

ON THE HORIZON

December 2007

Volume 46 Number 8



6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 19 at the Boulevard Diner

Bring your children, family and friends to our Holiday Party— always a blast!

Don't forget to bring your gift for the Bandit Gift Exchange. Gifts should have a value in the \$10 range — and PLEASE, do not bring a gift you would not want to receive yourself. We will have a brief Business Meeting in there somewhere — so Officers, please keep it short!.



Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron

Unit of United States Power Squadrons®

www.uspsdundalk.org

2007-2008 BRIDGE

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Your Bridge & On the Horizon Staff Wish Everyone a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

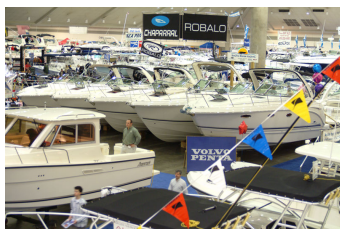


Greetings friends and members of the Dundalk Sail and Power Squadron. As you all know, the Baltimore Boat Show is coming soon. Dundalk is very lucky to have D/5 Sea Vester and his showcase trailer at the boat show this year. The HELP we need is to operate Sea Vester and man the trailer location (inside the main door downstairs). We have three categories for sign up:

1. Operation of Sea Vester.
2. Assist with the operation of Sea Vester.
3. And most important – sign up to stand/sit by the trailer and communicate with people going by. Talk about education, boating, safety, and anything you can think of to make them a better boater.



Choose when you would like to volunteer, the dates are:



Jan. 23 , Wednesday	17:30 to 21:30 hours
Jan. 24, Thursday	10:30 to 21:30 hours
Jan. 25, Friday	10:30 to 21:30 Hours
Jan. 26, Saturday	09:30 to 21:30 Hours
Jan. 27, Sunday	09:30 to 21:30 Hours



You can sign up in one of three ways:

1. Email me at cankenhelp@juno.com.
2. Call one of the Squadron Bridge members, or me... 410-360-3330.
3. Come to the Meeting and Holiday Party on December 19 - party with us, and sign up too.

You may take any part of the day you wish, from an hour to all day. You may even volunteer for more than one day.— and the best thing is you get in the Boat Show for FREE, just for helping!

Thank you so much and have a very Happy and Healthy Holiday!

P/C Ken Finck

COMMANDER

Greetings from your Commander. I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and took the time to give thanks for all the privileges we enjoy. The Power Squadron is one small way of giving back to the community. Although we have a lot of fun boating, we also work hard to educate and promote boating safety. We have a great opportunity to work on this at the upcoming Baltimore Boat Show. In past years we have had a booth where we handed out literature and course schedules to the public. This year Dundalk has worked very hard to go above and beyond the usual booth. We have secured a huge space front and center at the Boat Show. We will have Sea Vester and the D/5 education trailer right on the center aisle. We will be giving seminars and teaching courses at the show. This is more than we could have hoped for. The show runs less days, but we will need more people to work the show. If you haven't worked the show before, this is a great time to start. If you have worked the show before, then try to sign up for more hours this year.

You will have a good chance to hear more about the Boat Show at our December Membership Meeting/Holiday Party on December 19. I call it a party because we keep the business to an absolute minimum and start the party right away. D/5 Executive Officer Brian Becker will be joining us. Dinner starts at 6:30. If you can't make that the party starts at 8:00. Just like last year we are doing a special gift exchange. In some areas it is known as a Chinese gift exchange. It is also known as a White Elephant gift exchange, Yankee Swap, Scottish gift exchange and Thieving Secret Santa. Whatever name it goes by, the game is a lot of fun. There's always one gift that keeps going from one person to another. Bring a gift (\$10) and see if you can figure out what everybody will want.

Here's wishing everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,

CDR John Hall, AP

INDUSTRY EXPERTS SHARE INSIDER TIPS FOR BUYING A BOAT

CHICAGO (2007) —The \$39.5 billion boating industry saw more Americans take to the water in 2006, as the boating population grew an estimated 1.3 million participants to 72.6 million, according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). As more Americans discover why life is better with a boat, prospective buyers are flocking to boat shows across the country this winter for the best deals of the season. "There are a few key points to keep in mind when purchasing a boat and picking the right time of year to buy can be critical," said Carl Blackwell, vice president of the national non-profit organization, Discover Boating. "First-time boat buyers tend to run into common misconceptions when buying a boat and it's important to do the research to gather as many facts as possible to make the right decision."

With boats for every lifestyle and budget on the market, first-time buyers should do their homework before hitting the showroom floor. Discover Boating offers the following advice (also found on DiscoverBoating.com) for those considering getting started in boating:

- **Determine what, where and who.** When deciding on a boat, ask yourself what you want to do with it—fishing, water-skiing or cruising? Where will you be boating—lake, river or ocean? Who will be joining you? Research has shown that most people get involved in boating to spend quality time with family and friends and nearly 90 percent of Americans live within an hour's drive of a navigable body of water.
- **Do your homework.** The best place to shop for boats is a boat show. Prior to the show, stroll around a marina and go boating with friends to find out more about the types of boats, brands and models that meet your needs. DiscoverBoating.com is an unbiased resource offering tips and information on all boat categories, as well as financing, insurance and a calendar of boat shows.
- **Find the ideal boat/dealer combination.** Select the dealer that goes the extra mile, offering the best deal and ensuring first-rate service after the sale. Depending on the season, ask for a "test drive" to experience first-hand how the boat performs in the water. Like car shopping, test-driving several boat types and sizes will help you make a selection.
- **Build a budget.** According to the NMMA, more than 76 percent of boats on the water today are owned by individuals or families with a household income under \$100,000. There are brands and price points to fit individual needs, so determine how much you want to spend before actively looking, so a dealer can recommend models in your price range.
- **Hone your skills.** Complete a boater education course with family members before the boat is launched. Everyone will have more fun with confidence in their abilities as "smart boaters." Boating safety and seamanship courses are offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the U.S. Power Squadron. Classes are typically free, aside from the cost of materials, and can help reduce boat insurance prices.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

What a beautiful landscape of color we have had around the Chesapeake this Fall. The trees around Baltimore have been especially vibrant in color. I hope everyone is enjoying this special time of year with family and friends and with thankful heart.

It's hard to believe that the New Year is just around the corner, and you know what that means. It's Boat Show time. The Baltimore Boat Show is in January. The show manager has requested Dundalk to bring back Sea Vester, along with the D/5 Education Trailer. We've also been asked to provide an educational element by teaching some of our USPS University Seminars. It's going to take a lot of team work to man the booth, trailer, and have Sea Vester operators. P/C Ken Finck, AP has a sign up sheet that needs to be filled. Please e-mail him with all dates and times you are available. We want to have a great turn out of members. See Page 2 for Boat Show times and information.

Respectfully Submitted

Lt/C Tracey Stuenes, P

DSPS Halloween Party — October 27, 2007 at Baltimore Yacht Club



From the RADIO/TECHNICAL Department

Advice on getting or renewing your ship radio station license.

This is only for a vessel that is required to have a license for their on-board radio/radar/emergency equipment.

There is a great service line at the FCC where they will answer all of your questions. This sure beats the on-line web site that only has fill in the blanks and then you have to wait for a reply, if you are lucky enough to get one. Their web site is <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, where they will do it on-line for you, however I found the service on the old land line (Telephone) was so much more helpful to my unknowledgeable questions.

You will find the FCC number is listed as 888-CALLFCC, but I have found using 877-480-3201 (op # 2) will give you a direct line to aid you on any information you may need with the FCC. This also works if you are a "HAM" (radio Operator) and have questions.

Remember that your Ship License is only good for ten years, while this may seem like a long time, we all know how quickly time can fly.

The price for a new ship's License is now \$160.00 If you still have your old license that has not expired yet, then the old price will stay the same to renew it.

73's (best wishes) to you and 88's (love and kisses) to the ladies.

N3GGS / WCV9882

P/C Ken Finck



EDUCATION OFFICER

New things are happening in USPS Education:

Seminars: in addition to the courses now offered, seminars will be offered both to the public and to members in a brief, light treatment (teaser) for our strong subjects. Using GPS, Onboard Weather Forecasting, Using VHF and VHF/DSC Marine Radio, How to Use a Chart, Boat Handling Under Power, and Sail Trim are the titles for these 2-hour sessions. Members can accumulate seminar credits toward credit for completing an elective. Plans are in the works to present one or two at the Baltimore Boat Show to whet the public's appetite.

BOC: Boat Operator Certification – members qualify by completing particular courses to demonstrate competence on-the-water in a session with an examiner – a bit like the written and behind-the-wheel driving tests – but at several levels: Inland and Coastal (Piloting prerequisite), Advanced Coastal (AP), and Offshore (N). BOC is still being touched up before release; insurance being an important issue. SEOs are encouraged to nominate one BOC examiner for the squadron; will require training by district, to qualify as examiner at each level. Interested parties should see me.

One Squadron Boating Course is still underway as of this writing. A total of twelve students have successfully completed our squadron boating courses so far this fall.

The schedule for classes to be offered to the public in early 2008 are being finalized, then once approved to be listed on the USPS website and thereby made available to D/5 for the class list at the Boat Show in January. The trend is increasingly that students are finding our classes on the internet.

The schedule for member courses will follow. Seamanship, Advanced Piloting and Marine Electronics are planned for the winter/spring session.

Respectfully Submitted,

P/C Walter Neese, N
seo@uspsdunk.org
410-598-5292 cell phone

USPS D/5 and National Happenings



USPS D/5 OFFICER TRAINING & SPRING CONFERENCE 27 March–30 March, 2008

Princess Royale Hotel , 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland

Reservation Form: http://uspsd5.org/spring08/reg_form_spring_conf.doc



NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING 19-24 February, 2008

HYATT REGENCY DALLAS, TEXAS

Reservation Form: <http://www.usps.org/national/ensign/uspscompass/pdf/dallasform.pdf>

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Your Admin Department has very little to report this month. You've already read about the Baltimore Boat Show. That's really the biggest news for the Squadron at this time. So, don't forget to attend the Show and support DSPS. Also, make certain to mark your calendars for the annual Squadron Holiday Party at the Diner on Wednesday, 19 December, 2007. If you haven't been to this event, you should definitely try to make it, and don't forget to bring a gift for the Bandit Gift Exchange (in the \$10.00 range).

That having been said, I want to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, I'm available by phone at 410-456-5854 or by email at ao@uspsdundalk.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt/C David Seidenman, AP

From BoatUS Government Affairs

November 28, 2007

Dear BoatUS Member,

Your voice counts! And we need it to make sure the Recreational Boating Act of 2007 is passed quickly. **Without this federal legislation you will need to apply and pay for a discharge permit to legally operate each of your boats, starting September 30, 2008.**

Please take a few minutes and contact your one Representative and two Senators, even if you have already done so. We need them to support and co-sponsor "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007" (House Bill #2550 and Senate Bill #2067).

Because one of your Senators is on the Environment and Public Works Committee, which can move or stall the Senate Bill, it is especially important that you act now.

BoatUS has been working with other boating groups to pass this legislation which will eliminate (for recreational boats only) the new court-imposed EPA permit. We know that boating depends on clean water and healthy natural resources. However, a boat permit will not create a tangible environmental benefit, and it will be another inconvenience and tax for you.

It is important to note that all current environmental restrictions on the overboard discharge of oil, fuel, garbage, and sewage still stand, and will not be altered by this legislation.

Help boating by contacting your Representative and Senators:

Ask that they co-sponsor and support House Bill #2550 and Senate Bill #2067 which reinstate the common sense discharge permit exemption for recreational boats.

Help them understand the looming permit deadline of 9/30/08.

If one of your Members of Congress is co-sponsoring the bill, please say thanks!

The 10 co-sponsors on the Senate Bill are: Martinez (FL), Bunning (KY), Chambliss (GA), Dole and Burr (NC), Isakson (GA), Sessions (AL), Cornyn and Hutchison (TX), and Lott (MS).

Thanks for adding your voice to this critical boating issue.

Margaret Podlich
Vice President, Government Affairs
BoatUS
GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com
703-461-2878 x8363

NEWS and VIEWS

Your On the Horizon Editor brings you important (and not so important) boating related stories from around the globe.

An Open Letter To My Creditors

Dear Banks and/or Credit Unions to whom I owe money,

I have started down that slippery slope to bankruptcy and thought you might appreciate it if I gave you advance notice. Granted, this may not happen for a while, but I didn't want it to be a complete surprise for you when it does.

You see, I have recently taken the first step toward insolvency, according to many financial experts. Yes, that's right. Despite knowing full well what the future consequences were, I (actually, it's **we**, since my wife will be penniless also) recently went out and bought a boat. This news is certain to cause the people in your collections department to adorn my file with those large red flags that you like to use to denote probable future deadbeats. I understand. You have rules that you've got to follow.

Although it probably has no bearing on your view of our financial future as being quite dismal, I thought you might like to know that we only bought a smaller boat. A used one. One that was well within our budget. Oh, I know, you're going to say that it doesn't matter how sensibly the addiction begins. You're going to tell me that once it has taken hold there is little, if any, treatment. You'll warn me that the insidious cravings worsen with each season until the guy who started out with a small pontoon boat wakes up one day in the stateroom of his custom built seventy-eight foot houseboat and realizes that he is in way over his head. Then he has no choice but to bail out, so to speak, of his financial obligations. It happens all the time, you say.

Perhaps it's pier pressure (a little marine humor there) that causes otherwise sane people to immediately start planning the purchase of a larger boat the same day they take delivery of their new one. All it takes is for some so-called **friend** to float by in a rig that's 6 feet longer and twenty miles-an-hour faster, saying, "Hey, man, this is good stuff, ya wanna try it?" They give it a try and the next thing you know, they're visiting boat dealerships, hanging pictures of the bigger boat on their refrigerator door and putting their 3 week old boat in the Boat Trader. Tragically, they're hooked. Another classic example, you say, of the need for a **Just Say No** campaign on our nation's lakes and waterways.

Maybe you're right. After all, you guys are the experts. You're the ones who are left holding the bag by those who succumb to the seduction of a first boat and then rapidly go financially downstream after that. You're the people who try to intervene by referring debtors to Boaters Anonymous. (The reason those meetings don't work, by the way, is that whenever someone mentions "higher power", everybody else runs out to buy a bigger boat motor.) You're the originators of the saying, "Not everyone who owns a boat goes bankrupt, but everyone who goes bankrupt owns a boat." Of course, you're also the people collecting incredible amounts of interest from all of those overextended boaters, but that's not the point here.

So, dear creditors, now you know. It's probably only a matter of time until our boat payment dwarfs our mortgage payment; until we're raiding the kids' college funds to cover the slip rental at the marina; until we're found siphoning fuel from neighboring boats because our gas cards are maxed out. But, until that time comes, you can breathe a sigh of relief with every check we send you (after it clears, of course). Who knows, maybe we'll even be one of the few who beat the odds by enjoying boating while remaining fiscally sound. (Is that snickering I hear?)

Okay, I feel much better now that I've given you this advance notice. If anything else comes up that I think you should know, I'll be back in touch. In the mean time, if you turn down any loan applications because the people are trying to buy too much boat, ask them if they'd be interested in a 3 year old, 24 foot bow rider. You see, we have our eye on this new thirty foot cruiser, and if we can sell our old boat, then...well, never mind. There are some things you probably don't need to know.

Sincerely, Solvent (So Far) in Seattle—(Lightnup from boatsafe.com)

November DSPS General Meeting: Special thanks to Fred Schwing for pinch hitting for our speaker who couldn't make it, and leading a very informative talk on Winterization.



Have you winterized yet?



SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION

December 2007 — March 2008 Calendar

December 19	Holiday Party/Meeting — Boulevard Diner
January 16	Membership Meeting — Boulevard Diner
February 19-24	USPS Annual Meeting — Dallas, Texas
February 20	Membership Meeting — Boulevard Diner
March 12	Elections/ Membership Meeting — Boulevard Diner
March 14	Change of Watch — Sparrows Point Country Club
March 27-30	D/5 Spring Conference — Ocean City, MD