



RAG-POT

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

OCTOBER 2017

October 1, 2017

Commanders Message

I hope that this message finds everyone exhausted from a summer of exciting adventures, as well as a productive life! I know that I am.

We will be having our third EBOARD meeting on November 6th in Auburn for anyone who would like to attend.

I have made an open invitation to our local Cub Scout pack to join us on our planned LEAF PEEPING PADDLE coming up on the 14th, see Page 2 for details. To date the Scouts seem to have too many road blocks but we will see.

Dinner speakers are becoming a real problem, I hope a few more people can help out. Thank Harvey Bell when you see him for providing our November speaker.

We need to start rounding out our next executive council in the near future so our nominating committee will be calling, and no is not a good answer. This organization needs your help. It's easy enough.....even I can do some of it.

District conference is coming up later this month so look for some stimulating ideas to follow.

I hope this finds you all well.

Fair Winds

Lynn Mecham CDR

KRSPS CALENDAR

Monday, October 2, 2017

Executive Board
Hayes Law Offices
Weston Ct. Augusta
7 PM

Friday, October 13, 2017

Dinner Meeting
Gardiner Lions' Club
Rt. 201, Gardiner
6 PM Social Hour
7 PM Dinner

October 20-22

DISTRICT 19 FALL
CONFERENCE

Monday, November 6, 2017

Executive Board
East Coast Mortgage
Center St. Auburn
7 PM

Friday, November 10, 2017

Dinner Meeting
Rolandau's Restaurant
Washington St.
Auburn
6 PM Social Hour
7 PM Dinner
SEATOW Program

PADDLE BELGRADE STREAM OCT. 14



Oct. 14th, 11:00AM
Rain Date: Oct. 15th

LEAF PEEPING PADDLE

CUB SCOUTS PACK
622 AND THE
KENNEBEC RIVER
SAIL & POWER
SQUADRON

Along the Belgrade Stream

Bring your own canoe or kayak

Bring your own lunch

Transportation back to the Wings Mills dam will be provided if you do not wish to paddle back

Any questions? Contact Lynn Mecham at (207)557-8034 or lwmecham@gmail.com



BRING YOUR PADDLE CRAFT AND A FRIEND!

**NO CANOE IS NO EXCUSE.....
CALL GINI FIEDLER AT
465-3961. SHE HAS ONE
TO LOAN!**

Studies have shown that paddling a canoe makes you more awesome than the general population.



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HARBOR SAFETY (PART 2)

By Lt/C Ed Jones AP/INC

Overloading a dinghy is always concerning. Yesterday there were 4 large adults in a 6-7 ft. rubber dinghy. You could hear the little motor strain. Their “butts” were within 2 inches of the cold sea water. Nobody was wearing a life jacket, nor were any in the boat. One good wave from another boat would have swamped them. What were they thinking, or Not!

Sometimes the overloading is made up of coolers, beverages, and “stuff” plus the passengers. Encourage these boaters to “lighten the load” or make two trips out to their boat. Safety is everyone’s business!

A lot of boat owners are in their “Senior Years”. Most have difficulty climbing from the dinghy to their boats, especially sail boats. Waves from another boat increase the chances of falling or landing in the cold water. Some have balance issues caused by arthritic knees or hips, a back injury or just aging.

Be courteous for other boaters’ safety. You don’t have to go so fast in a “No Wake” area or any mooring field.

Harbors at night are a dangerous place to be. More than 80% of dinghies and other boats do NOT Display any type of light, which is required, even on manually pow-

ered craft. Any dinghy with a motor has to have lights for port, starboard, and a white all-round. Sail boats must have navigation lights and a mast light. Look for the requirements in the Boater’s Guide.

Boating at night without any light puts everyone at risk for an accident. Many times we can hear the dinghy but cannot see anything. The dinghies usually are operating “wide open” in the dark.

We were going to our mooring when a dinghy came out of the dark and crossed between our bow and our mooring ball. I was reaching for the mooring line at the time. The operator didn’t even slow down and our boat was lit up like a Christmas Tree. This is a mooring field and No Wake area. I nearly fell overboard. As boaters and KR-SPS members, we need to help Promote Safety and Educate these dangerous boaters. You could Save a fellow Boater’s Life!

In and around the harbors obey the buoys and channel markers. The No Wake buoy, means the whole area, not just where the markers are located.

They are there for your Safety as well as ours. If you do not know what the markers and buoys mean, you should take a boating class.



UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS® DISTRICT 19

Yankee Soundings

September 2017 NEWSLETTER

DISTRICTS 12, 14 AND 19

Fall Conference Registration

October 20, 21 and 22, 2017

North Conway Grand Hotel, North Conway, New Hampshire

Please register for the Conference by using this link: <http://www.usps.org/d12/fallconf.shtml> Please note that there will not be a registration fee for the Conference, but we would appreciate you registering even if you are not choosing to stay for the banquet. This will allow us to plan properly for setting up rooms etc.

During the day we will be having fire extinguisher training led by the North Conway Fire Dept. If you want to participate, you must bring an old extinguisher, we all have one or two that need replacing, and you must register for this session. There is a limit of 20 for this class.

A round table discussion will be held on the current situation of the VSC program. Sticker availability, inspection of paddlecraft, and other topics will be examined.

Fred Weibel will help folks to get the most out of DB2000 and the National website information center. Andy Sumberg, the IT guy for D12 will explain how to use Open CPN, the free navigational software now used in our USPS classes. Bring your laptop or tablet to get the most out of these tech presentations.

Laurie Chandler will talk about her 740 mile canoe trip on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and her, about to be released, book "Upwards." This is a story of the first woman to solo paddle this trail unassisted, and, as she insists, the more difficult task of writing and publishing a book.

The banquet on Saturday night will feature a stuffed Portabella Mushroom appetizer, a Caesar Salad, choice of Grilled Sliced Flank Steak or Baked Haddock main dishes, with Apple Pie for dessert. The hotel will offer a vegetarian selection for folks with dietary constraints. There will be a cash bar before and during dinner.

After dinner we will listen to the storytelling of "The Dune Tramp," acknowledged authority and photo journalist on the beautiful dune-lined shore of Outer Cape Cod. We will hear about the ancient shacks that have been refuges for a variety of interesting folks over the years and are still being used today. Also we will view some of his most well known photographs of the area.

To register, please follow this link to the District 12 website for more detail and the registration form:

<http://www.usps.org/d12/fallconf.shtml>



EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Phyllis Jones, AP/IN

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Course Offerings:

ABC 3 Augusta-Cony High Adult Ed starting Oct. 4th

Rules of the Road-Seminar Cony Adult Ed, Oct 17th

Classes begin at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Instructor Recertification: November 2nd at 5:30 pm at

East Coat Mortgage office in Auburn. A letter will be forwarded to each instructor.

Winter Courses are: ABC 3

Seamanship Jan 17th-Feb 28th

Piloting Mar. 7th to April 25th

Winter-Spring: Seminars 2018:

How to Read & Use a Chart Mar 5th & 12th

Rules of the Road April 9th 16th

DINNER MEETING - OCTOBER 13

GARDINER LIONS' CLUB

6 PM SOCIAL

COME SEE YOUR FRIENDS!!

7 PM DINNER

SHARE A FAVORITE SUMMER STORY!

\$15

FOR RESERVATIONS: HAROLD WOOD 623-1926

BYOB

hrwood@roadrunner.com before 7 pm on Oct. 10