



the Bilge Pump

BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON
 A UNIT OF DISTRICT 1
 UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
 Volume 81, Issue 6 – February 2020

“Annual Meeting and Commander’s Ball”



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| 11 February | Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership are welcome.” MDC Training Facility | |
| 14 February | Valentine’s Day – “Do something special for the love of your life.” | |
| 25 February | Members’ Meeting – “The Water World of Amsterdam” Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT | <u>6</u> |
| 10 March | Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership are welcome.” MDC Training Facility | |
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| 04 April | Commander’s Ball and Change of Watch – Manor Inn Restaurant 1636 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike, Southington, CT | <u>5</u> |
| 14 April | Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership are welcome.” MDC Training Facility | |
| 12 May | Executive Committee Meeting “Bridge and general membership welcome” – MDC Training Facility | |
| Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities – For further details, see the current issue of “Sounds of 1” | | |
| 28 March | Spring Conference – Manchester Country Club 305 South Main St, Manchester, CT | |
| 19 – 21 June | June Rendezvous – Essex Island Marina 11 Ferry Street, Essex, CT | |
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At the Helm

Cdr Timothy F. Tyler, SN | (860) 561-0669 | timtyler@timtyler.us

As I write this article, the Bridge is preparing for this year's Change of Watch (COW), dinner. In recent years, we scheduled this event on Sunday afternoons at a nice restaurant with an excellent menu. Attendees could get home before the sun went down. Dinner was always delicious, the venue lovely, and the friendships shared has always been enjoyable.

What we know as the Change of Watch today was once known as The Commander's Ball. The Commander's Ball was a more formal affair. We commemorated the passing of the torch to our new Bridge Officers and thanked our present Officers for their service to our organization. But the formality did not end with the ceremony! Our male members handsomely decked out in their dress Class A Uniforms, black-tie, or dark suits were a sight to behold. The women put on their evening finery, and everyone looked wonderful. Live music and dancing were a part of the evening.

This year, for one night, we will revive the traditions of the past at the Commander's Ball, honoring the origins of this event. Entertainment will be provided by "Echoes of Sinatra" who sounds remarkably like old Blue Eyes, and the floor will be open for dancing.

A formal and fun-filled night seems appropriate to kick off our upcoming 90th-anniversary celebrations. We plan to celebrate our anniversary with lots of festivities in 2021. Many of us remember times when our organization was teeming with members frequenting events of all kinds. We want to step back in time and enjoy a taste of our olden glory, beginning with our Commander's Ball.

Planning for our anniversary is a formidable effort. We'll need your help. Many of you have been with us for a long time. We are hoping you lend us some of your memorabilia and stories that we can share with all our members to give them a look back to where we began. I urge all members to participate by giving us your suggestions for the kinds of activities you and your family and friends would enjoy. We need volunteers to help us make this decennial anniversary a success. We believe we have many talented members who will bring great ideas to the table, so we look forward to hearing from you. The sooner, the better. Events of this magnitude take plenty of planning, and we want it to be a memorable anniversary for all of us. Talk to us at Members' Meetings or join us at one of our Bridge Meetings. Phone or write to us with your ideas. We have an outstanding presentation planned for our February Members' Meeting, but if you can't make that, please try to attend our Annual Meeting in March. Since the Annual Meeting is mostly a "business meeting" anyway, I plan on bringing up anniversary planning, so this would be an excellent time to share your thoughts.

We look forward to hearing from you. Your input and help are most important to us, and we appreciate your spirit of volunteerism.

For those of you that are itching to get back to your boats, I say, *"Go do a cover check and stay strong! Spring is just around the corner."*

Stay safe out there.
Cdr Tim Tyler, SN

Call to the Annual Meeting 24 March

Lt/C Bill Waseleski, AP – Squadron Secretary | (860) 212-2636 | wwaseleski@centuryspringmfg.com

The Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Elections will be held for the new Bridge that will take office at the "Commander's Ball and Change of Watch Dinner" on April 4, 2020. The report of the nominating committee will be in the next issue of *the Bilge Pump*. The report will include nominations for the Bridge, Executive Committee Members at Large, and Elected Committees. As a member, you can also nominate members to these positions by petition. To do this, please contact the Secretary fifteen days before the Annual Meeting (by March 09, 2020). We will then make the petition nomination available to the members seven days before the Annual Meeting. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Olympia Diner in Newington. The meal will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. Please note, if attending at 6:30 p.m., there is a \$15 meal charge. If you choose to go to the meeting only, it starts at 7:30 p.m., and there is no charge. Please contact Commander Tim Tyler at (860) 561-0669 or timtyler@hartfordpowersquadron.com if you are interested in becoming active in your Squadron, participating in committees, or learning more about our organization.

Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun

Sadly, the bus trip was canceled due to membership disinterest. There were insufficient signups to allow us to break even on event expenses.

Last Month's Members' Meeting

"The Connecticut River from the Air"

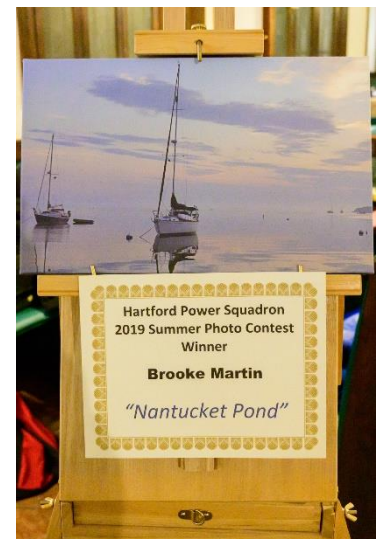
The January meeting was a rousing success, with 33 people attending.

If you weren't one of them, you missed a great meeting. Our accomplished speaker Jerry Roberts took us on a 410-mile aerial tour of the Connecticut River that began in Old Saybrook and ended at the Canadian border in Vermont. Along the way, we saw amazing sights that can only be seen from the air and were entertained with little known facts and interesting stories. One example was a photo of the wreck of the "Granite State Steamboat," which can be clearly seen from the air. Its 300-foot hull is nestled against the old railroad causeway and looks like a giant leviathan that left the watery depths of the Atlantic Ocean to come to its final resting place on the Saybrook Sandbar. Although plainly visible from the air, the murky waters which surround it all but make it invisible to boaters, except at low tide when parts of it break free of its watery grave to make its existence know. Another story referenced the Saybrook Sandbar and the famous Albert Einstein, who loved to sail, but even after 50 years of doing it, was not very accomplished. He often ran aground and did so while sailing at the mouth of the Connecticut River. It was said, *"he discovered relativity once but discovered the Saybrook Sandbar over and over."* These examples were from the very beginning of our trip, and the evening was filled with many more such stories.



Our raffle winner for the evening was our own Dan Aldrich, but as can be seen in the picture, it was Diane who took home the \$50 prize.

We also awarded the 1st prize for the 2019 Summer Photo Contest. The prize was a canvas print of the winning entry "Nantucket Pond," and was given to Brooke Martin. Brooke spoke briefly about her inspiration for the photograph and her love of the area in which it was taken.





Educational Department

Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN – Assistant Squadron Educational Officer | (860) 655-4623 | cliff15.mckibbin@comcast.net

Get the most out of your membership - GET MORE EDUCATION!

The following are our ABC3 course offerings for Spring 2020. If you are interested in taking any of these courses, or if you think you may be interested in teaching, please contact Cliff at the email or phone number above.

Spring 2020 ABC3 Public Boating Courses



Farmington: Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Irving Robbins Middle School, 20 Wolf Pit Rd, Farmington CT.

Sponsored by Farmington Continuing Education. Pre-registration is required. Call (860) 404-0290.

This is an eight-week course that consists of eight two-hour classes that fulfill the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), requirements for a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation with Personal Watercraft, Safe Waterskiing, and Coastal Boater Endorsements. Additionally, it includes a Piloting section that goes beyond the basics of boat handling and safety. Additional material covers the fundamentals of reading nautical charts, using a chart to plot and follow a safe course, and the basics of using a Global Positioning System (GPS) for navigation.

The cost is \$69 and includes the manual and plotting tools. There is also an additional fee from the Farmington Continuing Education Department.



Bristol: ABC Basic Boating Course. Bristol Library. These are one day courses.

Bristol Public Library, 5 High St, Bristol, CT.

Sponsored by the Bristol Library. Pre-registration is required. Call (860) 655-4623.

This is an 8-hour course that fulfills the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), requirements for a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation with Personal Watercraft, Safe Waterskiing, and Coastal Boater Endorsements.

The cost is \$50, which includes the full manual, morning coffee, and lunch. Course dates are:

- Saturday, February 22, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday, April 18, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.

HPS Fall Education Results

We are disappointed to report that there were not enough signups for our fall class offerings to make it worthwhile to hold the classes, so we have no fall education results this year.

As noted above, we are offering four ABC courses this Spring. If you know anyone new to boating, or anyone that has been boating for a while that could use a refresher (including yourself), please tell them about our ABC courses. It is wise to go over the basics after a long stretch of being away from the water, and before starting the new boating season. You would be surprised just how much you can forget. Consider taking ABC as a refresher.

Merit Marks

Every year merit marks are given by National to individuals who have contributed extraordinary time to the squadron, usually by holding an elective office, serving on a committee or teaching courses. Only one merit mark can be given to a person per year. Members achieving “Senior Member” (5 merit marks) are entitled to receive one free class of their choice. Members reaching 25 merit marks become “Life Members” and no longer must pay dues. The following members have been awarded merit marks for the calendar year 2019. We thank them for giving their time and effort to help our Squadron in so many ways.

Marty Abrams, Roy Bergeron, Thomas Berlandy, Elaine Cleary, Jonathan Emerson, Kenneth Letendre, Cliff McKibbin, Pat Pabouet, Frank Pascucci, Mike Rinaldi, Jim Salvatore, Tim Tyler, Frank Ventrella, William Waseleski, and Ken Weeks.

Commander's Ball and Change of Watch

This year we are bringing back the traditional Commander's Ball Dinner at which we will hold our Change of Watch (COW). Dinner is being held at the Manor Inn Restaurant, 1636 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike, Southington, CT 06489.

This year's dinner will be a black-tie optional event featuring live entertainment and dancing. Our performer will be Steve Kazlauskas and the "Echoes of Sinatra." Steve is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on Sinatra and his music. He was inspired to become a singer by corresponding directly with Ol' Blue Eyes through the mail. Steve has made it his mission to keep the music of Sinatra alive while perfecting his interpretation of that famous style. He has performed throughout the country, from east to west, and north to south. He captures the sound, feel, and expression of Sinatra with amazing accuracy while bringing his unique interpretation to the music. Steve is a true tribute artist and does not attempt to look and sound like a clone. With a vocal range that allows him to sing Frank's songs in their original keys, he's able to reach and sustain those high notes and croon softly on those signature low notes that were part of Sinatra's distinctive singing style. His fans agree it's about the next best thing to hearing Frank himself perform this timeless music. He continues to delight and educate audiences about this true American icon while keeping the great American songbook alive and well.



If you are not familiar with the COW, it is an annual time-honored formal event preserved by a rich heritage of naval tradition. The COW allows squadron members to witness the transfer of responsibility for bridge assignments and to give recognition to the accomplishments of both outgoing officers and squadron members. Officers elected at the Annual Members' Meeting held in March are also sworn in.

All squadron members are encouraged to attend this event not only to show appreciation to those who do so much to keep the squadron viable, but also to meet other members, make friends, and most importantly, have an enjoyable time.

How often do most of us get a chance to get dressed up, go out dancing, cut loose, and just have a fun, relaxing night out? If you're looking for an excuse to get dressed up and "put on the Ritz," we've just given it to you. And you get to do it for less than either the entertainment or the meal alone would cost you.

If you are only able to attend one event all year, this should be the one! The Change of Watch dinner is always memorable, so why not make your reservations now and join us at what is sure to be another fun-filled event. You know you want to!



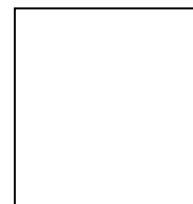
Event Details

- Time:** April 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Place: Manor Inn Restaurant, 1636 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike, Southington, CT
Menu: A cash bar will be available, and three different appetizers are being served. We have also arranged for a six-course dinner menu. Complete menu is shown on the left.
Cost: \$25 per person, including tax and tip. This meal is being subsidized by the squadron to encourage more members to attend. If you walked in off the street and ordered the same meal, it would cost you more than \$50.00.
Dress: Uniform A with bow tie, or black-tie optional.
Reservations: Reservations are and must be made by March 28, 2020. To make your reservations, please contact Jim Salvatore at jimsall1@comcast.net or 860-346-0680. *Entrée choice must be made when making your reservations.*



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February 25th Members' Meeting Will Feature

"The Water World of Amsterdam"

by Cliff McKibbin



Lt/C Cliff McKibbin, SN, will present slides from his trip last summer to Amsterdam, Netherlands. He will cover the extensive canals of Amsterdam with over 3000 houseboats; the Houseboat Museum showing the inside of a houseboat as well as its cost to buy and moor and its construction; a side trip to the famous Keukenhof Gardens (think 10 million tulips); and a side trip to Enkhuisen to the Zuiderzee Museum. The latter was a waterside village similar to Sturbridge Village with people explaining how to make rope, operate windmills, plus all the activities necessary for a self-sustaining village in the 1800s.

He will also cover the engineering marvel of the walling off the Zuiderzee, turning a third of Holland from a dangerous shallow saltwater pond into a freshwater lake. Finally, he will touch on a few practicalities of a trip to Holland (getting there, food is similar to ours, they speak English, Airbnb, etc.). You'll want to go and see it for yourself!

Cliff is currently the Treasurer and Historian of the Hartford Power Squadron and has served as its Secretary and Commander. He has also served the District 1 organization as Secretary, Treasurer, and is currently the Editor of the Sounds of 1. He and his wife, Lucille, have traveled to Europe several times and always enjoy delving into the different cultures, art, and history.

Date: February 25, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT

Cost: \$15 for dinner with a cash bar - or just come at 7:30 p.m. for the free presentation.

Reservations: Contact Jim Salvatore at jimsall@comcast.net or (860) 346-0680.