

City Island Sail and Power Squadron Newsletter



Celebrating our 33rd Watch
We are family.

The Commander's Corner



To say this organization changed my life exponentially in a good way is an understatement. As I reflect on what draws me to this organization it is undoubtedly all the wonderful, extraordinary, true friendships Gary and I have made throughout the years.

For the most part, we all initially came to this organization for the love of boating. Gradually, acquaintances grew into friendships.... friends we call when we're happy, when we're sad, when we need help, and when we are offering help. Friendship is a rare and precious commodity. If you have a friend who truly understands and accepts you, you are the luckiest person in the world.

I am fortunate to have met so many good friends through CISPS. Before calling our membership meetings to order, I often pause and smile as I look into a room with so many friends totally immersed in conversation. This is a good thing! I encourage you to tap into this wonderful resource that is CISPS. To quote the theme of P/C Troy Sill, I say "Join Us!" Come to a meeting or our on-the-water or off-the-water activities. You will have fun, you will laugh and you will be glad you came! I hope to see all of you at our Change of Watch on Saturday, April 2. Please don't miss the boat!

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Barbara Halecki, Editor



A Merry Gathering

Pictures Submitted by Barbara Mandarano

The squadron's 2015 Holiday Party was held at Juliano's on Dec. 5th. A great time was had by all in attendance. Check out these beautiful pix of the event!



Mark Your Calendars

- ♦ Sunday, March 13 @ 1400: D/4 Memorial Service at St. Alban's Church, Staten Island.
- ♦ Thursday, March 24 @ 2000: Annual Member Meeting and Elections at City Island Yacht Club.
- ♦ Saturday, April 2 @ 1900: 34th Change of Watch Dinner Dance at Juliano's in New Rochelle.

Annual Elections

Elections for the 2016 - 2017 Bridge and Standing Committees will take place at the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 24 at the City Island Yacht Club. The meeting begins at 20:00.

Please mark this important date on your calendar and make every effort to attend.

NY Boat Show Review

Submitted by Franz Alvarez

There's nothing like a boat show to chase the winter blues away and ring in the New Year. On Saturday January 9th, I headed off to the Jacob Javits Center for the New York Boat show. It's a great way to be in "a boating state of mind" even though the season is a good four months away. So I took the opportunity to look at the latest in marine electronics, check out boat gear and, of course, look at a boat or two that I could never afford - well, unless I win Powerball. But the real reason I went to the show this year was to take a shift at the USPS booth. Our location was a bit odd since we were off the beaten path, but on the other hand, we were close to the restrooms so we got good exposure (not that kind!). Anyway, we had company not too far away - our compadres on the water, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, were 20 feet - stage right. So one would think, "OK, they are both promoting boating safety, both have some boating courses, one has blue uniforms, the other has white uniforms. What's the difference?" That's where the boating simulator comes in. USPS has invested in an interactive simulator that allows a student to experience various tasks such as docking, maneuvering a boat for MOB rescue, beaching the boat, doing a slalom course, and becoming familiar with typical aids to navigation while underway. The program can also increase the level of difficulty by increasing the effects of wind and water current. Three 20" screens are arranged in such a way that the helmsperson is presented with roughly a 120-degree view that is very detailed and colorful. The controls include a small helm, throttle, and basic controls. As you can imagine, this really helped set our booth apart from our neighbors. The simulator did its job by getting people to gather around and watch Staff Commander George Hallenbeck give 15-minute coaching sessions to the individuals at the helm. No doubt, every "student" left feeling that they learned something regardless of their previous experience. On more than one occasion, people said they hoped they could buy a copy of the program - it's a bit pricey, given it was developed for USPS by Virtual Driver Interactive with a grant from, you guessed it, our compadres, stage right.

Overall, the New York Boat Show was a great opportunity to meet fellow boaters, tell them what USPS is about, review the educational opportunities we have available, and list the benefits of membership. Since there were course and squadron flyers from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, we could match prospective students to a location most convenient for them. So, if you would like to help by participating next year, mark the 2017 New York Boat Show on your calendar. You'll get free entrance to the show, see the latest things in boating, help promote the USPS, and earn time towards a merit mark.

SEO's Corner

Submitted by Richard Welch

America's Boating Course Being Offered in May

This spring's ABC Course will run for three consecutive Tuesdays starting May 10, 2016. Each session will run 2 hours, 40 minutes. The course fee, which covers the textbook and materials, is \$45. We urge all members to tell any boater who has not taken a basic boating course to sign up. The course, in addition to teaching fundamentals of good boating practices, meets the requirement of NYS law that all people between 10 and 18 years of age successfully complete an approved boating safety course in order to operate a motorized boat. The law also requires all personal watercraft (PWC) operators of any age to complete a safety course before operating a PWC on any waters of New York. More than 40 states now have educational requirements for operating a boat or PWC on state waters. For more information, registration, or a copy of the course flyer for posting, email your request to: cityislandabc@gmail.com

New Seminar Being Offered

Additionally, for the spring, we are able to offer the seminar: **Emergencies on Board**. This three-hour seminar is designed to prepare the skipper for unfortunate situations involving accidents and emergencies on board. It will provide useful information on how to adequately prepare for common emergencies and how to actually deal with them when they occur. Cost of the seminar is \$30. Time, date and location will be announced based on the number of members interested.

Recertification

There will be a teaching recertification class offered in May for those whose certifications expire this year. I will be sending invitations to the instructors who are affected.

People who want to register or get more information about any of the above courses can call Richard Welch at [347-202-5305](tel:347-202-5305), or use the above email address.



"Only two sailors, in my experience, never ran aground. One never left port and the other was an atrocious liar."
Don Bamford

Nautical Trivia

Submitted by Barbara Halecki

1. What is the origin of the phrase "son of a gun"?
2. What is the origin of the term "mayday" for an emergency call?
3. Why don't people with anacraophobia become sailors?
4. What is the origin of the term "a cup of Joe"?

(Answers are on p.7)

New York City Waters

Submitted by Jeff Taylor

The older we salty dogs get, the more we learn about our local waterways. Some of us have been up and down the East River enough to know there's no great trick to it as long as you time your trip through Hell Gate. The Inner and Outer Harbors are no great mysteries either, as long as you understand the shipping lanes and keep clear of the deep channels. Sailing out of Jamaica Bay along the South Shore of Long Island is a thrill, especially if the wind is good and the seas are up a little. At the east end of Long Island, with Montauk, Orient Point, Block Island and a long stretch of the Connecticut shore stretching out in one grand vista, it's easy to see why people say Long Island Sound is one of the most beautiful and inspiring sailing grounds in the world. From Watch Hill to Throggs Neck, there are dozens of boat-friendly towns and marinas, and there's nothing better than cruising all day, tying up in the evening, sipping a little rum, and watching the sun go down.

Just last season, a few of us found new salt water dominions to explore right here within NYC limits, between Manhattan and the Bronx. (You may have seen our slide show about our trip at the November general membership meeting.) Jerry and Jenny Simotas hosted Troy Sill and me on their 35-ft twin diesel trawler Sea Gypsy on a trip from New Rochelle Harbor up the Harlem River. There's a teak-decked space aft of her cabin with an expansive view of whatever vistas present themselves over the strong, steady prop wash. Sill and I refer to it as the Millionaire's Deck. We spent a fair portion of our time there on the trip through the Harlem River and back, although Jerry also generously allowed us to do a lot of steering from up forward.

Traveling the eight miles of the Harlem River is an interesting experience. It's a tidal estuary of course -- not a real river at all. Its current shifts back and forth with the rise and fall of the tides and it connects the Sound and the East River (another tidal estuary) to the Hudson River. Running through the Harlem River, you have the sense of being in the city. It's only a few hundred feet wide at its widest, and we were constantly recognizing familiar places in Manhattan and the Bronx. It's strange how you can cross the Harlem River in quite a few places in your car, and not notice it's there at all, but from the boat, you keep realizing you're traveling through places you know very well. In the northern end of the estuary are the rowing clubs of some of the local colleges, notably Columbia University.

There's a total of fourteen bridges in the short, eight-mile length of the Harlem River; eight for vehicular traffic, five for railroads, and the last is the famous High Bridge, the oldest bridge in New York City. Originally built as an aqueduct in 1848, it accommodates only pedestrians and bicycles. Most of the bridges are swing spans, which offer 24 feet of vertical clearance above mean high tide. Four are towering fixed arch spans that leap across the sky; they are the Henry Hudson Bridge, the Alexander Hamilton Bridge, the George Washington Bridge, and the historic High Bridge. The swing spans hardly ever open, although large vessels can arrange to go through them with enough advance notice. The northernmost bridge, the Spuyten Duyvil Railroad Bridge, is the notable exception. This particular bridge has only five feet vertical clearance at mean high tide, so you can't pass when it's closed. The bridge operator there cheerfully opened up for us and made us feel very special as we passed between the high bluffs on both sides, out and back from the much larger expanse of the Hudson River. We would definitely recommend this trip to anyone with a boat and a few hours to kill.



A Trip to Remember

Submitted by Barbara and Tim Halecki

Two years ago, we “made the jump” from our 29’ Bayliner Cierra to a 40’ Marine Trader trawler. Promise Kept II is a lot of boat, but she’s a beauty! Our first major adventure was through the Canal system and into Lake Champlain --- a trip we had made before, but not with a boat of this size. Our plan called for 5 hours of travel each day (at a blistering 10 mph!), with our first overnights at the Kingston Dock and the Albany Yacht Club, respectively. Kingston has many great restaurants. Albany is a very friendly club and stores are an easy walking distance into the town of Rennselaer.

The next morning, we were off. We had purchased our 10-day pass ahead of time, so we simply showed it to the Federal Lock operator at Troy and we were on our way. Fenders out and lines at the ready, we eased into each lock and pulled carefully to the wall. This is a great experience and, with the proper preparation, it can be pulled off without incident. Once into the fairly narrow canals, the speed limit is low so we easily kept up with any boats we encountered.

Our next night was “on the wall” at Fort Edward. After a tricky entrance channel, we pulled into our complimentary spot at the boat basin. Fort Edward, like many upstate NY towns, has fallen on hard times. Thus, it offers free space and electric in appreciation of boaters spending money in town.

Day 4 took us under several bridges (just squeaked under a few of them!) and up to Lock 12 in Whitehall, NY. This town, with Skene Manor set high on the hill, also offers a wall with free utilities and a beautiful welcome center with rest rooms and showers. There are several restaurants, but we highly recommend Finch & Chubb. And don’t miss seeing the hull of the USS Ticonderoga!

The next day we entered the southern tip of Lake Champlain. Shortly thereafter, we were at our slip at the Westport Marina on the NY side of the lake. This lovely spot offers a restaurant, rest rooms, showers, and washer/dryers. A short (but hilly) walk into town gives access to several grocery stores and restaurants. Westport is a beautiful place to simply relax and take in the view. Crossing the lake, our next and final stop before turning around was Burlington, VT. This is a very active college town, with a slew of restaurants, stores, historic churches and a maritime museum. A free shuttle takes you from the beautiful waterfront up to the busiest part of town where you can eat, drink and browse to your heart’s content.

Heading home, we stopped again in Whitehall. Here, we encountered a major mechanical problem when the exhaust elbow on our diesel snapped off. A police officer loaned us his personal vehicle to drive to a welder who fixed it for \$50. Have you ever had a marine repair expertly completed for \$50???? Our faith in mankind was restored! Fear gone, we headed south to Mecahniville and then Saugerties. On our final day, in the rain, the flybridge steering stopped working. Aargh! Luckily it was still functioning at the lower helm and we limped home slowly. But in hindsight, this was a fabulous trip to be remembered!



D4 and National News

Submitted by Barbara Mandarano

District 4 Spring Conference, 4-6 March at the Park Ridge Marriott, Park Ridge, NJ.
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d4/files/SpringConference2016.pdf>

Spring Conference education sessions will include an overview of the redesigned D4 website, a presentation on the Great Loop, info on cruise vacations, and helpful hints on how to market the USPS to promote education and membership.

District 4 Memorial Service, 13 March at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 76 St. Alban's Place (Eltingville), Staten Island, NY. Service starts at 1400 and reception immediately following. For additional information: call Trisha at 917-885-8604.
<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d4/D4church.html>

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TRIVIA ANSWERS (from p.4):

1. On historic sailing ships, childbirth at sea traditionally happened between cannons on the gun deck and the child was recorded in the ship's log as a son of a gun.
2. "Mayday" is said to have originated from the French phrase "M'aidez" - meaning "Help me."
3. Ancaophobia (also known as anemophobia) is fear of the wind.
4. Josephus Daniels was Secretary of the Navy under President Woodrow Wilson. When he abolished the officers' wine mess, the strongest drink aboard a naval ship was coffee which became known as a "cup of Joe".

Safety Tips

Submitted by Richard Welch

The National Safe Boating Council has wonderful free downloadable resources on safe boating practices. Use the following link to go directly to the resources:

<http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/downloadable-resources>

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Save the Date!

**CITY ISLAND SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON'S
34th ANNUAL
CHANGE OF WATCH GALA
Saturday, 2 April 2016**

Juliano's

700 Main Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801

**1900 Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres
2000 Dinner**

**HIGHLIGHTS: INSTALLATION OF THE NEW BRIDGE
 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

For additional information, please call Barbara: 718-792-0897

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Good & Welfare

Condolences to the families of two Past Commanders that we lost during 2015:

- P/C Lillian Vitaglione, AP
- P/C Salvatore Scotti, SN

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Milestones

Congratulations on the following milestones:

- Charles Evers, 25 Year Member
- Alice Vitaglione, 25 Year Member

Connect with Us

- www.cityislandpowersquadron.org
- Find us on Facebook: City Island Sail & Power Squadron
- For information on upcoming events, contact Barbara Mandarano at: bmandarano@chadbourn.com
- For information on the America's Boating Course, contact Richard Welch at: cityislandabc@gmail.com
- For information on other class offerings, contact Franz Alvarez at: franz_alvarez@hotmail.com



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

The next newsletter deadline is May 2.

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