

Owego Room

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

Appetizer—Cream of Broccoli Soup

Entree: (Select one with reservation)

Prime Rib Stuffed Flounder

Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Garden Salad

Rolls with Butter, Coffee, Tea, and Soda

Chocolate Cake Dessert

Price: \$30.00 per person (including tax & gratuity)

Advance Reservations Required - Linda Rought-687-3506 or 760-6388

Deadline for Reservations - 27 November 2016

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.

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SeaChest



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Adm. Officer.....	Lt/C Linda G. Rought, P	(687-3506)	P/Lt/C Anna M. Smith, S	(707-7391)
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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.** Material for a particular issue must be received before the fifteenth day of the prior month.

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Commander's Column

It's beginning to look a lot like the Holiday Season. As I'm writing this, the first snow is falling and beginning to accumulate. I must say, I have mixed emotions about facing the cold and snow of winter this year. I appreciate the four seasons; however, raking leaves and shoveling the white stuff is not much fun anymore. As with many of you, during the cold weather, we will plan to go south again for several weeks right after our Change of Watch.

Our National headquarters has just come out with a new marketing effort to help promote our organization. USPS is consulting with R+M Agency on more brand development. One result of this collaboration includes the national "Welcome to the Neighborhood" concept, which was approved by the USPS Board of Directors. Part of this concept is the creation of advertisements for print publications, and includes making posters available to the squadrons. Our PRO, Lt Ann Smith, S, showed the posters to our members at our last meeting.

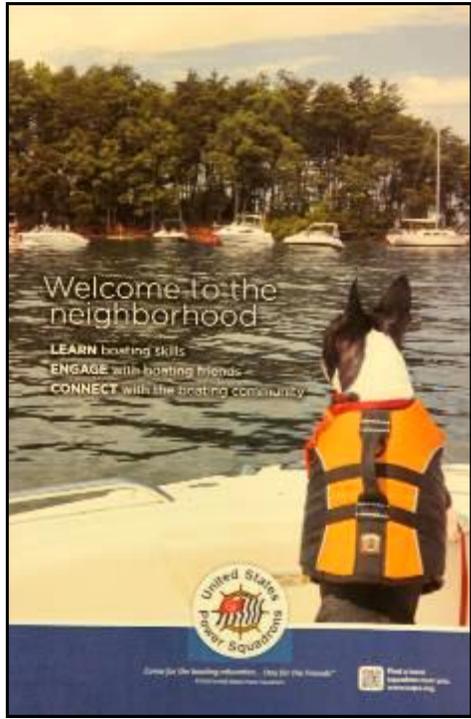
To keep up with the times, USPS has recently premiered the Digital Media Library. This is an online resource for members to find digital audio and video content to supplement the boating skills that we teach in our classes and seminars. The media is professionally-produced by Power Squadron members. I will show you some of what's available at a future meeting.

I was very pleased to see so many members turn out for our lasagna dinner and meeting on 19 October. My thanks to all who attended and to those who helped make it such an enjoyable evening. I hope we will again have a full house for our upcoming Turkey Fetch Supper (see details in this SeaChest) and meeting on 16 November. Back by popular demand, we will reprise playing the Thanksgiving Family Feud game with new survey questions this time.

I am happy to report that our membership is back to near what it was last year. We are delighted to welcome several new members including a member and his family who transferred to us from National's Cyber Squadron. With these new members, a full bridge and an active Nominating Committee, I believe our Squadron is in the best shape it's been in for several years. My sincere thanks to all our members and special thanks to those that stepped up to fill our open positions.

On 4-6 November 2016, the District 6 Fall Council and Conference will be held here again in Binghamton at the Holiday Inn Arena. Although we are not hosting this time, some of our members will be helping with meal

(Continued on next page)



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reservations, registration and the hospitality room. Our District Commander, Bill Herrick, JN, informs us he expects this conference to be worthwhile with informative meetings and interesting guest speakers on Saturday. Please plan to come. ([more info in the Deep 6](#))

Our Holliday Party is set for 9 December at the Red Roof Inn (formerly Owego Treadway) Ron Bieber suggests bringing a home-made inexpensive gift to exchange. The gift exchange is optional and not required. This is a family and friends event with fun activities planned and all are welcome. I hope to see you there.

Wishing you all a great Holiday season,

Commander *Dave*

Highlights of the 19 October 2016 Executive Meeting

Commander David Olds, AP, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Lt/C Mary Kucharek, P, reported that there was a quorum present. The minutes from the 21 September 2016 Meeting were distributed and accepted.

Lt/C Jack Young, S, Absent – Treasurer’s report sent to and presented by Commander Dave.

Executive Officer: P/C Michael Acciai, AP, reported he is catching up on his Sail Angle messages. He thanked Mary Kucharek and Vonda Oakley for working at and supporting the Boscov’s *Friends Helping Friends* event. He also thanked Cdr Dave and Missy Olds for our delicious lasagna dinner, Linda Rought for taking reservations and Linda Daniels for the dinner decorations.

Lt/C Les Smith, AP, reported that the Piloting class has three students and they have committed to taking the Advanced Piloting class in the spring. One has joined the squadron and others transferred from cyber membership to Susquenango.

Lt/C Ann Smith, S, showed posters she had downloaded and printed from USPS, “Welcome to the Neighborhood” promotion. Mary Kucharek reported that the Boscov’s event netted us \$135.00.

P/C Bob Gould, AP, reported that we have 65 members.

P/D/Lt/C John Young, AP, - Absent but always looking for articles and photos.

Lt Linda Rought, P, The next meeting will be a Turkey Fetch Supper on 16 November at Fire Station # 2. She needs someone to prepare stuffing and potatoes. Other members are asked to bring a dish to share and the Bridge Officers will supply dessert. The Holiday Party will be held on 9 December at the Red Roof Inn (formerly Owego Treadway) and the Change of Watch is set for 11 March 2017 at Jonathan’s.

P/C Bob Gould, AP, - P/C Tony Lenzo, P, reported that he and Bob Gould had each done six vessel safety checks.

Lt/C Nancy Bieber, P, - The Cider Mill no longer opens their dress rehearsals to the public. Nancy is looking into other events, one of which is “War Bonds – Songs & Stories of WWII” put on by the Fire House Stage performers of Johnson City, on 10 November at 7:00 p.m. at the Binghamton High School.

The fall District 6 conference will be held 4-6 November at the Holiday Inn Downtown, in Binghamton. If you are able to help, contact Nancy.

There are a few tickets left from the Aquatarium tour that members we were not able to use. They are good until December 2017. Contact Nancy if interested.

July 2017 will there be a joint summer District Rendezvous with CPS-ECP Kingston, Ontario District with a trip on the Rideau Canal. More details will follow.

Old Business: There is renewed interest by the Binghamton Fire Dept. Rescue Squad concerning the Rock Bottom Dam Warning Sign Project. Dave Olds will be meeting with Capt. Daniel Vail on Saturday, 10 November to discuss what role, if any, we can play in the project.

Commander’s Comments: Another great edition of the Deep 6 is out and online today. It includes some good articles by three of our own squadron members which includes a how-to write-up by Dave Daniels about our Boating with Susquenango PS Facebook Group.

We want to acknowledge several new members to our Squadron: Robert Gault transferred as a USPS Cyber member and brought along three family members as well. We also welcome Timothy and Laura Newton to our Squadron.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Kucharek

Lt/C Mary L. Kucharek, P, Secretary



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 20 November. If you have a special graphic, please send it to Jack 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.

SeaChest History

The first SeaChest started out as an inaugural issue of March 1957. There was not yet a name or pennant. After many hours deliberation from the Contest Committee, whose it job it was to select a name, our publication was declared the "SeaChest", in April of 1957.

A Squadron pennant (Burgee) was also selected. The design was submitted by Betty Rose and received approval from National Headquarters. Arrangements were made to have several pennants manufactured; one for outboards and one for cruisers.

The first Bridge Officers were:

Commander Amos L. Main, AP

Lt. Cmdr. Walter A Johnson, AP

1st Lt. Karl Shadlich, AP

Secretary George B. Sweet, S

Treasurer William S. Work, AP

Exec. Comm. John B. Clugstone, AP, Gordon O'Reilly, AP, Henry F. VanBrunt, S

The roster listed 108 members. Members' names that we would recognize today are: Robert Graves, William Lozier and Karl Shadlich.

- Editor of the first "SeaChest" was John B. Clugstone and Publication Director was P/C Richard Rice, AP.
- Advertisers were:
- Shaddock's Marine Basin, 2 Tompkins St., Binghamton
- Leighton's Pharmacy, 55 S. Washington St., Binghamton
- Hitts Diner, 57 Main St., Binghamton
- Sears Roebuck & Co., 174 Court St., Binghamton
- George W. Burt & Son, 3103 E. Main St., Endwell
- Thompson Agency, Inc., Johnson City
- Walter F. Ayers, Ins., 511 Marine Midland Bldg., Binghamton
- Stabler Agency, 105 E. Main St., Endicott
- Cole's, 1154 Front St., Binghamton
- Jensen's, S. Jensen Rd., Vestal
- Johnson's Boat Yard & Marina, Ithaca

We've come a long way from that first hand made issue, Now it's electronic composition and distribution. What would our founders think of this?

Submitted by

G. Robert Kucharek, P, Historian
Historian



Update - Rock-Bottom Dam Warning Signs

It is now very likely we will achieve our Squadron's goal to see warning signs placed upstream of the deadly, Rock Bottom Dam in Binghamton. This dam is the classic low head dam that can capsize, trap and drown a boater in the swirling backwash after unsuspectingly going over the dam. The water just upstream of the Rock-Bottom Dam is a popular spot for small boats and especially paddle craft of all sorts.

In 1975, three local firemen lost their lives during an attempt to rescue boaters trapped in the swirling backwater of this dam, located near the Park Diner in Binghamton. This normally picturesque dam can turn into a killer when conditions are right.

On Saturday afternoon, at the 2015 D/6 Spring Conference, members the Binghamton Fire Bureau were invited to tell about this deadly incident and demonstrated the new methods used now to attempt safer water rescues.

We were all surprised to learn from Asst. Fire Chief Sam Santoni, that there are currently no warning signs above the dam to alert boaters or swimmers 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 Susquenango Membership 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 all about boater safety and many of us felt this is an opportunity for our squadron to spearhead the effort to get warning signs strategically placed above the dam.

Unfortunately, we ran into a bureaucratic quagmire, although our research positively determined the signage responsibility falls with the City of Binghamton, as 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 recently contacted by Captain Daniel Vail. Dan Vail is currently captain of the Rescue Squad and was referred to us by Chief Santoni.

Dan informed me that he had recently discovered an old entry in the city's charter mandating the city to place warning signs above the dam. Through the chain of command, this was brought to the attention of the City Council who immediately voted to have the signs made by the city's sign shop. Captain Vail then contacted the NYS Department of Transportation and verbally received the okay to arrange for the signs to be hung on chains from the Tompkins Street Bridge, which is the first structure crossing the river above the dam.

Our proposal was to mount the signs on the concrete supports of this bridge but was rejected by DOT because it would require drilling into the structure to mount the signs. Dan Vail's great idea to use chains to suspend the signs requires no drilling and they can be easily removed for winter storage or bridge maintenance. The signs are slated to be painted soon and will be scheduled to be installed next year.

I will follow through on the progress and report more on this next spring. We hope that our involvement in this project will not only provide a needed public service, but will also bring recognition to our Squadron and our mission.

In September of this year, a decade after a Binghamton City Council resolution authorizing it was passed, work on a memorial to three fallen Binghamton firefighters was officially begun, 41 years after their death. The monument will cost about \$36,000 and is expected to be completed by early next year. It is situated along the south bank of the Susquehanna River with a view of the dam where the men died.

Commander David Olds, AP

Lasagna Dinner—October 2016



Merit Marks Last Call

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

If anyone believes they deserve a merit mark, contact your committee chairman and request a submittal. Remember, 25 merit marks and membership is free.

There is a merit mark form on the District 6 web site. The easiest way to access the district web site is to go to our susquenango.org web site, and click on the District 6 link on our home page. On the district home page click on the "Downloads" tab and then save the form to a file of your choosing. Open the file in your computer, fill it in then attach it to an e-mail to jyoung6@stny.rr.com.

Our Boscov's Beauties



Vonda Oakley and Mary Kucharek promoting our Squadron and selling discount tickets at a booth in Boscov's. Thank you Vonda and Mary for your efforts.



USPS "Welcome to the Neighborhood" Promotion Poster



On the Horizon Susquenango Events

- 11/16/2016** Turkey Fetch Supper and General Membership Meeting
Wednesday
Town of Binghamton Fire House #2
Dinner 6:00 PM—Meeting 7:00 PM
- 12/09/2016** Holiday Party
Friday
Red Roof Inn (Formerly Owego Treadway Inn)
Cocktails 6:00 PM—Dinner 7:00 PM

District Events

- 11/04-06/2016** D/6 Fall Council and Conference
Holiday Inn Arena
Binghamton, NY



**November 6,
2016
2:00 A.M.**

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