

LGPS

SOUNDINGS

September-October 2019



Commander Message

By David Hawthorne

I'll start out by hoping all our sailing and boating members are having an enjoyable season!

Keeping our summer-season activities enjoyable is not always a "given". The occasional unforeseen problem will, of course, happen. One more reason to partake in the many USPS courses available to prepare for the mechanical and operational snags that we all hope will never happen. Knowing what to do when there is a problem (and you have a boat-load of guests) is what keeps the day moving along and enjoyable as well as reassuring everyone on board, they're in good hands! Those of us that are lucky enough to be on the water during the coming foliage season know of the fabulous scenery that can be enjoyed from the water. Some areas are simply inaccessible by roads and can only be viewed from a boat. You know the places I mean! These are the things to be shared with friends and family that make all your investments in boating worthwhile.

Lake George Park Commission Executive Director David Wick spoke at our recent educational meeting and rendezvous on August 11th about various programs pertinent to maintaining the quality and safety of Lake George. A newsworthy and current topic on our namesake Lake George is the recent kayaking and parasailing incidents that are prompting the implementing of new safety measures. Mr. Wicks discussed the concerns for rental kayaks and improving their visibility on the lake. Additional improvements to the safety of the parasailing attractions, are another concerns to be addressed by the Park Commission. Parasail rides have been operating for many years on Lake George and generally without incident but now discussions are for requiring more than just the operator's good judgement.

We'll have to stay tuned for more details as these topics progress. All for now!
Have fun and be safe.

**LAKE GEORGE POWER
SQUADRON
BRIDGE-EXECUTIVE
MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30pm
Church of the Good Shepard
Rt. 50 Burnt Hills**

**LAKE GEORGE POWER
SQUADRON
BRIDGE-EXECUTIVE
MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30pm
Church of the Good Shepard
Rt. 50 Burnt Hills**



Now Hear This...

Annual Educational Meeting/Rendezvous a Success



The annual Squadron Educational Meeting was held on Sunday, August 11th at 2:00pm at the Boathouse Restaurant on Lake George.

A number of our members opted to arrive by boat with dock space

easily accessible. Squadron Educational Officer P/C Donna S. Canestraro discussed the many exciting USPS courses and seminars that are available for 2019-2020 and provided participants with a handout of course descriptions also included in this issue of Soundings.

We also had a returning guest speaker, David Wicks, Executive Director, Lake George Park Commission address our small group providing an update from the Commission. Lunch was delicious as is customary at the Boathouse. If you could not make it and would like information as to USPS course offerings, please contact Donna at (518) 372-7220.

Reminder – Bridge/Executive Meetings at Church

The Squadron Bridge/Executive meetings will be held at our regular meeting place until further notice. The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30pm and the October meeting on Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30pm in the Church of the Good Shepard on Rt. 50 in Burnt Hills. The church reminds us that we NOT arrive prior to 6:15 pm due to the church hosting after-school programs in the building and security issues.

Vessel Safety Check 2019

Vessel Safety Check Vision: *Safe, Fun & Responsible Recreational Boating.* There is still time to arrange for a 2019 Vessel Safety Check - call Armand at (518) 372-7220 to schedule. He has had a busy year on and off the lake with VSC's this year and is available for at home or marina inspection visits. What are you waiting for – call today!

Using a Watch as a Compass



To use your watch as an approximate compass outside of the tropics in the northern hemisphere, hold the watch horizontal and point the hour hand at the sun.

Half way between that point and the twelve o'clock mark on your watch points to the south. For example, if it is eight o'clock, point the 8 on the watch face at the sun and south would be at the ten o'clock position. If it is four o'clock, point the 4 on the watch face at the sun and south would be in the two o'clock position. At midday (twelve o'clock), the hour hand itself should point south.

The method of halving the angle between the hour hand and the twelve o'clock watch position is required since the earth rotates once in a day, but the hour hand goes around the clock face twice.

In the southern hemisphere, hold the watch horizontal and point the twelve o'clock mark in the direction of the sun. The north-south line is half way between the hour hand and the twelve o'clock mark.

Using a watch to determine direction within the tropics is more complicated, since there are two solar maxima. The sun may lie to the north or south (or at midday be directly overhead), depending upon the time of the year.

Because time on our planet is divided into 24 broad time zones, the sun is not normally directly south or at its highest point in the sky at exactly midday. The watch-as-compass method is therefore an approximate guide to direction only. The most exact method of finding direction without using a compass is to mark and measure the shadows that occur around midday. The shortest shadow cast by an object always points exactly north.

To find where the sun is on a cloudy day, hold a pencil or stick upright over a light piece of paper or a lighter part of the ground. The stick or pencil will cast some kind of shadow, indicating the position of the sun.

Squadron Educational Meeting Course Offerings for 2019-20

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.

Course Offerings Continued

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 P/C Donna Canestraro at (518) 372-7220 to order materials.

These seminars are available now.

- [**Advanced Powerboat Handling**](#)
- [**Anchoring**](#)
- [**Basic Coastal Navigation**](#)
- [**Basic Weather and Forecasting**](#)
- [**Boat Handling under Power**](#)
- [**Boating on Rivers, Locks and Lakes**](#)
- [**Crossing Borders**](#)
- [**Emergencies on Board**](#)
- [**Fuel and Boating**](#)
- [**How to Use a Chart**](#)
- [**Hurricane Preparation for Boaters**](#)
- [**Knots, Bends and Hitches**](#)
- [**Man Overboard**](#)
- [**Marine RADAR**](#)
- [**Mariner's Compass**](#)
- [**Mastering the Rules of the Road**](#)
- [**Paddle Smart**](#)
- [**Partner in Command**](#)
- [**Practical On The Water Training**](#)
- [**Sail Trim and Rig Tuning**](#)
- [**Tides and Currents**](#)
- [**Trailer Your Boat**](#)
- [**Using GPS**](#)
- [**Using VHF & VHF/DSC Marine Radio**](#)