



RAG-POT



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

For Boaters, By Boaters™



*Kennebec River Sail & Power Squadron's Monthly Newsletter
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons*

Fellow Mariners:

I am not going to say anything about the Corona virus because we're pretty much all sick of hearing about it. Oops, I just talked about it!! Oh well, Covid-19 was responsible for my decision to keep my boat on the hard this summer. The good news is that I received a full refund because Paul's Marina was able to rent my mooring to another party. I will be spending more time at my camp in Wayne.

The main message from our Chief Commander at National is that membership retention and growth is of top concern for USPS this year. I do understand that our demographics in Maine make it difficult to attract new members because our population is low, and our boat count includes many out-of-state owners. Florida has more registered boats than Maine's entire population! Nevertheless, once we get back to a semblance of normalcy, we will try to improve our Squadron's membership numbers and participation.

From what I've heard, it looks like there will be a small number of our group who wish to participate in the August summer cruise. Since I am not part of it this year, I am calling on those who are going to plan a loose itinerary. I have also heard from some of you that you would like to link up with cruisers for lunch or dinner at a port or two to reconnect and socialize. Gini Fiedler and/or Gary Bain will take the lead on this.

Our usual meeting place, Village Inn, has been closed since mid-March, has not reopened, and doesn't respond to phone calls. There has been no news about the ability of Gardiner Lions' Club to host our dinners. No one can tell when we will resume dinner meetings. Personally, I don't see normalcy until a comprehensive vaccination program is in place, perhaps by next spring.

I am sure that most of us are feeling quite detached from our friends in our Kennebec River Club, but I must say my backyard hasn't looked this good in years!!

Cdr Ed Plourde, A/P

JUNE 2020

KRPS CALENDAR

July 31-August 8, 2020

Annual Cruise

All are welcome....bring your meals and good spirits and explore Penobscot Bay with friends.

Here's Hoping we will have a few boats, following any appropriate Covid-19 guidelines in force at that time.



How to get into trouble on the water!

Reprinted from gCaptain.com May 11, 2020

SAILBOAT OPERATOR CITED FOR 'RULE 9' VIOLATION AFTER CROSSING IN FRONT OF A TANKER NEAR STOCKTON (CA)

BY MIKE SCHULER

The 25-ft sailboat crossed in front of the bow of a 550-foot tanker on April 18 while transiting a narrow channel in the vicinity of Stockton. The U. S. Coast Guard cited the operator and fined him for violating 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 83.09, commonly referred to as Rule 9.

The top of the mast was the only visible portion of the sailboat when the tanker was required to take action to avoid collision.

“Large commercial vessels have a blind spot that often extends hundreds of feet in front of their bow,” said Lt. Anna Funk, a Coast Guard Sector San Francisco Investigating Officer. “These ships are far less maneuverable than small recreational boats and can take up to a mile and a half to stop, which means they have to take evasive action well in advance if the intentions of nearby vessels are unclear.”

Owners and operators can face maximum civil penalties of \$14,910 per incident for violating navigation rules.

According to Rule 9–Inland water, vessels and powerboats less than 20 meters (65 ft.), All sailboats and vessels engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of a vessel that can safely only within a narrow channel or fairway. Additionally, a vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within that channel or fairway. The term “shall not impede” means a small vessel or craft must keep well clear and not hinder or interfere with the transit of larger vessels. All vessels shall avoid anchoring in a narrow channel, unless doing so is in the immediate interest of navigation safety.

Marine Safety and Security Information Bulletin (MSB) 14-07 shows a list of “narrow channels or fairways” on San Francisco Bay and approaches for the application of the Inland and International Rules of the Road.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Although Rules of the Road as stated above do not pertain to shipping channels in Penobscot Bay, it is only common sense to give a huge berth to tankers and tugs with a tow as they cannot see you or change course quickly. We have heard a distressed radio operator on a tanker calling repeatedly without response to a boat he had seen on the radar. What a disaster it would be for the small boat that didn't get out of the way!!

Education Corner

By Phyllis Jones, AP

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EDUCATION DEPT.

Corona 19 Virus hit our classes hard. Schools and meeting rooms closed, forcing our classes to be canceled. We had 4 ABC-3 classes and a Sailing Class canceled. Students were given an option of on-line classes, but very few enrolled.

We do have 1 student waiting for the Sailing Test to arrive. He did self study and worked with Instructor Gary Bain. Thank you and Congratulations both of you. Your dedication to further your Boating Education is appreciated.

Let's move on and get through the Corona 19 and plan to have a Safe Boating Season, for those who may launch their boats. We need to forward our Education for Fall courses.



A message from National.....

COVID-19 continues to challenge us as we all desire a return to 'normal' with ourselves, our families, our communities, and our squadrons. We must, however, proceed to 'hunker down' (hurricane preparation lingo) for a while. All is not lost; there are things you can do to not just entertain yourself during this downtime, but to educate yourself. For instance, take a look at our online offerings:

America's Boating Channel – view all of the YouTube videos:
<https://americasboatingchannel.com/>

Become a Vessel Safety Examiner! Study the manual and take the exam online:
<https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/12000/12900>

Member Benefits – have you looked at all of them recently? You can be saving \$\$\$:
<https://www.usps.org/index.php/departments/14000/1450001/benefits-alphabetical>

BOATING SAFETY

By Ed Jones, AP/INI

SAFETY DEPT.

Safe Boating Week was May 19th-May 25. I would like to Expand this for All Year.

Did you know that Safe Boating Week in 1957 was June 30th through the 4th of July week?

The theme of Safe Boating, has not changed. Safety Message is Wear your Life Jacket! We all know that, but 50% do not wear their PFDs. What is the sense of buying a nice life jacket, leaving it in the wrapper, stowing it onboard and never wearing it???? Your properly fitting life jacket could save your life. It is probably the most important piece of Safety equipment you have on board. Wear your Life Jacket— It Could Save Your Life!

DON'T JUST PACK IT! WEAR YOUR JACKET!

Ed's Dock Box

By Ed Jones, AP/INI

Do you need advice to make a water resistant wire splice??

Expose at least 1 inch of stranding wire by removing the insulation. Twist strands together, using waterproof crimp connectors to prevent corrosion.

DO NOT apply Kopr-Shield as your tape will not stick. Use a high quality electrical insulating tape. Begin 1 inch below the connection and wrap tape in a spiral, overlapping to at least 1 inch above the connection. The best tape I have used is Scotch 33 Electrical Tape.

To meet required Marine Environment procedures; spray coat your work with liquid electrical tape.

Your club's summer cruise



SIGN UP FOR OUR SUMMER CRUISE, JULY 31-AUGUST 8!

JUST BECAUSE WE MISSED OUR PLANNING MEETING IN APRIL DOES NOT MEAN WE WILL CANCEL THE CRUISE!!

LET HAROLD WOOD KNOW THAT YOU INTEND TO JOIN OUR FUN LOVING CROWD AND INDICATE TO HIM YOUR PREFERRED DESTINATIONS. WE WILL BE PUBLISHING AN ITINERARY IN JUNE AND ALL SUGGESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED. DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FUN WITH FRIENDS ON YOUR BOAT AND THEIRS. WE SHARE AN EVENING SOCIAL HOUR DAILY!



DURING LAST YEAR'S CRUISE, SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT WE MIGHT CHOOSE OUR DESTINATIONS IN PENOBSCOT BAY FOR 2020. SOME POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE BELFAST, PULPIT HARBOR ON NORTH HAVEN, CASTINE (OR SMITH COVE ACROSS THE BAY), CARVER COVE OR SEAL COVE ON VINAL HAVEN ISLAND, CRADLE COVE OR WARREN ISLAND AT ISLESBORO. WE CAN MEET FRIENDS WHO ARRIVE BY CAR FOR DINNER IF WE GO TO TENANT'S HARBOR, ROCKLAND OR BELFAST. THE OPTIONS ARE MANY SO PLEASE CALL HAROLD TO EXPRESS YOUR PREFERENCES.

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