



the SKIPJACK

ROCKVILLE SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

June
2008

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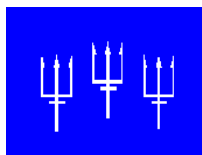
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COMMANDER'S CORNER Cdr Jeff McKinney, JN, VE

As you can see from the many other reports in this edition we have been very busy with educational and other activities. I commend all of the participants for their continued support of the squadron, District 5, and USPS

Now that boating season is well underway, I know your minds and hearts are probably looking ahead to another FUN filled summer on the bay and the many activities that occur during this time. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of some upcoming events, and hope to see many of you joining us in at least one event during this time.

The Instructor Appreciation Dinner on 17 June will be the last regular "land-based meeting" until the fall. Please plan on attending and congratulating our hard-working instructors for providing another year of excellent educational programs. Details may be found elsewhere in this issue.

Our next raft-up will be held on 14-15 June in Harness Creek (South River). We also plan to present a new version of the "Partners in Command" program (formerly known as "Skipper Saver"). Lt Julien Hofberg, JN will be leading the program. If all goes well there will be live "person overboard recovery" practice. For those of you who might want to participate in the class and FUN afterwards but are not able to come by boat, the raft-up will be near Quiet Waters Park. Plans are being made to arrange dinghy transportation from the park's boat rental area to the raft.

The District 5 Commodore's Cruise and Summer Council will be held 11-16 July and 17-20 July respectively. I have already sent out some information about this event, but you can also find details about it at <http://www.uspsd5.org> The Summer Council will be held in the Inner Harbor of Baltimore. It is not too late to sign up for the many events and activities, but do not wait much longer or



they will fill up and you might miss out on all the FUN. Registration forms and the calendar of events can be found on the internet at the USPS web site located at http://www.uspsd5.org/mark_5/summer08_mark5.pdf.

Most of you should have received your membership renewal notices by now. To those of you who have already renewed your memberships, THANK YOU! Your membership dues and continued participation in the squadron and USPS are what allows us to continue providing educational programs, social activities, and civic service to you and the community. If you have not gotten your notice yet, please contact our Treasurer (Lt/C Chip Yost, AP) right away. If you HAVE received it, but simply have not had a chance to send it in with your check, please try to do this as soon as possible.

I would like to extend a special recognition to Lt/C Alan Karpas, JN and Lt Julien Hofberg, JN for their very fast start with the Vessel Safety Check program this year. We are already ahead of last year's TOTAL after only one month. Lt/C Chuck Wells (SEO) is in the process of becoming a certified Vessel Examiner.

The newly formed website team (P/C Joe Gibson, Lt Harry Allen, P/Lt/C Larry Hixson, Lt Paul Mermelstein, Lt Steve Permison) are hard at work refining the squadron website to make it a more easily used and helpful source of information for you. If you have particular questions, comments, or suggestions about the website please let them know.

Until the next time we meet: Fair Winds and Following Seas!

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt/C Alan Karpas, JN, VE

Boating season is underway and our activities have started. For those of you who were not able to attend the 14 May meeting, you missed out on a great presentation by Captain Lauren Anthonie and her talk about her adventures "Hitchhiking" through the South Pacific. We are planning more speakers for when we resume our regular meetings in October. On 12 April, three members, Lt/C Chuck Wells, JN, Lt Steve Permison, AP, and Nils Pearson, AP, completed the Vessel Safety Course and are on their way to becoming certified

examiners. Once certified, they will be joining Cdr Jeff McKinney, JN, P/C Joe Gibson, AP Lt Julien Hofberg, JN and myself as Vessel Examiners. Want to know what you will need on your vessel in the event you are boarded by the Coast Guard, just ask any of us.

P/C Joe Gibson, AP, aboard m/v *Surprise*, Len Valenti aboard m/v *Architeuthis* and I aboard s/v *Hideaway* rafted together to watch the Blue Angels on 21 May. Including our guests, there were 16 of us. After checking with the Coast Guard to find out exactly where we could anchor to get a "front row" spot, both Joe and I set anchors. The show was nothing short of spectacular! I still get goose bumps thinking of the maneuvers the talented pilots of the F-14 Hornets perform in such close proximity to each other. Going to Annapolis for the show has become an annual event for me. The Blue Angels perform every year in Annapolis as a salute to the graduation midshipmen from the Naval Academy. Put it on your calendar to join us next year.

The weekend of 14-15 June promises to be an interesting one for our Squadron. Safety Officers Lt Julien Hofberg, JN and Lt Steve Permison, AP are planning on conducting a Skipper Saver program in conjunction with our raft-up in Harness Creek off the South River. This site was chosen as it is easily accessible via car if you are unable to get there by boat. The raft will be just off the shore of Annapolis' Quiet Waters Park. Julien and Steve are planning both land and water activities to ensure that your mate knows what to do in the event you become disabled.

From 12-16 July, District 5 will be holding their Commodore's Cruise. The cruise will start in Fairlee Creek, move to Annapolis then to Bodkin Bay and end in Baltimore with the D5 Summer Council and Rendezvous. More information can be found on the D5 web site: www.uspsd5.org. Another cruise planned for July is the Easter Seal Cruise for Kids. I have written about this fantastic and charitable event in the past and continue to encourage everyone to join Arlene and me in Baltimore on Friday and Saturday, 25-26 July to take some handicapped kids and their family for a short cruise around the Baltimore Harbor. The site for more information is: http://gwbr.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=D_CMD_CruiseForKids_Descript.

Finally, I want to be sure everyone starts planning for our annual Summer Picnic and Auction being held at the



Maryland Yacht Club in Pasadena, MD. Again the facility is easily accessible by both sea and land. This year, we will also be conducting fire training in conjunction with the picnic. Under the supervision of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, we will be using fire extinguishers to put out both gasoline and diesel fires, setting off hand held flares and, pending USCG permission, shooting off flare guns. Our favorite auctioneer, P/C Ted Weiner, AP, assures me that, as in the past, other people's junk makes for a must have for other members. Start putting together the boat and house items you want to add to the items that will be auctioned off. Those who attended last year will attest to the great food, fun and wonderful prizes the won at the auction.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Instructor Appreciation Dinner on 17 June. This is the one chance to thank all of the instructors who have donated their time and talents to make all of us safer and better boaters. Please plan on coming out say 'thanks'.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt/C Denise Allen, JN

14 May was a delightful evening! About 24 squadron members met at Tony Lin's Restaurant in Rockville for the general meeting. This was a new restaurant for many. We enjoyed the change of venue, the Chinese food, and seeing the usual gang as well as members attending for the first time. After dinner, Captain Lauren Anthone spoke to us about her sailing adventures while hitchhiking across the globe on other people's boats. All of her tales were exciting to hear, some for the adventure in reaching far off places, some for the heads up on unexpected things that can go wrong while cruising. Her bravery to go off with people she did not know was impressive. In the end good planning and preparations, knowledgeable skippers and crew, and seaworthy boats made for a safe trip while an adventurous spirit and a great sense of humor made a for a great tale.

If you have not attended one of the meetings yet, please join in. Contact Lt/C Denise Allen, JN or Lt Paul Mermelstein, P to let us know you are coming and we can introduce you around.

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Lt/C Chuck Wells, JN

As a result of the spring basic boating courses, we now have a number of new members. All new members should seriously consider the foundation course in our member training: Seamanship. Building on the basics of recreational boating presented in the public boating courses, seamanship adds foundational information for continuing boater education. The course contents improve your knowledge for increased safe operation of recreational boats and provide the basis for completion of the USCG licensing examination, if desired. Emphasis within the course has been placed on higher level boating skills, rules of the road, and marlinspike. We will be offering this course later in the summer. Please contact Lt/C Alan Karpas, JN for more information.

Knowledge is great. It is even better to share our boating skills with other members. As we get out on our boats this summer, consider an invitation to other members who might not own a boat. It is an excellent means of teaching others and enjoying the camaraderie of our social organization.

The US Coast Guard has noted a significant increase in the number of boating fatalities related to kayaks and canoes. As a result, we have been asked to promote safety and encourage all paddlers to take basic boating safety courses as well as power boaters. On that note, if there is someone in the squadron interested in paddling, the US Power Squadron has an excellent seminar that we could promote with some of the sporting goods stores in the area. Anyone interested in teaching this course, please contact me.

Boating is fun...

USPS UNIVERSITY

we'll show you how



Upcoming Courses/Classes/Seminars

9 June – **America's Boating Course** – Dick's Sporting Goods, Gaithersburg, Time: 1900. Contact Lee Hays at lee_hays@comcast.net for more information.

14 June – **Skipper Saver Class** – RSPS Raft Up at Harness Creek. Contact P/C Harleigh Ewell at hewell@comcast.net.

25 June – **Using GPS Seminar** – Dick's Sporting Goods, Gaithersburg, Time: 1830- 2100. Contact P/C Joe Gibson at joesboat@comcast.net for more information.

9 July – **Using GPS Seminar** – Dick's Sporting Goods, Gaithersburg, Time: 1830- 2100. Contact P/C Joe Gibson at joesboat@comcast.net for more information.

August – **Seamanship Course** – The location, time and date are to be determined. Contact Lt/C Alan Karpas at alankarpas@verizon.net for more information.

September – **Junior Navigation Course** – The location, time and date are to be determined. Contact Lt/C Chuck Wells at cjwglb@verizon.net for more information.

October – **Piloting Course** – Dick's Sporting Goods, Gaithersburg, Time: 1900, Date TBD. Contact Lt/C Chuck Wells at cjwglb@verizon.net for more information.

January 2009 – **Navigation Course** – The location, time and date are to be determined. Contact Lt/C Chuck Wells at cjwglb@verizon.net for more information.

TBD – **First Aid and CPR Classes** – Contact Lt/C Alan Karpas at alankarpas@verizon.net if you are interested in taking either or both of these classes.

INSTRUCTOR APPRECIATION DINNER

Kipp Yost

The June General Meeting will be the Instructor Appreciation Dinner which will be held on the evening of 17 June at the Cinnamon Woods Community Center (18400 Cinnamon Drive) in Germantown, MD. The Squadron will host a spaghetti and meatballs dinner with salad and garlic bread. The Squadron will request a \$10.00 per person donation toward the main course together with a request for sides and desserts to be brought by members. We are hoping for a good turnout and suggest each attending family bring enough for 20-30 folks. We will also be running a 50/50 raffle and will sell tickets for \$5.00 apiece. At the end of the night we will pick a ticket and the holder of the ticket is the winner. 50% of the kitty goes to the winner, 50% goes to the Squadron coffers. It is a fun way to raise some extra funds. It is requested that members e-mail me at Kipp@kitchentechniq.com or leave a message on my home phone 301.460.2681 to let me know how many will be attending and what they intend to bring. They are also free to contact me regarding any questions for the meeting.

DUES UPDATE

Lt/C Charles Yost, AP

Each member or member-family of RSPS should have received his or her dues notice directly from USPS in late April or early May. As of Saturday, 24 May, dues had been received from approximately 55 percent of the RSPS membership, and to those persons, I say "thank you," and I look forward to seeing you at all the events listed in the schedule of activities. Although dues have been received from several additional members this past week, I say we are still short of where we need to be at this time. With that in mind, I give you two reminders: First, the amount that RSPS retains—about 40 percent of the total paid in—is used to fund the many activities that your squadron presents during the year. Among these are all the education courses and the equipment that is used in them. Second, there remains only a short period of time until 28 June when the dues package is to be returned to USPS. The dues package contains a listing of all current members by category of membership as well as those marked "non-renewal." This can mean the loss of such USPS benefits as access to affordable boat insurance and various discounts.





RSPS 2008-2009 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Contact
Jun			
9	1900 - 2100	America's Boating Course, Dick's Sporting Goods, Gaithersburg, MD	Lee Hays, leehays@comcast.net
14-15	Weekend	RSPS Raft-Up, Harness Creek	P/C Harleigh Ewell, hewell@comcast.net , 301.351.6449 (M), 301.585.6698 (H)
14-15	Weekend	Skipper Saver Class, Harness Creek	Lt Julien Hofberg, julienp@comcast.net , 301.774.2868 (H)
17	1830 - 2100	Instructor Appreciation Dinner, Cinnamon Woods Club House, Germantown, MD	Kipp Yost, Kipp@kitchentechniq.com , 240.447.9014 (M), 301.460.2681 (H)
25	1830	RSPS Bridge Meeting	Cdr Jeff McKinney, 301.668.9148, jmckinney10@verizon.net
25	1830 - 1900	Using GPS Seminar, Dick's Sporting Goods, Gaithersburg, MD	P/C Joe Gibson, JN, joesboat@comcast.net
Jul			
9	1830 - 1900	Using GPS Seminar, Dick's Sporting Goods, Gaithersburg, MD	P/C Joe Gibson, JN, joesboat@comcast.net
11-16	Fri - Wed	D5 Commodore's Cruise, Chesapeake Bay	D/Lt Quenten Weaver, weaqpw@yahoo.com , 410.437.0915
17-20	Thu - Sun	D5 Summer Council & Rendezvous, Baltimore Inner Harbor Marine Center, http://www.uspsd5.org/mark_5/spring2008.pdf	Cdr Tracey Stuenes, cdr@uspsdunk.org , 410.282.0790
25-26	Fri 1800 - 2200; Sat 0830 - 1300	Easter Seals Cruise for Kids, Baltimore HarborView Marina, http://easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=DCMD_CruiseforKids_Descript	Lt/C Alan Karpas, alankarpas@verizon.net , 301.765.5905 (M), 301.466.9219 (H)
30	1830	RSPS Bridge Meeting	Cdr Jeff McKinney, 301.668.9148, jmckinney10@verizon.net
Aug			
TBD		Seamanship Course, TBD	Lt/C Alan Karpas, alankarpas@verizon.net , 301.765.5905 (M), 301.466.9219 (H)
23-24	Weekend	RSPS Raft Up, Severn River to Little Round Bay	Harleigh Ewell, hewell@comcast.net , 301.351.6449 (M), 301.585.6698 (H)
27	1830	RSPS Bridge Meeting	Jeff McKinney, 301.668.9148, jmckinney10@verizon.net
Sep			
TBD		Junior Navigation Course	Lt/C Chuck Wells, cjwglb@verizon.net
10	1830	RSPS General Meeting, TBD	Lt/C Denise Allen, dallen@allfam.org , 301.807.2708
14	1130 - 1600	RSPS Picnic and Auction, Maryland Yacht Club, 1500 Fairview Beach Road, Pasadena, MD	Kipp Yost, Kipp@kitchentechniq.com , 240.447.9014 (M), 301.460.2681 (H) MYC: 410.255.6424
24	1830	RSPS Bridge Meeting	Cdr Jeff McKinney, 301.668.9148, jmckinney10@verizon.net



AROUND THE SQUADRON P/C Ted Weiner, AP

The boating season has arrived and many of us are actively thinking about and planning how best to take advantage of the great weather ahead. Please stop for a few moments, relax and read this month's *SKIPJACK*. There is a lot to talk about.

John Grabowski has been in the hospital but is now home and recovering well. Our best wishes are for his continuing recovery. And, I have learned, that he and P/C Jenny Norris were recently married. Congratulations to two wonderful people.

Our May meeting was held at Tony Lin's Restaurant in Rockville. We enjoyed a talk given by Captain Lauren Anthonie about her travels through the South Pacific. If you should ever develop a wander lust for a journey such as hers, sometime as a single hitchhiker, her advice to you would be immeasurable. We enjoyed her talk.

Also, at Tony Lin's we voted for the annual addition to three committees – Auditing, Nominating and Rules Committees. Fred Miller joins Rosa Gibson and ASEO Mike Loney on the Auditing Committee, P/C Joe Gibson joins P/C Mike Gegner and P/C Ted Weiner on the Nominating Committee and Brian Reed joins P/C Harleigh Ewell and John Grabowski on the Rules Committee.

On Tuesday, 17 June join us at the RSPS annual Instructor Appreciation Dinner which will be held at Cinnamon Woods Community Center. We honor and thank our instructors for their individual dedication and outstanding performance instructing public and member classes. Please be aware that only this June it is held on a Tuesday.

In the fall of 2009 RSPS will have the honor of hosting the USPS District 5 Education Conference to be held somewhere (to be determined) in our geographical area. You may have been contacted by Conference Chairperson (SEO) Chuck Wells for assistance in this endeavor. If not, you are encouraged to offer your assistance by contacting him. You will have some fun.

As a tribute to the RSPS thirst for learning, an attribute of RSPS members, several classes were completed in April and May. To repeat, the JN (Junior Navigation) class in April, instructed by P/C Jon Van Winkle, was passed by 11 RSPS members (pity us remaining APs).

A public Boating class instructed by SEO Chuck Wells and Kipp Yost was also completed.

In May, Sail 101 and 102 was taught by Chip Yost and Mark Kronisch passed by Lt/C Denise Allen, Craig Floyd, Matt Hecht, Pat and Nils Pearson.

The following officers and members completed Operations Training held by P/D/C Dick Nitschke in May. They were: Lt/C Denise and Harry Allen, Matt Hecht, Lt/C Alan Karpas, Cdr Jeff McKinney, Lt Paul Mermelstein, Lt/C Kay Permison and Lt Steve Permison.

What else? Oh yes, on May 22 three boats rafted in Annapolis: XO Alan Karpas' *Hideaway*, P/C Joe Gibson's *Surprise* and Len Valenti's *Architeuthis dux* (gigantic squid) to observe the annual Blue Angels air show, honoring the 2008 graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. You are encouraged to join the 14-15 June raft-up on beautiful Harness Creek where the Skipper Saver class will be held.

The Chesapeake Bay season's opening will be held the week-end of 30 May – 1 June at the Maryland Yacht Club in Pasadena. It will include a USPS District 5 booth and mascot, Sea Vester (an adorable thing on a trailer). Cdr Jeff McKinney, Lt/C Alan Karpas and Lt Paul Mermelstein are MYC members. Among many events, the 2008 Princess of Chesapeake Bay will be crowned. Public invited.

During the Memorial Day weekend four squadron boats rafted: they were *Surprise*, with Rosa and P/C Joe Gibson; *Kat's Cradle* with Kathy and P/C Harleigh Ewell; *Event Horizon* with the McKinneys, Karen, Cdr Jeff, Katie and Ryan; a 42' charter sailboat with Lt/C Denise and Harry Allen, and Len Valenti in *Architeuthis dux*.

In May RSPS pursued and received Boating Safety Week (17-23 May) Proclamations from 5 communities to promote boating safety. Montgomery County, Rockville, Gaithersburg, Frederick and Hagerstown participated.



It is important to point out that each and every month on the fourth Wednesday of each month, your Bridge (the Executive Committee) meets, at their expense, and leads the squadron in many different ways. They do this for you and me.

Please send to me information of interest to squadron members. 301.598.5598 or Stw5999@comcast.net. And, please send in your annual dues. *Stay with us.*

ON THE WATER ACTIVITIES

P/C Harleigh Ewell, JN

When you read this, our first raft-up at Gibson Island will be history. The next event is 14-15 June, at Harness Creek, which is near the mouth of the South River on its north shore. We intend to offer a Skipper Saver course, starting at 1400 on Saturday 14 June, at this raft-up. This is a USPS presentation designed to teach persons who do not usually command a boat about what to do if the skipper falls overboard or otherwise becomes unable to function.

To enter the creek, start to angle to the right after you pass red "8". Do not go directly to the creek entrance from there, as there is a shoal that must be cleared first. Once you are almost south of the entrance, turn to go in the creek, staying to the right. We will try to get the Hurricane Hole (more on that in a moment). If that is not possible we will anchor up the left branch of the creek. Try to contact us in advance on the radio or by cell phone to see where we are. To get to the Hurricane Hole, go up the right branch of the creek. It will look like there is nowhere to go, but at the last minute there is an opening into a small cove on the right. It is so secluded that you will not even be able to see the masts of sailboats anchored in there until you are very close. As noted, if there are already too many boats in there to accommodate our raft, we will go up the left branch.

I expect most participants will prepare and eat their meals aboard. For folks who crave a restaurant, there are at least two not too far upriver. Fuel and other supplies are readily available at Selby Bay and near the Route 2 Bridge.

Pre-registration is not required, but I would appreciate it if people would contact me when you know you are

coming; this helps with planning for the raft and communicating any last-minute information. I can be reached at H: 301.585.6698, Cell: 301.351.6449, or hewell@comcast.net.

The other on-the-water events that RSPS has planned are:

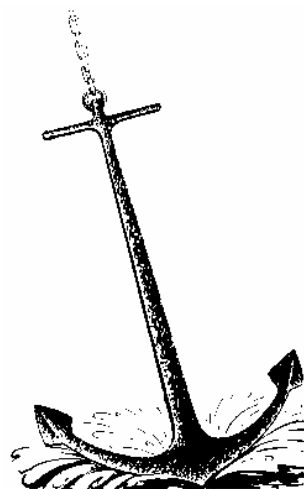
Late July or early August (TBD) –
Solomons Island area.

23 - 24 August –
Little Round Bay on the Severn River.

While not strictly an on-the-water activity, our Sept. picnic/auction will be held at the Maryland Yacht Club, which is accessible by water. More information on all these activities will be in subsequent *SKIPJACKs*.

Also, USPS District 5, to which we belong, is having water-related activities. On 17-20 July, they will have their Summer Rendezvous/Council and navigation contest in Baltimore. There will be at least one cruise associated with this rendezvous: 12-13 July, Fairlee Creek; 14 July, Annapolis Yacht Basin; and 15-16 July, Chesapeake Harbor. You can join this cruise for any part(s) or all of it. Also, D5's Sail Regatta will be on 4-5 October at Rock Hall. More information can be obtained from D5's website or from their publication, the *Mark 5*.

Please contact me with any comments or questions. I hope to see you on the water this year.





SKIPJACK DELIVERY BY EMAIL

Current RSPS policy for delivering *the SKIPJACK* is to mail a paper copy to each member household. The Executive Committee is considering a revised policy to send members their *SKIPJACK* via email. Members can still receive their newsletter by regular mail if that is your preference.

Reasons for this initiative are twofold: stewardship and cost containment. We become better stewards of our resources by reducing consumption of paper, toner etc. and, incidentally, relieve some strain on member's mail boxes and paper clutter. Cost containment is essential for efficient and optimal use of available funds. Estimates indicate that currently the Squadron spends \$1.10 per month per member to print, copy, and mail *the SKIPJACK*; sending the newsletter electronically could save over a thousand dollars per year.

We hope that you will elect to receive *the SKIPJACK* electronically each month. Please let us know (contact Cdr Jeff McKinney at jmckinney10@verizon.net) if this is a feasible or acceptable alternative for you. If you want to continue to receive the newsletter by regular mail, you do not need to do anything

NAUTICAL TRIVIA

Here are the answers to the trivia questions in the May *SKIPJACK*:

What is a **van**? A van is the leading ship, or ships, in a fleet or squadron.

What is the meaning of **hawse hole**? A hawse hole is a hole in the hull for mooring lines, cable, or chain to run through.

What is a **spindle buoy**? A spindle buoy is a tall cone shaped navigational buoy.

Test your nautical knowledge for the answers to the following questions.

What is the definition of **fitting out**?

What are **lightening holes**?

What is **wrack**?

The answers will appear in the next *SKIPJACK* issue.

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

for Chris Brown, D/5 DAO

The District 5 Boating Activities Team has put together the Commander's Southbound Cruise for the week before the Baltimore Inner Harbor. You can join them for the entire week starting 12 July through 16 July or any days that meet your schedules. The locations selected have been chosen so that boats may dock at the marina or anchor/moor at reasonable costs during the week. Join from the North or South, whatever is convenient!

12-13 July (Sat-Sun)	Great Oak Landing, Fairlee Creek, MD
14 July (Mon)	Annapolis Yacht Basin, MD
15-16 July (Tues-Wed)	Pleasure Cove Marina, Bodkin Creek, MD

Additional Information can be found on the D/5 Website under 2008 Summer Rendezvous and Council-
www.uspsd5.org

Reminding you also that the Summer Rendezvous begins 17-20 July 17 in Baltimore Inner Harbor, reservations also on the website- www.uspsd5.org

Reminding you also that the TOP GUN Cruise begins immediately following the Summer Rendezvous, information on the website under Squadron Activities

Hoping all of you will find time to participate in "Boating is FUN – We will show you HOW!" with an EAGLE's eye to Good Navigation.





GPS SEMINARS

P/C Joe Gibson, JN, VE

We are prepared to conduct several two hour seminars based on the USPS "Using GPS" material. The session will describe details of the NAVSTAR GPS system, Waypoint Navigation techniques and features of a typical marine GPS Receiver. More details on the seminar are listed below.

Currently two seminar sessions, 25 June 25 and 9 July, 2008, are scheduled. Other sessions are possible to satisfy demand. Each session will be held in the conference room at Dick's Sporting Goods in the Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center beginning at 1900. Students are encouraged to arrive early to arrange for the use of a loaner GPS. These seminars are open to the public. Please pass this announcement to those you know who are interested in learning more of the GPS systems.

You may register for a session by contacting the personnel listed below. Cost for RSPS members is \$30. Cost to non-members is \$40. Each session will be limited to 20 students. Students are encouraged to bring their personal marine GPS to the sessions.

- Seminar Title: Using GPS
Session Dates: 25 June and 9 July
Location: Dick's Sporting Goods, upper level
Gaithersburg, Maryland
Time: 1900 – 2100
(Registration will begin at 1830)
Material:
- USPS Publication "An Introduction to the Global Positioning System"
 - Captain's Quick Guide "Using GPS" (waterproof take aboard reference cards)
 - Student Notebook
- Demonstrations: Loaner Garmin GPS 76 Handheld Marine GPS Receiver (come early to arrange for loan)
Instructor: P/C Joe Gibson, JN
301.977.2334 or
joesboat@comcast.net
Squadron Lt/C Chuck Wells, JN
Educational 301.571.4815
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MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT RETENTION AWARD (MIRA)

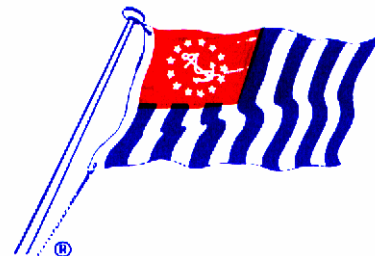
Lt Paul Mermelestein, P

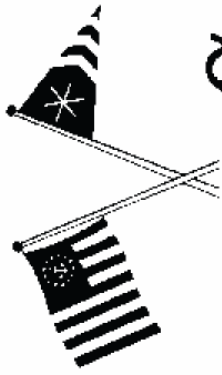
The USPS National Membership Committee plans to honor selected squadrons throughout the country with the Membership Involvement Retention Award (MIRA). The national committee aims to accumulate retention and involvement ideas and find programs that have worked, and wishes to provide recognition to squadrons with successful programs.

The RSPS has applied for MIRA, through the District 5 Membership Involvement chair. Our application is based upon our comprehensive, documented plan that integrates membership and member involvement functions and our Squadron newsletter, *the SKIPJACK*, which is formulated to provide information on members' activities and news of interest to help make all members feel more connected.

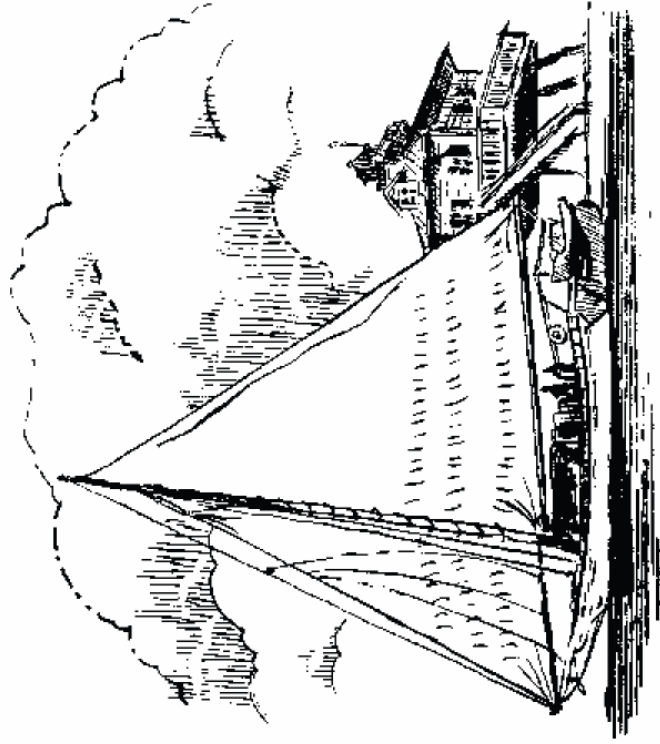
Our program is producing successes. Unlike many squadrons, our new Bridge is composed of relatively new and very active members instead of "recycling" a few long-time members. This year, we have a large number of new APs and JNs and a huge number of members are taking elective courses. In addition, the RSPS has been able to recognize one member with the Charles Chapman Award and 5 members with Educational Achievement Awards.

We are proud of the work we are doing, and plan to further improve and enhance our member involvement program with rewarding activities that benefit all of us. We welcome your feedback and ideas; please feel free to contact any member of the Bridge.





the **SKIPJACK**



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