

# **LGPS**

## **SOUNDINGS**

*September-October 2012*



**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*

Dear Fellow Boaters - Well, it's almost time to put up your rigs - the time for fun and games is just about over. Now is the time to get down to business and get ready for next year. Having said that, here is a short quiz to get you thinking.

1. What is the best anchor to use for a muddy bottom?
2. What is a Genoa sail and how would you use one?
3. How do you tie a bowline knot and where could you use one?
4. What paperwork is required to enter a foreign port? [example - Bermuda]
5. What is the brightest star in the night sky?
6. What is USPS all about, anyway?

Did you know all the answers to the above questions? If not, you should consider taking a USPS course. Speak with Squadron Educational Officer P/C Donna for more information and see inside this issue for a list of USPS course offerings distributed at our Squadron Educational Meeting/Dinner in August. If you knew all the answers, just don't sit back and gloat. Do something! Help teach a course or at least provide some help with one or two sessions. Remember all USPS courses are free, the only cost to our membership is a small cost for the text/workbook. Most importantly, it's the getting together on class days that is half of the fun of taking a class!

Now for other matters: Try making time to attend an upcoming rendezvous, and bring a friend or two along with you. (you must owe someone a dinner out anyway) That is one good way to build our membership. The Executive Committee or the Bridge and the members-at-large will do their part in making the plans for a rendezvous such as meeting places and speakers which will be enjoyable and of interest. All you have to do is COME! We always welcome you with open arms and smiling faces at our meetings and rendezvous.

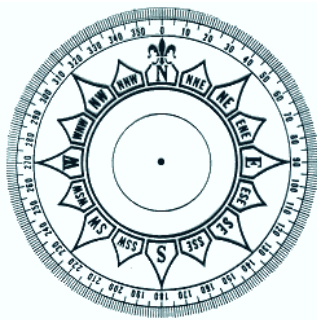
In closing, how about it... lets *ALL* pull together, we can make this work if we *ALL* try. Remember our motto - "**Let's Do It**" - with your help, I know we can.

**LAKE GEORGE POWER  
SQUADRON  
BRIDGE – EXECUTIVE MEETING  
Third Wednesday of Each Month  
Church of Good Shepard – Burnt  
Hills, NY  
1830 hours (6:30pm)**

## POINTS OF THE COMPASS

Before the Magnetic Compass was discovered, early map makers would draw a small 16 pointed circle on the map, and place an "N" to point to North. These were the 16 Cardinal Points from which the winds were thought to blow. This drawing was called a "Wind Rose." When the magnetic compass came along, it was usually set on top of the Wind Rose pattern in order to help face the nautical chart in the proper direction. The wind rose started to become known as a COMPASS ROSE.

Since the 1100's, compass bearings have been split into 16 different directions:



North - North North East - North East - East North East - East

East - East South East - South East - South South East - South

South South West - South West - West South West - West

West North West - North West - North North West - North

This was all the accuracy a Mariner's Compass had to offer then. By today's standards, it was not very accurate. As spherical mathematics improved, it became more customary to give bearings in units of "Degrees" from Geographic North. In the 1920's, it became an accepted practice to indicate direction, called HEADING or BEARING, by a single number (0 to 360) representing degrees of a circle as measured clockwise from True North.

The development of the compass instrument itself represents quite an achievement, however the actual use of this instrument is more of an art form. The Compass is not by any means a complex instrument. Anyone from 9 to 90 should be able to learn compass operation with just some practice and understanding a few simple principles.



Gerald J. & Michele Vein, Jr. – Scotia, NY

Kenneth & Evelyn Hefner Family – Saratoga Springs, NY

**Lake George Power Squadron**  
**Educational Meeting – August 22, 2012**  
**Course Offerings for 2012-13**

**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.



# United States Power Squadrons®

District 2 Fall Conference 2012  
& 75th Anniversary Celebration of  
Westchester Sail and Power Squadron  
Friday and Saturday, October 12~13, 2012

At The Doubletree by Hilton  
455 South Broadway • Tarrytown • NY  
(914) 631-5700 • (See reverse side for directions)

<b>Friday</b>	<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Registration begins</b>
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Reception for the Chief Commander and Attendees</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Dinner with the Chief Commander</b>
	<b>8:15 pm</b>	<b>Sleepy Hollow Special Events (see separate flyer &amp; choose A or B)</b> (reserve by Sept. 1)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7:00 – 9:00 am</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Registration/Coffee</b>
	<b>10 am – 3 pm</b>	<b>Sleepy Hollow Guest Program (see separate flyer)</b>
	<b>9 am – 12 noon</b>	<b>Morning Session</b>
	<b>12:00 noon</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
	<b>1:30 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Session</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Dinner and Dancing Music by live band “Someone and the Others”</b> <b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Westchester Sail and Power Squadron</b>

*Dress: Fri: USPS Blazer, Sat. meeting: Uniform G or appropriate attire. Dinner: Uniform A or evening attire.*

(DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION)-----

**REGISTRATION FORM:** First time attending a District meeting? Please check here    
**Hotel rooms: Please reserve early with Peggy (late fee applies after Oct. 1)** Confirmation will be sent via email.

First Registrant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Position \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Registrant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Night Dinner No. of guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30/person = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Night Special Event (A) \_\_\_ or (B) \_\_\_ No. of guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$16/person = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Coffee/Danish and Lunch No. of guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30/person = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Guest Program (pay lunch on own) No. of guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15/person = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday dinner dance No. of guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$68/person = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée choice (how many of each):

Breast of Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ Pan seared Halibut: \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Loins of Beef: \_\_\_\_\_

Rooms Fri. night \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. night \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_ rooms @ \$139 for 1 King ..... = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fri. night \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. night \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_ rooms @ \$144 for 2 Full ..... = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(All non-smoking) Late fee if registration is received after Oct. 1, 2012 (\$10 each).... = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION TOTAL enclosed = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Westchester Sail and Power Squadron, and mail completed form to:  
P/C Peggy Howland, 245 Rumsey Road Apt. 3J, Yonkers, NY 10701-4526 • (914) 423-0623 • peggowland@aol.com

## **IMPORTANT SAVE THE DATE**

### **USPS SEMINARS**

The Sacandaga Power Squadron is preparing to conduct USPS Seminars at the Holiday Inn of Saratoga on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for people who are available for the day as either attendees or instructors and which seminars to offer. At press time – They are scheduling a 2-hour morning seminar, a lunch break followed by a 2-hour afternoon session. The seminars they hope to offer are: Basic Weather and Forecasting, Emergencies on Board, Marine Radar, Mariner's Compass, Partner in Command, How to Use a Chart and GPS.

Please contact Robert Terry at home on (518) 842-1102, cellular at (518) 649-6190 or E-mail at **spsqsafety@nycap.rr.com** with the order of seminar preference you would like to take and if there is/are any seminar(s) that you would like to teach.

### **TRI-SQUADRON HOLIDAY PARTY**

Come help us celebrate the holidays and enjoy the season with old friends and meet new ones at this years Tri-Squadron Holiday Party – hosted by the Sacandaga Power Squadron on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm at the Vista Restaurant at the Van Patten Golf Course located at 924 Main Street – Jonesville, NY. Enjoy a fantastic brunch buffet and Chinese grab-bag game - participants are asked to bring a generic gift valued between \$10-20 – game rules will be explained at the party.

To RSVP your seat, please send an e-mail to **sacandaga@nycap.rr.com** or by calling Denise Terry at home on (518) 842-1102, cellular at (518) 649-6303 before December 8<sup>th</sup>. Cost per person \$28. Send payments to Sacandaga Power Squadron 217 Calderwood Rd – Amsterdam, NY 12010.

### **FROM**

Lake George Power Squadron  
P.O. Box 411  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027