

City Island Sail and Power Squadron Newsletter



Celebrating our 34th Watch
We are family.

The Commander's Corner



It is hard to believe that we are starting a new Watch already. I guess the old adage is true: "Time flies when you are having fun." We had lots of fun and made some significant accomplishments this past Watch. Our Change of Watch Galas, raft-ups, beach

party and BBQ, trip to Ellis Island, holiday cheer dinner dance and Founders' Day brunch were well attended and enjoyed by all who participated. Our website is current, it can be accessed by all media and we received the USPS Distinctive Communicator Award! Our membership and fleet roster was updated and distributed. You can see our newsletter has been completely redesigned, the info is timely and we are well on the way to USPS Distinctive Communicator Award for our publication. I thank all who supported this Watch and look forward to the next.

We have some fun things ahead on the horizon over the next few months: Blessing of the Fleet, District 4 Rendezvous, Ruben Meadows Day Raft Up, Overnight Raft-Up "Away Mission," Beach Party and Barbecue and our Joe Steiner Cup Annual Sail Boat Regatta. I often say, "Life is not a spectator sport." So, why not start now by taking advantage of some great opportunities to have fun and be with good friends by attending some or all of these functions?

Best wishes for a happy and safe summer.

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Barbara Halecki, Editor



34th Change of Watch

Pictures Submitted by Barbara Mandarano

The squadron's 34th Change of Watch was held at Juliano's on April 2nd. A great time was had by all in attendance. Check out these beautiful pix of the event!



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@chadbourne.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

D/4 Spring Conference Review

by Walt Graczyk of the Shrewsbury Power Squadron

This year's conference, held on March 5 at the Park Ridge Marriott, included insightful workshops.

Robert Miller (Nat'l Vice/Cdr) updated all on USPS initiatives - positively received, but strong concerns arose over potential distribution of instruction manuals solely online. Squadrons must survey educators and report on whether the approach is workable.

David Grill (Cdr-Northern NJ) provided a colorful, entertaining and illuminating slide presentation on his family's experiences (and challenges) as they completed their own Great Loop journey.

Bill Bloxhan and Jerry Tauber (both of North River) provided details on a new D4 website. Marketing pages will be available for squadron use, BUT all squadrons must now directly input up-to-date information on courses, seminars, dates, changes, etc, so all can see what's truly available. Outsiders entering a zip code may ultimately be referred to the nearest source, or it may suggest that a nearby squadron conduct a course that is in high demand. It is key for squadrons to build extensive email lists to attract students.

Glen Sherman (D3 plus Nat'l Marketing & Communications Committee) presented an inspiring summary of his USPS Annual Meeting presentation on squadron rejuvenation: "A-R-T" - Attract, Recruit and Transition. His advice: "Get out from behind closed doors". Going beyond mainstay best practices (ABC, advanced classes, VSCs, etc), he provided a plethora of other ideas. His Powerpoint slides are now available to all D4 Squadrons and they should provide a basis for productive squadron brainstorming sessions on growth.

SEO's Corner

Submitted by Richard Welch

America's Boating Course in Progress

Our Spring ABC class started May 10, 2016 with 14 new students. I want to thank the instructors who are giving their time and knowledge to support boating safety. This is the largest ABC class this year in District 4. Staten Island has the second largest with a class of 10 students that started on May 11, 2016. Eleven squadrons reported no students this year for ABC.

Chapman Nominee

The Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes outstanding USPS instructors. Our 2016 nominee is Jeff Taylor.

On Fishing ...

Submitted by Nic Mauro

There are many sports that people engage in over time. In my world, fishing is what's occupied my free time. At age 4, my dad took me fishing on a mild autumn day and after sitting for quite some time in a rented row boat, I caught my first fish. It was a flounder.

At the time, I was stunned to feel something tugging at the line of a home-made fishing rod that my father had assembled for me. From that moment on, I've been a hunter of the denizens of the deep. My father couldn't stop laughing at what was taking place. In addition to the flounder, I was hooked -- on fishing!

Thereafter, whenever I saw water, I knew fishing was not far behind. An opportunity to drop a line and catch a fish -- it could be a bass, bluefish, porgy, fluke, flounder -- no matter - they're all equally fun. I hope you feel the same way reading about my experience.



Nautical Trivia

Submitted by Richard Welch

Can you guess where these 1954 pictures of "Santa's Workshop" were taken? In the first picture, the Police Athletic League is collecting toys that have been repaired by city prisoners for distribution to children in New York for Christmas. In the next pic, Warden Dros and Commissioner Kross watch a prisoner sew a doll for a needy child. (Hint: location is east of City Island.)



Answer is on p. 7

Rogues' Gallery of Colors

Submitted by Kevin Keane

“Where there is a sea, there are pirates”- Greek proverb. I’ve always been interested in the history of pirates and their individual stories of success or failure. Many books and movies have been dedicated to their adventures and the works of Daniel Defoe (Robinson Crusoe) who chronicled some of their more notorious ones. The word “Pirate” was first used by the Roman historian Polybius around 140 BC. The Greek historian Plutarch 100 AD gave the oldest clear definition of piracy. Pirates attack those without legal authority not only on ships, but in maritime cities. Piracy has been described by Homers “The Iliad and the Odyssey”. Its existence extends some 3000 years and is still with us today. Often, vessels of the “Golden Age” of piracy (1690-1720) would fly a distinctive flag. The colors of these rogues were, at times, quite flamboyant. Most vessels would normally display the flags of their individual countries which, from a distance, were difficult to see. The pirate pennants, however, could be seen from great distance to give ample warning to prey. The first were red flags which, from the French “Joli Rouge” meaning “pretty red”, is believed by some historians to be the origin of the term “Jolly Roger”. The display of the red flag meant no mercy would be given in war at sea. The black flag was meant to symbolize death, so as to strike terror into the passing merchant vessel for an easy surrender. Sometimes the flag would have the captain’s initials or an hourglass - which symbolized that time was running out and your vessel should “heave to”.



The first flag shown (from left to right) is that of the pirate Emmanuel Wynne. A French pirate of the 18th century, he is considered to be the first pirate to fly the “Jolly Roger” while plundering English merchant ships off the Carolina coast. The flag, augmented with an hour glass, meant to his prey that only with timely surrender could they evade death.

The second flag belongs to the notorious “Calico Jack” Rackam. Plundering in the West Indies till his capture in 1720, he is best known for his famous romance with the female pirate Anne Bonny. Afloat or ashore, according to Daniel Defoe, Rackam “had nothing but Anne Bonny on his head”.

The third colorful display is that of Edward Teach, otherwise known as “Blackbeard”. The terror of the Atlantic Coast, whose greatest ally was no less than the governor of North Carolina, was eventually taken in battle at Ocracoke Inlet by HMS Pearl and HMS Lyme in the fall of 1718. A fierce and ruthless warrior struck down during battle, his corpse contained no fewer than 25 wounds (5 from pistol shot). He was beheaded and his body thrown overboard while his head was displayed on a bowsprit back to Virginia. Legend has it, the headless corpse swam around the sloop several times before sinking.

(cont’d on pg.6)

Rogues' Gallery of Colors (cont'd)

The colorful red and gold flag is that of pirate Christopher Moody, a former member of pirate Bartholomew Roberts's crew. While the red flag is distinctive, English privateers flew the red jack by order of the Admiralty in 1694. Raiding the North and South Carolina coasts from 1713-1718, Moody was eventually caught and hanged in 1722 in what is now Cape Coast, Ghana.

The next flag is that of Bartholomew Roberts (Black Bart), a Welsh pirate noted as one of the most successful. In his career raiding off the Americas and West African coasts, he claimed over 470 vessels. Roberts's colors depict him standing on the skulls labeled ABH & AMH (A Barbadian's Head and a Martinican's Head). Around 1720, he made good on his promise to hang the governor of Martinique from a yardarm. In 1722 off Cape Lopez, Roberts was engaged by the HMS Swallow and killed after taking grapeshot in the neck. He was buried at sea by his crew so his body would not be captured.

Lastly, we have the flag of Richard Worley. He is credited with flying one of the earliest versions of the skull and crossbones. His short (1718-1719) career started out from New York with a crew of eight in an open boat that was ill equipped with few supplies. He had later captured 4 vessels in a relatively short period of time and headed for the Bahamas. After breaking a blockade in Nassau, he sailed to Charles Town, South Carolina. The governor of South Carolina sent two warships to take Worley. As he entered Jamestown Harbor, he tried to capture what he thought were merchant vessels, but was battered broadside by two warships. They fought to the last man and, the next day, Worley and what was left of his crew were tried and hanged.

Though the stories and history behind pirate flags are fascinating, you will certainly find a "Jolly Roger" in your marina sometime in the near future. Swashbuckling romantics long to wave the pirate colors off their vessels much like in Hollywood renditions. Now as far as I can tell, by visiting several chat sites for recreational boaters, there are no state limitations other than to have the Alpha (dive) flag, storm flags, or distress flags, etc, on your vessel. That being said, many individuals have also commented on the number of "visits" the Coast Guard may conduct on your vessel to ascertain "your intentions" while displaying pirate flags. I suspect it just "ticks them off", so it would probably be wise to leave the pirate flag in your den, man cave, or flying over your back yard pool party. If you want to "make a statement", that's fine, but don't let it interrupt your travel plans. Make the most of your boating experience this year without the hassle of unwarranted inspections or delays on your voyage.

Here's hoping for good weather and safe passage to all!

Some Sound Advice

Submitted by Troy Sill

Summer is here, but if you are like me, the sun sucks all energy and motivation. We have boats to scrape, paint to ply, oil to swap, and zincs to fit. Yes, with so much to do, the need to work can be overwhelming, but no worries shipmates! Stand fast and lay down on the job!

Here is the way to get the most out of your boat with the least summer effort:

Step 1 - purchase ice.

Step 2 - purchase the rum of your choice

Step 3 - combine steps 1 and 2 in the glass of your choice.

Step 4 - (this is the secret one) show up at your boat with some of the following vintage movies:

"Juggernaut" This 1970s gem, of the maritime thriller variety, stars Richard Harris and Omar Sharif. Harris must defuse bombs that have been placed aboard the ocean liner Britannic before the ship and passengers are lost. This taut Bluewater thriller is worth any tar's time.

"The Last Voyage" Robert Stack and Dorothy Malone captain this 1960 thriller. A boiler explosion mortally wounds an aging ocean liner. Stack must free his wife from the wreckage before it is too late. This flick is particularly believable because the explosion sequences are real! The film's producers procured a grand old greyhound, sank her, and blew her to bits.

This is enough to get you started. Remember, when it comes to sloth, the important thing is to stick with it. Enjoy your boat this summer, but for God's sake, don't work on it!

Trivia Answer (from p.4)

The prisoners and the toys were located on Hart Island, just east of City Island.

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A Milestone!

Happy 90th Birthday P/C Del Wilson. We celebrate you! All of us wish you a very happy birthday and another year filled with good health and great times. Congratulations!



Mark Your Calendars

- June 16th - General Membership Meeting at City Island Yacht Club (8pm) - presentation by Capt. Lada Simek
- June 26th - Blessing of the Fleet at Fenton Marine
- July 8th - 10th - D/4 Rendezvous at Liberty Landing
- July 16th - Day Raft Up at Plandome
- August 6th - 7th - Overnight Raft Up at Oyster Bay Marine Center
- August 27th - Beach Party / BBQ at Alex and Noelva's home
- September 10th - Joe Steiner Cup Regatta



The next newsletter deadline is September 15.

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