

# *LGPS*

# *SOUNDINGS*

*July - August 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*

Dear Squadron Members,

Summer has arrived. Our boats are out of their winter storage places and once again our families are ready for yet another enjoyable summer season. Let's all be safe while out on the water.

I have a question for you. Here is a situation. You are cruising at 12 knots out in the middle of Lake George. It's a beautiful summer day, not a cloud in sight making for a wonderful time on the water -- suddenly your engine makes a loud noise and dies. What do you do? Unlike with our cars, we just cannot pull over to the side, turn on our flashers, pop open the hood, and tie a white cloth on to your antenna and call AAA road service - that won't work! Do you have an idea what to do or look for? If you took the Squadron engine maintenance course you would know exactly what to look for as well as which tools you may need and how to use them to hopefully get that engine humming along once again. The course will also come in handy if you needed to get expert help as well providing you the knowledge to speak to the repair person in a more intelligent manner. I wish you all a trouble free cruising season.

As a quick reminder, there will be NO Bridge/Executive meetings scheduled during July and August. I hope you will all mark your calendar to attend our upcoming "Educational Meeting" where Educational Officer P/C Donna Canestraro will let us know about the many courses continually being offered through USPS. Have a safe summer – see you on August 14th!

### **Upcoming Educational Meeting**

**August 14th, 2013**

**5:30 PM**

#### **Northsiders Pub**

(old Jimmy Dee's)

402 Meriline Avenue

across from Wayside

Hardware and Garden Center

(for directions 372-2400)

Come and learn what courses  
are available to you as members and enjoy  
a light dinner and refreshing beverage

We will order off the menu – separate  
checks

**Please RSVP by calling Donna at  
372-7220 to reserve your seat**

### **LAKE GEORGE POWER SQUADRON BRIDGE – EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**PLEASE NOTE  
NO MEETINGS DURING  
JULY OR AUGUST**

**Next meeting is Wednesday,  
September 18th, 2013**

**Route 50**

**Church of The Good Shepard  
Burnt Hills**

**1830 Hours (6:30 PM)**

## June 2013: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wettest on Record in Capital Area

Our humid, showery pattern continues to grind in place as the area is essentially trapped between high pressure to the east and a low pressure trough to our west. Here are the latest statistics from the National Weather Service office in Albany, NY:

8.68 inches of rain during June 2013, making it the third wettest June since records have been kept dating back to 1826. The first place record holder of 8.74 inches was in June 2006. So, we asked, was May 2013 any drier? NO, as a matter of fact, the month of May held the record for the 9<sup>th</sup> wettest month of May on record since 1826 totaling 6.65 inches of rain being recorded. In total, the capital region has received a May-June two-month total rainfall of 15.33 inches.

### Was that RED-RIGHT-RETURNING?



A view of the dam gates at Lock E-11  
Photo courtesy of Wayne McManus "MY Help Me Rhonda"

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### TOWING OF WATER TOYS:

When a person is being towed, there must be a spotter on board who can monitor the towing activity at all times? TRUE or FALSE

The answer is **TRUE**

There must also be a seat available for the person being towed just in case recovery is necessary. This is especially true with regard to personal watercraft. When you're out towing someone, there are some other considerations for safeguarding the person being towed and to help maintain the environment.

- Don't run parallel to the shore in shallow water to drop the person off. Keep your distance and let the person swing to shore.
- When picking up someone who has fallen into the water while being towed, turn off the engine before approaching closely.

### FUELING:

You must run your blower for at least four minutes before each startup? TRUE or FALSE

The answer is **TRUE**

You are required by law to run the blower for at least 4 minutes before every start up. This is especially important after re-fueling because fuel vapors can build up in an enclosed space like a bilge and ignite with "explosive" consequences. Another good practice after refueling is to open your engine hatch. This will aid in ventilation and you can check for gas fumes. If you detect any, don't start the engines - find the source of the problem and have it fixed. Finally, while the blower is still running, check the air it's exhausting. Sniff to verify that there are no fuel vapors present, and hold something light (a small piece of paper) in front of the vent. If it's blowing plenty of air, you'll know the blower is doing its job.

### PERSONAL FLOATION DEVICES (PFD's)

All boats are required to carry one approved life jacket or PFD - appropriately sized - for each person on board? TRUE or FALSE

The answer is **TRUE**

However, there are a number of exceptions. For example, inflatable PFD's are not approved for persons under 16 years of age or for persons weighing less than 36.3 kg. There are also a number of on-the-water activities and vessels for which inflatable PFD's are not approved. Details can be found in the Safe Boating Guide. There are two types of inflatable PFD's - automatic and manual. Manual operation is simple. The replaceable CO2 cartridge is activated by pulling an inflator toggle. Inflatable PFD's are great – they are comfortable and you barely notice that you're wearing them. So now there is no reason not to wear a PFD every time you're on the water!

## **Why are we members of LGPS? THE ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Lake George Power Squadron and United States Power Squadrons® provides many unique "benefits"

- Self-Paced Boating Education featuring Advanced Grades Courses, Elective Courses and Educational Awards (Squadron Educational Meeting is August xx – see front page for details and to RSVP)
- Low-cost, high-quality educational materials
- On-the-water activities with other safe and friendly boating enthusiasts
- Dinner Meetings, Picnics, and Special Events
- Civic Assistance Opportunities such as the Public Boating Safety Courses and Vessel Safety Checks
- USPS® Boat Insurance
- Opportunity to join BoatUS® at reduced membership cost
- Periodical Publications - The USPS® Ensign and LGPS Soundings (our newsletter)

Other advantages are abundant. Not the least of which is the camaraderie between members of such a wonderful and important boating safety organization. Your fellow members are always available to help you with boating-related questions – all you need to do is ASK!

For more information, visit the United States Power Squadrons® website right now.

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### **UPCOMING DISTRICT 2 EVENTS/MEETINGS**

<p>September 21, 2013 Summer Council I-84 Diner 853 Route 52 and Interstate 84 Fishkill, New York Exit 12 off of Interstate 84</p> <p>For details call 413-442-8984</p>	<p>November 8-10, 2013 Fall Conference Hosted by Berkshire Sail &amp; Power Squadron The Williams Inn Williamstown, MA</p> <p>For details call 413-442-8984</p>
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The Lake George Power Squadron Welcomes New Member

**David A. Meixner – Voorheesville, NY**

**Kevin and Laura Strainer – Greenwich, NY**

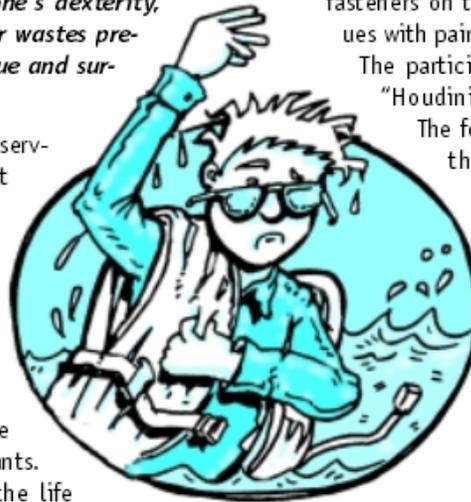
**John Ives and Cathy Pettigrew – Voorheesville, NY**



## **On Water Activity Houdini in Reverse**

*Seth shows what our next in-water activity is about— putting a life jacket on in water isn't easy. Aside from wet clothing interfering with one's dexterity, putting on a life jacket in water wastes precious time and energy when rescue and survival are most important.*

**Activity:** With plenty of safety observers and participants with competent swimming abilities, select only two contestants at a time. After the participants are in the water, instruct them they are in a race for their lives. They've just fallen overboard and were not wearing life jackets. At the sound of a whistle, life jackets are thrown three to five feet in front of the participants. Each participant must first, get the life jacket; second, put it on; and third, have it



properly buckled. To promote a level playing field, it's recommended each participant have the same type and same fasteners on their life jackets. The challenge continues with pairs of contestants and their posted times. The participant with the lowest time is crowned "Houdini of the Pool."

The follow-up to this crowning is the lesson that as a matter of survival when thrown or falling overboard, trying to put a life jacket on in water is a tremendous waste of time, energy and not something everyone is athletically-inclined to accomplish.

**Purpose:** To show that an integral part of boating safety is to...boat smart from the start and ALWAYS wear your life jacket.



## Tips for selecting the right life jacket

*"It Can't Save You If You Won't Wear It"*

USCG Life Jacket Buoyancy Requirements inherent / inflatable by Type	
Type I	22 lbs / 34 lbs buoyancy
Type II	15.5 lbs / 34 lbs buoyancy
Type III	15.5 lbs / 22.5 lbs buoyancy
Type V	15.5-22 lbs / 22.5-34 lbs buoyancy
ISO Life Jacket/Buoyancy Aid Requirements (N=Newton)	
50N ISO	5 kg / 11 lbs buoyancy
100N ISO	10 kg / 22 lbs buoyancy
150N ISO	15 kg / 34 lbs buoyancy
275N ISO	27.5 kg / 63 lbs buoyancy

- Select a jacket based on your intended activity. Check out the label on the jacket or marketing material to see if it appropriate for your intended use.
- Purchase a jacket that is sized for you, not a "universal" fit. Make your life jacket a piece of personal safety gear, and not intended general use.
- The more adjustments, the better they tend to fit. However, the more adjustments there are, the harder they are to get into. Also, extra buckles and straps can snag.
- A comfortable fit is paramount. If it's not comfortable, you won't wear it. If boating in hot weather, consider an inflatable life jacket. If boating in the cold, consider a float coat.
- Consider a crotch strap. Even though it sounds uncomfortable, every life jacket with a crotch strap performed well – it keeps the life jacket from riding up in the water.
- You don't have to look like a geek. There are a ton of new designs that border on 'safety chic', especially those offered by European designers.
- Know the laws regarding use and approval of life jackets. In the United States, there must be a properly sized life jacket for each person aboard a recreational vessel. Depending on age, type of jacket you have, time of year, where you boat, and what type of boating, you may be required to wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket.

**Choose the Right PFD and Wear It**



**Annual Educational Meeting  
August 14<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm (1730hrs)**

**NORTHSIDERS PUB  
402 Meriline Avenue  
Scotia, NY**

across from Wayside Hardware and Garden Center  
Route 147 – Sacandaga Road  
(for directions please call 372-2400)

**Come and learn what courses  
are available to you as members and  
enjoy a light dinner and refreshing  
beverage**

**We will order off the menu – separate checks**

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