

LGPS

SOUNDINGS

September – October 2013



LAKE GEORGE POWER SQUADRON, INC.
OF UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS
PO BOX 411, BURNT HILLS, NY 12027

Commander Message

By Cmdr. George K. Williams, AP

If you have a question, why not ask an old salt - chances are they have been there – and done that! For example, one day while vacationing on Lake Champlain, we thought we would anchor in Willsboro Bay for a leisurely lunch and a bit of relaxation. We found a "good spot" and lowered a lunch hook. As we were eating our meal, my Elizabeth noticed that the landscape was moving and then heard a funny scraping noise coming from the bow area, Uh-Oh! I quickly rose from my seat and looked to the rear and found we were slowly drifting toward another boat. Quickly, I started the engine to re-gain control. I instructed my mate Elizabeth to pull up the anchor as we located another spot to reposition the anchor out of harms way. This time, I carefully tested the anchor to be sure it was holding and went back to enjoy my lunch. Unfortunately, by now the soup had turned cold, the sandwich had become dry, the apple was turning brown and my lemonade had gotten warm. The moral of the story, when anchoring, take your time and test the anchor hold before you plunge into anything else. Be absolutely sure that you have done everything possible to avoid unhappy results. We old timers have experienced many situations and know and welcome the chance to share those experiences.

Speaking of sharing – we would like to share a meal with you or perhaps even a seat in a classroom during one of our courses that were discussed at the Educational Meeting held on August 14th in Scotia. A descriptive course listing has been included in this issue of the many courses made available through USPS headquarters for those that could not make the meeting. If you are interested in putting together a group or perhaps even self-teaching one of interest, please contact Donna at 372-7220. Donna will gladly order course materials for you.

If you have an idea or preference with regard to our get-together/activities please let me know – we are in need of ideas. We are always available and look forward to your enthusiasm for boating and the USPS. Is that a threat or a promise? Remember, it is not required that you own a boat to belong to the Lake George Power Squadron. Enjoy what is left of the 2013 boating season – fall is fast approaching! Spread the word – recruit a new LGPS member today!

WANTED

Quality - high resolution digital
photographs for the
Squadron Website Photo Gallery Page

All photo's should be submitted in
landscape - digital jpeg format

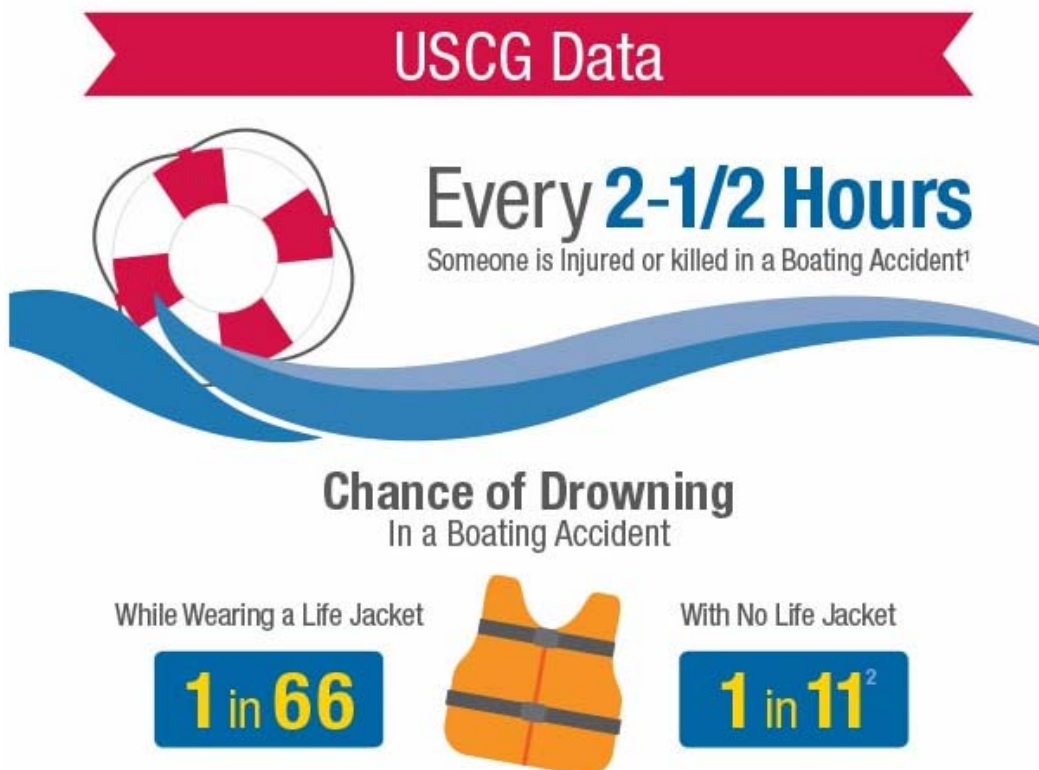
Mail a CD or e-mail your photo's
to Armand at
lgpsinfo@nycap.rr.com

LAKE GEORGE POWER SQUADRON BRIDGE – EXECUTIVE MEETING

**Next meetings are
Wednesday, Sept. 18th, 2013
And October 16, 2013
Route 50
Church of The Good Shepard
Burnt Hills
1830 Hours (6:30 PM)**

Educational Meeting a Successful Evening

Several Squadron members met at Northsiders Pub in Scotia on Wednesday, August 14th for the annual Educational Meeting. Members enjoyed a delicious meal while Squadron Education Officer P/C Donna Canestraro presented an extensive list of the many courses USPS has to offer our membership. We also enjoyed the opportunity of meeting one of our Squadron's recently joined members – thanks for attending Jerry. Jerry discussed his extensive experience boating on the Hudson River, in and around New York Harbor and Long Island Sound. His recounting of an earlier experience of a US Coast Guard boarding of his vessel captivated us all. Are there LGPS members with young children or grandchildren who need a boating course certificate? Perhaps you have a neighbor or a friend who have young want-to-be boaters in their families and would like to take the ABC basic boating class? Also, any member who is interested in putting together a small study group or perhaps even self-studying one of the many classes of interest is asked to contact Donna directly at 372-7220. Remember... *Boating is Fun - we will show you how!*



Lake George Power Squadron
Educational Meeting – August 14, 2013
Course Offerings for 2013-14

America's Boating Course - [ABC]: This course is open to the public - The America's Boating Course is designed to familiarize the student with the fundamentals of safe boating and qualifies for certification in most states that require a boating education before operating a boat or personal watercraft. The course is structured for one night a week at two hours each session or over a weekend. A course study guide and supporting materials are available.

Subjects covered include -

- * Boat handling under normal conditions
- * Types of boats and boating terminology
- * Required and recommended equipment
- * Boating regulations and navigation rules
- * Lines and knots
- * Adverse conditions and emergencies
- * Weather
- * Charts and aids to navigation
- * Regional boating
- * Piloting techniques
- * Engine troubleshooting
- * Fundamentals of sailing
- * Marine radiotelephone usage
- * Trailer boating
- * PWC Operation

Seamanship [S]: Building on the basics taught in the ABC Boating course, Seamanship is the recommended first course for new members, both power boaters and sailors. The student learns practical marlinespike, navigation rules, hull design and performance, responsibilities of the skipper, boat care, operating a boat under normal and abnormal conditions, what to do in various emergencies and weather conditions, nautical customs and common courtesy on the water. This course provides an introduction to the USPS educational program and a strong foundation for the other Advanced Grades courses listed on the reverse side of this handout.

Piloting [P]: Piloting introduces the fundamentals of piloting and positioning – the study of marine charts, aids to navigation, adjustment and use of the mariner's compass, dead reckoning, planning and plotting courses, and taking bearings to determine on-the- water position.

Advanced Piloting [AP]: Advanced Piloting builds on the knowledge gained in Piloting to teach how to navigate safely in coastal waters predict tides and tidal currents and their impact on boat position, advanced positioning techniques, and the use of electronic navigation systems for positioning and course planning.

Junior Navigation [JN]: Junior Navigation begins the study of offshore (open-ocean) navigation-integrated electronic positioning systems, sight taking with a mariner's sextant on the sun, moon, planets, and stars, how to reduce sights using the nautical almanac to determine position, and passage planning with special open ocean charts.

Navigation [N]: Navigation further develops the understanding of celestial navigation theory and the skills in sight taking and reduction-- additional sight reduction techniques and the orderly methods of carrying on the day's work of a navigator at sea. Of particular interest and importance is the study of offshore navigation using minimal data and/or equipment, such as when on a disabled vessel or lifeboat.

Elective Courses: Several elective courses are also available including Cruise Planning, Engine Maintenance, Instructor Development, Marine Electronics, Sail, and Weather. If you are interested in any of these elective courses – contact the Squadron Educational Officer.

As Fall Approaches – what better time to be out on the water!

Cold Water Survival Tips:

All boaters should wear a life jacket and dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Cold-water immersion causes many boating-related fatalities. It follows four stages, starting with cold shock, then swimming failure, next hypothermia and finally post-rescue collapse. Most cold-water drowning fatalities are attributed to the first two stages.

- The initial shock of cold water causes involuntary gasping making it difficult to catch your breath and many people hyperventilate, faint, and drown before they are able to calm down their breathing.
- The longer you are exposed to cold water, the more you lose your ability to move your extremities. If you haven't been able to get out of the water in 5-15 minutes you need to stop moving. Movement will deplete your energy faster and increase heat loss.
- Hypothermia is a condition in which the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Violent shivering develops which may give way to confusion and eventually cardiac arrest or unconsciousness.

If you fall in the water, in any season, you need to know cold water survival skills. Many of our nation's open waters are mountain fed, and water temperatures even in late summer can run low enough to bring on this condition under certain conditions.

It's Important to Remember:

- Don't discard clothing and dress warmly with wool clothing. Clothing layers provide some warmth that may actually assist you in fighting hypothermia. This includes shoes and hats. **A popular myth is that wet clothes will weigh you down in the water and they are actually only heavy when you are out of the water.** Wear your life jacket! This helps hold heat into the core areas of your body, and enables you to easily put yourself into the HELP position. HELP (**H**eat **E**scape **L**essening **P**osture) by drawing limbs into your body; keep armpits and groin areas protected from unnecessary exposure – a lot of heat can be lost from those areas, as well as the head.





The Lake George Power Squadron Welcomes New Member

Rory R. Russell – Kattskill Bay, NY

Bruce Stewart – Altamont, NY

Have you recruited a new member lately?
Tell your friends and neighbors all the benefits of becoming a member



Ten Tips for Clean and Green Boating

1. **Prevent oily discharges from the bilge.** Keep your engine well tuned to prevent fuel and oil leaks. Secure an oil absorbent pad or pillow in your bilge and under your engine where drips may occur. Check the pads often, do not let them clog the bilge pump, and dispose of them as hazardous waste at a marina or local hazardous waste collection center.
2. **Spill-proof your oil changes.** For oil changes, use an oil change pump to transfer oil to a spill-proof container. Wrap a plastic bag or absorbent pad around the oil filter to prevent oil from spilling into the bilge.
3. **When fueling, stop the drops!** Prevent fuel spills by filling fuel tanks slowly and using absorbent pads or rags to catch drips and spills. Don't "top off" or overflow your fuel tank. Leave the tank 10% empty to allow fuel to expand as it warms.
4. **Do not add soap.** Never use soap to disperse fuel and oil spills. It increases harm to the environment, and it is illegal.
5. **Minimize boat cleaning and maintenance in the water.** If possible, save maintenance projects for the boatyard. When performing work on the water minimize your impact by containing waste. Use tarps and vacuum sanders to collect all drips and debris for proper disposal.
6. **Reduce toxic discharges from bottom paints.** Minimize the discharge of heavy metals found in soft-sloughing antifouling paints by using a less toxic, or nontoxic antifouling paint. Use only non-abrasive underwater hull cleaning techniques to prevent excessive paint discharge. Remember, dry storage reduces the need for antifouling paints and saves money.
7. **Dispose of hazardous waste properly.** Dispose of paints, batteries, antifreeze, cleaning products, oil, oil filters and other hazardous wastes at a hazardous waste collection facility or event.
8. **Plan A-head! Manage sewage wastes properly.** Never discharge sewage. Use harbor pump-out stations and shore-side facilities. If you don't have an installed toilet, use a port-a-potty and empty it at a harbor dump station or bathroom.
9. **Stow it, don't throw it!** Keep your trash on board. Never throw cigarette butts, fishing line, or any other garbage into the ocean. Take advantage of shore-side facilities to recycle plastic, glass, metal, and paper.
10. **Reduce grey water discharges.** Use a phosphate-free biodegradable soap to minimize the impacts of grey water on the marine environment. Also minimize pump-out discharge by doing dishes and showers on shore whenever possible.