

LGPS SOUNDINGS



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

January – February 2012

Commander Message

By Cmdr. Donna S. Canestraro, S

On February 2nd we will focus our attention to the tiny town of Punxsutawney Pennsylvania where in the wee hours of the morning, before the sun can actually cast a shadow, cynics will point out that the big moment has arrived. Tradition holds that if it is a cloudy day, a famous groundhog named Phil will emerge from his burrow signaling that winter will soon end. If it is sunny and Phil sees his shadow and retreats back into his burrow, winter weather will continue for six more weeks. Let's hope he signals an early spring so we can start to plan our next boating season!

The Nominating Committee had the largest task this past month as they secured the slate of officers to carry the Squadron into the next year. We are still looking for a few members to fill out our slate so, if you, or someone you know might be inclined to pitch in and help by assuming one of the Bridge Officer positions, please contact either P/C George Williams at 393-6414 or P/C Armand Canestraro at 372-7220. If you would like to know more about the duties and time commitment, please do not hesitate to call for it is minimal and your time and talent are very much needed to support our Squadron. Thank you to all those members who have committed to accepting a position for the upcoming 2012-13 Squadron Command year.

The Great Upstate Boat Show has announced its spring 2012 dates. This years show will be held on March 30th, 31st and April 1st at the Adirondack Sports Complex located at 326 Sherman Avenue, minutes from Northway Exit 18 in Queensbury. Once again, Robert Terry is coordinating a USPS Tri-Squadron exhibit booth. Any help you can provide Robert with set-up and booth duty will be appreciated. For more information, contact Robert at (518) 842-1102 or e-mail him at love2boatny@nycap.rr.com. Enclosed you will find a coupon for \$2.00 off regular admission.

Recently discussed projects at past Bridge meetings have included the following for the upcoming Spring/Summer 2012 year. The first is to donate to the Village of Bolton, for installation at their public docks, two fire pedestals, which will be identical to those donated to the Village of Lake George last spring. The Bridge will poll the membership for approval of this expenditure from the treasury to make yet another contribution to safe boating on the lake. The second project is a clean water initiative for boats on Lake George. This project entails the Squadron providing oil absorption bilge bags to Lake George boaters. The Squadron has identified a funding source to which we will request a grant in order to underwrite the expense of this project. The Squadron will be submitting a grant application in early May. If you have experience in grant application writing, please contact me as soon as possible so we may begin the process.

Lastly, the time is fast approaching for this year's Squadron Annual Meeting and Commander's Brunch. The Bridge has discussed and recently decided to conduct the Squadron Annual Meeting that is traditionally held in **March at the same time of the Commander's Brunch together with our Change of Watch in April**. Therefore, the Annual Meeting, The Commander's Brunch and the Squadron Change of Watch will be held on April 22nd. We have selected the Edison Club, in Rexford NY as the location for this combined event. Each member will receive shortly an invitation to this function. Again, the cost associated with attending the Commanders Brunch will be funded by the Squadron for any active member. The cost per guest will be a reasonable \$25.00 per person. In closing, on behalf of the entire Bridge, we hope to see you all at the Commander's Brunch and Annual Meeting in April. Stay warm and be safe!

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

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012
Church of Good Shepard –
Burnt Hills, NY
1830 hours (6:30pm)**

**“BETTER THAN
EVER FOR 2012!”**



\$2^{off}
admission
**with
this coupon**

Adirondack Sports Complex
326 Sherman Ave. • Queensbury, NY
7 minutes from Northway Exit 18

Admission *8 Adults
Children Under 12 Free (With Parent)
Friday - 2 For 1 Admission

MARCH 30th - APRIL 1st, 2012

Print this coupon and bring with you to redeem at the box office. No other discounts apply.

Change of Watch – Commanders Brunch
April 22, 2012 – 1:00PM (1300hrs)
Edison Club – 891 River Road – Rexford, NY

Slate of Nominees
Lake George Power Squadron
Command Year - 2012-2013

Bridge Officers

Commander – P/C George K. Williams, AP
Executive Officer – P/C Armand Canestraro, P
Administrative Officer – position open
Secretary – Lt/C David J. Wilkinson, S
Treasurer – Lt/C Max Gollmer, AP

Squadron Education Officer

P/C Donna S. Canestraro, S

Members at Large

Anthony J. Rozek, P
David J. Hawthorne
P/C John J. Jermano
one position open

Budget & Finance Committee

P/Lt/C David T. Stafford, AP – 3 year term

The Bridge office of “Administrative Officer” and one position of “Member-at-Large” still remain unfilled at the time this newsletter was printed – if you are interested in serving in either capacity, please contact P/C Armand Canestraro at 372-7220 or P/C George Williams at 393-6414 to volunteer.

Respectfully submitted – Nomination Committee

The Truth is Hard to Swallow

By Commander Donna S. Canestraro, S

*Arthur Schopenhauer once said ~ **Every truth passes through three stages before it is recognized. In the first, it is ridiculed, in the second it is opposed, in the third it is regarded as self-evident.***

My dear friends and fellow long-time members, the truth I pen today is that the Lake George Power Squadron is in a slow downhill spiral. LGPS has remained operational today thanks to a core group of approximately a dozen dedicated members. In the last 5 to 10 years, the membership has gone from 100+ members to barely 50 members as is evident in our roster. Mostly, we have become an aged organization. We have not lost members due to resignation but to death. In the past we could boast one of the most inventive and creative memberships of any Squadron with the likes of inventors like Kenneth T. and Thelma P. Lally, James Lafferty, Milt Bloomer and others the likes of these inventive folks. All dedicated to the core values and beliefs of the importance of safe boating. Many of whom have served in the past, and today unable due to health, infirmity and non-mobility cannot participate as they would enjoy to.

The question at hand is how do we increase membership and most importantly retain membership and encourage members to become active participants? What does active participation look like? It may be as simple as offering of your time and talent to attend a Rendezvous, or suggest/plan and host an event that you think others would be interested in, or sharing your knowledge by teaching a class or attending a class that is offered. I can't help but ask each of you - When was the last Rendezvous you attended? When did you last participate in teaching or taking a class? Volunteer to serve on a committee or Bridge for a year? How do I or the Bridge encourage you to become active again?

If you look at our roster or newsletter you will see the same names appearing over and over, year to year in key Squadron positions. It is becoming evident that this Squadron, without "your help", your "stepping up", will meet its demise. Why you ask? Without volunteers ready to take a leadership position, we are no longer a Squadron. Unless the Squadron (you are the Squadron) becomes involved beyond payment of dues by helping to encourage and recruit younger members and families to continue the many traditions we all hold dear - the *Truth* "will" be *Hard to Swallow*.

Do I have a solution to this problem? Unfortunately, no, so I am looking to you our creative, dedicated membership to help stem the tide otherwise we will be writing our own ending. Please consider giving of your free time, your talent, a small commitment to help reverse the spiral and start us back on the road to prosperity!

**Lake George Power Squadron
Commanders Brunch
Change of Watch
and
Squadron Annual Meeting
Sunday – April 22, 2012
1:00pm to 4:00pm
Edison Room at The Edison Club
891 River Road
Rexford, NY 12148
(518) 399-2393**

Mark your calendar for this combined event. Come and enjoy a delicious Brunch/Buffer and partake in the Squadron Annual Meeting and Change of Watch. An invitation will be sent shortly under a separate mailing to all LGPS members. The Commanders Brunch again this year will be a FREE event for ALL active Squadron Members. Guests are welcomed at \$25.00 per person. Please follow the directions in the invitation you will receive shortly as to how you can RSVP your seat.

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Sunscreen Changes for Boaters....

In August of 1978, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced it would be making rules to govern the labeling of sunscreen, writing in the Federal Register that "the issue is important and requires careful study." That study took 33 years; new rules were announced during June 2011. Among the new labeling requirements, as of the summer of 2012, manufacturers may no longer claim that sunscreen is "waterproof" or "sweatproof", or call their product "sunblock." Water-resistance claims must be backed by testing, and any product alleging to provide instant or extended protection from the sun must submit data to back those claims. All sunscreens will need a "drug facts" label on the container. Sunscreens claiming to be "broad-spectrum", that is, blocking both UVA and UVB types of ultraviolet light, will need to pass an FDA test to verify it, and only those passing will be able to claim to reduce the risk of skin cancer. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends using broad-spectrum sunscreen of at least SPF-30, even on cloudy days, and (no matter what it says on the label) reapplying it every two hours or after swimming.

The Tri-Squadron Holiday Party was held on December 18th at the Vista Restaurant located on the beautiful grounds of the Van Patten Golf Course in Jonesville. Unfortunately, the invitation for the party was late in arriving and many Lake George Squadron members were unavailable to attend. Thanks to both Tracey and David Hawthorne for representing the Squadron at this event. Photos courtesy of David Hawthorne.



P/C Gary Law enjoys a conversation with others at the Tri-Squadron Holiday Party.



D/C Lacey Williams, P/C Robert Terry and D/Lt/C George Hallenbeck share a moment together.



Lake George members Tracey and David Hawthorne pause for a photo opportunity.



Lake George member Tracey Hawthorne admires her party gift as Denise Terry and others looking on.

Congratulations Mohawk-Hudson Power Squadron Member Clarkson B. Farnsworth – 90 Years Young

By P/C John Jermano, SYC Historian, with assistance from P/C Milt Bloomer
and details noted in Mark Berghold's article entitled "The Hillside:"one man's junk"

On Sunday, January 15th, the Schenectady Yacht Club (SYC) celebrated Clarkson B. Farnsworth's 90th birthday. The party was held at the Rexford clubhouse. SYC members went all out under the oversight of Frank and June Beyer and provided a wonderful party of its membership and others, including representation from the Bridge of the Mohawk-Hudson Council of Yacht Clubs, Inc. Clarkson will be installed as the Council's Commodore at the Change-of-Watch in March 2012. U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer (retired) Clarkson Farnsworth of Scotia has been a member of SYC since 1952. A Past Commodore of SYC twice, first in 1960 and again in 1991, he has been a source of inspiration and leadership to the club which has evolved into a first-class facility for powerboat owners/operators who promote cruising along the modern version of the Erie Canal. Organized and run by the membership, SYC also provides fuel, dockage, pump-outs, haul-outs and storage for the boating public along the Canal.

At a meeting of semi-retired and retired Navy Chief Petty Officers in 1999, Clark Farnsworth heard about the project to restore the Destroyer Escort USS Slater (DE-766) to her WW II condition using as much original material as possible. The project had begun two years earlier. Many of the restoration's volunteers had served on board similar DE's and had an intimate knowledge of how the ships were put together. Others had special talents that could be put to good use in the restoration. As a skilled welder, Clark would be a tremendous asset to this group of dedicated volunteers. Clark reported to Ship Superintendent Tim Rizutto and has been busy on the USS Slater in the Port of Albany ever since.

A member of the Mohawk-Hudson Power Squadron, Clarkson has promoted safe boating in our area for many years as an instructor of education programs of the United States Power Squadrons.

And that's not all! This year Clarkson Farnsworth will be celebrating the birthday of his boat, *Clarede*. She will be 100 years old. Best wishes Clarkson for many more to come - your friends at the Lake George Power Squadron.

Around the District/Region

The Sacandaga Power Squadron will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary and Change of Watch at the Vista Restaurant on Saturday, March 10th – for information and details about this event, please contact Robert and Denise Terry at (518) 842-1102 or e-mail them at love2boatny@nycap.rr.com.

Safe Boating-PWC Class Scheduled April 21st

In partnership with the Lake George Power Squadron the Guan-Ho-Ha Fish and Game Club will host a PWC and Boating certification course. Learn the fundamentals of safe boat handling and operation in one comprehensive classroom course. This course meets state specific and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) requirements for operator certification. The class which is offered in a single day satisfies the NYS certification requirement for operators of Personal Water Craft and young boaters between the ages of 10 and 16. The class is open to everyone. Cost \$50 per person. Registration by calling Armand Canestraro at 372-7220 prior to Saturday, April 14th. **Class size is limited** – so call to reserve your seat today.

FROM

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