BACK TO SCHOOL!
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**Cover:** www.graphicriver.net
Breaking News

By D/C Nancy Bieber, P

The Fall Conference is a GO with a face-to-face meeting. It will be held November 13, 2020 to November 15, 2020. The Finger Lakes Squadron will host it at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY. The business meeting will be held on site as well as on Zoom.

Radisson’s cleanliness standards are in place to ensure the well-being and peace of mind for all guests. Hand sanitizers will be at check-in, at elevators and on each floor. Each guest will swipe their own credit card. All hotel staff members will wear masks. All indoor areas will be cleaned and mopped at least twice a day.

Social Distancing will be followed in all guest areas and the number of guests is limited. Employees not feeling well are required to stay home.

Your safety and well-being are utmost in the planning and we will make this conference as safe as possible. Masks will be required and no hospitality rooms will be held, but we have plans for some fun activities to keep you entertained and informed. More information and a Registration Form will be sent out soon.

- Nancy
Commander, D/6

District Commander’s Corner

By D/C Nancy Bieber, P

The coronavirus shook the world, and it could be months or years before we feel normal again. Sacrifices have been made, tough choices were taken, and heroes rose up. Our focus has always been on safety, and that’s why so many of you have been holding online courses for the public and your members. Meetings have been held electronically and even Happy Hours are being held through Zoom. Unfortunately, our Spring conference had to be held electronically and a decision will be made soon if Fall Conference will follow suit. This has been a challenging time for our members, both personally and through the squadrons. You have been up for the task and handled whatever was thrown at you.

Recently, I was out on the St Lawrence River and some thoughts went through my mind about how fortunate I am to have such a wonderful place to experience nature and the beauty that abounds. As I was leaving the bay there was a family of swans gracefully moving through the water. (Love the swans!) Soon I encountered a pair of loons swimming close by. (Love the loons!) While on my ride, I saw blue herons, Canadian geese, ducks, osprey fishing, eagles gliding, gulls flying all around, and of course the cormorants. (Don’t love the cormorant so much.) There are so many unique things to see on the river. There are castles, mansions, islands with unusual shaped cottages, and a whole maze of islands to go in and around. What came to mind, though, was these sights are available to everybody. It doesn’t matter if you lay your head on the pillow in a castle, a mansion, a humble cottage, a camper or a tent. You can get out on the water in a tour boat, an ocean-going vessel, a cruiser, a runabout, a sailboat, a canoe, or a kayak and see the same beauty I experienced.

What made this trip so different for me? At a District 6 Conference in the past, there was a female sailor who spoke about the challenges she faced while sailing the ocean, and she challenged us to try something we’d never done before. I have driven every boat Ron and I have owned for the past 50 years. However, since we now own a pontoon, I have not driven at all. I was confident I could handle the pontoon on the river, but I was afraid I couldn’t dock it –
until recently. On this particular trip, I challenged myself to not only drive, but to dock it by myself. Of course, I had a first mate along if I ran into trouble. Alas, there was none. I am thankful for the boating education classes I have taken, that have given me the confidence to understand the ATONs, know how to read a chart, and everything else I need to know to navigate the St. Lawrence River without getting lost. I’m sure everyone reading this has had similar experiences wherever you boat. ABC3 and the advanced courses have prepared you to handle a watercraft and enjoy the beauty of nature only found out on the water.

On a more serious note, the Governing Board Meeting that was to be held from September 6th to 13th in Raleigh, North Carolina has been cancelled. Hopefully we will still have an electronic meeting for the business portion of Governing Board. I have asked District Secretary, Dave Daniels to forward a copy of the notice sent by National Commander, Mary Paige explaining the reasons for the cancellation. You should have already received that.

If you have any questions, please let me know. COVID is really messing us up. I will continue to keep you informed regarding the status of our Fall Conference.

Wear your mask, be vigilant, and stay safe.

- Nancy
Commander, D/6

District Executive Officer’s Report

By D/Lt/C Rick Hibbs, SN

Wow! 2020! Some year! I hope by now everyone is able to enjoy the water, because the weather has been pretty cooperative, even if the various restrictions reduce our degrees of freedom.

FYI, I’m again making use of my Engine Maintenance Course, and years of experience at working on my boat’s diesel engine. This season started out with a launch, a successful engine startup, 2 minutes of idle time, and then an unintended shut down. After some diagnosis, made easier by remembering my dock neighbor’s wise words, “With diesels, it’s always the fuel, always the fuel, it’s always the fuel!” I pinned the problem to the fuel pump.

Having had that problem a few years ago, I first verified the fuel in the tank was water free, then installed a new water separator, new fuel filter, and bled the system. After a final check that fuel was getting to the fuel pump, I had to conclude that the pump had failed again. Removal time!

Now I am not sure, but I think it is pretty likely that the engine was installed into the open hull during the manufacture of my Sabre 28-2, followed by construction of the interior cabinetry and deck installation, because the access to the engine is difficult, to understate it! But with experience I’ve learned to work through the obstacles to get at the problem, rather than try to work around them. A valuable life lesson!

To remove the fuel pump, some actions take place on the front of the engine, accessed from the cabin. Other critical actions can only happen from the rear of the engine, accessed from the starboard cockpit locker. So, an assistant is very helpful. Also needed are metric wrenches, open end, box end, and sockets, in sizes ranging from 7mm to 22 mm. Many bolts are 13mm on the Volvo Penta MD7A, so I have accumulated 13mm in all varieties!

Off with the hoses to the thermostat housing on the front; as well as removing the exhaust riser from the back side of the exhaust manifold (two bolts are not visible from the front position, so I’m not sure how I’ll get them reinstalled!). Remove the thermostat housing, saving all bolts! Remove the exhaust manifold (4 bolts). Now the fuel pump is visible and accessible on the side of the engine.
Into the starboard locker, assume the position of a baseball runner sliding into base (hook slide) with left leg extended behind the fuel tank, right leg in lotus position, against the tank. Twist the torso to the right, bending down at the waist to see into the engine. Disconnect the pipes in and out of the water pump remove the housing plate on which the water pump is mounted. Now you can see the timing gear! Remove its retaining nut (22mm!) and get ready to pull the main timing gear. Mark a cog tooth and its mating notch in order to put it back together correctly!!

Now finally, back to the front to remove the three retaining nuts holding the fuel pump on. Finally, with fuel pump in hand, I could drop it off for (hopefully!) repairs. Still waiting to hear news on that operation. 

Sound like fun? I can attest that you get a very good feeling about being able to avoid an expensive on-board mechanic’s visit. Just another facet of boating!

Meanwhile we have enjoyed boating on Irondequoit Bay in either my wife’s Bayliner Element 16 (16 ft) deck boat, or our friend’s Bennington 23 ft trimaran.

Governing Board has been cancelled, and we’re still unsure of our D6 Fall Conference. We’re hoping to have it in person!

We all need to get acquainted with Zoom, and Go To Meeting if we want to teach virtual courses, and hold virtual meetings until this is all sorted out.

This may be “Year of the Rat” in the Chinese Zodiac, but it seems more like “Year of the Mask, or Year of the Virus”!

Take care, stay safe, do what you can to enjoy safe boating, and I hope to see you all at Fall Conference!

- Rick
  Executive Officer, D/6
I must admit I’ve had trouble writing this report. Usually I get an idea in my head and just run with it, but this time there doesn’t seem to be any great revelation rattling around in there.

So, I will tell you that new National Administrative Officer Ralph Bernard held a Zoom conference with us on 6/15/2020. New information points to an agreement with America’s Boating Club and NASBLA allowing virtual ABC courses in 28 states. Not sure if New York State is one of the 28. [NY is included. -Ed.] We do know that we can offer seminars via Zoom.

Obviously, membership has suffered during this time and the emphasis was put on personal contact via telephone. Calling non-renewals was also noted as a top priority. The most recent Membership Report put out by Chair D/Lt Tom Dixon, P and PRC Chris Tertenik, SN, shows that all but two of our Squadrons have shown a decrease for the 1-year period ending June 30, 2020, and the increase in the two was one each.

As far as VSC’s, the USCG is not allowing anyone over 65 with 2 medical issues to do them. However, a waiver may allow for less than the usual required 5 VSC’s.

As of right now the National Fall Conference in Raleigh, NC is still a go. An email received today from NAO Ralph Bernard regarding the conference was met with a reply from D/4 DAO Vincent Praino suggesting that National should be considering canceling the event rather than risking people’s health. Many Districts and Squadrons have given up on in-person events for 2020. I personally have to agree with Vinnie. As much as we hate to admit it, there is just too much risk having a large social gathering at this time.

Hopefully, everyone has been able to avoid this virus and stay healthy. For those who haven’t I send my best wishes for good health to you. For those virus skeptics, you may only need to get a phone call from New York State Contact Tracking telling you that you had been directly exposed to the virus, (as I was last week after a Doctor appointment the end of June) to change your perspective. After being tested the next day a very tense two more days passed while thinking about anyone I was in contact with after said exposure and actually more worried about them than myself. Who wants to be responsible for that?!

Fortunately, my test was negative and resulted in a bit of a relief celebration that night. However, we can’t let our guard down. We need to do all we can to protect ourselves, family, friends, and yes, even strangers. We’ll never get any new members if we don’t!

- Linda

Administrative Officer, D/6
**Education Corner**

*By D/Lt/C Thomas Alley, SN*

**Viral Education**

The past four months have been, to be kind, unproductive. Just about all aspects of America’s Boating Club have come to a screeching halt amid forced shutdowns, sequestration, social distancing, and stay-at-home directives. Years of work to make my local Chapter’s educational program hands-on and interactive has been undone with the issuance of just a few executive orders.

On the other hand, one could also argue that the average proficiency level of our membership with videoconferencing has increased during the first half of the year. This is, in my opinion, helpful in that it makes it that much more feasible to implement remote learning in with our regular curriculum along with making classes available across the entire district rather than just within a single squadron or chapter.

**News from National**

Being a bit behind schedule afforded me the opportunity to include some information from the NEO conference call on August 4th.

**New eBooks Available**

First and foremost, please be aware that course materials for Piloting (P) and Advanced Piloting (AP) are now available in eBook format. This will greatly simplify procurement and distribution of both student and instructor kits during the practice of social distancing and remote learning. In addition, Boat Handling (BH) is also available in both eBook and online (i.e., prerecorded) formats.

**National Headquarters Resumes Normal Office Hours**

Headquarters personnel are now back to a normal work schedule with regular (pre-Covid) office hours and availability.

**Governing Board Meeting Goes Virtual**

Despite Headquarters being back on a normal working schedule, the Governing Board has been changed from a physical meeting to a virtual one. The Education Department will be hosting numerous sessions on September 9th, 10th, and 11th. If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please let me know and I will provide the information needed to join via FreeConferenceCall.

**Emergency Virtual Classroom Extended to 9/30/2020**

The teaching of ABC3 in a virtual setting has been approved in New York and Pennsylvania through the end of September. Any courses started prior to the end of September will be allowed to finish, even if they extend beyond the deadline of September 30th. The USPS and NASBLA have also negotiated terms for further extension of this deadline should it be deemed necessary.

**Chapman Award Nominations**

I am very disappointed to announce that District 6 will not be forwarding any nominees for the National Chapman Award because no nominations were submitted at the district level. I know we have some very deserving instructors for this award, and it pains me not to be able to recommend them for the National award.

My challenge to all of the SEOs of our district is to begin thinking about submitting a nominee for District consideration now. Contact me if you have any questions and I will help you through the process, which has been greatly simplified.

**Vessel Safety Checks**

It was announced during the NEO/DEO August conference call that some districts are now being allowed to conduct Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs). I am trying to find out if District 6 is among those areas in which this restriction is being relaxed. Stay tuned!

**Teaching Aids Competition**

With this being the “back to school” season, it’s time to begin thinking about teaching aids. If you have one that you think is particularly effective, please share it with the rest of the District and I’ll also happily enter it into the national teaching aids competition to be held at the National Meeting in February.
particularly interested in aids that can be used in virtual/teleconferenced environments.

Also, if anyone has any ideas on how the teaching aids can be presented in a virtual environment, R/C Marty Heck, Chair of the Instructor Development Committee, would be interested in hearing about these suggestions.

Fall Courses

In this part of the world, the Fall season is typically the “back to school” season. Usually we would be thinking about what courses to offer and when. In this unusual year, however, many of us are wrestling with the question of whether to even hold classes.

This is, in my opinion, unfortunate, and I would encourage all of you to give serious consideration to setting up classes that you can offer online or remotely. Several of the squadrons in our District are already doing this, so you won’t have to reinvent the wheel. Just ask and I will get you hooked up with someone who can mentor you through the process of setting up the necessary accounts and show you how to work the teleconferencing software for maximum effectiveness.

The important part is that we must continue to teach classes. If we stop doing so then our organization will not survive.

- Tom
  Education Officer, D/6

From the Assistant Education Officer

By D/1Lt Leslie Smith, JN

Happy Summer everyone!! I hope you are all doing well and have been able to spend plenty of time on the water.

My ABC class that started on March 2nd was severely disrupted by everything closing two weeks later. (Rightfully so.) Some of the students didn’t even own a computer and didn’t want one so an on-line continuation wouldn’t work. Here in the Binghamton area it looks like the schools might reopen in September. I plan to visit the school this or next week to check on it. What I hope to do is start another class then and give the March students the chance to either restart or just finish the earlier class. With all that’s going on and I’m sure you’ve all seen the news, I’m keeping my fingers crossed.

I’m sure you have all heard about the tragic death of the actress Naya Rivera. She rented a pontoon boat so she and her 4 year old son could enjoy the day on the water, cruising swimming etc. just like we do. Apparently she and her son went swimming and she helped him reboard but she never made it herself. According to the Sherriff she drowned, no foul play or anything like that was involved.

My wife and I were talking about that this morning wondering what could have happened. Naya knew how to swim. She left her PFD on the boat, but to her credit her son was wearing one.

One big clue to this, as we saw it was that they found her son drifting on the lake so apparently they weren’t anchored. What we surmised was that she either didn’t put out an anchor at all or just dropped it straight down until it touched the bottom. No scope at all. After they entered the water the boat just drifted away. She caught up to it to help her son but was too tired to get up herself.

The reason I bring this up is because as all of you know we spend some time in the ABC class discussing how to anchor your vessel. In our opinion if she had only known, this most likely would have never happened.
In my opinion our class helps prevent incidents like this. It makes me wonder how many lives we have saved.

Best regards,

- Les
Assistant Education Officer, D/6

A Message from the District 6 Secretary

By D/Lt/C David Daniels, SN

How are you weathering the Covid-19 virus storm? That seems to be the central topic of just about every news broadcast today. And it certainly has hit hard at our recreational boating hobby. My boat has only recently made it into the water for the grand-kids to use and enjoy. As yet, I have not even ventured out on to THE RIVER. My “boating” has been limited to watching the freighters as they ply the waters of the St. Lawrence River. And Covid restrictions have descended on to the roads and waters of the Thousand Islands area. There are frequent road notices that BORDER RESTRICTIONS apply and that only ESSENTIAL CROSSINGS are permitted. From a recent Watertown news article ...

“You can’t just cross the border for recreational purposes in your car,” Mr. Bowker said. “The same goes for your boat.” Mr. Aaron Bowker is a spokesperson for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Buffalo Field Office. Small boats are not considered essential, unlike commercials boats that are essential and bring in trade. Therefore, Canadian boaters coming across will not be processed. He said boaters wouldn’t even be able to contact CBP as their remote reporting system isn’t even running. And that ruling is reciprocated in Canada.

The full article may be found at: https://www.nny360.com/news/publicservicenews/small-boating-deemed-essential-by-border-protection-agency/article_2c25c041-2159-5981-a6b9-521f03e57575.html

Next topic for this column is just a short reminder on district-wide communications from the District Secretary. The National IT Committee created a long time ago an Information Center with a BROADCAST TOOL FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS. This TOOL has turned out to be essential in this time frame with so many meeting changes. As we proceed into the end of summer and the time of year for our D/6 2020 Fall Conference, the TOOL will be used frequently to keep all 500+ District members up to date on plans for the meeting.

A NEW WEBMASTER: The District is very fortunate to have a very talented individual by the name of Tom Alley step forward and volunteer to take on the role of D/6 Webmaster. You just may have heard of Mr. Alley before!!!! Tom wears many hats including Seneca S&PS Webmaster, Editor of the Seneca newsletter THE DRUM, District 6 Educational Officer, District 6 Deep-6 Editor, and now has added D/6 Webmaster to his collection. After many years Tom

D/Lt/C Tom Alley has volunteered to be the acting district webmaster. We can still use some help in this area, so if you are interested, please let me know! A BIG thank you for stepping forward on this critical position within the District.

Many, many thanks to the out-going webmaster - - P/D/C – “Z”
of exemplarily service, P/D/C Jerry Zambroski, P has indicated it is now time to pass this activity on to another person. P/D/C “Z” will stay involved and help make a seamless transition. We can not thank Jerry enough for his dedication to D/6 and for the many awards and recognition that the D/6 website has achieved.

As the new D/6 Webmaster, Tom wants another person to join him in maintaining our website. Please let Tom or myself know if you may be interested in supporting our District in this manner.

Now, let’s focus on a topic that may have escaped your notice – July has featured a real life, naked eye comet in our sky. The formal name of the comet is:

C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE)

Comet NEOWISE was just recently discovered on March 27, 2020 by the NEOWISE space telescope. It passed closest to the Sun on July 3, 2020. The comet is now visible without the use of a telescope in BOTH the early morning hours just prior to sunrise (binoculars will help), and the evening hours just after sunset. From the Thousand Island area, in mid-July between 4:00am and 4:45am, the comet was located very low to the horizon, in the northeast, at an azimuth of 31° and altitude of approximately 11°. Since the comet is on a circumpolar orbit it never is completely below the horizon. Its evening location is in the northwest, at an azimuth of 327° and altitude of 13°. Details may be found at:


Respectfully submitted,

- Dave
Secretary, D/6

Comet photo by Dave Daniels. Technical details:

- Camera: Canon 60Da mounted on a tripod; set to "bulb" mode
- Lens: Canon telephoto 75mm - 300mm; set to manual focus;
- Exposure: zoom - 75mm; exposure - 10 seconds @ 10:10pm
- Format: CR2 processed to jpg
Control: XIT Intervalometer
A Message from the District 6 Treasurer

By D/Lt/C James Sharpe, AP-IN

The process of transferring the district’s banking operations from one bank to another, due to the geographic location of the new treasurer has been somewhat drawn out. Maxine Flagg, being in the southern part of the state inherited the use of the Five Star bank for which there is no facility in Central New York. M&T Bank is just 1.5 miles from my house in Jamesville, and is also located in Rochester, for access by the assistant treasurer, Bridgett Arinio. Because of the corona virus, there is not access to the bank lobby. So, all transactions and dealing must be made at a drive-in window. And any business other than simple banking transaction also require an appointment.

To get things going, all three of us had to be physically present in Jamesville to open an account which did require some logistics. As it turned out, we were able to deal with the M&T representative in the parking lot while all were wearing masks, thus not having to have the three of us in a single car. That was different for a bank meeting. There was a time when wearing a mask while dealing at a bank would really raise suspicions.

Then the transfer of funds had to be made in installments as there were CDs with different maturity dates still in the Five Star account. As these CDs matured, funds were transferred to M&T. Then there was the question as to whether National had documented our instructions for direct deposits of member assessments as dues were paid to M&T. Then there is the issue of reinvesting the funds from the CD transfers to CDs at M&T which required both Bridgett’s signature and mine, that being done by mail to Bridgett and then back to me.

Guess what, everything is still in process and it has only been a couple of months! Banking during Covid19 isn’t like it used to be. But all funds are secure and accounted for just in case you were wondering.

But all is not work for those of us in USPS. It is now boating time and those of us up on the St. Lawrence River are contemplating some get-togethers among those members from whatever squadron for some form of rendezvous or social gatherings, with safe distancing of course.

One note relative to boating in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence: No border crossing into Canada. This has left the Syracuse squadron in a quandary regarding its Binnacle Island visits and occupancy. The squadron has lost some weeks of paid occupancy by US members. The only silver lining for the squadron is that there are a number of Canadian Power Squadron members, primarily from the Kingston Power Squadron, that have made reservations and have helped out with some minor maintenance. It is good to have friends, especially if they are boating friends.

Another aspect of the Covid19 problem is teaching USPS courses. I have been presenting the ABC3 course at BOCES in the Syracuse area for a few years. However, as with all teaching institutions, the winter and spring classes were cancelled. And like all teaching institutions, no one knows quite what the fall will be like. BOCES has included our class for the fall and winter in their catalogue, so time will tell.

And for those 2020 high school graduates and such a disappointing end of the year, I too was unable to attend my great granddaughter’s graduation. It was done at our local community college, drive through only and only one car. But we were able to have a family luncheon celebration outdoors at the restaurant of her choice. She is now off to college in the fall, again, what will that be like?

- Jim
Treasurer, D/6
District 6 Membership Committee Report
One Year Period Ending June 30th, 2020
Respectfully submitted by P/C Thomas Dixon, P and P/D/C Chris Tertenik, SN

June 30, 2020

National: 24,283 Members 2019
           22,277 Members 2020
          -2,006 LOSS

D/6: 554 Members 2019
      514 Members 2020
      - 40 LOSS

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Membership Committee:
Chair, D/Lt Tom Dixon, P
PRC Chris Tertenik, SN
Call for Articles!

By Tom Alley  
Editor, The Deep 6

I hope you’re enjoying each issue of The Deep 6. As you can tell, it’s not a one-man show, but relies on the efforts of many people so that we can get the wonderful content that we have.

In 2020, each issue has enjoyed a “theme” of sorts. The Winter (February) issue was focused on projects related to our boats and maritime interests. The Spring (May) issue was all about voyages and adventures. Our Summer (August) issue is themed along the lines of “Back to School” since we should all be planning our fall and winter educational activities. The Fall (November) issue will have a theme of “Membership.”

Aside from the obvious – what are you doing to recruit and retain members – I’d like to hear about things you are doing at a Squadron and Chapter level to keep things fun for everyone, especially in the COVID-influenced environment we now find ourselves in. How is your squadron staying in touch with its members? What has your squadron done to adapt to current limitations in order to stay active (or not)?

And it’s never a poor time for sharing laughter. If you have an amusing or humorous story that is even remotely boating related, we could all use a good chuckle in these challenging times.

Please send your stories and ideas to to me: theDeep6@uspsd6.org

I look forward to hearing from you!

- Tom

Comments? Questions? Your Two-Cents?

Do you have comments about any of the contents of this issue? Please send your letters to the editor (theDeep6@uspsd6.org) and we’ll share the best/most insightful here!

Gathering in Style

Nancy Bieber  
Susquenango

Recently Susquenango Sail and Power Squadron held an informal get together at the Thousand Islands. While we were not always socially distanced, we were socially responsible by wearing America’s Boating Club masks made by Membership Involvement Chair, Nancy Bieber. It was the first time for many of us to attend a social event since last March, and we realized how much we have missed seeing fellow members. Standing in the front row from L to R is Linda Rought, Mary Kucharek, Nancy Bieber, Ron Bieber, Dave Daniels, Mike Acciai, Peg Acciai. Back Row standing L to R is John Salt, Susi Salt, Bob Kucharek.

Hiding behind their masks in the second picture, are Susquenango’s Commander, Mary Kucharek and District 6 Commander, Nancy Bieber.

- Nancy
Educational Opportunities in District 6

Scheduling Note

Please note that the dates and times for the courses listed herein are planned and not necessarily definite. The dates here are necessarily fluid because many classes are contingent upon the opening or reopening of various facilities. The instructors of each class will keep you apprised of any schedule changes that become necessary.

Inland Navigator

America’s Boating Course

Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron

Begins September 2020. Contact: D/Lt Les Smith at adeo@uspsd6.org

Syracuse Sail & Power Squadron

This is an online/virtual course which begins this Fall. Contact: Ken Green at kgreen@twcny.rr.com

Boat Handling

Susquenango Sail & Power Squadron

Begins October 2020. Contact: D/Lt Les Smith at adeo@uspsd6.org

Marine Electrical Systems

Syracuse Sail & Power Squadron

This is an online/virtual course which begins this Fall. Contact: Ken Green at kgreen@twcny.rr.com

Engine Maintenance

None scheduled at this time.

Seminars

How To Use A Chart

None scheduled at this time.

Using VHF and VHF/DSC Radios

None scheduled at this time.

How to Use a GPS

None scheduled at this time.

Onboard Weather Forecasting

None scheduled at this time.

Coastal Navigator

Piloting

Iroquois Sail & Power Squadron

Class will be resumed once logistics have been worked out. Contact Mark Watkins at: mkwatkins@frontiernet.net

Syracuse Sail & Power Squadron

Marine Communication Systems

Seneca/Finger Lakes Chapter

Beginning September 2020. Contact: SEO Charlie Fausold at: seo@abc-flx.org

Weather

None scheduled at this time.

Seminars

Tides

None scheduled at this time.

Rules of the Road

None scheduled at this time.

Anchoring

None scheduled at this time.

COMP

None scheduled at this time.

Advanced Coastal Navigator

Advanced Piloting

Seneca/Finger Lakes Chapter

Begins Thursday, February 6th, 2020. Contact: SEO Charlie Fausold at: seo@abc-flx.org
Iroquois Sail & Power Squadron
Planning to begin during the winter. Contact Mark Watkins at: mkwatkins@frontiernet.net

Marine Navigation Systems
Seneca/Finger Lakes Chapter
Begins January 2021. Contact: SEO Charlie Fausold at: seo@abc-flx.org

Radar for Boaters
None scheduled at this time.

Cruising & Cruise Planning
None scheduled at this time.

Seminars
Emergencies On Board
None scheduled at this time.

Marine Radar
None scheduled at this time.

Offshore Navigator
Junior Navigation
None scheduled at this time.

Seminars
Computer Weather Forecasting
None scheduled at this time.

Thunderstorms & Severe Weather
None scheduled at this time.

Other Classes & Seminars
Navigation
None scheduled at this time.

Sail Course
None scheduled at this time.

OpenCPN Seminar
Iroquois Sail & Power Squadron
Planning to conduct this during the winter. Contact Mark Watkins at: mkwatkins@frontiernet.net

Publicize Your Training Opportunities!
If your squadron is planning to offer any type of formal or informal class, seminar or hands-on training opportunity, please let the editor know so we can publicize it here. Not only is it a great way to get more folks interested and signed up, but it’s also a great socializer and way of meeting USPS members from neighboring squadrons!

Send information to theDeep6@uspsd6.org.
One HOT* Story

*Hands-On-Training

By Linda LaDuc

It was 1998, the first summer of sailing after buying our Mariner 28 the previous fall. Having sailed our 14-foot Phantom and learning on a 12-foot catboat I dubbed, the “small red tub”, we thought we were ready to graduate to the “big” boat. As far as the sailing aspect of it, I guess we were ready. We really didn’t have any problem with that. It was the motorized portion of said boat that had the biggest learning curve.

Our boat came equipped with 3 batteries; one being dedicated to the onboard refrigeration unit. Being unfamiliar with boat batteries and their respective switches, I didn’t realize that putting the switch on “both” rather than 1 or 2, meant that neither battery really got sufficiently charged. I also didn’t realize that batteries of different make and vintage would be a problem because of the possibility of a bad cell drawing down good cells. So, needless to say, after our 3rd (approximately) sail of the summer when trying to start the engine to head on back to the marina, we got nada; neither battery had anything left to crank the engine to a start.

So, I got on our radio and tried to contact someone at our marina to assist us in our return to our slip. In the meantime, Tina spotted a small fishing boat close by and yelled to him to ask for his assistance. He immediately complied, bless his foolish heart, and pulled up alongside. Imagine my surprise, however, when next I noticed Tina hopping over our bow to land on the bow of our rescuer’s boat! Eek! “What are you doing” I called. “Helping him tie a tow line” was the response! “Please get back on our boat” I answered.

To be honest, I can only say that I think she was able to get back on board our boat. I also remember the waves bouncing us around and our bow roller located anchor smashing the poor fellow’s windshield. What a disaster. Fortunately, it turned out he was a friend of a friend and despite our offer to pay for a new one, he was able to locate a replacement windshield in a boatyard.

Somehow, he did manage to tow us back to our slip and get us settled, only to have the Coast Guard Auxiliary pull up alongside, apparently having picked up my request to the marina for assistance.

Of course, when he asked to see our boat registration I had to say, “um, it’s in the truck”.

Boy, did I learn a lot that day! I made a vow to learn as much as I could about batteries and how they function and that if we were ever stranded on the water again, we would sail into the marina. Believe it or not, several years later that did happen, but that’s a story for another day. I also made Tina promise that she would never, ever leap from our boat again! I have also made sure to have batteries of the same make and year and that if one begins to falter; goodbye, you’re gone. I also invested in good battery chargers. Oh, and the registration is always onboard with me.

While I have to admit to this being one of the more embarrassing boating capers I have experienced, it was certainly the best type of learning experience. So, even though I am mortified to write about it in our newsletter, if it helps someone avoid the same embarrassment, I guess I can suffer through the humiliation!

- Linda

°°°°°°°°°°
By D/Lt/C Tom Alley, SN

Bermuda – The Next Installment

I carried on about this trip in my last editorial and all the things that are involved from a planning and logistical point of view. Since then most of the structural and functional projects have been completed and now, I’m into the cosmetic and “creature comfort” portion of the to-do list. Still, it’s daunting and requiring a great deal of focus and determination. In fact, I wouldn’t hesitate to call this trip planning process as the mother-of-all-cruise-planning-exercises.

Fortunately, deadlines do provide a degree of motivation. (I hope the other Bridge members read this and apply the same concept to the articles they need to write for me each quarter! 😊)

The extended lockdown in New York State resulted in a number of delays in obtaining parts and supplies I needed to complete critical projects. The parts have since arrived (well, most of them), and the timeline has shifted from being about 50 days away from our spring launch to being under 40 days (or as I like to refer to it, “1 Biblical Time Unit”) to our actual departure.

No pressure? Yeah..., right! I’m learning all sorts of new things about stress management right now.

The biggest stressor, in my opinion, is uncertainty. Because of the Coronavirus, at least four situations arose that threatened our ability to even set off on this trip. The worst part is that I have ZERO control over how any of these situations will resolve themselves and there is NOTHING I can do to influence how they will play out. This transforms what should be a healthy anticipation for the trip into a demotivating worry.

The good news is that two of these situations have resolved in favor of being able to continue planning for this trip. The first bright light appeared a week ago when I received notice of being called back from being furloughed. The second area of concern was that when the Notice of Race was published on July 1st, that there would be no new rules or requirements that would necessitate additional capital investment. Fortunately, this was the case, so that is another worry I can dispense with.

The remaining worries are financial (coping with a salary reduction and rising tuition costs) and logistical. In a few more weeks I will know how the former will pan out for the remainder of the year, but I won’t know about the logistical end of things until mid-August. Specifically, will the New York canal system open sufficiently to allow us to get our boat to the starting line in Massachusetts?

When the last lock opens, the next flurry of activity begins with making the necessary arrangements for wintering my boat along the Hudson somewhere and ends with finding folks willing to spend 6 days on a delivery cruise with me through the canals.

All in all, this project is proving to be one huge application of just about everything I’ve ever learned about boating, touching almost every class I’ve taken from the USPS – and then some!

Obviously, I am applying the concepts that are discussed in the Cruising and Cruise Planning (CCP) course. The equipment requirements for the race have necessitated upgrades to my boat’s plumbing system, electrical system (MES), propulsion system (EM), communications systems (MCS), safety equipment and operating procedures (Sail, S and BH). The actual journey will test our crew’s knowledge of navigation (P, AP, JN, N, MNS and Radar) and weather (Wx). In addition, there is the required training/certification from other organizations that my crew and I hope not to use: First Aid, CPR, Fire Extinguisher Use, and Safety At Sea (Lifeboat/Survival training).

What has been most comforting in all of this, especially when I look at the long list of things still on the “to-do” list, is to take a look at the (much longer) list of things that have already
been done and the overwhelmingly significant role the United States Power Squadrons has played in getting me this far along the process. Stay tuned. More to come!

- Your Editor, Tom

District Calendar

2020

August
1 Summer issue of The Deep 6 publication date. Theme: Back to School. (D6)

September
8-13 National Governing Board, Rahleigh, NC (National)

October
16 Deadline for The Deep 6 articles (D6)

November
11 Deadline for The Deep 6 news updates from Council/Conference meetings.
13-15 District 6 Fall Council & Conference, Corning, NY. (D6)
18 Fall issue of The Deep 6 publication date. Theme: Membership. (D6)

December
No events currently scheduled.

2021

January
15 Deadline for The Deep 6 articles. (D6)

February
1 Winter issue of The Deep 6 publication date. (D6)
14-21 Annual Meeting, Ponte Vedra, FL. (National)

March
TBA D/6 Spring Council & Conference. (D6)

April
16 Deadline for The Deep 6 articles (D6)

May
1 Spring 2018 issue of The Deep 6 publication date (D6)
15-21 Safe Boating Week

June
No events currently scheduled.

July
16 Deadline for The Deep 6 articles. (D6)

Do you have an event that you think others should know about? Please let me know so that it can be included!

– Ed. (TheDeep6@uspsd6.org)