

## **The History of District 1**

**To start out we will go back into the History of USPS in the Operations Manual.**

**In January of 1917, as World War 1 threatened to engage this Nation into the conflict, USPS has 477 members in twenty squadrons. One of these squadrons was New Haven, who had come aboard at the meeting at the New York Yacht Club on 2 February 1914.**

**At the 26 January 1918 Annual Meeting, Chief Commander Theodore I. Coe, JN of Potomac River Squadron, wrote in his Annual Report, "The demands of War have affected social, fraternal and economic life, and our organization has not escaped the problems and handicaps which have arisen from this abnormal condition."**

**USPS had problems. Interest waned in all things military and Squadron activities and membership declined dramatically.**

**Times remained difficult under Chief Commander C. N. Burnell in 1918, and at the Fall Governing Board in 1919, his successor, Chief Commandeer. M. Williams reported that USPS had no money in the treasury and was \$450 in debt. He recommended that the members of the Governing Board chip in, pay the bill and disband the organization.**

**V/C Adolphus B. Bennett, JN disagreed. He opposed disbanding and proposed four changes in the By-Laws, which he predicted would revitalize the organization and set it off on a promising course.**

- (1) That a man should be a member of USPS and a member of a Squadron.**
- (2) That all boat drills and maneuver requirements be eliminated.**
- (3) That invitation to membership should no longer be restricted to Yacht club members, but should be based on a mans proficiency in boating and his compatibility with other members.**
- (4) That USPS should encourage all its members to take advantage of the educational Opportunities developed within the organization.**

**At the Annual Meeting in January 1920, Bennett became Chief Commander and the revised By-Laws, including suggestions of P/C/C Coe were adopted.**

**One thousand letters were written to those on the ENSIGN mailing list telling them of the changes in the By-Laws and asking them to pay \$1.00 dues for 1920 and come back. One hundred forty two signed, a few from each squadron.**

**During this time there was one Squadron who did not drop out. That Squadron was New Haven. The only Squadron out of all who had signed on in 1914 at the New York Yacht Club. Even Roger Uption's Boston Yacht Club had dropped out. That is why the New Haven Power Squadron is the oldest active Squadron in USPS.**

**C/C Bennett's four years of work paid off, and in 1924 there were 388 members and \$1,000 in the treasury and no debts.**

**At the Annual Meeting in 1930, Fredrick W. Keator, N of New Haven Squadron was elected C/C of USPS. The organization was on the increase. On 2 June 1931 Middletown Squadron was chartered with the help from members of the New Haven Squadron. Most of the Middletown members came from the Middletown Yacht Club, which is still in existence today. They were the 14<sup>th</sup> Squadron in USPS.**

**Later that year on 28 November 1931 Hartford Squadron was chartered as the 15 Squadron in USPS. Again this was done with the help of members of New Haven. Most of the members of Hartford came from the Weathersfield Cove Yacht Club. Kenneth B. Noble who helped organize the squadron transferred from New Haven and was elected their first Commander.**

**These three Squadrons were the start of what was to be District 1.**

**In January 1937 Wesley E. Morse, N of Hartford became the 15<sup>th</sup> Chief Commander of USPS. He was also an active member of the Weathersfield Cove Yacht Club. His picture hangs in the Yacht Club today in his USPS uniform.**

**At the Fall Governing Board on 13 December 1938, (why a Fall Governing Board Meeting in December?) The September meeting had to be cancelled due to the 23 September Hurricane.) At that meeting C/C Morse recommended the setting up Districts of the organization due to the growth of USPS which had put a substantial burden on the Chief Commander. The area now occupied by District 1 was named because it was C/C Morse's home area and included New Haven, the oldest active Squadron in USPS. USPS was divided into 7 Districts consisting of 33 Squadrons and upwards of 5,000 members by the end of 1938. These Districts were placed under the supervision of a Rear Commander and the first one named for District 1 was John K. Murphy of New Haven, a past National treasurer.**

**District 1 began to grow and on 14 April 1939 New London Squadron was chartered with 14 Charter Members, Their first Commander being Charles B. Wood, JN. This Squadron was started with the help of the Hartford Squadron. Most of the members came from the Thames Yacht Club.**

**One day later on 15 April 1939 the Springfield Squadron was chartered. This Squadron was founded by Merle Duryea and eleven of his friends. Merle Duryea was elected their first Commander. He was the grandson of the founder of the Duryea Automobile Company.**

**District 1 was now up to five Squadrons and interest was growing in other cities in the state.**

**In 1939 five members of Middletown Squadron, who lived in the New Britain area elected to form a Squadron and on 25 April 1940 they received their Charter. Calvin E. Wilcox was elected the first Commander**

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World War 2 came upon us on December 7, 1941 and the growth of the District came to a halt. The Squadrons were busy with the War effort. Many members went into the armed forces and those who did not or could not worked in defense plants. Some of the members joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary and patrolled Long Island Sound and the large rivers of the state. Some members were on submarine patrol off of Montauk Point on large sail boats. District 1 remained with six Squadrons during the War and up until 1950.

Between 1938 and 1947 District 1 was under the supervision of 6 Rear Commanders:

John K. Murphy - New Haven  
Wesley E. Morse, N - Hartford  
Halsey R. Philbuck, N - Hartford  
Cliford R. Haskins, N - Hartford  
Authur N. Clifton, N - Springfield  
S. Barry Jennings, N - New Haven

During 1945, P/C/C Fredrick W. Keator, N of New Haven took it upon himself to write the first set of By-Laws for a District. A trial run of these were to be run in District 1 and if found workable would be adopted by the Governing Board for other Districts. On 30 March 1946 R/C Arthur Clifton of Springfield called the the Spring Conference to order in New London. Morning meetings were held including one attended by several National Officers and the Squadron Commanders. P/C/C Keator reviewed his proposed By-Laws article by article. At the afternoon Conference Meeting the recommendations of the Commander were brought to the delegates and the By-Laws were approved.

The Nominating Committee submitted a slate and R/C S. Barry Jennings of New Haven took over command of the District from R/C Clifton.

On 11 January 1947 at the 33 Annual Meeting of USPS the Governing Board approved the Model District By-Laws and R/C S. Barry Jennings became the first District Commander of District 1.

With the War over USPS began to grow and so did District 1. On 27 January 1950 Westerly Squadron was presented a Charter Signed by C/C Arthur Clifton, N of Springfield. There were 22 Charter Members who had transferred from New London. Arthur B. Gervasini, AP was elected the first Commander. This was the first and only Squadron from Rhode Island. District 1 now had 7 Squadrons from three states.

On 6 February 1953 Saybrook Squadron was Chartered with 22 Charter Members from Middletown and New London who lived in the area around the mouth of the Connecticut River. Edward T. Rob was the first Commander. At the Charter presentation the New London Commander gave Saybrook their old flag staffs. They still have them.

In April of 1953 45 members of New London Squadron who lived in the Norwich area formed a Squadron. On 27 April 1953 136 members and guests gathered at a dinner where the Charter

was presented to W. Harry Stebbins, AP the new Commander.

The following year 26 members of Middletown Squadron who lived in Meriden formed a Squadron and on 2 February 1954 Commander James F. Otas was presented the Squadron charter.

On 28 February 1957, John McLaren, AP and William Huddinott, AP of New Haven, with the Squadrons permission called a meeting in Milford. The purpose was to organize a Milford Power Squadron. It was a unammous vote and on 8 April 1957 Milford was Chartered with John McLaren as their first Commander.

Three years later on 26 October 1960 45 members of Hartford Squadron voted to form the Manchester Power Squadron and 14 January 1961 P/D/C William E. Andrew, N of Hartford presented to Commander Clifford A. Loomus the Squadron charter. This gave District 1 12 Squadrons.

On 17 October 1962 Waterbury area members of the Meriden Squadron met at the Connecticut Light & Power on Freight Street in Waterbury to form a Squadron. This was done with the help of the Meriden Squadron. On 19 January 1963 Waterbury received their Charter. John H. Hyland was the first Commander. This gave District 1 the 13 Squadrons that we have today. Just like the thirteen original colonies back in 1776.

Through the years we have had many members who have served at National as Officers and Committee members. We have been honored to have had four Chief Commanders:

Fredrick W. Keator, N - New Haven

Wesley E. Morse, N - Hartford

Arthur N Clifton, N - Springfield

Robert L. Woods, SN - New Britain

New Haven might take claim on P/C/C Bruce M. Steere, SN who took the Piloting Course while a student at Yale, Joined and transfered to Dallas.

#### Other Officers:

John K. Murphy, New Haven - National Treasurer 1915 - 1916

P/V/C Harry Pennington, N - New Haven - National Treasurer - 1967

P/R/C Paul W. Buckley, N - New Britain - Ch/ Liaison Committee

P/R/C Robert E. Gorton, SN - Manchester - Ch/Sail, ED Program

P/R/C Martin W. Frith, N - Saybrook - Ch/ Weather - Ch/Electives

P/R/C Bryon N. Dunfee, N - Springfield - Ch/Weather

P/R/C Charles H. Toifl, SN - Meriden - Ch/ Jr. Navigation

p/r/c Laura F. Toifl, AP - Meriden - Ch/Ships Store

P/R/C Grover C. Culshaw, JN - Saybrook - Ch/ Membership

R/C Richard E. Kyle, SN - Saybrook - Ch/Educ. Business Com.

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R/C Hayden F. Loveland, SN - Saybrook - Ch Boating Com - Nat. Nominating Com

P/Stf/C A Marlin Shoemaker, SN - New London - Asst. Nat. Chaplin

P/Stf/C Constance M. Pacheco, P - Westerly - Safety Com.

R/C Hamilton D. Smith, SN - New Haven - Ch. Publications Com.

P/D/C James E. Coley, JN - Saybrook - Flag & Etiquette Com - Historians Com.

P/D/C William E. Andrew, SN - Hatrford - Aux Advisory Com.

P/D/C Richard F. Grant, SN - Middletown - Educ/Planning , - Nom Com.

P/D/Lt/C Richard N. Carrier, N - Westerly - Training Aids Com.

P/D/C Crawford B. Tuttle, SN - Springfield - Aid to V/C Woods, - OT Com.

P/C Edward C. Smith, SN - Saybrook - Piloting Com.

P/C M. Ellen Barbour, S.N. - New London - Safety, Membership, Vessel Safety Check  
Com

P/D/Lt/C George D. Gwizd, JN - Hartford - Co-Op Charting Com.

P/C Murray Warner, S.N. - Saybrook - Sail Com.

P/C Walter L. Jones, AP - Saybrook - Safety Com.

Lt Patricia H. Coley, S.N. - Saybrook - Jr Navigation Com.

Jeanne Chocran - Milford - Boating Act Com.

P/R/C Kenneth L. Barbour, S.N. - New London - Ch Off Shore Navigation Com

P/D/C Dolores V. Loprinze, AP - New London - Oper Training Com.

P/N/F/Lt Arthur P. Coggins, S.N. - New Britain - National Flag Lt to C/C Woods

As PV/C Louis Spector, S.N., Past National Educational Officer called it the most prestigious  
Award in all of USPS, "The Charles F. Chapman Award for Excellence in Teaching."

District 1 has had three Winners.

Patricia H. Coley, S.N. - Saybrook

John K. Summer, S.N. - Springfield

Arthur P. Coggins, S.N. - New Britain

P/D/C James E. Coley, JN  
Historian