

# RAG-POT

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

APRIL 2013

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As I write my first Commander's message, snow is falling, with over a foot expected. It's the last full day of winter and the sailboat that recently revealed itself from behind the drifts will soon be inaccessible, again.

If you read boating magazines (and I admittedly read many), they exist in a land of perpetual summer. I live in four seasons - preparation, enjoyment, conservation and the last lengthy time of rest and contemplation (also known as Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter). Unlike our southern friends who live in the moment, three-quarters of my year is spent living in the future, in anticipation of what is to come. I like to think that my enjoyment of the days of summer is deeper and richer because it was preceded by hope and the assurance that my present will soon pass.

My love of boating would be far less satisfying if it was confined to the few days when I can actually get on the water. My preparation is not confined to a new coat of wax and bottom paint -- I prepare myself by studying and learning new skills that I will need. My enjoyment includes not just wind, water and the most gorgeous coast that God made, but the company of like-minded friends, a pleasure that remains even when the water is hard. USPS and the Kennebec River Squadron have become an integral part of my love and enjoyment of boating, because through our courses, our dinner meetings and opportunities to serve the boating community, my boating is year-round and fulfilling.

Notwithstanding the view out my window, April is coming. Our April dinner meeting is our last hurrah before summer. We gather to plan our summer cruise; Larry Irwin (in what has become a tradition) will serenade us as we enjoy being in the company of friends. We will be far from any shore, but much of what we love about boating will be our "here and now," not just a winter's dream. Come, celebrate our passion together!

Steve

## KRSPS CALENDAR

### Monday, April 1, 2013, 1900

Exec. Board Meeting  
Hayes Law Offices  
One Weston Court, Augusta

### Friday, April 12, 2013

6 p.m. Social, 7 p.m. Dinner  
Gardiner Lion's Club  
Gardiner, Maine  
Larry Irwin, Cruise Planning & Swap

### Monday, May 6, 2013, 1900

Exec. Board Meeting,  
East Coast Mortgage,  
316 Center St., Auburn

### Monday, June 3, 2013, 1900

Exec. Board Meeting  
Hayes Law Offices  
One Weston Court, Augusta

### Monday, July 1, 2013

Exec. Board Meeting by e-mail

Hey! It's Summer — go enjoy!

### Annual Summer Cruise

August 2 through 10, 2013  
Itinerary to be decided (and subsequently ignored by many)

## LED LIGHTING ON GONE WITH THE WIND

*Gary Bain, JN*

GWTW is a 1990 MKI Catalina 36. Over the years I have owned her there have been many changes and improvements. This year I decided that I would convert all the interior lights to LED.

Several years ago a good friend gave me an LED light fixture to replace the one adjacent to the chart table. The original light has a very warm glow and I was hesitant to change it out. I decided the best place to place this new fixture was over the galley sink, and did so!



This light helped brighten up a dark spot on the boat, but the extreme blue/white light was not warm. In reading more and more on LED's the industry seemed to be working on a more warm light. This year I found Marinebeam.com and they have a good webpage with information.



I purchased 3 fluorescent bulbs to replace the bulbs in those fixtures 2 in the galley and 1 in the head.

Note that this gives off a much warmer glow than the standard fluorescent lights. To prepare the fixture to accept the bulb is simple and they send directions and have actual videos on their website. Basically you remove the existing ballast and jump the wires to complete the circuit. Simple enough!



I replaced the bulbs with a simple bayonet style bulb from Marinebeam in most of the other fixtures as shown in picture. There are actually 6 of these in the forward and main cabin. There is another in the aft cabin which we never use and also a dome style fixture in that cabin which I purchased an LED for just overhead when you enter the aft cabin. That is 11 total fixtures now converted to LED. All are what they refer to as warm white which gives the normal candescent glow.



*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

Now, if you recall I mentioned in the beginning that I did not replace the fixture over the chart table. I want you to see the amp draw on just this fixture alone. 1.6 amps!



The following picture shows my system at rest. Here you will note with nothing at all on the boat that it shows a 0.1 amp draw that is the Xantrex link monitor. This draw is on all the time whether the main switch is on or off. I've made a note to offset that draw with a solar panel in the near future as that equals a 02.4 amp hour draw in 24 hours or 16.8 amp hours within a 7 day period.



Now here is the rest of the story for those that wish to conserve on their batteries. This picture shows a 0.8 amp draw with all the led lamps on. That is 12 light fixtures. Subtracting the 0.1 amps for the link

meter that is a total of 0.7 amp hours. Of course we do not have them on all at once but it does show you where you can save the amp hours particularly if you are never tied to a source to recharge other than running your motor.



Note GWTW is equipped with a main battery bank composed of 4 6volt golf cart batteries hooked up in a series/parallel fashion to give her 440 amp hours. The link monitor is set to 1/2 that at 220 amp hours so there is plenty of reserve power. She is also setup with a 120 amp alternator and a regulator with a combiner to keep the batteries charged when running the iron jenny.

---

#### *From the Editor:*

The January 2009 *Practical Sailor* featured a test and review of LED lightbulbs, an update of its earlier test in September 2004. It found that the industry had rapidly evolved and there were a number of good choices.

It recommended bulbs from Imtra ([www.imtra.com](http://www.imtra.com)) finding that its ILGU5.3 MR-16 bulb was the brightest and best, and a "warm" version of the same got a "recommended" rating.

The Sensibulb Daylight was recommended as a versatile module with a broad light for cabin lighting, and the Cruising Solutions 9-LED unit was a Budget Buy. A bulb from Doctor LED was recommended for being amp-stingy with a narrow beam that would not wake your bunkmate if used for night reading. Doctor LED has also received marks for good service from the PS readers.

Alpenglow received cudors for a lamp/fixture unit, the Alpenglow TR-LED, which combined a 60-degree beam angle with ample illumination. PS found that it was as close to a 20-watt xenon version as it could find.

## SAFETY REPORT

*Ed Jones, AP*

The weather outside is NOT cooperating for Spring Commissioning. It is cold, windy and we are looking at 12" to 15" of Snow today. Give me the Strength to get to Spring! Boating Season doesn't begin with the start of Spring, certainly NOT in Maine, but it will be here before you know it!

### De-Winterizing your Boat(s):

We all know the basics we have to do to get the boat ready for launch. Take the time to look and inspect all the other clamps, hoses, fittings, wiring, fuses, gaskets, lines and the lists goes on. Don't get in a hurry! Check your boat from top to bottom and don't overlook anything. If you don't check before you launch, you may be on the dock, waving goodbye to all your fellow boaters.

General for all boats: Clean and Check everything. Things that get missed: Clean and/or replace wiper blades, check spare parts and tools, replace as needed, make sure your Registration is current and onboard, your insurance information should be current and aboard (I only carry a copy aboard). Have you checked your anodes and replaced as needed? Have you put the drain plug in securely? Have you checked all the sea-cocks and resealed them?

Check all pumps. Check all belts and tighten as needed. Do you have belt replacements aboard for any pulley's and for alternator? Make sure flame arrestors are clean. Did you check and clean all the strainers and filters?

Have you checked all Safety Equipment necessary and required? Are your flares current? Do you have enough good PFD's aboard? Have you checked your anchors and rode, your life ring and whistles and your horn. Did you replace or restock your First Aid Kit, including Sunblock and Burn gel?

Check the head: lubricate and clean as necessary. Check all hose fittings and hoses, replace if

needed. Did you get the chemicals aboard or are they on the shopping list? Is the Y-valve labeled and secure? Did you fill the propane tank? Nothing worse than cooking a steak and running out of propane, especially when you have guests aboard!

Sailors: Check everything for general condition. Look for wear and chaffing of any lines and rigging. Check battens and batten pockets. Are they in need of re-stitching or repair? Check all sail attachments. Inspect bolt rope. Check the mast and spreaders for any corrosion or damage, Inspect spreader boots and shrouds. Inspect rivets and screw connections for corrosion. Check and clean the sail track. Look carefully at the reefing points and reefing gear. Check rigging, turnbuckles and clevis pins for wear and corrosion. Check masthead fittings and pulleys. Inspect stays for fraying and "fish hooks". Check the forestay and backstay connections.

Did you check and lubricate the roller furling? Check halyards and consider replacing or swapping end for end. Tape turnbuckles, cotter pins, and spreaders. Don't forget the windless, does it need lubrication?

Outboard Motor: Replace the spark plugs, check plug wires for wear. Check the prop for damage. Change/fill gear lube and inspect fuel lines, primer bulb and tank for cracks and leaks. Lubricate and spray all moveable parts.

Trailer: Check the current registration and be sure it is with the trailer or MV towing it. Check all rollers and pads, clean and lubricate winch. Lubricate the tongue jack and wheel and check tongue lock.

Check and lubricate wheel bearings. Check the tires for wear and pressure. Check all light connections and safety chains. Check the brakes.

Have you set up a USPS member to do a Vessel Safety Check on your boat?? Why NOT?? It does not cost you anything and gives you a Great, Safe, Peace of Mind!

---

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our current membership is 101 members; we have lost 38 members (plus losses by death) during the past two years. I don't want to even think about our average age! How do we attract and keep new members? How do we keep our current members

engaged in our activities year-around?

At the last board meeting, we discussed the possibility of sponsoring a Facebook, Google + and/or some other social media presence. Such sites have always had an attraction for younger people, but now many of us (and our friends) are also using Facebook

## KRSPS'S EDUCATION DESK

*Phyllis Jones, Educational Officer*

We have several classes going on and new ones starting this Spring. The Education of the Public and USPS members is the Anchor for our Squadron.

If you know anyone interested in boating classes, please get the information to me as soon as possible. We Promote Safe Boating!

Lynn Mecham is currently teaching Advanced Piloting in Augusta. He is about at the one-third mark of completion.

Ed Jones is currently teaching Marine Electronics in Augusta. The course is in three modules. The class is waiting for test results from National for ME Test 101. They are moving ahead with Module 102 and will be ready to Test in a few weeks.

Howard "Hobie" Ellis is going to teach the ABC Boating Class at Gardiner

High School - Adult Ed. The class will begin Mar

27th at 6:30 pm. He presently has room for a few more students. If any of you know someone looking for a class for Basic Boating, Please let Hobie or myself know as soon as possible. You may contact Gardiner Adult Ed. In the meantime, I have secured ads on the radio stations for Augusta/Gardiner.

ABC Boating Class is being arranged in Lewiston with Paul Dupuis as the Instructor, probably mid April. The class will probably be held at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, time and date to be announced at later date.

Posters will be put up in the area and announcements on Community Bulletin Boards.

We have some members that are doing self-study for courses that were not available. If you need any help or are ready to review or test, Please contact me.

Courses are being scheduled for Fall, already. If you have interest in any courses or seminars, Please contact me at (207)645-3109 or e-PhyJones@myfairpoint.net. Thank you.

---

## ED'S DOCK BOX

*By: Ed Jones, AP*

### PROTECTING YOUR COMMUNICATIONS:

How many of you have ruined your Cell Phone while on the water? Put your phone in a Zip Lock (not the plastic zipper type closure) snack bag. You will protect it from the moisture and you can still manipulate the touch screen and/or keypad. You can hear and see clearly. The cost is pennies! Keep extra snack bags on board for your guests. If your phone is larger, use a freezer pint bag. Some of you should do this before you hit the dock— Right???

You know who you are!

### REMOVING A PROP FROM ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED ENGINE:

You can't just shift into gear to lock the shaft, as

there are no cables. Instead, you can start the motor, then place in gear, then shut it off. This will lock the shaft and it won't spin when you use your wrench to remove the prop.

### BATTERIES CARRIED WITH EASE:

Do you wrestle with carrying your batteries to your boat in Spring or take them off your boat during lay-up?? How many jackets have you ruined with battery acid??? RECYCLE: use plastic laundry soap buckets. They have a great sturdy handle and we just toss them in the trash. By using these buckets, you protect the carpet in your MV when transporting your batteries. You may want to drill a few holes in lid for ventilation. You can also add short jumpers and terminals to the lid so you can hook them to a Battery Tender without removing from the bucket.

---

*(Continued from page 4)*

to connect to friends and family. We would like to know if you are interested in participating in a Facebook page, providing pictures, stories and sharing your boating experiences (and KRSPS experiences) with the world. Getting a page is easy; providing new

and interesting content on a regular basis is tough for one, but relatively easy if many people agree to participate. Give the board your thoughts via e-mail (see last page for our addresses) so we can assess whether this initiative will have sufficient support to be viable.

Thanks!



## Kennebec River Sail & Power Squadron

Commander - Cdr. Steve Hayes, AP, sthayes@hayeslaw.com  
Executive Officer - Lt/C Virginia Fiedler, JN,  
gfiedler@roadrunner.com  
Admin. Officer - Lt/C Harold Wood, hrwood@roadrunner.com  
Education Officer - Lt/C Phyllis Jones, AP, PhyJones@MyFairPoint.net  
Secretary - Lt/C Wanda Sprague, wandarer@roadrunner.com  
Treasurer - Lt/C Thomas Hoffman, P, TAHSAILN@aol.com  
Editor Emeritus of Rag-Pot - Robert Sawyer, SN, sailabob@aol.com

## TEST YOUR NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE

Courtesy of www.commanderbob.com

What are the three terms used in maritime law for the following:

1. Part of a wreckage or cargo found floating on the surface of the sea.
2. Goods or equipment intentionally thrown overboard from a ship at sea.
3. Goods cast overboard with a buoy or buoyrope attached for later retrieval.

Give your answers in the same order in which they appear above."

*Answer: Flotsam, Jetsam, Lagan (or Ligan)*

### APRIL DINNER MEETING

**DATE:** April 12, 2013

**TIME:** BYOB Social Hour 18:00 Buffett Meal 19:00

**LOCATION:** Gardiner Lion's Club, Lions Road, Gardiner, Maine.

**PROGRAM:** During the Social Hour, we will have our annual swap meet; Throughout the evening, we will discuss the Annual Cruise and hopefully vote on one plan (or more) before we adjourn. After dinner, and whenever else he feels like it, Larry Irwin will once again entertain us with his fantastic guitar music. It's our last dinner of this winter season, so come and enjoy!

**COST:** \$20.00 PER MEAL

**RESERVATIONS:** *Contact Harold Wood at 623-1926 on or before 7:00 P.M. on April 9th. Sorry but it will not be possible to accept any reservations after this date. If you make a reservation and do not attend you will be charged for the meal as the Squadron is assessed the cost of the meal by the restaurants.*

---

KRSPS  
c/o Harold Wood  
17 Forest Circle  
Manchester, ME 04351