

# **LGPS**

## **SOUNDINGS**

*July-August 2018*



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

### ***Commander Message***

*By George K. Williams, AP*

Rendezvous, according to Webster's dictionary, is defined as – “*An appointment or engagement made between two or more persons to meet at a fixed place and time.*” What it means to USPS and LGPS? A chance to get together with fellow boaters in a cozy place to enjoy a good meal (mother does not have to make it), perhaps have a guest speaker and learn what's new in our Squadron, discuss upcoming events, complain about some boating related issues and in general, just come out and have a good time!

Speaking about events, a new nationwide initiative program called “Boat Live 365” was recently launched. I have appointed P/C David Hawthorn to supervise and conduct our part in the program. Please, when he calls on your assistance just agree (say yes) or better yet, call him and volunteer before he reaches out to you at (518) 871-1331. We have had too many fatal or near fatal accidents involving anything from cruise boats to personal water craft as of late. Who knows the life you save may be your own or that of a loved one. More information on “Boat Live 365” can be found in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at our Educational Meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Church of the Good Shepard on Rt. 50 in Burnt Hills, NY. If you have any questions, I am always available at (518) 393-6414.

Lastly, everyone, enjoy a safe boating summer!

**LAKE GEORGE POWER  
SQUADRON  
BRIDGE-EXECUTIVE  
MEETING  
**NO**  
**JULY MEETING****

**SQUADRON ANNUAL  
EDUCATIONAL  
MEETING  
AUGUST 15th at 6:30pm  
Church of the Good Shepard  
Rt. 50 - Burnt Hills**



**Now Hear This...**

## **Annual Educational Meeting Planned**

The annual Squadron Educational Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30pm at the Church of the Good Shepard, Route 50 – Burnt Hills, NY. Come hear what exciting USPS courses and seminars are available for 2018-2019. We hope to see you all there!



## **Wear It! Campaign**

The Wear It! Campaign reminds boaters of the importance of boating safety, including always wearing a life jacket. The campaign is produced under a grant from the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Visit <http://www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com> for **free** resources and information that you can use for your own Wear It! outreach efforts. The upcoming National "Wear-It" Event Day is Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Reminder – Meetings at Church**

The Squadron Bridge/Executive meetings will re-convene after the summer to our regular meeting place. The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Church of the Good Shepard on Rt. 50 in Burnt Hills. The church has requested we NOT arrive prior to 6:15pm due to the church hosting of after school programs in the building and security issues.

## **Oooohhh-kkkaaayyy...**

Visitors to New York's Fort Ticonderoga were in for a special treat as locks of hair from Revolutionary War general turned traitor Benedict Arnold and his first wife, Margaret, were put on display during the season's opening weekend of May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Curator Matthew Keagle told the Associated Press Arnold's hair was recently rediscovered in the museum's collections and had been preserved by the family. The private historical site obtained the hair in the 1950's. Saving a lock of a deceased family member's hair was a common practice during the 1700's. Arnold helped capture Ft. Ticonderoga from the British during the opening weeks of the Revolutionary War.

## **Vessel Safety Check 2018**

**Vessel Safety Check Vision:** *Safe, Fun & Responsible Recreational Boating.* Call Armand at (518) 372-7220 to schedule your VSC. What are you waiting for?

## **NYS Senate and Assembly news from BoatUS**

The New York State Senate and Assembly are considering legislation, bills SB-9092 and AB-9806a, that would require **ALL** boat operators in the Empire State to complete a boating safety course within one year. Currently, only those born after May 1, 1996 must meet this requirement in New York State. While BoatUS firmly supports boater education, these bills will have an adverse impact on boating in New York State. With BoatUS as a leading advocate of boating safety for over 50 years, BoatUS recognizes the bill's proposed expansion to require education for all NYS boaters within such a short time period will be nearly impossible to meet. With limited number of approved instructors, expansion of classes to meet demand will be a challenge. And for those taking paid courses, the cost will undoubtedly increase. As the state's only authorized provider (BoatUS) of a free NY online boating safety course, it is their assessment that this legislation, SB-9092 and AB-9806a are a step back in making boater safety education more accessible for all New York boaters, sailors and anglers. BoatUS urges you to contact your representative now and ask them to oppose these bills and urge they work with BoatUS and others in the recreational boating safety community to develop smart improvements to the state's boating safety laws.

## **Navigate the Erie Canal Free for 2018 Season**

The New York State Canal Corporation invites everyone to cruise the Erie Canal for FREE all season long!

Join us for another great boating season as we continue to commemorate 200 years of Erie Canal history by marking the 100th anniversary of the current 524-mile Canal System's opening in 1918. As part of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's initiative to reimagine New York State's canals, the State is once again waiving tolls for recreational vessels all season long. From the Great Lakes to the majestic Hudson River, New York's Canal System begs to be explored. Today's canal system hums with watercraft of every kind. Travel by canoe or kayak, pontoon or packet boat, personal water craft or mega-yacht. Marinas can outfit any adventure, or launch your own craft from one of the many access points along the canal.

You can also enjoy the Canalway Trail - a 360-mile multi-use trail - much of it along the canal's former towpath - that is ideal for cycling, walking, jogging and other seasonal trail activities. And don't forget to explore all the quaint villages and farms that line the canal's western shores as well as take in canal-side and downtown shopping and dining.

There's never been a better time to experience a vital piece of New York's heritage, visit unique destinations and be a part of a history that is still being written every day. Have a great boating season.

## Introducing Boat Live 365

Boating is Serious Fun - fun comes easy, safety doesn't. The vision for Boat Live 365 is to provide a collection of educational materials and resources for recreational boating advocates. The hope is to provide more ways to help make our communities, families and friends safer on the water. To do that we are providing resources for several areas of boating safety, covering safety all year long.

Boat Live 365 is bigger than a campaign. It is a movement that empowers recreational boating advocates to create a safe-boating culture 365 days a year through public outreach focused on lowering the rate of boating accidents, incidents and fatalities nationwide. Boating is fun, but it's serious fun. Together we will make our waters safer. Visit our <https://boatlive365.org/resources/> to start making your boating community safer today.

## Boating Wasted is Wasted Boating!

Unfortunately, too many people think boating and drinking alcohol (or taking drugs) go together. "It's a party on the water" or "It's easy to steer a boat." Those excuses couldn't be further from the truth and it makes for a very dangerous cocktail. The blood-alcohol levels for boating under the influence (BUI) usually follow a state's DUI laws. In New York State "*boating while intoxicated*" is defined as having a blood alcohol concentration, or BAC of 0.08% or higher. But one major factor that also adds to the dangers of drinking and boating is BOATER FATIGUE.

Balancing and adjusting on a pitching boat causes muscles to tense and relax in an effort to maintain equilibrium. This constant motion combined with extended sun exposure leads to physical fatigue that magnifies the effect of alcohol as well as illegal and some prescription drugs.

Passengers are also affected by these factors and are exposed to the specific potential dangers that come with boating. For example, an impaired passenger is much more likely to fall out of a moving boat than a car. They are also more likely to make bad decisions like approaching a boat near the propeller while swimming. Add to all that, the reason drinking and boating can be more dangerous than drinking and driving is the complete opposite of why people think it's less dangerous ... the rules of the water are perceived to be "looser." There are no lanes you need to stay in or specific speed limits you need to observe. When people don't observe, or know, the rules and their judgment is impaired they tend to make bad decisions.

**SOLUTION:** Lead by example. We can't expect others to change if we haven't. Educate, don't lecture. When we know better, we do better. It's important to stress the dangers of BUI and educate our fellow boaters about the additional contributing factors (boater fatigue) that further impair judgment on the water. Review <https://boatlive365.org/boating-wasted-bui/> for downloadable and shareable information. If your day on the water involves alcohol, please designate a safe skipper. But don't make it a job, make it something more. Consider making their favorite boating food, just for them (e.g., decadent cookies or that perfectly creamy macaroni salad). Find ways to incentivize your skippers. Keep in mind, the more educated boaters you know, the larger the pool of people who can take turns being safe skippers.