

RAG-POT

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

DECEMBER 2011

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Wow it's December already. Summer has come and gone again, leaves are falling and snowmobilers are wondering how long before they can hit the trails. The turkey is in the frig and the Christmas shopping has started.

Now that your boat is on the hard it's time to begin the improvements that will make your on the water time more enjoyable. Be it new electronics, lighting, varnishing or fabric updating the time spent doing them will cause you to relive being boating. Another way is to take a class. We have a number of instructors waiting to teach but no students. New materials have been added to the old courses and most of them have gone digital. Chart work can be done on your home computer which helps you to pre-plot your summer courses.

We are looking to use our dinner meetings at the Gardiner Lions club to do more hands on things. In February we will be doing MMSI updates for your DSC radios. So if you get one for Christmas or have one but haven't put the numbers in yet bring it in and leave with a MMSI number programmed into it. We are also going to be making a list of everyone with an MMSI number so you can call them via channel 70 while your on the water.

Speaking of Christmas, we'll be have our annual dinner and gift swap at the Gardiners Lions Club on December 9th. It's always a great time with good food and lots of fun during the gift swapping I hope you'll be able to attend.

Our own Ed and Phyllis Jones have been contacted by the Ensign to submit articles for publication. Phyllis for her numerous safety articles and Ed for his "Dock Box" columns. Keep up the great work.

I'm looking to start the new year off with a resolution of continuing education. I hope to see you in a class as well.

Happy Boating
Bert Glines AP.

KRSPS CALENDAR

Monday , De ember 5, 2011

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

Friday, December 9, 2011

6 p.m. Social, 7 p.m. Dinner
Dinner at Gardiner Lion's Club
Christmas Party & Gift Exchange

Monday, January 9, 2011

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

Friday, January 13, 2011

6 p.m. Social, 7 p.m. Dinner
Rolandau's Restaurant
Auburn, Maine
Speaker to be determined.

Monday , February 6, 2011

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

Friday, February 10 2011

6 p.m. Social, 7 p.m. Dinner
Dinner at Gardiner Lion's Club
DSC radios & MMSI

PROGRAM HELP REQUESTED!

Our new Administrative Officer, Steve McLaughlin, would deeply appreciate your help in suggesting (or better yet, arranging for) speakers for our dinner meetings. Help is needed for January. Contact Steve at mclaughlin.steve.a@roadrunner.com with your suggestions.

SOME SOBERING FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL & BOATING

By Phyllis Jones, AP SAFETY OFFICER

Every year approximately 1,000 people die in Boating Accidents. Nine out of ten of them drown. 75% of the deaths are alcohol related.

Did you know that 4 hours of exposure to the noise and vibration of a powerboat, the glare of the sun, wind and motion can produce a type of “Boater’s Hypnosis”? Boater’s Hypnosis slows reaction time much like being legally intoxicated. This condition enhances the effects of alcohol. If you are taking prescription medication for high blood pressure or heart, they too will enhance alcohol effects. If you are dehydrated and choose to drink a beer or other alcoholic beverage, the alcohol content in your body will see a higher concentration. Sometimes just a couple beers are too many.

When you are “tipsy” you are more likely to fall overboard. Alcohol reduces your body’s ability to protect against cold water. Within minutes you may be unable to call for help or swim. Chances of “disorientation” in the water increases. Your passengers are at risk.

Alcohol can seriously restrict your vision. It can create a “tunnel vision” effect, reducing peripheral vision. It can impair your ability to “focus” on objects (lighthouses, break walls, other boats and buoys).

Under Maine Law, if you are impaired or drunk while operating any size boat, or any watercraft, such as jet-ski, wave runner, kayak, canoe and etc., you may be charged with OUI, DUI.

Is it legal for your passengers to drink alcohol aboard your boat while “running”???? Maine law prohibits drinking in public. The rivers, lakes, and ponds within the State are

public places. Therefore, drinking is strictly prohibited by Maine Law for not only the operators of watercraft but their passengers. If you have a **Blood Alcohol level of 0.08%** or higher you will be charged with Operating Under the Influence.

1st offense OUI/DUI Boating is punishable with mandatory minimum penalties: fines of at least \$500 and suspension of your Driver’s license for 90 days. If imprudent operating or an attempt to elude authorities is added to the mix, then plan to spend a mandatory 48 hours in jail. If the operator refuses blood alcohol test or if a passenger under the age of 21 is aboard, an additional 275 days license suspension is added to the 90 days. Be aware authorities can take possession of your boat or watercraft. If drugs are aboard they **WILL** take possession, immediately.

2nd offense within 10 years triggers harsher penalties. It is mandatory 7 days jail (12 if refuse test) and 3 year loss of license with a minimum of \$700 fine. (\$900 if a refusal)

As we all know, Boating Accidents were on the rise this past season. Alcohol was a factor in most. Please consider these facts and if you are going to drink and boat, do your drinking at the dock not on the water. It will be Safer for you and all the rest of the boaters.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Clark Ketcham on attaining 25 years with the power squadron. Clark has retired and is doing the snowbird thing of winters in Florida and summers in Maine. He is going to look for a squadron down there but is keeping his membership with us. He has many fond memories of good times with Kennebec River squadron members.

ED'S DOCK BOX

By Ed Jones, AP

When **working on your boat in really tight spaces**, if you **cannot** hold your cordless drill in one hand and a screw in the other hand, then I have a tip for you. Take a piece of masking tape and secure the screw head to the bit of your drill. Apply gentle pressure until screw is secure. Another "Tid Bit", is to buy magnetic bits. Remember to pull off tape before sinking the screw. I didn't remove the tape on the 1st screw and it was a hassle to get the bits of tape removed. When the screw is nearly secure, I remove the tape, **then** secure the screw.

Maintenance of your Bilge is very important. Some boaters put oil absorbent pads under the engine(s) and in the Bilge..

Most "kinda" forget them! You should change them out often as the pads can warn you of oil leaks and other problems, before it become a costly!

To clean your Bilge the easy way---- Most bilge water contains oil and/or grease. You can drop a bilge sock to help absorb it or, I use Dawn dish soap (it contains a de-greaser) and hot water.

You can use a commercial Bilge cleaner, or you can use de-greaser, soap and water. Whatever you choose, pour in a bucket full and leave it. Go for an afternoon cruise. When you return, suck out the dirty cleaner with a shop-vac. Your bilge will, sparkle and will smell a whole lot better too. You cleaned without much work and was Environmentally safe and friendly!

Fog Trip

by Philip Rose

He stood alone
in his old dory,
alone in thick fog
out of sight of land.

Wrapped in cold and dampness
he felt strangely at ease.

He shipped his oars,
stood feeling the gentle
rise and fall of the swells,
listened, listened
for what he couldn't see.

At first there was nothing.

He felt suspended
in a grey, wet void -
not even a bright spot
for locating the sun.

Briefly disoriented,
he sat down on the cold,
damp middle thwart.

The slight shock
renewed his senses,
he heard the cries of terns.

Green Ledge, he thought,
way off ahead.

Barely audible to port
sounded the slap and splash
of a wave on ledge.
Point of Main. *I'm not
so far out as I thought.*
He stood, leaned right,
cupped hands behind ears,
listened hard again.

A crow's caw, faint rush
and hiss of wave on sand,
Hickey Island, alright.
He straightened, stood
quietly for long minutes,
unshipped the oars,
reversed the dory's course,
rowed with strong,
but intermittent strokes
contentedly back
to the pier from which
he'd come.

©2008 The Salt Coast Sages

Philip Rose, a sea captain who delivered yachts for boat companies, lived in Starboard on Rose Ledge overlooking Machias Bay. For many years an English teacher (in Falmouth, where he taught your editor), he particularly liked to spin story poems in a Down East dialect. He passed away on May 22, 2011.

ANNUAL CRUISE WITH THE MIRANDA MOON CREW

Day 2, Tenants to Cradle Cove
Leaving Southern Light at Muscle Ridge astern.



Had to rank as the best sailing day of the week. Miranda Moon won the day's drawing to have Wanda and Ellen crewing....this was their rest break.



And then comes the "work"...helms (wo)man and navigator.



And then comes the contentment of late afternoon on the mooring



Day #3; Cradle Cove to Mackerel Cove with Solitude leading Miranda Moon II into the wall of fog.



And somewhere astern, is it GWTW or a mirage?

But when all else fails, and you can see someone's stern, resort to the chart plotter...or is it a video game?





Day 4 to NE Harbor doesn't start until some explorations of the shore by Ginny and her navigator.



Conditions were kind for setting up a bridle for a tow to the night's anchorage at Bold/Devil/Camp Islands.



Day #6, Following a couple nights at NE Harbor, it's time to start the return leg, but first a lunch-on-the-dock detour to Frenchboro. Solitude's Captain Irwin is obviously overworked by his crew of the day with Ellen Crosby at the helm as Wanda Sprague and Bob Sawyer making sure camera crew doesn't get too close.



Day #7 (Bold/Devil/Camp to Perry Creek) starts with a beautifully calm sunrise....until the lobster boats started moving about.



And, as good fortunes would have it, Solitude is off Miranda's beam when the prop gets fouled with a lobster buoy.



And the only better sight than sunrise,

was seeing Bert all suited up and coming to the rescue with Tom Pedersen's delivery to the work site(s). (Tom had just had his morning does of lime juice.)



And Miranda Moon shadows Solitude (Irwin and Sawyer) for the day's run to Rockland.



Day 8, Gone With the Wind makes her departure from Perry Creek bound for Port Clyde. Light fog for the morning adds some interesting lighting.



Seamanship

Course covers:

- *Prep Before You Go Out*
- *Hull Propulsion System Characteristics*
- *Slow Speed Maneuvering*
- *Boat Handling at Sea*
- *Rules of the Road*
- *Anchoring/Mooring/Rafting*
- *Emergencies on the Water*
- *Marlinespike*
- *Canadian & Mexican Rules*

Includes 16-18 class hours of instruction, USPS *Seamanship Course Student Manual*

Piloting

(Basic Inland & Coastal Navigation)

Course covers:

- *Introduction to Navigation*
- *Tools of Piloting*
- *Piloting: Route Planning*
- *Using a Compass*
- *Basic GPS Navigation*
- *Monitoring Progress*
- *Piloting without a GPS*

Includes 20 class hours of instruction, USPS *Piloting Course Student Guide*, "Weekend Navigator" Text

Advanced Piloting

(Advanced Inland & Coastal Navigation)

Course covers:

- *Electronic Navigation; GPS*
- *Digital Charts, Plotters, Radar*
- *Collision Avoidance*
- *Positioning; Bearings; Angles*
- *When Electronics Fail!*
- *Piloting with Tides, Winds & Currents*

Includes 20 class hours of instruction, USPS *Adv. Piloting Course Student Guide*, "Weekend Navigator" Text

Engine Maintenance

Course covers:

- *Spark Ignition Engine Components & Routine Maintenance*
- *Compression Ignition Engine Components & Routine Maintenance*
- *Marine Engine Principles*
- *Inboard Engine Drive Systems*
- *O/B Engine & Stern Drives*
- *Controls, Instruments, Alarms*
- *Emergency Repairs Afloat*

Includes 20 class hours of instruction, USPS *Engine Maintenance Course Student Manual + Handouts*

Weather

Course covers:

- *Effects of Heat & Cold*
- *Wind & Pressure*
- *Storms & Fronts*
- *Rain, Humidity, Fog*
- *Hydrological Cycle*
- *Thunderstorms/Tornados*
- *Tropical Weather*
- *Weather Data Analysis*
- *Forecasting*
- *Climatic Variables & Data*

Includes 20-22 class hours of instruction, USPS *Weather Course Student Manual*, Cloud Chart, Wx Maps

Marine Electronics

Course covers:

- *Boat Power - AC & DC*
- *Galvanic Corrosion*
- *Lightning Protection*
- *Radio Waves & Equipment*
- *FCC Frequency Plan*
- *Radiotelephone Usage*
- *Radar, Loran, Sounders*
- *GPS & Electronic Charts*

Includes 20-22 class hours of instruction, USPS *Marine Electronics Course Student Guide + Handouts*

Cruise Planning

Course covers:

- *Cruise Prep & Planning*
- *Boat & Needed Equipment*
- *Chartering*
- *Outside the United States*
- *Crew Selection; Provisioning*
- *Voyage Management; Nav*
- *Communications; Security*
- *Weather; Emergencies*

Includes 18-20 class hours of instruction, USPS *Cruise Planning Course Student Guides*

Sail

- *Sailboat Rigs & Sail Plans*
- *Boat Design & Hull Types*
- *Standing & Running Rigging*
- *Sail Applications*
- *Sailboat Helmsmanship*
- *Stability, Balance, Tuning*
- *Sailing Safety, MOB*
- *Marlinespike*
- *Navigation Rules*
- *Intro to Heavy Weather Sailing*

Includes 18-20 class hours of instruction, and both USPS *Basic Sail & Advanced Sail Student Guides*



Kennebec River Sail & Power Squadron

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TEST YOUR NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE

BOTH INTERNATIONAL & INLAND
The word "vessel", in the Rules, includes:

- sailing ships
- nondisplacement craft
- seaplanes
- All of the above

Answer: All of the above

2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE: December 9th

TIME: Social Hour 18:00 Meal 19:00

LOCATION: **Gardiner Lions Club** Lions Avenue Gardiner. The meal will be a Christmas Turkey Dinner and all the fixings. ***BYOB***

Directions: 0.9 miles west of "Christy's" by the Gardiner Common on route 201 turn right just before the Gardiner Federal Credit Union and go 0.15 miles west on Lion Road to the Gardiner Lions Club behind the Gardiner Armory. From the Route 201 exit on I-95 go east on Route 201 3.6 miles and turn left at GFCU and go 0.15 miles west on Lion Road to the Gardiner Lions Club on the right side of the street.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: *Chinese Swap – Each person should bring a gift (Value \$10.00-\$15.00) Gifts should be gender neutral (unisex).*

COST: \$15.00 PER MEAL

RESERVATIONS: Contact Harold Wood at 623-1926 or hrwood@roadrunner.com on or before 7:00 P.M. on **December 6th**. Bring a friend or other fellow Squadron member to this supper.

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