



Susquenango  
**SeaChest**



Monthly Publication



January 2021

Volume 66 Issue 1

District 6



Susquenango January Happenings

20 January 2021 Meeting

Zoom Meeting

Watch for Squadron Email with sign on info



Good Bye 2020  
Hello 2021



If 2020 were  
a food truck.





# SeaChest

Published Monthly by  
Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron Inc. a unit of the United States Power Squadrons



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Address communications to **The Editors, 3801 Country Club Rd. Endwell, NY 13760-2510, (607)296-3482, e-mail - acciaim@stny.rr.com.** Material for a particular issue must be received before the fifteenth day of the prior month.

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**Education Officer**  
**Adm. Officer**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
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## Commander's Comments

As we say goodbye (and good riddance) to 2020 let's think about all the ways we were blessed in this very difficult year. First and foremost, I am thankful that I have not heard of any of our members being stricken with COVID. So many people are suffering with the virus or have lost love ones. We should also be thankful for the beautiful summer we had to enjoy our boating. It was different around the marinas but we all managed to have a good time on the water where we could, at least for a while, forget about all the cares of the world.

My thanks to those who attended our Zoom meeting/cocktail party in December. With the BIG snow storm that arrived we were all safe in our homes. It's really easy to join our virtual meetings and I encourage more members to get on board for the 20 January 2021 Zoom meeting. An email invitation will be sent out prior to the meeting with easy to follow instructions. If you have any questions about doing this, please contact me. We will reevaluate the COVID situation for future meeting and our Change of Watch scheduled for March.

I just received the online Winter Edition of the USPS *Ensign* magazine which, as always, is packed with great information and stories. **In this issue:**

Learn how to navigate in low visibility in Smoke Signals.

In part four of Cruising America's Great Loop, our cruisers go from Key West through the Bahamas and on to Stuart, Florida.

Discover why you need a float plan, and much more!

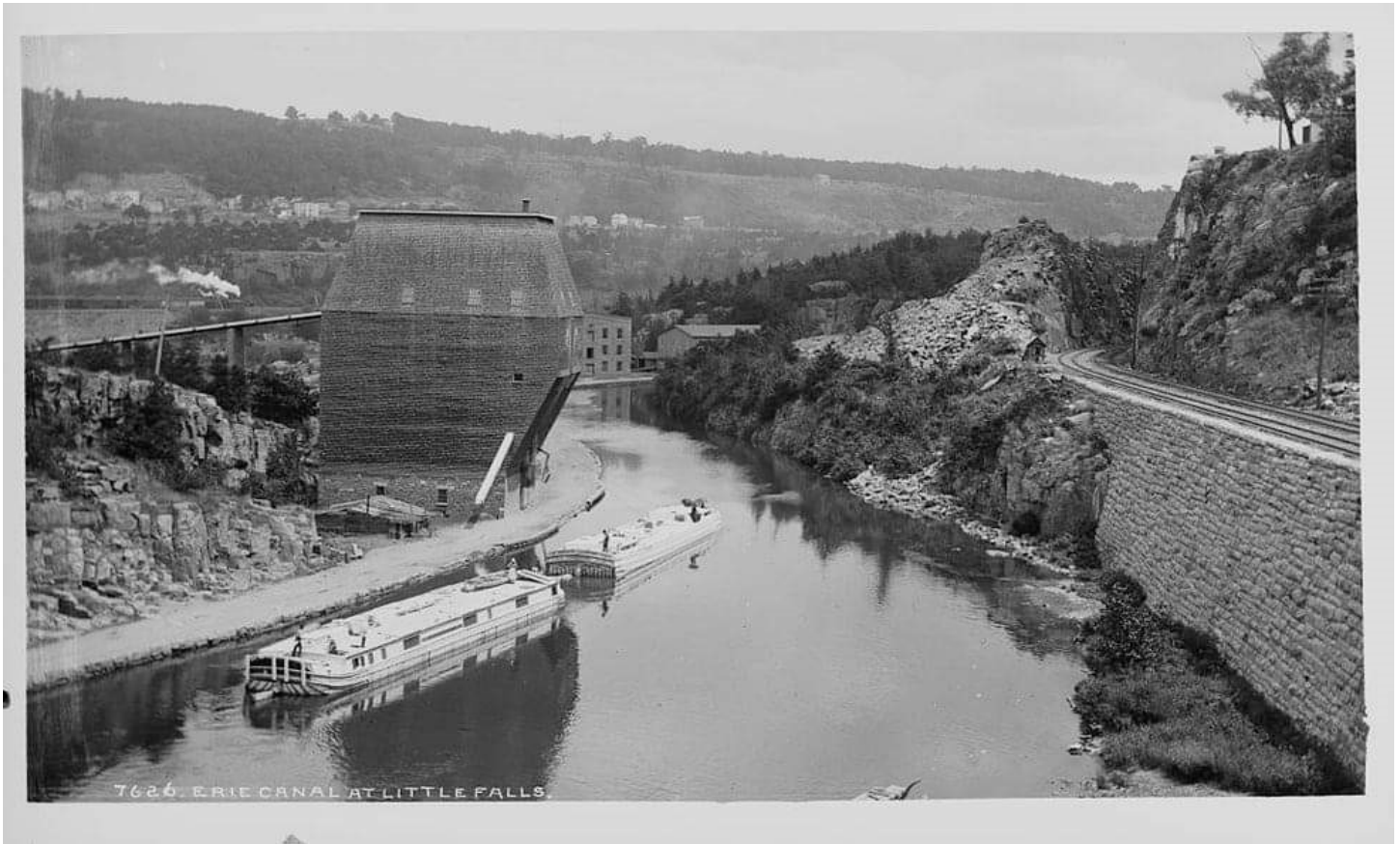
Make sure you download and read it soon.

Wishing everyone Happy Healthy New Year! Only 4 months to boating season! Stay safe and stay well. I hope to see you at all of our events, and remember.....-

**“America's Boating Club...is YOUR Boating Club”**

Commander  
*Mary Kucharek, P*





Though competition from railroads put a damper on shipping in 1800s, the Erie Canal recorded its greatest tonnage shipped in 1880—nearly half a century after the first railroad came to New York State. Water travel continued to be much cheaper than rail travel, making way for tonnage along the canal to remain strong throughout the nineteenth century.

(Photo: Little Falls, courtesy Library of Congress)

**On the Horizon  
Susquenango Events**

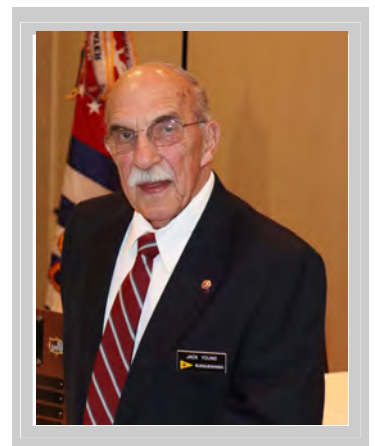
17 February 2021— Meeting—TBD  
20 March 2021—Change Of Watch—TBD  
Jonathans in Endwell depending on NYS  
Covid-19 Rules

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**District 6 Events**

9-11 April 2021—D/6 Conference at  
The Radisson, Corning NY—TBD

P/D/Lt/C John Young, AP  
Editor Emeritus



# A Lockport Adventure



Les and I were in the Buffalo area in October 2018 for a family wedding and decided to take a side trip to Lockport, NY to see the historic “Flight of Five” locks on the Erie Canal. We decided to take the Lockport Cave guided tour which gave us a closer look at this engineering marvel of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (circa 1838) that allowed boats to travel “uphill” 60 feet through the Niagara Escarpment. Nathan Roberts, who had no formal engineering training but had been working on the canal, came up with the idea of creating five consecutive locks as the solution to conquering the Niagara Escarpment. Each of the locks would raise or lower a boat 12 feet which was the maximum the lock could handle with wooden lock gates. Since traveling through the five locks would take a considerable amount of time, they build two parallel steps of locks so that they could accommodate boats going in both directions. The consecutive locks at Lockport helped to finish the distance to Lake Erie, making the entire canal viable. The south side of the lock became locks E34 & E35 for the NYS Barge Canal in 1918 (100+ years ago!) How much easier and faster that has made the trip. It was so interesting to see and compare the modern-day barge canal lock system (side by side) to that of the past. Restoration is underway to bring the north side “Flight of Five” locks back to life for small watercraft. The Buffalo Maritime Club built a replica wooden boat that is now in one of the original locks to demonstrate just how narrow the locks were.

The 75 minute tour also included a walk and boat ride through the Lockport Cave which was once a 2,100+ foot water power tunnel blasted out of solid rock. The hydraulic race tunnel, an invention of Birdsill Holly, provided water power to three local Lockport industries while diverting water around the lock system. It was interesting to hear that Mr. Holly also invented the fire hydrant, central steam heat and the rotary pump. In all, he held 150 patents. The tunnel was cut using sledgehammers and black powder. Each charge would blast a hole the size of a basketball. It took a 1 and ½ years to dig 750 feet. The last part of the tour was a boat ride in the oldest part of the tunnel using a wooden boat that was constructed in the cavern. It made you appreciate the physical labor that made the canal system possible. We thoroughly enjoyed our side trip to Lockport and hope that you get the chance to experience it as well.

Ann Smith

# Nominating Committee Report

28 December 2020

In accordance with the provisions of the Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron By-Laws, *Sections 5.5 & 6.8, and Article 11*, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for office for the 2021-2022 year:

## **Elected Executive Committee Members with voting privileges at all meetings**

### **Squadron Bridge**

Commander

Executive Officer

Squadron Educational Officer

Administrative Officer

Treasurer

Secretary

Michael Acciai, AP

Mary Kucharek, P

Leslie Smith, JN

Linda Rought, P

Nancy Bieber, P

Kathy Darrah, S

### **Members at Large**

Ronald Bieber, S

William Herrick, JN

Anna Smith, S

John Young, AP

Robert Gould, AP

Donna Gould

David Olds, AP

Robert Kucharek, P

## **Elected Officers and Committees (not part of the Executive Committee with no voting privileges at Executive meetings)\***

Asst. Squadron Education Officer

Asst. Administrative Officer

Asst. Secretaries

Bill Herrick, JN

TBD

Margaret "Missy" Olds, S

Margaret "Peg" Acciai, S

Asst. Treasurer

Justin Park, SN

### **Bylaws and Rules Committee:**

David Olds, AP

John Young, AP

### **Auditing Committee:**

Carol Herz, S

Donna Gould

### **Nominating Committee 2020-2021: Chair**

David Olds, AP

Linda Rought, P

Robert Kucharek, P

Each nominee has been personally contacted, made aware of the duties of the office and has accepted the nomination for that office.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David L. Olds*

Chairman Nominating Committee 2020

**\*All Squadron members may vote at General Membership Meetings**

Advanced Distance Learning Courses Offered by Syracuse Sail and Power Squadron, January - June 2021  
And  
Seneca/Finger Lakes Chapter March-April 2020.

Dear SSPS Members:

The courses we are offering this winter and spring as distance learning classes over Zoom (in addition to the basic boating course ABC3) are listed below. I have to order the texts for Engine Maintenance by Thursday, so please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in either or both courses.

--Tess Freedman, Education Officer

**Winter/Spring 2021 Advanced Courses**

**Engine Maintenance** will be offered as a distance learning course with Zoom, on Tuesday evenings 7 – 9 pm, January 5 to March 9, with closed book exam March 16. Instructor: David Ashley, SSPS member and technology instructor in ES-M school system. David has taught auto mechanics at ES-M and has previously taught this course. Cost: \$50 SSPS members, \$90 non-members.

The Engine Maintenance course stresses the diagnosis of modern marine systems, while also teaching the basics of engine layout and operation. Gasoline inboards, outboards, and diesel engines are taught in a way that reinforces the common aspects of how engines work. Modern engines offer high reliability and good performance through the use of computerized systems for fuel delivery and engine timing. Most of these systems are “black boxes” that can no longer be serviced by weekend mechanics with ordinary tools. The EM course covers those repairs that do-it-yourselfers can still perform, teaches how to diagnose problems that might be beyond your ability to fix, and how to share information with your mechanic so the right repairs get performed. The Engine Maintenance course also covers basic mechanical systems such as drive systems (propellers), steering systems, and engine controls. The last chapter discusses solutions you might use to problems that could occur while afloat and away from a repair facility. Gasoline, diesel, and outboard engines are treated independently in this chapter.

**Marine Navigation** is scheduled for Tuesday evenings 7–9 pm, ten sessions April 6 through June 8, with open-book take home exam to be completed by June 15. Instructor: Tess Freedman. This course is currently offered as distance learning with Zoom. **Cost:** Student Kit and Weekend Navigator (required text) \$70 for members (\$50 for second family member sharing Weekend Navigator text), \$130 for non-members; Course plotter (\$7.00) and dividers (\$13.00) are also required. The navigation software *OpenCPN* is used in this course.

Marine Navigation is the first course in the sequence of USPS courses on navigation, covering the basics of coastal and inland navigation. This course focuses on navigation as it is done on recreational boats today and embraces GPS as a primary navigation tool while covering enough of traditional techniques so the student will be able to find their way even if their GPS fails. The course includes many in-class exercises, developing the student’s skills through hands-on practice and learning. Ten classes of two hours each are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition the students have seven days to complete the open book exam.

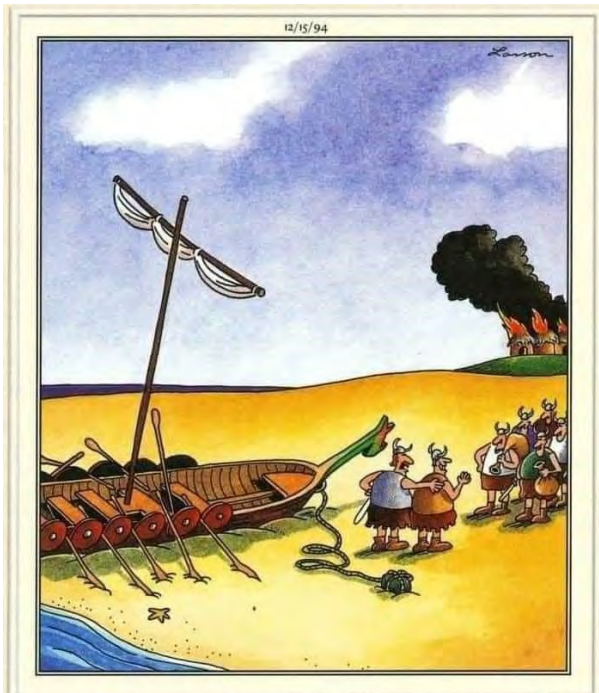
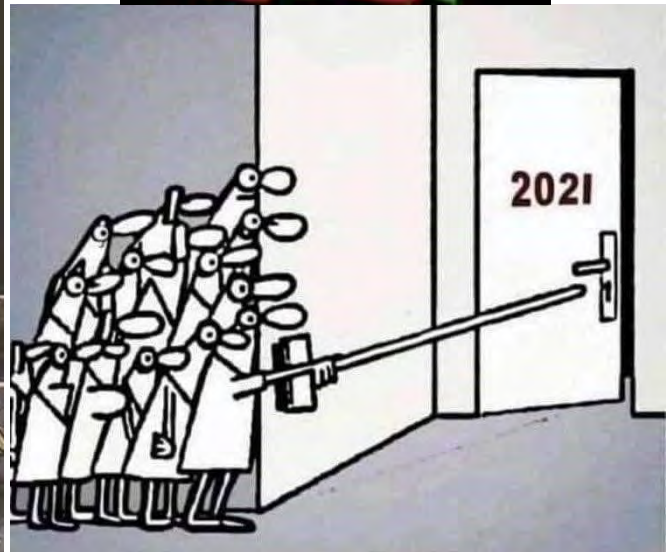
Topics covered include:

- Charts and their interpretation
- Navigation aids and how they point to safe water
- Plotting courses and determining direction and distance
- The mariner’s compass and converting between True and Magnetic
- Use of GPS – typical GPS displays and information they provide, setting up waypoints and routes, staying on a GPS route
- Pre-planning safe courses and entering them into the GPS
- Monitoring progress and determining position by both GPS and traditional techniques such as bearings and dead reckoning
- The “Seaman’s Eye” – simple skills for checking that one is on course

Marine Electronics Seneca/Finger Lakes Chapter March-April 2020. (Exact dates TBD)  
Contact: SEO Charlie Fausold at: seo@abc-flx.org



# Some 2020 Humor



“Everyone can just put down their loot and plunder, and Sven here—yes, old Sven, who was in charge of reading the tide chart—has something to say to us all.”

## HOME COVID TEST

1. Pour a large glass of red wine, try to smell it.
2. If you can smell the wine then drink it & see if you can taste it.
3. If you can taste & smell it, it confirms you don't have COVID.

Last night I did the test 19 times & all were negative, Thank God!

Tonight I am going to do the test again because this morning I woke up with a headache & feel like I am coming down with something.

I am so nervous!

SUSQUENANGO SAIL & POWER SQUADRON  
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