



RAG-POT

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

DECEMBER 2015

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

December 1, 2015

Happy Holidays to all of you!

Our autumn meetings have been very successful, with good attendance and an opportunity to connect with our Kennebec River friends after the busy boating season. Now we prepare for the season of sparkling snowscapes and active boating education. Our dedicated education staff is offering our boating safety course (ABC) in Waterville, Augusta and Auburn and hoping to attract some new students. In addition, they are always willing to teach Seamanship or Piloting when there is demand. Tell your friends and consider calling to request one of our other courses, such as Weather, Engine Maintenance or Marine Electronics. Phyllis and Ed Jones are anxious to provide classes to all who are interested.

On the social horizon is our annual Christmas Party and its new feature attraction, the Appetizer Cook-Off. See your November *Ragpot* for details. This promises to be a refreshing new idea to help spice up our lives during the holidays. Come, participate, and join in the fun with your KRSPS friends. It will be especially tasty!

When you think of Power Squadron, take a moment to consider activities that will add to our enjoyment and/or educational purpose and share those ideas with others at a dinner meeting. Consider attending an executive board meeting (see calendar to the right). This is your organization, and it can be whatever we want it to be.....we have a great group of friends to share it with.

Gini Fiedler, commander

KRSPS CALENDAR

Monday, December 7, 2015

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

Friday, December 11, 2015

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

Monday, January 4, 2016

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

Friday, January 8, 2016

6 pm Social, 7 pm Dinner
Rolandau's Restaurant
755 Washington St.
Auburn

CHRISTMAS PARTY & APPETIZER COOK-OFF DEC. 11

FALL CONFERENCE - NORTH CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Twice a year, District 19 puts on a conference. It's time to take care of business, provide help to squadrons and deliver informative seminars. This year's fall conference was well attended and informative.

I attended a couple of seminars and did a lot of catching up with friends in other squadrons. The first set of seminars were Canvas Care by our own Phyllis Jones and Life Raft Deployment. I attended the life raft seminar which started with a factory-produced video about Viking Life Rafts. The presenter used a raft from her own boat and told her experiences evacuating into a raft on another friend's boat. She gave us some advice based on that experience, pointing out some items of interest on the video.

After the video, we went outside to the heated pool for a hands-on demo. The raft was a four man unit which was over 20 years old and weighed 80 pounds. It was enclosed with a canopy and had ballast bags attached to the underside of the floor to help stabilize it. We were all surprised when it actually inflated. All of the safety items were then brought out of the raft and examined. The general consensus was that a ditch bag with lots of water, food, satellite phone, laser pointer and extra flares



needs to be in close proximity because if help were slow to arrive, the supplies on board the raft would be exhausted quickly. The paddles for rowing looked like oversized ping pong paddles.

The raft was tossed in the pool and a volunteer then tried to get into the raft. Being 6 feet and 240 pounds was not a plus for ease of entry! He eventually did get in; much applause followed. Once in, problems started to crop up that needed to be addressed. There were many lines inside that were tangled and things needed to be sorted out quickly, since volunteer #2 was soon entering. A retrieval device took some time to untangle and deploy, a disaster in the making if it were needed in stormy conditions.

The second volunteer wore rain gear and boots. As he was being pulled in by the first man, about ten gallons of water trapped in his rain gear emptied into the raft, necessitating bailing with what looked like a hat. It worked well and could be used to catch rain water as well.

When the third volunteer approached, he was easily pulled in by the two already inside, but now space was really tight. Spectators were enjoying watching the entrance antics and imagining the close quarters inside. Luckily, there was no fourth prospective occupant! It was a great demo and everyone left hoping never to be in conditions that would require leaving their boats to get into a life raft.

The second seminar was about AIS-Advanced Identification System. Large commercial vessels are required to implement this

technology which broadcasts an approaching vessel's name, size, heading and speed. Chart plotters with an integrated display work very well for this. At this time, recreational boats are not required to broadcast an AIS signal, but you can purchase the hardware needed to broadcast and receive an AIS signal. In addition, you can go to marinetraffic.com to track boats broadcasting an AIS signal.

After lunch, we were treated to a presentation on the repair and rebuilding of the *Charles W. Morgan* and its 38th voyage. It was an awesome presentation that took us back to whaling days and the present work of preserving a national heritage landmark. The *Morgan* was built in 1841 and made 37 voyages, most of which were three years or longer. Mystic Seaport Museum has all of the logbooks and has documented the restoration. Online they have a history and photographs of the work done during the restoration: mysticseaport.org.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in a webinar with national officers who answered various questions from our audience and other participating squadrons. A district business meeting followed.

Just before dinner, we enjoyed snacks and beverages in the hospitality suite and had a nice opportunity to visit with other squadrons' members in a social setting. At dinner, we were entertained by a local expert on New Hampshire flora and fauna who uses humor throughout his presentation. I am glad I went and hope to be able to attend the next conference.

—Bert Glines



EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT

by

Phyllis Jones, AP/IN

We are lining up our SPRING 2016 classes to be offered.

ABC 3 Courses: AMERICA'S BOATING COURSE

Auburn	Dates TBA
Augusta	“ “ “
Mt. Blue	Tues. Feb. 23rd
Gardiner	Wed. March 16th
Waterville	Thurs. Mar. 17th

ABC for WOMEN ONLY	Dates TBA
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SEAMANSHIP: Augusta	Dates TBA
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PILOTING: Waterville	Mon. Mar. 7th
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SEMINARS:	Emergencies on Board	Mt. Blue Mar. 9th
	How to Read & Use a Chart	Mt. Blue Apr. 13th
	Boat Handling	Mt. Blue Apr. 20th

Let me know if there are other Courses or Seminars you are interested in taking or teaching: Phyllis Jones phyjones@myfairpoint.net (207)645-3109

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE (BE A FRIEND):

KENNEBEC RIVER USPS

AND OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.USPS.ORG/KENNEBEC RIVER](http://WWW.USPS.ORG/KENNEBEC_RIVER)

DOCK BOX

By Ed Jones. AP/IN

When cleaning your boat and canvas, try to be “green.” Use white vinegar in a spray bottle to clean, kill bacteria and **MOLD**.

Do you want that mirror shine on your boat? Remove last season’s wax with a de-waxing solvent BEFORE adding your new wax.

Do you need to remove a bad hydraulic seal? Using a safety pin will make the job much easier.

Did you have leftover caulking material and really didn’t want to throw it away? Dip the tip of the tube in petroleum jelly. It will keep the air out and insure that the caulking compound will stay soft for future use.

HOLIDAY PARTY

December 11, 2015

6 pm: Social Hour and Appetizer Cook-off

7 pm: Dinner

Gardiner Lions’ Club

(Route 201, Behind the Armory)

Bring a gift, a friend and lots of holiday spirit

BYOB

\$15 per person

CALL Harold Wood for a reservation 623-1926 or

hrwood@roadrunner.com