

# ON THE HORIZON

November 2007

Volume 46 Number 7

## General Membership Meeting

### "Fall Prep & Winterization" with Captain Steve Heiger

**Wednesday, November 21, 2007**

**8:00 PM at the Boulevard Diner, 1660 Merritt Blvd**

Dinner/Drinks/Social optional at 6:30 PM.

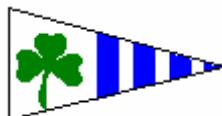
Steve will discuss the proper preparation of your boat for the winter season, and things you can and should do over the winter. Since Steve is also a Marine Surveyor (and has surveyed many of the Squadron boats), feel free to ask questions on surveys.

Steve is owner and founder of Satisfaction Marine Services, Inc. since 1997. Satisfaction Marine Services specializes in Marine Surveying, Yacht Delivery, Engine and Boat Maintenance/Repair, and Instructional Sessions dealing with boat/yacht handling and the understanding of marine operating systems.

Steve is a USCG certified Captain with a 50 Ton Masters License, Near Coastal, as well as a member of the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC). His business was formed out of a passion for the boating industry and his expertise in the field of marine systems and safety. His technicians aim to address the need for personal attention to detail and ensure each client is a satisfied customer.

Since some of our members will be preparing their boats prior to the meeting, you can contact Steve at [steve@satmarine.com](mailto:steve@satmarine.com).

**Mark your calendars for our Holiday Party  
on December 19 at the Boulevard Diner!**



**Dundalk Sail & Power Squadron**

Unit of United States Power Squadrons®

[www.uspsdundalk.org](http://www.uspsdundalk.org)

# 2007-2008 BRIDGE

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28 October 2007

To: USPS Members

From: R/C William M Bellinger, SN – Chair, National Planning Committee

The National Planning Committee would like to offer every member the opportunity to provide input to the organization, through the National Planning Committee, by participating in a short, online survey.

At the expo held in conjunction with the recent Governing Board meeting in Norfolk, attendees who visited the National Planning Committee booth were given the opportunity to fill out a short, paper-based survey similar to the one we are now offering online. C/C Ernie Marshburn, SN, filled out the first one. While over 10% of the Governing Board meeting attendees filled out the survey, many of those who did were on national committees or repeatedly attend national meetings. So, the results might be considered somewhat biased. The National Planning Committee is interested in a broader perspective that can be obtained through your participation.

The brief, three-part survey is designed to tell us who is responding (demographics), establish current statistics in a few key areas (benchmarks) and give you the opportunity to provide direction to the organization for the National Planning Committee to consider in a few key areas (feedback items).

The survey should only take a few moments for you to complete, so please, take those few moments now (prior to 31 December, if possible) and tell us what you think! Click on the link below to take the survey now. Your feedback will be used to frame discussion at future meetings of the National Planning Committee.

**Take the survey at** [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tozUmx10Vy6ebPmUI15Jbw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tozUmx10Vy6ebPmUI15Jbw_3d_3d)

# COMMANDER

Greetings from your Commander. Another busy month has gone by and boating season is almost over. Our last cruise of the summer was to Worton Creek. Although the cruise was on the last weekend of the summer it definitely felt more like fall. It was very windy when we headed over on Saturday. A couple of boats didn't make it due to the weather. We still had over 20 people in attendance for dinner. We also had a huge lobster from the restaurant's tank that was spared the steamer but visited our table anyway. Alive! You can see a picture of our fearless Bobby Blaker holding him below. As you know we had to postpone our frostbite cruise a week due to scheduling conflicts. It turned out to be a great time as we combined it with a Halloween party at Baltimore Yacht Club. The weather went from rainy Saturday morning to quite pleasant but windy Saturday afternoon. If we had postponed just a few more days we would have had frost for the cruise. If you missed the party you missed seeing P/C Read Van Zile dressed up as a ... well dressed up in a very silly costume. I'm not sure what he was, but I'm sure if you look through some Dr Seuss books you'll find one of them! Some photos should be available on the web pretty soon.

Now if you haven't been coming to the meetings lately you have been missing out on some pretty good times and good presentations. And I'm not just talking about the awesome Top Gun Cruise presentation. At our October meeting fellow Dundalk member and Engine Maintenance instructor Fred Schwing was our presenter. . It's easy to see why his engine maintenance course is very popular.

He had hands on examples of what you should have in your boat and what to look for on your engines. For me he explained that now was the best time to buy new engines for my boat. Mrs. Cdr seems somewhat skeptical, but once she talks to Fred I'll be looking for a couple of new engines under the tree this Christmas.

This month at our November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting we will have marine surveyor Steve Heiger out to talk about taking care of your boat. He can also talk about what to look for in that "new" used boat you might be shopping for this winter. Right around the corner is our annual Christmas party. We'll be doing the gift exchange again. Each person brings a gift of \$10 or less and then one by one we choose from the table or steal from somebody else. It's always fun to see what people can come up with.

It's hard to believe, but this winter and next summer might even be busier than last year. We've been working with the Baltimore Boat Show to get the D5 educational trailer along with Sea Vester inside. Right now it looks like we'll have the entire setup inside the show. This is a big step up from the 8' by 8' booth we've had in the past. We're definitely going to need more volunteers this year to help at the show. This is a good opportunity to reach out to the community and promote safe boating.

I'll be looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meetings. Don't forget your name badges!

Respectfully submitted,  
CDR John Hall, AP

## *Cruise to Worton Creek*



# EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Calm winds and seas make for an enjoyable Fall season here on the Chesapeake Bay. This unusually warm weather we have experienced has also allowed us to have additional weekends with our families and friends enjoying our boats before they head off to winter storage. It just doesn't get any better than this. And, if you are into star gazing, don't miss the beautiful autumn sky. Look for a few Zodiac constellations; Aquarius, Capricornus and Sagittarius.

We had a great membership meeting in October. Our very own, Fred Schwing, gave us some tips on engine maintenance. There were interesting parts being passed around, some worn, some old and some corroded. (Some of those parts were off some of our boats!)

If you missed this opportunity to ask Fred a question or two, I'm sure he would be more than happy to have you register for his next scheduled Engine Maintenance class.

Does anyone remember the slogan for this year's National Safe Boating campaign? It was "Wear it". I want to encourage you to continue to wear your squadron and district shirts. You never know what conversations might come from someone seeing our logos. What an easy way for us to promote USPS, safe boating and membership. See you at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lt/C Tracey Stuenes, P

## Jimmy & Shelley—they're back!

Jimmy! Shelley! Where are you? We've been looking for you for weeks and you're not showing your faces. Now, come on, we want to talk to you about the Crab Feast. We need to find out what gossip you heard.

SHHH. What's that? Do I hear a sound? What is that faint voice I hear? Is that you Shelley? Shelley, I can barely hear you! You're where? YOU'RE WHERE? You've still got your claws wrapped around Sourpuss? Now, come on, you know better. Play nice. Yes, I know you were trying to help our Squadron keep him, but.....

I think you fell in love with him, didn't you?

Why you little stinker.



Yes, I know, you liked Sourpuss, but he was only a short term visitor. You've got to give him up. You heard Arlene explain what happened and she did it most graciously. You've got to stop holding a grudge. Come on back to Dundalk – with Jimmy, NOT Sourpuss. Find that Jimmy of yours, patch things up with him, say Hello to Arlene and you get back up here to the upper Bay where you belong. Or I'll send Bernie-the-Fisherman after you.

P/C Read Van Zile, AP

# **EDUCATION OFFICER**

District 5 Fall Conference takes place the weekend of November 1-4 at the Princess Royale in Ocean City. As every year, the focus will be on education; there is a competition for the best teaching aid; this year's theme is a USPS University Open House. Dundalk Instructors who were certified with the first round in 2003 are due for recertification by 01 December if they have not already taken the seminar, so I would encourage anyone who teaches the public to comply by attending the seminar to have the credential renewed.

Three Squadron Boating Courses are underway: Ray Schiff is instructing five students at Anchorage Marina, Joanne Day and Read Van Zile have eight at St. John's Lutheran Church, and Lois Nehmer and Brooks Riley are teaching fourteen at Lighthouse Senior Center. The squadron's supply of manuals is completely gone!

We expect to have a small GPS class on 13 November at Dundalk High School.

Member courses running this fall at Maryland Presbyterian Church are Streett Broadbent's Piloting class on Tuesdays and Fred Schwing's Engine Maintenance class on Thursdays. Dennis Henderson has one student for JN.

The schedule for classes to be offered to the public in early 2008 are in the works, 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. A schedule for member courses will follow.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Members and friends of Dundalk are invited to join Sue Island Sail & Power Squadron at their

## **WASIPS Christmas Dinner and Dance at Baltimore Yacht Club**

**Saturday December 8, 2007**

\*6:00 PM Hors d'oeuvres \*7:00 P.M Dinner \*6:00-9:00 PM Silent Auction

\*8:00 P.M. til Midnight - Dancing to the music of Norm and Carlos

Menu: Salad, Stuffed chicken breast, potato, veggie, rolls, butter, beverage and dessert

Reservations must be made prior to November 25, 2007 by contacting Sue Bussey at 443-567-5692

WASIPS members \$5.00 each, Guests \$30.00 each

Please make checks payable to WASIPS and mail prior to November 26 to:

Sue Bussey, WASIPS President

1410 Bonnett Place Unit D

Bel Air, Md.21015

# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

November is here and all too soon. Time to start thinking about winterization and shrink wrapping, hauling the boat or storing her wet. This month at our General Membership Meeting, Capt. Steve Heiger will help answer any winterization questions you may have, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. Bring a friend or two if you can.

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed one of the best meetings of the year where our own Lt Fred Schwing, P spoke about engine maintenance issues. A few of his big concerns were using the right fuel additives, checking and changing engine belts and a proper maintenance routine for impellers. Want to know more? Join the DSPS listserve and post a question. Just go to the Dundalk's website and click on the "Join the Discussion" link to be added to the listserve. While you're there, check out the "Photos" section for some new pics of recent events.

We just finished the Frostbite Cruise to BYC, highlighted by a Halloween Party on Saturday, October 27. From what I hear, those attending had a great time and there were some very interesting costumes worn by Squadron members - photos coming in the December Horizon.

On November 2-4, the tall ships will be at the Chestertown Waterfront. Hopefully some of us can make it down there to see and report on the event. It's bit late in the season, but perhaps the weather will cooperate for just a little longer.

Congratulations go out to P/Lt/C Rolf Stuenes, JN for taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the District 5 Sail Regatta. On another subject, Rolf would also like to remind everyone to take note of the change in the usual date for the Change of Watch. It's been in the schedule in the back of the Roster, but in case you hadn't looked there, it will be held this year on March 14, 2008.

Well, that's about it from your Admin. Dept. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, I'm available by phone, 410-456-5854, or by email, [ao@uspsdundalk.org](mailto:ao@uspsdundalk.org).

Respectfully submitted,

*Lt/C David Seidenman, AP*

## How To Avoid The Six Most Common Winterizing Mistakes

With winter approaching, BoatUS Marine Insurance has reviewed its claim files and reports the following six most common mistakes made when winterizing a boat:

- **Failure to winterize the engine:** Freezing temperatures occur in all 50 states and while they are taken seriously up north, it's the balmy states of California, Florida, Texas, Alabama and Georgia where boaters are most likely to have freeze-related damage to engine blocks. It routinely occurs to boats stored ashore here. Boats left in a slip are less susceptible to sudden freezing as the surrounding water retains heat longer than air.
- **Failure to drain water from sea strainer:** If your winterizing plan calls for draining the engine, the seawater strainer must be winterized or residual water could freeze and rupture the watertight seal. Sometimes you won't know it's damaged until spring launching and water begins to trickle in.
- **Failure to close seacocks:** For boats left in the water, leaving seacocks open over the winter is like going on extended vacation without locking the house. If a thru-hull cannot be closed the vessel must be stored ashore – the sole exception are cockpit drains. Heavy snow loads can also force your boat under, allowing water to enter thru-hulls normally well above the water line.
- **Clogged petcocks:** Engine cooling system petcocks clogged by rust or other debris can prevent water from fully draining. If one is plugged, try using a coat hanger to clear the blockage or use the engine's intake hose to flush anti-freeze through the system.
- **Leaving open boats in the water over winter:** Boats with large open cockpits or low freeboard can easily be pushed underwater by the weight of accumulated ice and snow. Always store them ashore.
- **Using bimini covers as winter storage covers:** A cover that protects the crew from the sun does a lousy job protecting the boat from freezing rain and snow. Unlike a bonafide winter cover, biminis tend to rip apart and age prematurely by the effects of winter weather.

# NEWS and VIEWS

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

**Ocotber 15 , 2007**

NEWS From BoatUS

Boat Owners Association of The United States  
880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304  
BoatUS News Room at [www.BoatUS.com](http://www.BoatUS.com)

## **What You Need To Know About E-10 Ethanol Fuel And Winter Boat Layup**

Last year recreational boaters in most parts of the country were introduced to gasoline containing higher concentrations of ethanol, a corn-based additive that replaced a known carcinogen, MTBE. The new fuel, dubbed "E-10" for its 10% ethanol content, unfortunately has the ability to attract greater amounts of water and "phase separate," or form two separate solutions in the gas tank, usually over a long period of time. Once this happens, the engine may not run and internal damage can occur.

With the lengthy winter lay up period again upon us, many boaters and anglers are asking how they can avoid winter fuel problems. BoatUS has these recommendations, some of which were gleaned from midwestern marina owners where E-10 has been in use for over a decade:

- The best practical recommendation is to continue to top off a boat's fuel tanks to about 95% full, leaving room for expansion. A tank that is almost full limits the flow of air into and out of the vent, which reduces the chance of condensation adding water to the fuel. Anglers who fish over the winter should also top off their boat's gasoline tanks between outings to prevent condensation.

Note that some mechanics mistakenly advise that leaving a tank partially filled allows you to "freshen" the old fuel by topping off the tank in the spring. Leaving a tank partially filled with E-10 invites phase separation, which cannot be remedied by adding fresh gasoline. Once E-10 phase separates, the water will remain at the bottom of the tank. Midwest marina owners report that phase separation typically occurs when boats were stored with tanks only one-quarter to one-half full.

- Draining fuel tanks of E-10 gas, while completely eliminating any chances of phase separation, is potentially dangerous and not recommended.
- Once phase separation occurs in E-10 gasoline, additives and water separators can't help. The only remedy is to have the gas and ethanol/water professionally removed from the tank.
- Ethanol is known to chemically react with fiberglass fuel tanks, which can cause them to deteriorate and potentially fail. This is most common with tanks built before the mid-1980s. Unless your boat's manufacturer can confirm that your tank was built to withstand ethanol, the only remedy is to not use E-10 gas (which may not be possible) or to replace the tank with a non-reactive material such as aluminum.
- While ethanol does attract moisture, never try to plug up a fuel tank vent to prevent moist air from entering a tank. Without room to expand, the additional pressure could rupture fuel system components.
- With any fuel that sits in a tank for a long time, it's important to add a stabilizer. But understand that stabilizers do not prevent phase separation.

BoatUS – Boat Owners Association of The United States – is the nation's leading advocate for recreational boaters providing its 650,000 members with a wide array of consumer services. For membership information visit <http://www.BoatUS.com> or call 800-395-2628.

**Remember USPS members get discounts on BoatUS membership and towing!**

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**SAFE BOATING THROUGH EDUCATION**

**November-December 2007 Calendar**

November 21	General Membership Meeting—Boulevard Diner
December 19	General Membership Meeting and Holiday Party— Boulevard Diner