



Susquenago
SeaChest



Monthly Publication



April 2023

Volume 68 Issue 4

District 6

Susquenago April Happenings

14-16 April– District 6 Spring Conference & COW, The Clarion Inn, Elmira NY

19 April 2023: Squadron Meeting and Easter Dinner, Grande's at 5:30 PM

**** Please Contact Lt/C Linda Rought, P if you are planning to attend this Squadron Event. Phone 607-760-6388 or email Linda Rought <ldrought@stny.rr.com>**

Thursday, April 27th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (See page 5 for Details)

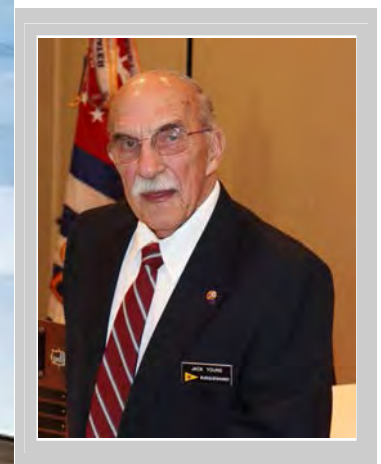
Fundraiser at Vestal Burger King to benefit Susquenago Sail & Power Squadron

On the Horizon

17 May - Susquenago General Membership Meeting – Park Diner, Conklin Ave., Binghamton

17 June – Allan Treman Marina Day (weather delay date 24 June)

21 June – Susquenago Picnic – Acciai's Home, 3801 Country Club Rd., Endwell



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



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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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SeaChest
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Commander's Comments

“Life’s roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors.”



Commander
Mary Kucharek, P

In my comments this month I will be talking primarily about the USPS – America’s Boating Club National Annual Meeting that Bob and I had the pleasure of attending, but first I want to thank those who attended our Zoom meeting on 15 March. It was a productive meeting and we even “saw” some new faces in attendance. On to the Annual Meeting report...

The first part of our trip south was a new experience – the Amtrak Auto Train. It was most enjoyable and sure cut off a lot of driving time! We left Lorton, VA on Tuesday afternoon, February 21, enjoyed a lovely dinner on board and slept “comfortably” in our roomette. In the morning after a light breakfast, we arrived in Sanford, FL just about 30 miles from our destination of Orlando on Wednesday, February 22. Once our car was off loaded, we headed to the beautiful Rosen Plaza Hotel which was our home for the next 4 days.

After checking in, we explored the facility and found the ABC registration area and picked up our information packet. We then checked out the Ship’s Store and other exhibits. We were delighted to meet up with Chief Cdr. Craig Fraser and received a warm welcome. Also, in attendance from District 6 were Cdr. Rick Hibbs, Lt/C Bridgett Arieno, District Secretary D/Lt/C Chris Foster, R/C, Priscilla B. Clarke and DEO D/Lt/C, Les Smith. We were well represented.

Wednesday evening found us enjoying the Mardi Gras dinner followed by a game of bingo. We didn’t win, but had a good time. A nice feature was that they had a National Bridge member seated at each table. We had the pleasure of dining with newly elected National Education Officer, V/C David L. Allen, Jr. SN.

Thursday morning up early to attend the Keynote address by Division Chief of Training Tim Barrett of Sanibel Fire and Rescue who discussed Hurricane Ian and emergency preparedness. He provided a briefing of the preparations, the reality, and thoughts moving forward including the need for teams like SERAT. This was such a devastating storm. Following breakfast, Bob went with a group on a boat and guided walking tour of Winter Park and I stayed back to attend seminars on the Info Technology Center and Heritage and Documents. I also attended the DC/XO and Squadron Commander’s luncheon. It was great to meet other officers and share information. That evening we attended the Life Member and awards dinner honoring all new Life Members. The Rochester Squadron took 3rd place for membership and retention with a 14% increase of members last year. Congratulations!

Continued on Page 3

Commanders Comments Continued from Page 2

On Friday, there was an array of seminars. Bob attended the Environmental Seminar, Coop Charting and a couple of America's Boating Channel programs. He also attended the Governing Board delegates meeting as an Emeritus Member. I attended seminars on history reporting, marketing and how to apply for awards. That evening we all hopped from hospitality room to hospitality room enjoying the company of members from all over the country. What a nice surprise to meet up with former Susquenango members, Jeannette and Jim Spencer. Always fun catching up with them.

Saturday was the Annual Meeting and Change of Watch which began with a very impressive flag ceremony – all were in uniform, which you don't see much anymore. Reports of committees were given and finally the COW with CC Craig Fraser installed for his second year. We also attended the member's luncheon. After the meeting concluded, we headed out to our next destination.

All in all it was a great experience and I would recommend attendance to all members.

And remember... "Life's roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors".

Commander Mary



Found my Grandpas old GPS unit



Boat Safety Courses

Boat Handling

\$120.00 (non-member), \$76.00 (USPS member)

6 Monday Nights -- April 17th – May 22nd, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This course is recommended for both power boaters and sailors who have completed the America's Boating Course, since it builds upon the basics taught in that course. Students learn practical marlinespike (a.k.a. knots), navigation rules, hull design and performance, responsibilities of the skipper, boat care, operating a boat under normal and abnormal conditions, what to do in various emergencies and weather conditions, nautical customs and common courtesy on the water.

Classes held at Johnson City High School, 666 Reynolds Rd., Johnson City, NY

**For more information and to register: www.susquenango.org
or call Les Smith at 607-797-7391**

Line handling - America's Boating Compass

Line handling isn't taught in most classes or found in most textbooks; instead, it's often passed by word of mouth from person to person. I had been boating for many years before I learned the following line handling techniques.

Tying up

There's a saying, "Don't tie the dock to the boat; tie the boat to the dock." This also applies during raft-ups. It means to keep the adjustment and control of your boat on your own boat.

Always pass the eye of the dock line to the dock (or other boat). The person on the dock (or boat) should put the eye around the cleat. Cleat-off the dock line on your boat. Now you can easily adjust your dock line without leaving your boat. Once understood, this technique seems so simple and obvious.

Heaving

When heaving a dock line, don't aim at the receiving person's head. No one wants a wet dock line in the face, but we often have to dodge them.

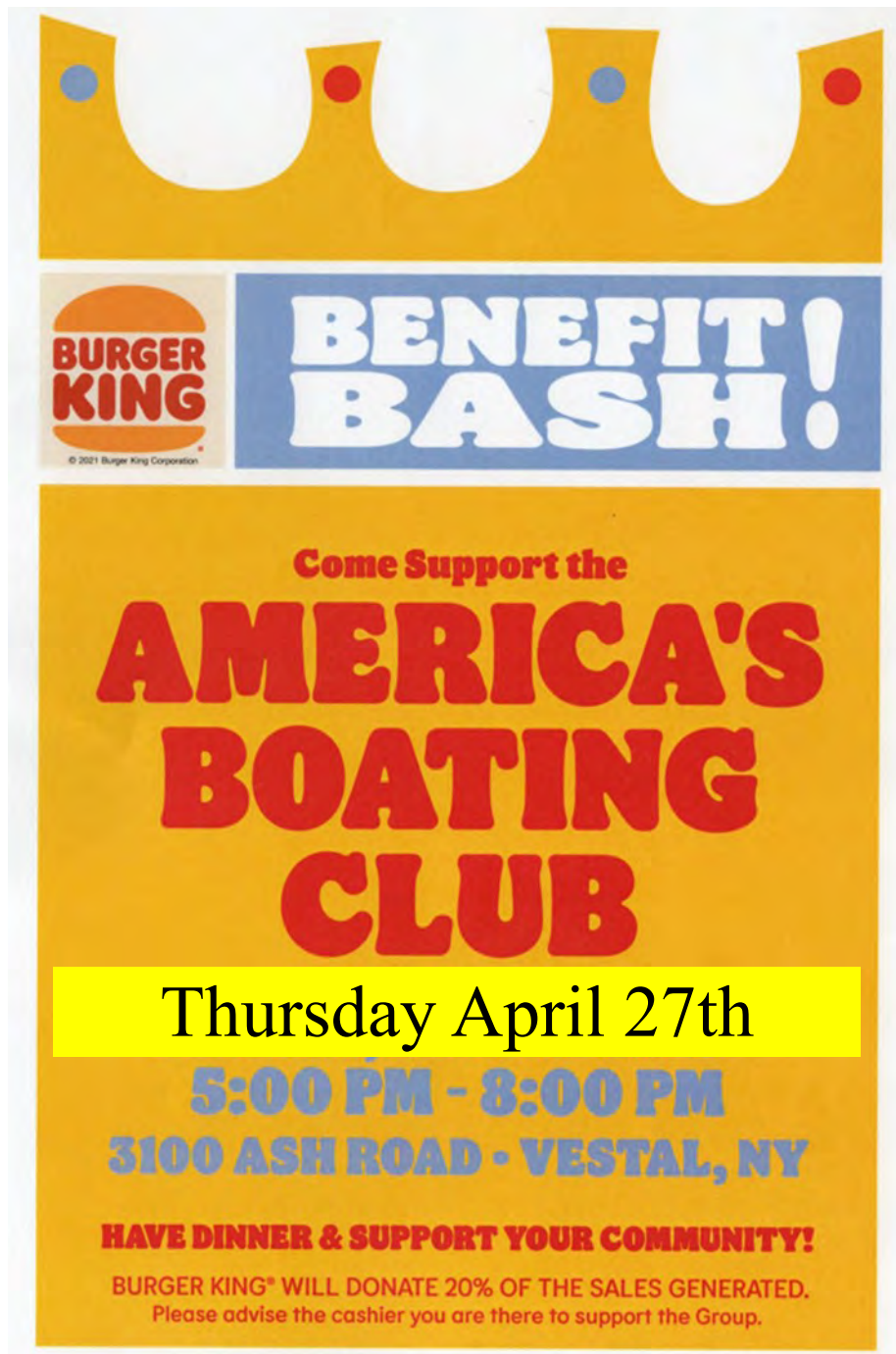
If you are on the receiving end of a thrown dock line, hold out your arm to one side to encourage the thrower to aim to the side instead of your head.

Coiling

When coiling a line, don't put half-twists into each loop. This causes the line to tangle and fall into the water. As you coil a wet line, the line naturally wants to form a figure 8 for each coil; let it. Practice this technique, and you may be surprised to find the line much easier to coil and toss. —*John Martin*

Fundraiser at Vestal Burger King to benefit Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron
Thursday, April 27th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Please support our squadron by purchasing food at the Vestal Burger King between 5:00 & 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27th. The restaurant is located at the corner of Sycamore St. and Ash Rd. in Vestal (across the street from Harbor Freight and near the Lowe's Home Improvement store). Burger King will give a donation to our squadron equal to 20% of the sales taken in during the fundraiser time period. Les and Ann Smith will be at the Burger King during that time period, as the squadron representatives, to answer any questions about our squadron. Please spread the word to friends and family to participate as well!



BURGER KING

**BENEFIT!
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Come Support the
**AMERICA'S
BOATING
CLUB**

Thursday April 27th

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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HAVE DINNER & SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!

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Please advise the cashier you are there to support the Group.

Nautical Myths and Superstitions

Of nautical and maritime superstitions, there are many. While many have no discernible origin (other than "believed to bring back luck"), there are many more used to ward off the unfortunate fates suffered by so many before. As with any superstition, the beholder wishes to have some kind of control over an uncontrollable situation; but sailors' myths add an underlying theme of, if not pleasing a surly and vengeful nautical deity, at least passing by unnoticed.

Figureheads are one of the most recognizable and important aspects of a ship's fate. While women aboard a ship were considered bad luck, as they so wantonly distracted the sailors' from their duties, naked women - like those so commonly used for figureheads - were believed to calm the seas.



Bananas were also forbidden from being brought aboard. This was believed to have originated from the many ships that sank after setting sail from the Caribbean, laden with the fruit. After a shipwreck, bananas were commonly found floating amongst the wreckage.

Finally, the tattoos and gold earrings that sailors were known for weren't just window dressing! Sailors' tattoos often included navigational symbolism, like the north star or compasses, and land animals like roosters and pigs. As many sailors could not swim, they hoped that, should they ever be thrown overboard, the sea would take notice of their tattoos and have enough mercy to return them to their ship. Gold hoops were thought to be a cure-all, from seasickness to vision and hearing loss. They also had more practical purposes such as providing the funds for a proper funeral should their body wash ashore.

There was hardly a more superstitious lot than seamen. Between going months without any communication with the outside world, subpar medical care, and the unpredictability of the sea, it's little wonder that ritual and superstition were so readily adopted. Whether or not they were effective, they at least provided some measure of comfort to the sailors that employed them.

Written By

Kelly Cleaver





Are you aware of the legal requirement for using an engine cut-off switch (ECOS)? This is a requirement that could save your life. For an overview of the importance of specialized safety equipment for recreational boating that will shut down the engine in an emergency, such as the boat operator falling overboard, take time to view a video on the subject. America's Boating Channel™ has produced two videos to help viewers learn about traditional lanyard type devices, as well as the new wireless systems. View "Engine Cut-Off Devices" and "Wear an ECOS" at <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel>. These and other safe boating videos are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to [America's Boating Channel on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel) as a fun and educational introduction to what our organization has to offer.



THE 4 W'S OF YOUR PLAN

Float Plans

Who: Your name and everyone else who will be with you

Where: Your planned put-in, take-out, and paddling route

When: Your estimated launch and return time, and when to notify authorities if you don't check in

What: A plan for what to do if you don't return or check in as scheduled

I've opened a can of worms.

They just sit there, the worms. Hardly the chaos that's been advertised.

FLARES AND DISTRESS SIGNALS

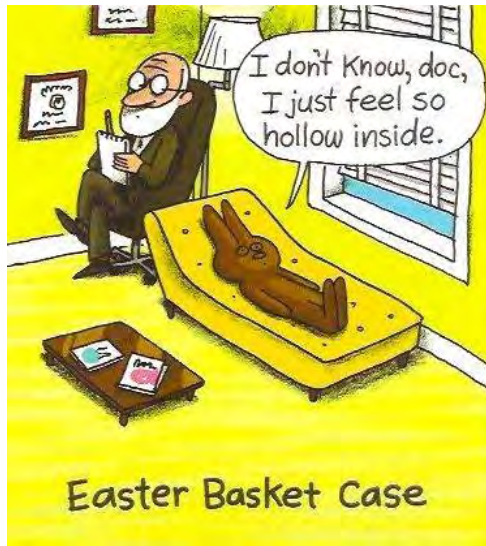
5 Miles	21 Miles	27 Miles	47 Miles
Handheld - 3 MINUTES - 700 CANDELA	25mm METEOR - 15 SECONDS - 8,000 CANDELA	12 BASE METEOR - 15 SECONDS - 8,000 CANDELA	SOLAS PARACHUTE - 40 SECONDS - 8,000 CANDELA

1000 ft
375 ft
250 ft

LINE OF SIGHT



According to Greek Mythology, Chiron was a half horse, half human doctor. This made him the Centaur for Disease Control.



Easter Basket Case

When you're over 50 and they say put a band aid on where it hurts...😞😞



"It's some kind of silly note from the barbarians, sire. It says, 'We will, we will, rock you. We will, we will, rock you' ..."



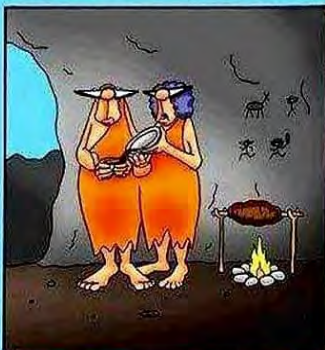
DUCT TAPE

IT FIXES EVERYTHING! 😄

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE RED BULL TO A WOODPECKER



WINE PAIRING IN THE STONE AGE



"Simple rule of thumb; if it tries to eat us, serve with red. If it runs away from us, serve with white."

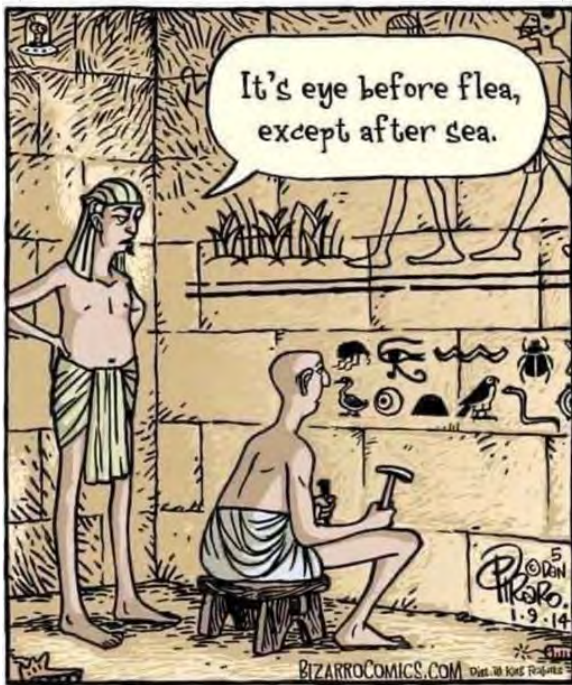


THE WHEELS ON THE BUS....

OH NEVER MIND



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Glen Mealy



"Thanks to the technology on our new boat, it turns into a yacht when our friends come over."

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