



# The MA-RI-NER



**District 14 United States Power Squadrons®**

[www.usps.org/localusps/d14](http://www.usps.org/localusps/d14)

Volume 19, Number 1  
Claire Blackburn, P, Editor

March 2015

All District 14 squadron members, guests and friends are invited to attend, participate and enjoy the fellowship

**What: District 14 Spring Conference and Change of Watch**

**When: 14 March 2015**

**Where: White's of Westport**

*See insert for details and registration*



## **R/C Robert A Keller, SN**

Born and raised in rural Ohio, Bob Keller, joined the Dayton Power Squadron (District 24) in 1961 at the age of 25. Commander Keller served in many offices in the Dayton squadron, including three (3) consecutive terms as Squadron Commander. In 1971, Bob and his work was relocated by his employer to St. Petersburg, Florida and he then transferred his membership to Boca Ciega Sail and Power Squadron in District 22, where he again served on the squadron Bridge and for the fourth time, in 1987, became its Squadron Commander.

Commander Keller then served on the District 22 Bridge and in 1992 served as District Commander. In 2010 Bob was again, for the fifth time, installed as Squadron Commander at Boca Ciega. Due to the incapacity and resignation of a sitting commander, Bob again became Commander of Boca Ciega in 2011 for the sixth time. Bob has served as an Aide to seven Chief Commanders: Joe Kennedy, L.M. Barnes, Lance Jensen, Ted Smith, Ernie Marshburn, Creighton Maynard and Frank Dvorak.

He has earned 53 Merit Marks, one for each year of membership. Bob earned his Full Certificate in 1982, became a Life Member in 1986 and a Governing Board Emeriti in 2011. National positions and committee involvement include: Seamanship, Planning,

Staff Commander and Rear Commander of Nominations, Staff Commander and Rear Commander of National Meetings Committee, Staff Commander and Rear Commander of Rules Committee, USPS BOD Advisory Committee and USPS Governing Board.

Bob also had served several years as Coordinator of the USPS Bowsprit Award Program. Commander Keller is active at squadron, district and national levels of USPS. Bob has taught students in Boating, over 560 students in Seamanship, Piloting, Weather, Engine Maintenance, Cruise Planning, Marine Electronics, Leadership Development and Operations Training. Commander Keller is a two-time recipient of the District 22 Chapman's Excellence in Teaching award (1990 and 1996). Following forty-five (45) years employment with Raytheon in positions of management and engineering, Bob retired from the salaried working world in 1998. Commander Keller and his spouse Jan reside on the Gulf Coast of Florida in Seminole. They have a grown son, also residing in Florida and suffered the loss of a beloved daughter in 2009 to H1N1.

Jan Keller is also active in USPS. She received a Women's Certificate in 1961 and joined as an active member in 1991. She is a Past President of Both Dayton and Boca Ciega squadron Auxiliaries, as well as the Western Florida (District 22) Auxiliary. Jan has served as a member of the USPS Auxiliary Advisory Committee, Ship's Store Committee and is currently a member of the National Meetings Committee. Jan has served as the Boca Ciega Sail and Power Squadron Commander in 1998 and is the current Commander of that squadron. Jan has earned 23 Merit Marks.



**From the Commander...**

**Mary Lou Walsh, AP**

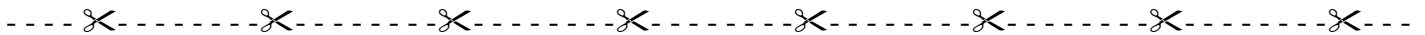
**Founder’s Day Lunch 2015**

Saturday, February 7, District 14 celebrated the Anniversary of USPS’ founding 101 years ago with a Lunch event at the Fireside Grille in Middleboro. After several experiences with bad weather and attendees facing a long drive home in the dark with bad weather, we tried a lunch event this year. The weather more or less cooperated – only light snow flurries fell all afternoon - and people were able to drive home in the daylight. Feedback on the new time will be collected and evaluated for future events.

There were two highlights of the afternoon. First was the induction of Andrew R. Campbell of Buzzards Bay into the Royal Order of Pilot Fish courtesy of an appearance by King Neptune’s and Davey Jones’ representatives George Cambra and Lee Blackburn since Davey and His Majesty were detained by stormy seas. They were aided by the Court of Dolphins, Jack Murphy and Wayne Cardoza. That was followed by our keynote speaker, Taunton River’s Rick Lewis, who presented an incredible show of his professional photography on the historic Windjammers of Maine, recounting endless bits of history and insider tidbits gathered during his decades of working with them. It was a great afternoon! And yes, Cape Codders, we will make sure you don’t have the Boatbuilders’ Show conflict next year – you missed a fun afternoon.

With the introduction of a lunch event for this anniversary, we are seeking feedback and reactions to the change. If you liked it or if you didn’t, let me know in a quick email to [MLCWalsh@aol.com](mailto:MLCWalsh@aol.com). There’s no need to make it long-winded: just a simple ‘I liked the old dinner time better’ or ‘I like the new lunch time better’ is fine. And further, since this year was a departure from the traditional dinner menu, include your thoughts on the menu change as well. If you don’t use email and you’re reading this in printed form, check off your choice(s) here, detach the form and send it to me at PO Box 14, Dennisport, MA 02639.

*We want to appeal to the most members by organizing events you want to attend. So feedback is helpful – we won’t be offended if your opinions are critical!*



Cut off this form and mail to: Mary Lou Walsh, PO Box 14, Dennisport, MA 02629

I prefer the Founder’s Day event to be held at/in:

- Lunch time
- Evening

If members prefer lunchtime, please comment on the menu: I’d like to have:

- The light lunch we had this year
- A more substantial hot meal, either buffet or sit-down more like a dinner menu, even if it’s likely to cost a few dollars more.

# No More Excuses Maine Cruise



Does this sound like you? I'd like to cruise to Maine but:

- It's too far
- I don't have enough time
- My boat is too small
- I'd need crew
- The fog/rocks/lobsterpots scare me
- I'd never go alone

The Maine coast is lovely when viewed from shore. But to be on a boat, making a passage through Penobscot Bay, is quite simply breathtaking. But time, distance and other issues prevent many from attempting the trip. I have sailed to Maine three times in the past decade and will be leading another cruise next summer. While it is designed expressly for those who have never headed Downeast, all District 12 and 14 members are encouraged to come along!

We'll depart from the Sandwich Boat Basin on Sunday July 19, make our way to Acadia and back, concluding on Sunday August 9. Join us for the whole trip or only a week. Captain your boat, charter one in Maine or be crew for someone else. You could even drive up for a weekend rendezvous in Boothbay.

## No More Excuses!

Click for details on: <http://www.usps.org/d12/Maine2015/>

- [Overview- what to expect](#)
- [Itinerary](#)
- [Port and Marina information](#)
- [How to swap out crew](#)
- [I have the boat, but I don't have 3 weeks](#)
- [Boothbay rendezvous-come by land](#)
- [Going overnight?](#)
- [Skipper needs crew; crew looking for boat](#)
- [Register here](#)
- [Questions?](#)

*Photos taken during 2011 GBH cruise to Acadia*



I, Mary Lou Walsh, just received the above announcement and invitation from Joe Kelliher, D12's Head Wrangler for this upcoming cruise. After Rick Lewis' outstanding program at the Founder's Day Lunch, this couldn't be more perfectly timed. I am counting the days. Sadly, my dinky kayak still qualifies as an excuse, and taking 3 weeks off from work is out of the question, but I have every intention of getting up to Maine and meeting them in some of those wonderful ports for an overnight, maybe a day sail on someone's boat. Joe has thought of all the possibilities and hurdles to be overcome. If you only have a daysailer or open fishing boat with no overnighing capability so you've never

considered a long cruise, this is your chance. Other boaters are looking for crew and you can sign up for the entire trip or just one leg. If you've always wanted to cruise, but were nervous and timid about doing it yourself, you'll have plenty of company, advice and answers to your questions and help in case of a problem. This is a great chance for a hands-on learning cruise or a shakedown trip for a new boat. So as they have named it, this is the NO MORE EXCUSES Cruise. Above is the invitation I just received from Joe. The main Maine Cruise page (no pun intended) is located at: <http://www.usps.org/d12/Maine2015/>. All the links listed should connect to specific pages and sections of the site to answer your questions.



### **Vessel Safety Check – P/D/C W. Lee Blackburn, SN, Chairman**

The District 14 Vessel Safety Check Program had an active year in 2014. There were 30 Vessel Examiners who checked a total of 364 boats of which 350 passed and were awarded a 2014 VSC decal. That is good news and we all should be proud of the efforts put forth by our D14 Vessel Examiners.

Eight of these Vessel Examiners will receive a Certificate of Appreciation, at the Spring Conference, for matching or exceeding the national average for the number of VSCs done by a Vessel Examiner. The national average was 16.1 VSCs done by a VE. In District 14 the average was 12.1 VSCs done by a VE. Five of our 7 squadrons are represented by these 8 VEs. Additionally there are awards for the top 3 Vessel Examiners.

The Certificate of Appreciation represents an outstanding accomplishment by our Vessel Examiners, a dedicated group. As always, there are those who needed only a few more VSCs to get the certificate. I realize that not all members have the same amount of spare time to devote to these activities thus it is with heart felt appreciation that I thank all those VEs who were able to do any VSCs . . . every single Vessel Safety Check counts toward the goal of more safe boaters out there. Additionally, 17 VEs were able to receive a Merit Mark as a result of their efforts in this program alone.

With the passing of P/D/C Art Kimber, SN, we lost a good friend and a very active Vessel Examiner. He was, and still is the only Vessel Examiner in this district to do 100 VSCs in a single year. The First Place Award will continue to be awarded honoring Art Kimber.

The top individual Vessel Examiners are:

First Place (The Arthur F. Kimber Award) – David W. Carter – Greenwich Bay – 41 VSCs

Second Place – David R. Van Wye – Cape Cod – 34 VSCs

Third Place – Raymond E. Horbert – Greenwich Bay – 32 VSCs

Honorable Mention –

20 VSCs - John A. Rossi, Jr. – Buzzards Bay      17 “ - Judy Johnson – Cape Cod

17 “ - William H. Loeseke – Newport      21 “ - W. Lee Blackburn – Taunton River

28 “ - Phillip G. Spenard – Taunton River

As far as volume of VSCs is concerned, we have 2 squadrons who's VEs combined did over 100 VSCs; Greenwich Bay – 109 and Cape Cod – 112.

There is no plan in District 14 to host a Vessel Examiner's Class or Refresher this year. Each squadron is urged to ask members who might like being a Vessel Examiner to contact the District Chairman for more information. A new VSC manual is available on the national website along with other extensive information on this program.

Last year, all VEs were subject to VE recertification. Three workshops were held in an effort to accommodate all D14 VEs. Even so, the program has lost a net total of 5 VEs between last year and this year. As we move forward into the 2015 boating season we will be looking for favorable conditions for boating and for doing Vessel Safety Checks. Additional members to participate in this program are welcome. We'll show you how!





## **Administrative Officer...D/Lt/C Pamela J. Irving, P**

Spring 2015

Hello Fellow Squadron Members:

Are we having fun yet with all this snow? I hope you all had an opportunity to escape to a warmer climate this season. During the holidays, I did some water activities with my niece on Barefoot Beach in Estero, FL - wave runners are a new love for me!

Got cabin fever? Join us for the spring district conference at Whites – even if you can only attend the social hour night before or the Saturday morning activities it will take the winter blues away!

Think spring soon because we all want the boating season to come soon!



## **Educational Officer... D/Lt/C John S. Marsden, Jr., AP**

The America's Boating Course 3rd edition (ABC3) continues to be our most popular public boating course offered. The most perfect fit is to follow up the ABC3 class with an On the Water Training Session. It is NASBLA approved and fulfills the basic education requirements for most states to issue state operator licensing. If you want it in Spanish only the 2012 ABC3 is offered. They are currently preparing an English 2015 reprinting.

This change is necessary due to changes in NASBLA and USCG standards to the maximum person capacity being revised from 160 pounds to 184. New boat capacity plates will have to be calculated. Due to public confusion the USCG will rename life jacket Type I, II, III, IV and V to OFF SHORE, NEAR SHORE, FLOTATION AIDS, THROWABLE FLOTATION AIDS and SPECIAL USE DEVICES. Until manufacturers are updated, discussions regarding LIFE JACKETS, will discuss both standards.

The USCG has changed the Navigation Rules and Regulation Handbook which further changes student material. Boater language is being changed so that they will represent the boats more. PWC-PERSONAL WATER CRAFT- JET SKI will be known as "Water-Jet propelled boat" Kill switch will be renamed "Ignition shut-off device", and paddle boats will be known as "Human - Powered Boats.

In 2014 only 2% of our on-line ABC3 students took the proctored final examination. A drive to have states accept an on-line exam is now temporarily on hold. A large concern is the failure of many squadrons to conduct any basic public education class. With this failure how do we expect to attract members? The corresponding decline in sales results in a reduction in the revenue stream and an adverse impact on USPS. We continue to wonder why some squadrons fail to use HQ800. This is the best way to notify members of the classes you are running and notifying those that have completed them.

Our partnership with the Boat US Foundation continues to expand. Three seminars are available on-line. They are Partners in Command, Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes, and Weather for Boaters. Hurricane Prep for

Boaters and VHF/DSC are due any day. The first section of "Cruise Planning" has been forwarded to the Boat US team. GPS for boaters is still being developed by our people. Course statistics - EM SM 07 is still in large demand with 528 courses being shipped last year.

This was followed up by Marine Electrical Systems with 165 courses and Marine Comm Sys.SWM with 106 courses. Electronic Navigation has been redeveloped based on a CPS course. Engine Maintenance (EM2011) is in general use. Marine Electrical Systems is in general use and in demand. Marine Communication Systems is in general use. Marine Navigation Systems is being updated and expects to be issued shortly.

Marine Electronics (101, 102, and 103) has been discontinued. Advance Piloting 2011 is in use. As in the Piloting course, the AP course also uses the Weekend Navigator, 2nd edition as a reference. As of Dec 2nd 2014 there were 2942 certified instructors, the certification of 2395 members has expired, and needs to be recertified. This shows a loss of 320 certified instructors in 2014. During 2014 only 28 squadrons ran an IQ class with only 51 passing.

Simulator Project- Since the last report to the Governing Board, USPS has added five BOATING SKILL VIRTUAL TRAINER "BSVT" units for use by the districts and squadrons, bringing the total units to 13. These units are currently housed at USPS headquarters in special cases for shipping. For reservations use web site "www.usps.org/php/bsvt" These BSVTs draw much attention to USPS programs when shown to the public. It was noted that Lee and Claire Blackburn of Taunton River Sail and Power Squadron and Forest Golden of the Newport Sail and Power Squadron have earned Life Membership



No Nominating Committee report is available for this publication.



Andrew R. Campbell from Buzzards Bay being inducted into The Royal Order of Pilot Fish.



Rick Lewis gave an outstanding presentation on the Windjammers of Maine at the 101<sup>st</sup> Founder's Day.



# White's of Westport

66 State Road, Westport, MA 02790

508-675-7185

Saturday, 14 March 2015



Friday evening 13 March hospitality at the Hampton Inn, Room 139 for R/C Robert A. Keller and his wife, Jan  
1700 Social Hour  
1845 Dinner  
2015 More Social

## DISTRICT 14 *Spring* CONFERENCE

### Saturday Agenda

- 0800 Coffee
- 0900 Opening Ceremonies
  - Invocation
  - Pledge of Allegiance
- 0905 District Commander's Welcome
  - Introduction of Guests
  - Introduction of P/D/C's, P/DEO's, National Officers
- 0915 Presentation of Awards
- 1000 Break
- 1015 Conference Meeting
- 1100 Speakers: TBA
- 1200 Refreshments and Buffet Lunch
- 1315 Chief Commander's Message
- 1330 Change of Watch
- Conclusion of Conference



*Dress is USPS blazer or appropriate business attire*

Room rates at the Hampton Inn are:  
\$89 plus tax  
Call 508-675-8500  
or  
[www.HamptonInn.com](http://www.HamptonInn.com)  
Ask for the PWR rate



Luncheon Deli Buffet - \$20/person and includes:  
clam chowder, assortment of seasonal fruit, Caesar salad, potato salad,  
Mediterranean pasta salad, imported & domestic cheeses,  
assorted cold cuts, assorted breads and accompaniments  
fresh baked cookies & beverages

Complete the reservation form below and send with a check payable to **District 14**  
Mail to D/Lt/C Pamela Irving, 5 Prestwick Road, Bourne, MA 02532 Tel: 508-759-7718  
No later than Tuesday 10 March 2015

✂ -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of meals \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

## District 14 Bridge Officers

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508-398-7970

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**The MA-RI-NER**

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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- 13-15 March District Spring Conference and COW – Main business meeting is Saturday 14 March
- 17 March – Tuesday, Greenwich Bay COW
- 23 April – Thursday, Cape Cod COW, Hyannis Yacht Club
- 25 April – Saturday, Buzzards Bay COW at Swopes Center, MBL, Woods Hole
- Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Newport is likely to be the largest event in Newport history.  
Race Village opens 5 May. Boats probably start to arrive from Itajai, Brazil starting 6 May  
Hundreds of events over 2 weeks will need thousands of volunteers.  
Next leg to Lisbon, Portugal starts May 17 between 2 to 4 PM
- D12 & D14 Joint summer Cruise to Maine – The No More Excuses Cruise. Sat. 18 July to Sat 8 Aug



FIRST CLASS MAIL

United States Power Squads®  
District 14 - The MA-RI-NER  
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Lakeville, MA 02347