



Susquenango
SeaChest



Monthly Publication



September 2022

Volume 67 Issue 9

District 6

Susquenango September Happenings

21 September 2022: Executive Meeting– Park Diner VIP Room, Conklin Ave, Binghamton NY
Order Dinner off the menu at 1800 Hr. Business Meeting at 1700 Hr.

On the Horizon

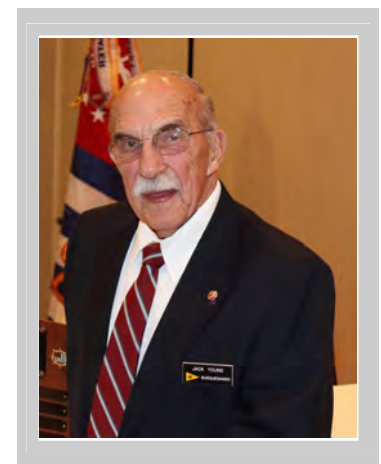
16 November 2022: General Membership and Thanksgiving Holiday Meeting TBD 1800 HR



A NEGATIVE PERSON SEES THE GLASS OF WATER HALF EMPTY. A POSITIVE PERSON SEES IT HALF FULL. A REALISTIC PERSON ADDS TWO SHOTS OF WHISKEY, TWO CUBES OF ICE, AND SAYS "CHEERS"



"He's like the professor on Gilligan's Island. He can build anything but a boat."



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



Sea Chest

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



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Commander's Comments



Commander
Michael Acciai, AP

How can summer be over so soon and Labor Day dock parties in process? I know that Peg and I got off to a late start with the boat canvas issues and 50th anniversary celebration taking up June and July, but where did August go? Fortunately our Weekend River Rendezvous was well attended and the Syracuse Sail and Power Squadron had several Friday evening cocktail and dinner parties that our Susquenago River Rats were able to attend and enjoy. I do thank Cdr Ken and D/Lt/C Karen Green for including us when planning the events.

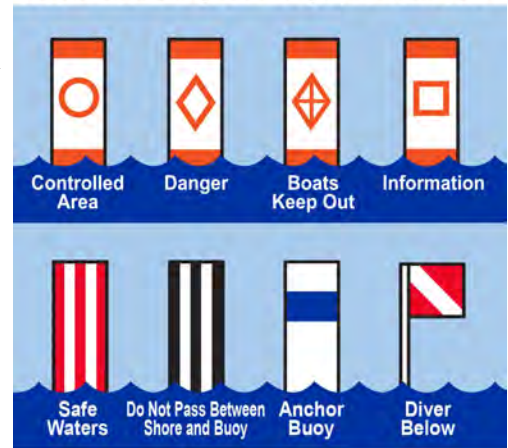
I would urge all of our members and especially our Bridge to read the Governing Board Meeting Notice that was mailed to USPS members. There will be Article 6 and Article 7 Bylaw changes to be voted on concerning the organizational structure of Districts and Squadrons to streamline and simplify the number of officers needed to run said organizations.

Our first business meeting for the second half of our year will be 21 September 2022 starting at 1900 hours. We will meet at the Park Diner on Conklin Avenue, Binghamton NY. We have the VIP room and plan to gather at 1800 hours for dinner and fellowship. Order your desired meal off the menu.

Until then, I wish all our members a fantastic Labor Day Holiday. Enjoy your gatherings, dock parties, family and friends and always follow our safe boating and on the water training.

And remember the sage advice of Yogi Berra when it comes to Covid-19 "It ain't over till it's over."

Know and Obey All Buoys and Markers



From America's Boating Compass

Crew at the helm

Every captain needs backup. Ask the captain to teach you a few boating basics, so you can learn to crew at the helm when needed.

Learn how to start and stop the engine(s). Every boat is different, so practice your starting procedure. For example, in my boat, the ignition keys are in the cabin, but the start buttons are at the helm.

Learn about [life jackets](#). Where are they, how do you put them on, and do they have whistles or other safety equipment?

Learn how to put the boat in gear. Knowing how to put the boat in forward and reverse will come in handy in an emergency.

Learn how to get back to the dock. Should something happen to the captain, what would you do? Getting back to the dock may be the fastest way to get help.

Learn how to pull into the slip. [Docking](#) doesn't need to be pretty. In an emergency, a little bump at 1 mph should do little or no damage.

Learn [how to tie a line](#) around a cleat. A simple figure eight will hold any boat.

Learn how to drop anchor. Dropping an anchor will most likely keep you safe and help calm things down if you can't drive the boat.

Learn how to use the [radio](#). It's a fairly safe bet that the boat is equipped with GPS. Find out how to get your latitude and longitude positions from the GPS. With that, the U.S. Coast Guard, police and towing services can pinpoint your exact location. If latitude and longitude aren't displayed on your GPS, look for it on the small screen of your VHF radio. Most modern VHF radios display your location.

Learn how to use a fire extinguisher. Nothing is more dangerous than a [fire aboard a boat](#). It's worth wasting a fire extinguisher or two to practice how to handle one.

Learn how to light a [flare](#). And how to hold it safely.

Learn how to untie the boat. It's never good to tow your dock behind you.

Learn how to disconnect the power cable from the shore power station. Water and electricity do not mix. *—Marty Seconhouse*

From America's Boating Compass

How to stop a boat from flooding

Beefing up your onboard emergency kit to stop a boat from flooding needn't be expensive. You probably have most of the supplies and tools at hand.

On recreational boats, add the following items to your onboard emergency kit:

- **Plugs and patching material.** Get wooden wedges and tapered wooden plugs in a variety of sizes to match the boat's through-hull fittings. You'll also want an assortment of rubber sheets and gasket material; rags, waterproof putty, and other filler for stuffing in and around patches for a better seal.
- **Fasteners to hold the patch in place.** Make sure you have hose clamps, nylon ties, twine, grease tape, fiberglass tape and duct tape.
- **Tools.** You'll want screwdrivers, a hacksaw, an adjustable wrench, a pipe wrench, a nut driver, and a hammer. Besides using them to patch a hole, these tools can help you close watertight doors and hatches, shut down machinery that could make a flooded area hazardous, and close off drains and discharges that can siphon water into a boat if it sinks below the waterline.
- **Dewatering pump.** Since bilge pumps aren't designed to handle large volumes of water from a hole, add a dewatering pump to your kit.

Put these supplies in a clearly marked container kept close at hand. Attach a flashlight to the handle in case an accident happens at night, and make sure everyone on board knows where to find the emergency kit.

Additional precautions

Careful maintenance and regular inspection of pipes, gaskets, valves, and fittings can greatly reduce the chance that mechanical failure will lead to flooding. Likewise, boating education and knowledge of navigation rules and local conditions can minimize collisions, allisions (hitting fixed objects) and hard groundings.

Hold a monthly drill to practice quick action in an emergency. The amount of time a boat operator has to respond to sudden, uncontrolled flooding strongly depends on the size of the hole and its location below the waterline. The lower the hole, the greater the incoming pressure. A 1-inch hole 1 foot below the surface floods at a rate of about 20 gallons a minute. That same small hole 6 feet below the surface floods at nearly two and a half times that rate. Having the proper supplies at hand will help you respond quickly to stop a boat from flooding.

If your boat is [taking on water](#), notify the U.S. Coast Guard and other boaters in the area and make sure everyone is wearing a life jacket. Saving your boat is important, but if you can't control flooding, saving lives should be your priority. —*U.S. Coast Guard*

From America's Boating Compass

Navigate bridges safely

To navigate bridges safely, particularly on the Intracoastal Waterway, boaters should be aware of a few safety and protocol basics.

Do you know the vertical clearance your boat needs to pass safely under a bridge? If not, find out before you go.

Know the clearance. When approaching each bridge, you'll need to check your charts and cruising guides to find the minimal vertical clearance at mean high water. Don't forget to check the clearance boards posted on the bridges. They show the vertical clearance as you approach. You may need to take down your VHF antenna and outriggers to clear a bridge. According to U.S. Coast Guard regulations, boats that don't lower these items could face a penalty for unnecessary bridge openings.

Check the channel. Check your cruising guide to find out which [VHF channel](#) the bridge tender monitors. Also, as you approach a drawbridge, look for a blue sign with a telephone receiver and a lightning bolt through it; this shows you what channel to call on. If you think you'll need an opening, you'd be wise to find out the bridge's opening schedule and whether it opens on demand ahead of time. A little homework and planning will make your travels more enjoyable.

Remain alert. Having to wait for an opening can be nerve-racking. While waiting and doing the circling dance, you'll need to be aware of your position and the wind and current to make sure your boat isn't being carried close to the bridge or shallows.

Follow protocol. When passing through after the bridge opens, the boats on the side with the current usually proceed first, as the boats on the other side have better steerage and control heading into the current. Proceed at a slow speed and look for posted speed limit signs.

Once through, thank the bridge tender and resume normal speed. *—Beth Schwab*

Anam Cara II with new camper canvas



Some Labor Day Humor



"Runners to your mark. Get set. Go! ... OK, come get your T-shirts."



THIS MAN ASKED THE KID THE WAY TO THE POST OFFICE. BUT HIS RESPONSE IS HYSTERICAL.



A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of Morrisons Store.

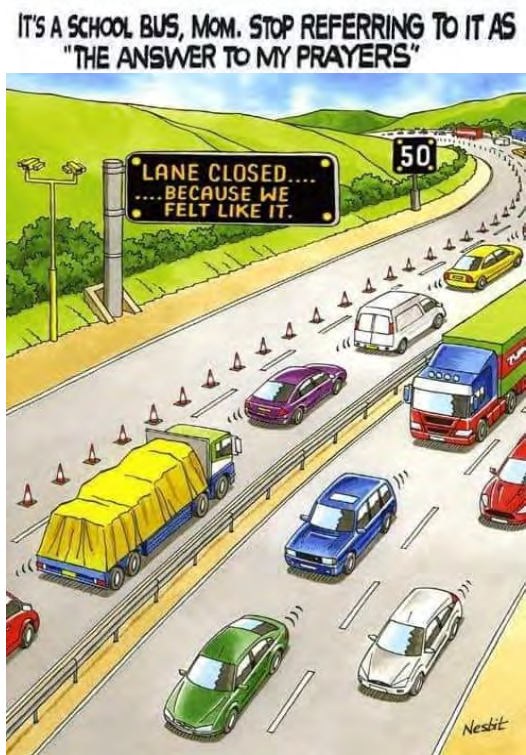
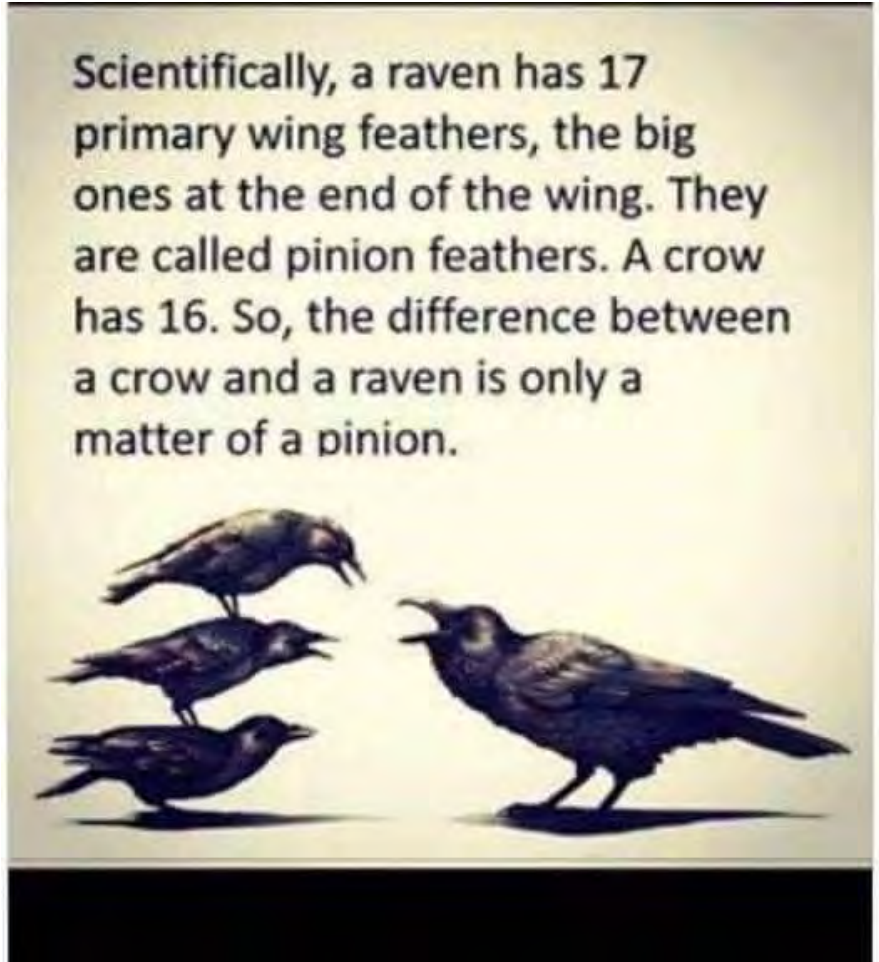
As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can You tell me where the Post Office is?"

The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street and at the end turn to your right."

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new minister in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get To Heaven."

The little boy replied with a chuckle. "Awww, come on... You don't even know the way to the Post Office."





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