



# RAG-POT

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

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Well once again here I am with a captive audience and not much to say yet. The change of watch was just about a week ago and I haven't been too involved in the running of the squadron but I will give it a try.

1: The first thing I would like to say is that it is a joy to step in and try to follow in Past Commander Virginia Fiedler's footsteps which if you haven't noticed were terrific.

2: The slate of officers in our group go so far beyond excellent that as you cannot even see excellent from where they are. As Commander I wanted to say thank you personally to each one.

3: Our squadron runs on the back of its members. each and every one of you; you are not just a number and an income source. You should feel welcome and needed; each and every one of you are important to our group which is the Kennebec River Sail and Power squadron.

4: If you received a renewal notice and are thinking about not renewing this year for whatever reason I would beseech you to renew your membership, and come, in whatever capacity you can, and join us in celebrating the joys of boating and educating those that may so badly need it.

Fair winds to every one of you.

Commander  
Lynn Mecham AP

**APRIL 2017**

## KRSPS CALENDAR

**Monday, April 3, 2017**

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

**Friday, Apr. 14, 2017**

**DINNER MEETING**

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

**Saturday in July**

Lobster Picnic  
Details to follow next month!

**Friday, August 4, 2017**

**SUMMER CRUISE  
KICKOFF DINNER**

Christmas Cove  
6 PM

**August 5-12**

**SUMMER CRUISE**  
(See Page 5)



**MAINE MARINE PATROL SPEAKER-APR. 14**

## GONE WITH THE WIND

by P/C Gary Bain, JN

It has been 24 years that our boat has been named *Gone With The Wind*. It is a literal translation and had nothing to do with the novel or the movie. Actually the name came from our son Chris who was 9 years old at the time we purchased our first Catalina. The boat was a 1984 Catalina 30 which we used for the next 18 years. We were in Boothbay Harbor, ME one year when Chris took off immediately when we landed and challenged another boat owner from Massachusetts who had the same name. "How dare they use that name?" he muttered as he launched the dinghy. I had noticed the boat on the way in and they had named their dinghy *Scarlett*, so I had guessed that they were fond of the movie or the novel. Chris came back after a short while still discouraged that he could not convince them to change their name but he did

have a nice conversation with them. There was a period, when Chris got older and I had purchased a Sea Ray power boat for the lake that he wanted to change the name. He thought "Passing Gas" would be a great name for the Sea Ray and "Passing Wind" would be a wonderful change for GWTW. Well neither happened, as long as his mother had a part in the decision!

We struggled for a short while for a name when we purchased our Catalina 36 (Hull # 1056) a 1990 Mk1, which originally was owned by a couple from Connecticut who were relocating to Cape Cod, and had named the boat *Benares*. We knew that name had no meaning to us. After consideration we decided "*Gone With The Wind*" was the name everyone knew us by. It seemed to be the perfect and logical fit. Did not even add a Too, II, or 2.



# A website to investigate....

[Http://theboatdocking.com/training](http://theboatdocking.com/training)

This simulator is designed to train you to dock your twin engine or single I/O power boat before you actually try it in the water! This is not a game, but a simulator.

The developers have just finished a (Windows PC) downloadable version that runs independently from the internet. Click on the link on their website to download a .zip file to your favorite directory.

**THANK YOU P/C STEVE HAYES FOR DISCOVERING THIS USEFUL TOOL AND SHARING IT WITH OUR MEMBERS.**

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## Ed's Dock Box

by Lt/C Ed Jones, A/P INC

**SPRING MAINTENANCE:** While doing your spring tasks, are you losing some of the screws, nuts, washers and other pieces? Glue a piece of shelving rubber liner to the bottom of an old muffin tin. (You had better ask before taking a tin from the kitchen.) Set the muffin tin within your reach while you work. The tin will hold your small items and won't slip. This is an easy way to sort pieces and secure them.

**SPARK PLUGS:** Make sure your engine is cool before removing spark plugs. If the engine is hot/warm, it makes unthreading difficult as the metals expand. Clean the cylinder head recess, where plug is located, with compressed air to eliminate debris from entering the combustion chamber.

**ADD THIS TO YOUR TOOL BOX:** Always have a metal coat hanger in your tool kit. It has many uses aboard:

Free a hose blockage

Use to hook something in a tight spot

Use to free blocked "limber holes"

Use as a temporary tie-down

Use to replace a cotter pin

**CLEANING YOUR SAILS:** Are you unpacking your sails and finding them dirty and stained? Be careful if you are planning to clean them. Sails have a special coating on the material which may be removed by harsh cleaners and stiff brushes, damaging the sails. Do not lay sails on asphalt or concrete and clean with brushes and household cleaners. They will break down the threads. Hang the sail and hose down with fresh water to remove grime and salt. **DO NOT USE A PRESSURE WASHER OR BLEACH!** Bleach will destroy the sewn threads. Use a mild soap and water and a soft brush. Rinse well and dry.

## **OUR MISSION**

# **Safety**

**APRIL'S SAFETY TOPIC by Lt/C Edward Jones, AP/INC**

### **WHY DO BOATS SINK????**

**Why do boats sink? A short answer is; they have too much water IN them. Whether that water comes from hitting a rock or something just below the water, or blowing an exhaust hose, or forgetting the drain plug, water is coming in. (This really happens a lot!)**

**If you can slow flooding to a rate below what bilge pumps can handle, you won't sink.**

**According to Sea Tow Captains, this is easier said than done.**

**Did you know that Sea Tow responded to over 900 sinking boats, last year? These Captains offer some simple solutions. Sea Tow Top 5 Reasons for Sinking-Boat Rescue Calls:**

- **Hit something-Know your position and surroundings, and charted danger spots close to you.**
- **Forgot the drain plug when launching-(Hey, it happens to the best of us!) get the boat back on plane to drain water out of the transom and/or plug it with anything on hand.**
- **Hose broke—Shut the seacock. If it won't shut off, wrap the hose with strips from a canvas cover or cut the hose off and cap it with a tapered wooden or foam plug. Clamp it with a hose clamp.**
- **Failed shaft seal (dripless)—Every Spring make sure shaft-seal cooling water is flowing through hoses from each engine to each shaft-seal. If one fails, keep shaft from spinning with a pipe wrench and wrap it with strips from a canvas cover, tarp or bicycle-tire inner tube.**
- **Stern Anchored Boat--Never anchor from the astern. A change in sea movement or a boat wake can cause water to flow over the stern and swamp the boat. It only takes one good wave!**

**Next month I will tell you what to use and how to plug a leak with items you may have aboard.**



Come to the Kickoff dinner at Christmas Cove  
or bring your boat and join us at any of  
these wonderful destinations!

### OUR CRUISE SCHEDULE:

August 4 - Christmas Cove

August 8 - Fort Point

August 5 - Tenant's Harbor

August 9 - Bucksport

August 6 - Pulpit Harbor (North Haven)

August 10 - Cradle Cove

August 7 - Castine

August 11 - Rockland

August 12 - Home Port Bound

# **DINNER - APRIL 14**

**GARDINER LIONS' CLUB**  
(Rt. 201, behind the armory)

**SOCIAL HOUR 6-7**

**DINNER AT 7**

**BYOB \$15**

**CALL OR EMAIL HAROLD WOOD  
BEFORE 7 ON APRIL 11 FOR  
YOUR RESERVATION!**

## **MAINE MARINE PATROL**

**Officer Clint Thompson to  
offer stories from his twenty  
years of experience**

