

LGPS SOUNDINGS

May – June 2014



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

Commander Message *Cmdr. Armand Canestraro, P*

Dear Squadron Members – Thank you for your continued support and vote of confidence in nominating me to be the Squadron Commander for 2014-15. The annual Change of Watch was held on Sunday, April 27th and together with the entire Bridge, we are excited to begin yet another chapter in the Squadron's history. For those unable to attend, below are the highlights of our goals for 2014-15. The goals we need to accomplish this coming year while at first glance may appear beyond the horizon, but are very much attainable through our continued hard work and dedication.

First.... We must realize that we have become, as most other Squadron have as well, an “aged” Squadron - With a decline in membership, both here at Lake George and at District and National levels, I propose each Lake George member, make an effort to bring one new member to our squadron this coming year. These new members are dock mates at the marina, a neighbor with a trailer boat, a personal water craft, or perhaps a business associate who just loves everything about a beautiful day out on the water in their boat. Tell them of the many benefits this Squadron has to offer such as our educational programs, social gatherings and a place to share boating experiences. Also, let's not forget to tell them of that insurance policy discount – especially in times of rising insurance costs.

Secondly... I propose that the Squadron create a Commanders Vessel Safety Club. Each squadron member who owns a boat or watercraft, should, I mean must, request a Vessel Safety Examination. What better place to promote vessel safety, but at home with our membership. Hopefully, by displaying the VSC decal on your boat, it will have others you encounter on your cruises or at the marina asking what it's all about. We have VSE here at Lake George – let's keep them (Kevin and I) busy this boating season. Last year alone, we inspected 20 plus vessels – let's try to double that number this year.

Thirdly... With the assistance of Alice, our newly elected Administrative Officer, together with her ideas and suggestion, the 2014-15 Bridge hopes to continue to offer adventurous outings especially on and around the Queen of American Lakes from which this Squadron derives our name. Please contact Alice with any suggestion you may have – nothing is too small or out of the question. Alice will be more than willing to work with you.

And Lastly... We should all continue to remain involved, and further promote an active membership roster. Reach out and attend a meeting or event, maybe even serve on a committee. We really need your help! I would like to thank each and every one of you who has been a part of these past years, and will be a part of the coming year. After all, it is the enthusiasm and participation of each of you, each member, who makes this Squadron a great organization to be a part of. Thank you again for coming out today and I look forward to an exciting year here at Lake George.

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

Wednesday, June 18th
to be held at the
Church of the Good Shepard
Rt. 50 - Burnt Hills.



CHANGE OF WATCH – ANNUAL MEETING - COMMANDERS BRUNCH A SUCCESS

The Squadron's Change of Watch, Annual Meeting and Commanders Brunch was held at 1300hrs (1:00pm) on April 27th at The Edison Club in Rexford. The attendees enjoyed a scrumptious brunch consisting of assorted juices, a variety of baked goods and fresh fruits, French toast, bacon and sausage, with lunch items including Baked Ziti Marinara and Stuffed Fillet of Sole. Dessert featured Crispy Banana Crepes with Caramel and vanilla ice cream.

Once again we had a small but representative showing by LGPS members who faithfully attend our functions. Also in attendance were Past District Two Commander Lacey Williams who also officiated at our Change of Watch and his wife Janet as well as P/C Robert Terry representing both the Sacandaga Squadron and more importantly his wife Denise, our current District 2 Commander who was unable to attend.

After hearing the Secretary's Report presented by Lt. David Wilkinson (copy reprinted in this newsletter) the group heard from Squadron Treasurer Lt/C Max Gollmer reporting that the Squadrons finances had been successfully audited and it was on a solid financial ground. P/D/C Lacey Williams next discharged the 2013-14 Squadron Committees and Bridge, and swore in the new Commander together with the Bridge Officers for the 2014-15 command year. Those officers are as follows: Commander, Armand Canestraro, P; Executive Officer, Anthony J. Rozek, P; Administrative Officer, Alice Rozek; Squadron Educational Officer P/C Donna S. Canestraro, S; Secretary Lt. David J. Wilkinson, S and Treasurer, Lt/C Max Gollmer, AP. Members-at-Large for 2014-15 are: P/C John R. Jermano, AP; David J. Hawthorne and George K. Williams, AP.

At the close of the meeting, Commander Canestraro presented outgoing Commander Williams with a handmade scrolling chart box in appreciation of his year of service to the Squadron. George thanked each of his Bridge members with small satchels that he sewed himself.

CONGRATULATIONS JOE SHARKEY 50 YEARS WITH LGPS

Lake George Power Squadron member, E. Joseph Sharkey, Jr. P was honored at the recent District 2 conference held at the Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn in April. Joe achieved 50 years of membership with Lake George this past year and was presented a 50-year pin and plaque to commemorate his accomplishment. Pictured below, Joe Sharkey proudly displays his 50 year plaque with Cmdr. Williams



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CHANGE OF WATCH PRESENTATION



Outgoing Commander Williams accepts his outgoing commander gift from member Jay Russell at the annual Change of Watch – Commanders Brunch held at the Edison Club on April 27th. Jay personally commissioned the scroll chart-box containing the official Lake George navigation chart produced by the Squadron for the COW presentation.

There exists the opportunity that the woodshop can produce additional boxes for the Squadron. Should the membership be interested in purchasing additional boxes we will need to determine a cost per unit, but will first have to determine how many units we will need. Please call Armand at 372-7220 and let him know your interest in owning a LGPS navigation chart scroll box.

Safe Boating Week End Catskill, NY

Saturday May 17, 2014 11:00 AM

FREE Vessel Safety Checks at Hop-O-Nose Boat Club



Find out if your vessel is properly equipped for safe operation.

United States Power Squadrons certified Vessel Safety Examiners will check your boat for proper registration, lights, personal flotation devices, distress signals, fire extinguishers, etc. Boats passing inspection will receive a 2014 VSC decal. Boats failing the VSC will receive a list of what they need to pass.

Sunday May 18, 2014 2:00 – 6:00 PM Rain or Shine
FLARE – UP at Dutchman’s Landing Park

FREE Hands-On instruction in use of Fire Extinguishers and Emergency Flares

Bring your old fire extinguishers

Put out a real fire with a fire extinguisher and learn to safely use hand held and aerial flares under the guidance of experienced USPS instructors.

Bring your expired flares for safe disposal during this event –

Display of emergency signals at other times is illegal.

Boating Safety Displays



Sponsored by

Sacandaga Power Squadron
Mohawk-Hudson Sail & Power Squadron
Hop-O-Nose Boat Club
Mohawk-Hudson Council of Yacht Clubs



For more information, e-mail Sacandaga@nycap.rr.com

ANNUAL 2014 SECRETARY'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Total Members	69
New Members	0
Active Members	64
Additional Active	15
Life Members	5
Women Certificate Holders	4
Senior Members	18
New Senior Members	0
Junior Members	0\
Deceased Members	1
Associate Members	1
Transferred to LGPS	0
Achieved 50 years of Membership	2
Received Merit Marks	29

COURSES AND ACTIVITES

America's Boating Course – 3rd Edition

Monthly meetings of Executive Committee and Bridge

Vessel Safety Inspections

Member day and overnight raft-ups

Navigation chart distribution

Dealer boat show participation

Waterford Tug Boat Rally

Annual August Educational Meeting

Tri-Squadron holiday party participation

TWELVE TOP DOCKING TIPS

Here are 12 tips that will not only make you better at close-quarters maneuvering and docking, but will also make you a better all-around boater. Remember, the cardinal rule of docking is never approach the dock faster than you are willing to hit it.

1. Come Up With a Plan

First and foremost, you must be aware of how your boat handles, particularly at bare steerageway. The more comfortable you become, the more confident you'll be when trying to slip it into a tight space in a jammed marina.

2. Learn How to Use Wind and Current to Your Advantage

When docking in a tough spot, wind and current coupled with knowledge of how they affect your boat plus situational awareness can serve you better than an army of deck hands.

3. Dockmaster Docking Tip

The first line to toss is your spring line, with a loop fed through your boat's cleat.

4. Warped Thinking

Perfect the technique of "warping" to help you get out of tight docking situations.

5. Leeward Lines First

Remove the lines on the downward side first, since only the lines to weather are holding your boat in position.

6. Using Reverse

Learn how to make a reversing propeller your best friend and minimize stress and aggravation when docking.

7. Watch Your Speed

Minimal throttle, simply idling in gear, is the best speed for virtually every docking situation.

8. Stepping Up

A dock hand will often step up onto a tied line, holding onto the boat for balance, and use the weight of their body to bring the boat in closer.

9. Controlled Docking

The secret to "parallel parking" in a tight space is in knowing how to use the spring cleat properly.

10. Toss a Line

With a coil in each hand, step into a sidearm throwing motion, releasing when the coils are about shoulder high.

11. Hung Up

Your boat can't just be tied tight. You have to allow for the rise and fall of the water lest the boat be left hanging by its lines at low tide or pulled under by its lines at high tide. (especially helpful for our members boating on tidal waters)

12. Make Small Steering and Throttle Corrections

Use just enough throttle to move forward slowly, and if you need to shift to one side or the other, use small steering adjustments and wait for them to take effect before feeding in more.