



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS

Mark 4

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Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER

I now understand what the meaning of the phrase, “time flies when you’re having fun” really means. It is just amazing to me how fast this year has gone by.

Since this will be my last message as District Commander for the Mark 4, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for giving me this tremendous opportunity to serve as the Commander of District 4. It has been an honor and privilege to serve this organization which has been such a great part of my life for many years.

When I took office nearly a year ago, I reminded everyone that the strength of any organization depends on the activity and level of participation of each and every member. I reinforced the need to make an effort to increase both our communication and our participation during the year. That call has certainly been answered and I thank all of you for your commitment throughout the year. Your presence at various meetings, rendezvous’ and conferences highlights the membership involvement we strive to demonstrate.

USPS continues to change and evolve as an organization better equipped to accomplish our mission - “Education, Civic Service and Fraternization”. This year has shown more cohesion from National to the Squadron level. This is exemplified through the sharing of information from both the National and District level, which, I have then shared with all of you throughout the year. We have seen even bigger strides with technological advances this year with the improvement of our District website to its top notch quality at present. It is this level of continued dedication and support by the membership that will continue to grow USPS and increase our viability and visibility as a leading organization in the boating community.

As we enter 2011 USPS remains strong, our cyber membership is growing, our outreach efforts are expanding and the benefits we are able to offer our membership have been increased. Education is expanding with the enhanced Boat Operators Certification program. The addition of new seminars and revamped courses such as the new marine electronics course represent the advances in education that is always our primary focus (continued on page 2)

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We must keep the momentum going into the new year by focusing on several initiatives.

- Grow our Squadrons and USPS
- Concentrate on retaining our current members
- Enhance our Boat Operators Certification Program
- Increase our on-the-water activities
- Provide increased leadership development for our members.

Locally, we have two major events to focus on in the coming months and I encourage you all to keep the participation going and get involved in these activities.

First, the USPS Annual meeting will be held Feb 2-5 2011 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. This is a great opportunity to see first - hand just what a dynamic organization you belong to. You will increase your education, meet a host of new friends and have fun. Make it a winter get away with family or friends and "join the magic" at Disney.

Upon our return from Florida, we will be hosting our Spring Conference /Change of Watch on March 11-12 2011 at the Park Ridge Marriott, Park Ridge, N.J. We have several new workshops on the schedule this year; New Member Focus Group, Explanation of BOC, Weather Forecasting, GPS Seminar and hands on demonstration of fire extinguishing technique. So bring your friends, neighbors, and your fellow boating enthusiasts and join the festivities.

At that time we will turn the helm over to a new Bridge and a new team of leaders. I have had the privilege and pleasure of working closely with my successor, D/C elect Flo Smith, and I know she will do an outstanding job of continuing to carry out the rich history and traditions of District 4.

When I began this journey I said it would be a fun-filled year. Karen and I certainly have had a fun year and hope that you all have as well. I sincerely believe that what makes this organization so unique are the people involved. The best people in USPS are right here in District 4 and it has been a distinct honor to serve. I thank you all for your overwhelming support, constant participation and dedicated commitment to District 4 and USPS.

Thanks for the memories. Let's continue to have fun!!!

After all, its 5'oclock somewhere!!!

Richard D. Swackhamer, AP

Commander, District 4

USPS FREE Prescription Drug Card

USPS BENEFIT PROGRAM UPDATE

USPS continues to add member benefits to its list, and the new Prescription Drug Card is the latest. The program details can be found by logging on to usps.org and when the home page opens, click on **MEMBER BENEFITS**. You will find an extensive list of discounts available to USPS members. Scroll down to **FREE USPS PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS CARD**. You will then find a red

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fr"LearnMore"button. Click and it outlines USPS card could save members from 15% on brand named medicines and up to 55% on generics. It explains how the card can be used and other excellent features of this USPS card that is free to members.

There are many additional discounts shown on this page, and there are even more if you go to Site Index at the top of the home page of the USPS site. When the index open scroll down to MEMBER BENEFITS, and you will find even more, such as discounts on Print on Demand charts from Ocean Grafix where you can obtain a chart printed right from NOAA's computer that is completely up-to-date. What NOAA knows is printed on the chart the very day it is ordered. Why buy an old chart from a boating store?

And, the Site Index also lists Port Captains, which Relative Bearings covered in a previous issue. What could be better than having your own personal travel agent in just about any city you might visit by boat or car? With all of the USPS benefits, when your dues notice arrives, get a check in the mail promptly. By just taking advantage of some of the benefits, membership is probably free.

Many Thanks to P/C Don Baker, Raritan Bay Sail & Power Squadron for this reminder

BOATING TIPS

NOAA Weather Buoy

by
P/C Don Baker, JN

NOAA has weather buoys off our coast that can be very useful, providing up-to-the-minute information when making an ocean voyage. And, this is only one use. There is a tremendous amount of

information that can be obtained from these buoys. If planning to run an inlet, you will know the likely wave height, period and direction at the buoy, and, therefore, at the inlet and along the coast where you plan to sail. Water temperature is listed, if you're planning a diving expedition. You will also find the air temperature, direction, atmospheric pressure and dew point.

When the site opens, select the area of interest, and you will find a map of the area with a primary buoy and others in the area. You will be surprised to discover that you can find buoys all over the globe. There is so much information that you can spend hours exploring this NOAA site, which is of the New York Harbor area, http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=44065 You can, of course, select any area, but this provides an entry to the site. When it opens the map shows buoy 44065 in green, and other buoys in the area yellow. If you place your curser on any buoy and click, it provides information of that buoy.

I sail primarily in Barnegat Bay in New Jersey, and it helps me determine the direction of the wind, and it's strength before even leaving my home. If there is a strong onshore wind at the buoy in the summer, it tells me how strong the afternoon sea breeze is likely to be. If it is opposed by a strong westerly flow, I know that the sea breeze is likely to be weak, or even if likely to exist. It's worth placing the NOAA link in your favorite places, since it has so many uses.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011

HOW TRUE IT IS

Another year has passed
And we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter
And winter seems much colder.

I rack my brain for happy
thoughts,

To put down on my pad,

But lots of things, That come to
mind
Just make me kind of sad.

There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About 'Living in the Past'.

We used to go to friends'
homes,
Baseball games and lunches.
Now we go to therapy, to
hospitals,
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers,
From parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches
And sleep the night away.

We used to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
Come home and take a pill.

We used to travel often

To places near and far.
Now we get backaches
From riding in the car.

We used to go out shopping
For new clothing at the Mall
But, now we never bother...
All the sizes are too small.

That, my friend is how life is,
And now my tale is told.

So, enjoy each day and live it
up....

From the Education Department

Spring Conference Seminars

Although the Spring Conference is still weeks away, the Education Department is working on providing a host of reasons for you to attend the event. Among the items in the works are two informative seminars that will be presented after a delicious buffet lunch is provided. The first of which will be "On Board Weather Forecasting". While not a course in weather, this seminar explains how just using your own senses can help you determine what conditions you will encounter where you are. Add your own observations and you have an extra edge. Add a couple of instruments and you can verify your observations. The seminar explains weather systems, how to understand clouds and their changes, using changing wind direction, temperature, and pressure to hone in on emerging weather fronts.

Secondly, a presentation of "Using GPS" seminar will be delivered that will (continued on page 5)

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take the mystery out of that receiver mounted in your boat that you don't fully understand. This seminar explains the principles of waypoint navigation which you will use. It then shows you how to relate the GPS to your charts which provide essential information about which is around you. The seminar also shows you how to operate your GPS – what the buttons do, what the screens show, and how to access the functions you need. This seminar is a confidence builder that enables the boater to enjoy their boat without the anxiety associated with getting lost at sea.

There will be notices and fliers coming out in the very near future updating the progress of these offerings. While attending the seminar is free, should you want credit toward your IN or CN Certification or over - all education record there will be a nominal charge. Please do not hesitate to make your reservation early for the Conference and all the educational programs that are prepared. More shall be revealed stay tuned.

D/1st/Lt. Rich Woznicki (nominee for DEO, 2011)

Let's Keep the Light Lite

This year has been an exciting one on all fronts. D/C Swackhamer has shown us that doing the business of USPS can be fun and the district continues to make forward progress. Our membership is stable which is better than many districts can say. But who will be there to help us keep the lights of USPS on. All of US! Who will be there to help get the word out about what our organization has to offer – All of US! We are no longer in the position of being the only show in town, but we are the best show. We just have to let everyone know about it.

I have learned in business networking that it is not just a question of knowing what another person's company does, but also what interests that person. Listen for clues that will help you find common ground. Let's translate that process into attracting and involving our newer members. In conversation with our fellow USPS members, most often we stop at what kind of boating a person does. We find out basic details and then move on. They do have a life outside of the squadron, and it is important that we find out what they do in that life as well. How else can you involve them if you do not know where their strengths and interests lie?

When you identify what they can do, you can ASK for their help. Small tasks grouped together will lead to the completion a larger task. Don't ask them to take the chair of a committee, ask them to do a very specific task. Praise them for the completed task and publish the accomplishment. Trust me; everyone loves to see their name in print – electronic and hardcopy. The hesitation at the next request will be less and they will be hooked. It does not matter if they are obsessed by squadron life, only that they are a part of it.

Remember that with each small flame that you light, the light will stay on longer and be larger. Be well and healthy in the coming year, and I look forward to helping you KEEP THE LIGHT LIT in the coming watch.

D/Lt/C Florence Smith, SN
District 4 Executive Officer

**DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS**

Committee Reports.

Rules Committee: Proceeding with by-laws changes to conform to USPS model regarding family unification.

Nominating Committee: Slate for consideration at Spring Conference submitted as follows (District Bridge listed below)

Commander Florence Smith ,SN, SIP
Executive Officer Ray Nylander, AP,Lack
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District Edu Officer Richard Woznicky AP
Rar
Admin Officer James Ulrich, AP, SIP
District Treas. Robert Phillips,JN, N
District Secretary Robert Barkalow AP
,Barn

Candidate for Assistant Education Officer is sought, if interested contact P/D/C Kathleen Bisogno, JN

In addition the following were nominated as chairpersons of committees:

Auditing-Lt/Edward H Jones, AP
Rules: P/C Darwin
Richmond, P
Nominating: P/D/C Richard Zucchi
AP

Reports from commanders of North River (Nick Garbidakis), Staten Island (Don Heap, Watchung (Marlene Oslick), Lackawana (Steve Cohen) and Northern New Jersey (Joel Stoesser) were received regarding squadron activities. Special mention was made of the appointment of a new webmaster for D-4, P/Lt/C Jerome Tauber, N, whose efforts have greatly improved the site. Members are urged to visit the site and check it out.

D/Lt/C Smith announced there are now 11 members of D-4 who are eligible for designation of life members having earned 25 merit marks. These members are:

Mary Davis
J Arlene Maresca
D. Raymond Orsi
James Gordon
Francis McHugh
Patricia Greer
Anthony Santoro
Larry Eckenrode

Congratulations and many thanks to all of them . The awards will be handed out at the USPS conference in Orlando and at the D- 4 conference in March.

D/Lt/C Smith again stressed need for squadrons to update their by-laws to reflect changes to membership classifications, the need to concentrate on member retention and the availability of a Power Point Presentation for marketing on the USPS website (USPS.ORG).

P/C Grant Hobson announced that we were granted 2 booths at the New York Boat Show, 12-23 January, and the boat show committee is preparing a new and substantial display featuring our courses and seminars. Dress code set up and volunteers are being recruited. SEE REPORTS FROM THE SHOW IN THIS ISSUE.

The winner of the “SPOT THE ENSIGN” contest was Lt/C Kevin Wanner, Lackawana, who was present at the meeting and received his @125reward. The contest will once again be run in 2011.



Mark 4 is the official publication of District 4, USPS. Published 4 times a year. P/D/C David J. Meshulam, AP, Editor, with the help of many loyal members.

Articles and announcements from squadron officers and members are welcome by email at DJMGEM@AOL.COM

Our thanks to all the contributors to this issue whose names appear with their articles.

SPOT THE ENSIGN CONTEST

**At the last D-4 Conference in November the results of last summer's "Spot the Ensign Contest" was picked. He was Lt/C Kevin Wanner, Lackawana, who was present at the meeting and received his @125reward. Kevin's boat was spotted and reported by Commander Steve Cohen, Lackawana Squadron.
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Discussion was held at the December Council meeting whether to run the contest again in 2011. The general consensus was in favor of doing so but on condition that an effort be made to encourage wider display of the ensign by better publicizing the contest internally within the squadrons. Further details will be provided in the May issue of Mark 4 but squadrons are urged to start promoting the program immediately thus allowing for the purchase of ensigns earlier. The contest in 2011 may well include members

of D-3 and an effort is underway to also run the program nationally. The possibility of a national contest will be discussed at the USPS Conference in Orlando 2-5 February.

The following are pictures of some of the entries in the contest this year.

(PICTURES SUBMITTED BY PAT GREER,RARITAN BAY PS)



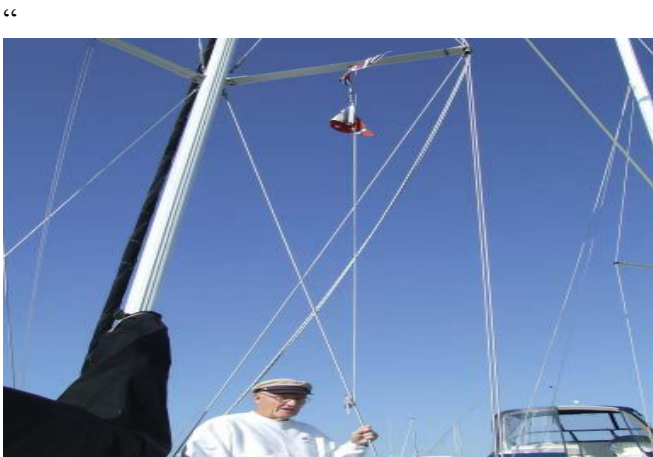
Richard Woznicki on Lady Shannon IV, Raritan



Gerald Borna on "Ten of Hearts", Raritan Bay



Jeff Horton, Lake Hopatcong PS on” ¾ Time,



And last but not least, this editor’s star reporter, D/Lt Don Baker, SN, Raritan Bay S&P Squadron



Everett Smith, Raritan Bay PS on “Paramour II”

EDITOR’S NOTE REGARDING THE ENSIGN

AT THE RISK OF BEING TOLD I AM BEING NEGATIVE IN MY THINKING, OR AM SOUNDING LIKE AN OLD MAN WHO KEEPS REPEATING HIS MESSAGE, WE NEED TO RESTORE THE PRIDE IN OUR ORGANIZATION AND ADVERTISE IT TO OUR FELLOW BOATERS TOO MANY OF WHOM HAVE NO IDEA WHAT USPS IS ALL ABOUT (RATHER THINKING IT REFFERS TO THE UNITES STATES POSTAL SERVICES). IN MY LAST 2 YEARS OF CRUISING NEW JERSEY AND LONG ISLAND SOUND WATERS, I SPOTTED 3 ENSIGNS. WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOU HIDING?

- 1) IS IT THE COST OF THE ENSIGN THAT IS STOPPING YOU FROM GETTING ONE?**
- 2) IS IT THAT YOU ARE NOT PROUD OF YOU ASSOCIATION WITH USPS?**
- 3) DO YOU THINK WE ALREADY HAVE TOO MANY MEMBERS SO THAT WE DO NOT NEED NEW ONES?**
- 4) DO YOU FEEL NEW MEMBERS MAY TAKE OVER YOUR JOB OR JOBS IN YOUR SQUADRON AND ARE THUS AFRAID OF THE COMPETITION.**
- 5) DO YOU FEEL ASHAMED OF USPS AND WHAT ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE?**

Watch for details of the 2011 “Sight the Ensign” program in the May 2011 issue of Mark 4. Suggestions on how to make it more successful are welcome. Consider the possibility of running a contest within your squadron with a drawing to include all your members who fly the ensign and then submit all to the district

HAIL THE USPS ARMED SERVICE

(Reported by P/SEO Norm Condit,SN, SIP)

Attached is a picture of the Aero Division of Staten Island Power Squadron from February 1941. This picture was published in our local newspaper The Staten Island Advance and was from the collection of the Staten Island Historical Society. This could be the story you might like to print along with this picture.

" The Staten Island Sail and Power Squadron celebrated it's "75th" Anniversary in 2009, proud of it's long record of service in the New York City area. For example during World War II, we trained new Navy and Coast Guard recruits in Seamanship, Navigation and maintained picket patrols around Staten Island and the mouth of New York Harbor by both Sea and Air.

The Staten Island Power Squadron had an Aero Division which flew patrols covering Sandy Hook N.J. to Breezy Point N.Y. and lower N.Y. Harbor. The February 1941 photo of the Staten Island Power Squadrons Aero Group recently appeared in our local newspaper in an article about the history of flight on Staten Island. The photo shows 3 aircraft with the U.S.P.S. Ensign painted on their sides at Donovan Hughes Airport, on Staten Island."



D-4 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The spring conference is scheduled for 11-13 March, 2011. Thanks to the great efforts D-4 Webmaster, Jerry Tauber, full details are available on the D-4 website, www.usps-d4.org. All issues of Mark 4 are accessible at the site as well. We urge all members to access the website on a regular basis. If you have never attended a conference, do it now. Great time for all. Seminars will be offered as already set forth in this Mark 4 and the Friday night's cocktail party followed by dinner (further information will be on the website).