



# United States Power Squadrons

*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends<sup>SM</sup>*

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## City Island Sail and Power Squadron Newsletter



Celebrating our 35th Watch  
*Join Us!*

## The Commander's Corner



Bad news has been given to your Commander and, unfortunately, it has been confirmed... Summer is over.

I did my level best, gave it my all, but the days are getting shorter and colder. Soon darkness will be upon the face of the waters.

Nothing for it but to pull your arm chair up to the hearth, sip on your hot toddy, and pick up your phone to enroll in a Power Squadron class! Our brilliant teachers will brighten your winter evenings. Our meetings and social events will warm you from your heart to the tips of your toes. Next thing you know, it will be time to put your boat back in the water, dig out your rod and reel, kick off your shoes and enjoy summer water.

As I look around our squadron, it's impossible not to notice there are fewer of us than there once were, but those who are left are closer than ever. Regardless of the approaching winter, our friendship keeps us warm.

Shipmate, know that your Commander thinks the world of you, is honored to count you as a friend, and is grateful for all that you do.

Keep warm this winter ..... join us!

Cdr Sill

## Contents

Pg. 2	Nautical Smiles
Pg. 3	Connect with Us
Pg. 3	Nominations and Merit Marks
Pgs. 4-5	Change of Watch
Pg. 6	Luau
Pg. 7	Blessing of the Fleet
Pgs. 8-9	Bobby Fenton
Pg. 10	Mark Your Calendars

*Barbara Halecki, Editor*



# Nautical Smiles

Compiled by Barbara Halecki, P

A boat loaded with red paint ran into a boat loaded with blue paint. What happened, you ask? The crew was marooned.

What do you call a sail with only 2 corners? --- I haven't got a clew.

Two people were out sailing when it seemed that a hand appeared in the sea.  
"What's this?" asked the skipper. "It looks as if someone is drowning!"  
"No," explained his companion. "It's just a little wave."

Newbie: "Do yachts like this sink very often?"  
Skipper: "No - usually just once."

A novice yachtsman got into trouble in heavy swells and had to call the Coast Guard for help.  
"Mayday, mayday, mayday!" he yelled. "This is the yacht Corporate Junket, over."  
"Corporate Junket, this is the Coast Guard," came the reply. "Can you give me your position sir?  
Over."  
"Coast Guard, I'm the director of a financial planning company."

A captain told his friend, "My wife just sailed to the Caribbean."  
His friend asked, "Jamaica?"  
He replied, "No, she wanted to."

## Connect with Us

- [www.cityislandpowersquadron.org](http://www.cityislandpowersquadron.org)
- Find us on Facebook: City Island Sail & Power Squadron
- For information on upcoming events, contact Barbara Mandarano at: [barb.mandarano@gmail.com](mailto:barb.mandarano@gmail.com)
- For information on the America's Boating Course, contact Richard Welch at: [cityislandabc@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandabc@gmail.com)

For information on other class offerings, contact Richard Welch at: [cityislandabc@gmail.com](mailto:cityislandabc@gmail.com)

**Have a story or an announcement you would like to submit? Please send it to Barbara Halecki at: [halecki@juno.com](mailto:halecki@juno.com)**

## From the Nominating Committee: HELLO ALL STATIONS!

The Nominating Committee of the City Island Sail and Power Squadron is hereby putting out the call to all members in good standing to consider volunteering your time and talent as an officer of the Squadron in the next watch, starting in April, 2019. There are still Bridge Officer positions available, as well as a number of more modest, behind-the-scenes jobs which, while requiring only minimal time and effort, can make a great contribution to the efficient and successful running of our organization. Everyone who works at a job can earn a merit mark at the end of the watch, plus the great honor and satisfaction of serving the Squadron honorably. Not only that, as a special bonus this year, the salary of every Officer and appointee in the Squadron will be DOUBLE last year's pay rate!

Those interested should contact a member of the Nominating Committee, or speak to the Commander or another current Officer.

Nominating Committee:

Jenie Simotas

Barbara Mandarano

Susanna Taylor

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## 2018 Merit Marks

**Reminder:** Please submit your merit mark recommendations to Barbara Mandarano by October 31, 2018. Thanks!

# Change of Watch

*\*\*\* Special thanks to P/C Barbara Mandarano, SN who submitted these pictures. \*\*\**



## Change of Watch (Continued)



# Luau

*\*\*\* Special thanks to P/C Barbara Mandarano, SN who submitted these pictures.*



## Blessing of the Fleet

*\*\*\* Special thanks to PIC Barbara Mandarano, SN who submitted these pictures.*



## Bobby Fenton

*Submitted by P/C Jeff Taylor, SN*

As I grow older, I have learned many painful lessons. One of them is that, quite often, the people who make the most difference in the world - especially the most difference for the better - don't get much notice. They do the wonderful things that they do, then they fade away and are gone before you realize how important they've been. One such person is the subject of this article.

Every year on a carefully selected Sunday in June, avoiding Father's Day and any big televised sporting events, our Squadron holds its annual Blessing of the Fleet. It's a well-known tradition on City Island, all around Eastchester Bay, and further afield in Westchester and western Long Island Sound. Boats come from miles away, all spruced up, flags flying, loaded with passengers, all having a great time, celebrating boating, summer, and the magical pleasure of just being afloat. We often have in excess of a hundred boats, so it makes for a rather stunning parade. The Fire Department sends a boat, which sprays a very impressive blast of water into the air, and there's usually a police boat as well. The Squadron Bridge officers stand on the pier, alongside members of the City Island American Legion Post, who fire three volleys of blank rounds from their rifles in honor of those who have died at sea. Most importantly, we have a Catholic priest, a protestant minister, a rabbi and an imam, who cast a beautiful wreath of flowers on the water at the same moment, and then bless each vessel as they all file past. There are a lot of sharp uniforms, colorful flags and banners, religious vestments, and a great deal of seamanship and goodwill on display to begin the boating season. Channel 12 television and the local newspapers usually cover the event. It's always well organized. We're very good at it. And we are quite justifiably very proud of it. I've been personally involved in it almost every year for the last twenty years, and I can't tell you how long we've been doing it, because it started long before my time. All these years, our host has been Bobby Fenton of Fenton Marine.

Last February, Bobby Fenton retired. I got a call not long ago, from our own Dennis Gormley, who's played a crucial role in the Blessing of the Fleet since long before my time. An old friend and colleague of Dennis, Bobby Fenton has been a well-known, reliable and important (but very modest) figure among City Islanders and local boaters for decades.

I pulled into Barron's Boatyard the other day, just to check on some old salty dog friends of mine and there was Bobby working on his boat, the Sarah Anne. Barron's is right next door to the marina that's been called Fenton's all these years, and it's where I've always kept my boat. The Sarah Anne is a gorgeous little 22-ft Chris Craft Cutlass Cavalier, built in 1966. The boat was sitting on a trailer in the middle of the yard, and Bobby was building a very trim and proper winter cover for her with plastic tarps and PVC pipe. Dennis had suggested I write something about Bobby, so I strolled over and asked if he had a minute to chat. You could tell the boat was something special as soon as you walked up to her, with perfect teak joinery throughout, all flawlessly varnished. Bobby said he'd owned the boat since 1985, and had started restoring her twenty years ago, in his spare time. He's going to launch her next spring for the first time since finishing the work. The layout is custom designed and built by Bobby himself with his own hands. The topsides are gleaming Awlgrip, she has a center console, and she's powered by a 260-hp Merc Cruiser small-block V-8. He agreed to chat with me as long as I didn't mind him working while

## Bobby Fenton (continued)

we talked. I asked him if I could buy him a beer, and he said he doesn't drink. Could I buy him a coffee? Doesn't drink coffee either, he said, but mostly he just seemed too modest to talk that long about himself. I dragged out of him what I could.

He grew up on City Island and has worked in, on and around boats right on the island pretty much all his life. I asked him if he counted himself a "Clam Digger", the local expression for someone born on City Island, and officially native to it. He said he couldn't claim that distinction, because he'd been born in a hospital on the mainland, so he calls himself a "mussel sucker" like anybody else. Something tells me most of the Clam Diggers would be quite happy to call him one of their own just the same. He started working many years ago at Sagman's Marine - now called Kretzers - when that yard was a much more extensive establishment. Bobby's father was a rigger there. At Sagman's, Bobby learned about fiberglass and marine insurance, and picked up a lifelong policy of pulling the mast on every boat he ever stored for the winter. Many yards leave the masts in, but Bobby's view is that the reduced windage aloft on boats on the hard makes them all that much safer in a big blow. Many cases of storms, knocking boats down off their jackstands like dominos, bear him out.

He's known Dennis Gormley since the seventies, when they worked together at Thwaites Marina. Both Dennis and Bobby mentioned a number of other prominent figures in the local boating community, some of whom I've known and some that I've never met, but all names I've heard around the Island for many years. They knew and worked with two old friends of mine, John Barron and Stanley Dunton, now both deceased. They both reminisced about an incident at Thwaites many years back, when a boat Dennis owned at the time - a thirty-odd-foot wooden motorboat - was holed from bashing against a fuel-supply pipe on the dock in a storm and nearly sank. It was saved by a plastic bread-wrapper that happened to get jammed in the hole just long enough for them to jury rig a less precarious temporary patch. They also both remembered the nor'easter of 1992, and furiously hauling boats out of the water to save them from the "storm of the century" as it bore down on New York.

Bobby and Dennis were both veterans of the Viet Nam War, something I didn't know about either of them until quite recently. Apparently, they didn't know each other in the service, but it seems to be something important that they've always had in common. It's hard to get much detail out of them, but I got the impression they may both have been decorated; you just can't get them to tell you.

Bobby opened his own yard, Fenton's Marine, between Barron's and the Hart Island ferry landing back in 1981. He said he rented the place month to month all these years without even a lease. It was one of the most trusted and well-established marine services facilities on the Island for a very long time. Every year he opened it to our Squadron without thought for recognition or recompense, just to do something for the community. I asked him what he planned to do with himself now that he's retired, and he said he wasn't sure if he might get bored. Something tells me he'll find something useful to do, not only for himself, but for the people around him. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

## Mark Your Calendars

- October - NO GEN'L MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- October 31<sup>st</sup> - Merit Mark Recommendations due to Barbara Mandarano
- November 10<sup>th</sup> - D/4 Fall Conference - at the San Carlo, Lyndhurst, NJ from 08:00 - 16:00
- November 15<sup>th</sup> - General Membership Meeting at City Island Yacht Club at 20:00
- December 9<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Cheer Party - Modern on the Rails, 1 Station Plaza, Mamaroneck, NY from 11:30 - 14:00 (details to follow)
- January - NO GEN'L MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> - NY Boat Show at the Jacob Javits Center
- January 27<sup>th</sup> - Founder's Day Celebration at the Larchmont Yacht Club
- February 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> - USPS Annual Meeting at Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - General Membership Meeting at City Island Yacht Club at 20:00

***The next newsletter deadline is January 15.***

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