



RAG-POT

*Kennebec River Sail & Power Squadron's monthly newsletter
Unit of the United States Power Squadrons*

FEBRUARY 2017

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Winter certainly has her grips on us, throwing all kinds of weather our way from snow to freezing rain to 40 degree sunny days. It's hard to plan for any outdoor activity, but you can count on our dinner meetings to brighten up the season and help you dream of summer on the water! Each meeting provides a nice meal and a short but interesting program and best of all, a chance to see your Squadron family.

At our February dinner meeting, we will begin our summer's cruise planning discussion, giving us time to get the word out to nonmembers who might like to join us. We hope to attract boaters who can benefit from our collective knowledge of Penobscot Bay and experience our comederie. Our cruise is one of our best activities and it will be fun to share it.

Our winter/spring course offerings are just beginning in Augusta and we have two seminars at Cony High School in March, plus ABC3 in Waterville, Gardiner and Poland. Support your education department by telling your friends and neighbors about us. See more about education on p.3!

Gini Fiedler

KRSPS CALENDAR

Monday, Feb. 6, 2017

Exec. Board Meeting
East Coast Mortgage
Center St. Auburn
7 PM

Friday, Feb. 10, 2017

DINNER MEETING
Gardiner Lions' Club
Rt. 201, Gardiner
6 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner

Monday, March 6 2017

Exec. Board Meeting
Hayes Law Offices
One Weston Ct. Augusta
7 PM

Friday, March 10, 2017

DINNER MEETING
Rolandau's Restaurant
775 Washington St..
Auburn
6 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner



OUR OWN PAUL DUPUIS SPEAKS-FEB 10!

Group targets myths around boat fire extinguishers

BY CASEY CONLEY



KIDDE

A safety arm of BoatUS has issued fire extinguisher safety tips aimed at dispelling persistent myths around these critical safety devices.

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water issued the advisory this month in part based on questions the agency receives each year from boat owners.

First off, BoatUS said modern fire extinguishers do not need to be tapped or whacked each year to keep the contents fresh and ready to respond. In fact, the group said rapping the side of the extinguisher can harm the unit and compromise its ability to respond during an emergency.

Another myth: Fire extinguishers must be mounted on a bracket. In reality, BoatUS said hanging the extinguisher keeps it readily available and protect it from damage. However, mounting it is not a legal requirement. At the same time, stashing the unit at the bottom of a locker where it's hard to reach in a pinch isn't a good idea either.

While many boaters believe it's a good idea to replace their extinguishers every year, turns out that's not necessary. Fire extinguishers, unlike flares, have no expiration date.

"To meet US Coast Guard carriage requirements however, the extinguisher must be Coast Guard approved and in 'good and serviceable' condition," BoatUS said in a news release. "The charge indicator needs to be in the green zone, the nozzle free of obstruction and the cylinder not rusted."

Finally, the organization dispelled the idea that federal requirements call for just one extinguisher on board. In fact, US Coast Guard standards mandate larger vessels have more than one. For smaller boats, keeping a backup or two on hand is a good idea, too.

For more information on BoatUS safety tips around fire extinguishers, visit BoatUS.org/fire-extinguishers

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE USCG HAS ASSIGNED A TEN YEAR LIFE TO FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, SO CHECK YOUR DATES AND REPLACE ANY THAT ARE MORE THAN 10 YR. OLD.

EDUCATION - WHAT'S NEW!

By Phyllis Jones, AP/IN

Spring Conference for District 19 is scheduled for April 21-23. It will be held in Bath at the Hampton Inn and will provide some interesting educational segments with updated information. Everyone is invited and all will find it worthwhile. Our host will be Wawenock Squadron, and they will publish more details about the conference soon.

KRSPS has courses and seminars underway (see January *Ragpot*) If any member would like to volunteer to help out for a night or two, or sit in on a class, please contact me. If you would like to become an instructor, I would love to hear from you.

phyjones@myfairpoint.net

645-3109

We have two students, Steve Pierce and Dana Ambrose, who completed AP successfully. Congratulations to the students and to instructor Bert Glines for his dedication.

USPS has available "One Minute Guide to Nautical Rules of the Road." It is easy to read and understand. The booklet will satisfy Coast Guard requirements for carrying the Federal rules and regulations book on board. See store.shopusps.org to order.

ED'S DOCK BOX

by Edward Jones. AP/INC

Cleaning your coffee basket: Have you looked at the "build-up" in your coffee filter basket? Maybe you should! Usually there is a coating that is oily and blackened. Some use denture tablets to soak the basket overnight then scrub, rinse and dry. A fellow boater provided the following tip: Spray the basket inside and out with "Krud Kutter" and scrub with a small toothbrush. The product is safe, non-toxic and leaves no after taste...cleans in minutes.

Prepping for bottom paint: Have you noticed bubbles or small blisters in your bottom paint? The cause is probably failure to prep the hull. Not only do you need to clean the hull and scrape away barnacles, mussels and seaweed; you need to rough up the surface to give it "teeth" for the paint to stick to, using 80 grit sandpaper. The hull should look dull. Wipe it down with 120 brushing thinner and let it dry. Another product to take the place of sanding is Skip Sand Primer which chemically etches the hull. Don't forget your safety equipment while working-respirator, protective eyewear and gloves. I wear a good paper suit, as well.

Check your anchor: Look for corrosion, kinks damage and wear. Mark your rode at 50 ft. Intervals with liquid rubber or bottom paint, not tape which will come off.

Safety is our motto.....

Safe Boating doesn't tie to the amount of experience you may have; it's always a great idea to review boating safety rules before your season begins and before departure. Check for any changes or updates.

Ten Basic Boating Safety tips to help you stay safe:

1. **Be Weather Wise**—always check Local and Mariners' forecasts. Look to the sky often. Note changes in the winds, and drops in temperature.
2. **Pre-Departure Check List**—Be prepared for any possibility on the water. A checklist can be found online or in any of your course texts. Using the checklist is the best way to insure NO Boating Safety rules or precautions have been overlooked or forgotten.
3. **Use Common Sense**—One of the most important parts of Safe Boating is using your common sense. Operate your vessel at a safe speed (especially in crowded areas) stay alert, steer clear of large vessels that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn. Be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids, which are purposely placed to ensure your safety.
4. **Designate an Assistant Skipper**—Make sure at least 1 person onboard is familiar with all aspects of your boat's handling, operations, and general safety. Make sure they know how to use the Marine Radio to summons help if the primary navigator is injured or incapacitated.
5. **Develop a Float Plan**---You may choose to inform a family member or your local Marina of your voyage plans. Let them know where you plan to cruise and when you expect to return. It is best to have a written Float Plan that includes; Name of Captain, Name of Vessel, Cel PH #, Description of Vessel, Passengers Aboard, any Signal equipment on board (EPIRB or PLB, Flares).
6. **Proper Use of Life Jackets**---Are you aware that the Majority of Drowning Victims are Boaters NOT WEARING their Life Jackets?? Properly fit and assign a Life Jacket to each person on board, before departing. The best safety is to WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET. Don't Just Pack your Jacket—and Become a Statistic!
7. **Avoid Alcohol**—Practice Safe Boating at all times by saving the alcohol for later when docked, moored for the night, or at anchor for the rest of the day/night. The probability of being involved in a Boating Accident doubles when alcohol is involved. The effects of alcohol are increased by sun and wind. Injuries from such an accident are usually critical.
8. **Learn To Swim**----There are many organizations that teach swimming to all ages. Check with Red Cross, YMCA's, Universities, Recreation Dept. for swimming lessons. Most even have a "Senior Plus" group. If you are going to be around the water, you owe it to yourself to learn to swim.
9. **Take A Boating Course or Refresher**-----You may have taken a Safe Boating Class many years ago, and that was great. Times have changed and you would probably benefit from a refresher class. You may be experienced and wiser, but you are NOT too old to gain more knowledge!
10. **Get A Vessel Safety Check** ---Please take advantage of a Free Vessel Safety Check from your able Kennebec River Sail & Power Squadron inspectors. They offer Complimentary Boat Safety Checks and verify the presence and condition of certain safety equipment required by State and Federal Regulations. This is a free Service to Help You Be A Safer Boater!

By Edward Jones, AP/INC

Penetrating Oils

Reprinted here from the archives of P/C Steve Hayes

Machinist's Workshop magazine recently published some information on various penetrating oils that I found very interesting. Some of you might appreciate this. The magazine reports they tested penetrates for break out torque on rusted nuts.

They are below, as forwarded by an ex-student and professional machinist. They arranged a subjective test of all the popular penetrates with the control being the torque required to remove the nut from a "scientific rusted" environment.

Penetrating oils Average torque load to loosen

No Oil used516 pounds

WD-40 238 pounds

PB Blaster 214 pounds

Liquid Wrench127 pounds

Kano Kroil 106 pounds

ATF-Acetone mix.....53 pounds*

The ATF-Acetone mix is a "home brew" mix of 50 - 50 automatic transmission fluid and acetone. Note this "home brew" released bolts better than any commercial product in this one particular test.

Our local machinist group mixed up a batch and we all now use it with equally good results. Note also that "Liquid Wrench" is almost as good as "Kroil" for about 20% of the price.

Steve from Godwin-Singer says that ATF-Acetone mix is best, but you can also use ATF and lacquer thinner in a 50-50 mix.

*ATF=Automatic Transmission Fluid



FEBRUARY DINNER

Gardiner Lions Club (Route 201 behind the Armory)

Friday, February 10, 2017

6 pm social hour and appetizers 7 pm dinner

BYOB \$15

Be sure to make your reservations with Harold Wood:

hrwood@roadrunner.com or 623-1926 by

Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7 pm

PROGRAM:
Paul Dupuis and his
Sailing Adventures