



the Bilge Pump

2020

BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON
A UNIT OF DISTRICT 1
UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®
Volume 81, Issue 5 – January 2020



**Still Time to
Join our Bus
Trip to the
Mohegan
Sun! Click
Here for
Tickets.**

[See page 5 for details.](#)

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24 March	Annual Meeting – Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	
14 April	Executive Committee Meeting <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – MDC Training Facility	
19 April	Change of Watch – <i>Location still to be determined.</i>	
12 May	Executive Committee Meeting <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – 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

This month's topic is one that should be of concern to all of us that think the USPS is a worthwhile organization that offers valuable services to the boating public. Fifty years ago, when I joined USPS, I never could have imagined I would be writing this article. The organization I joined was thriving, filled of energy, and bursting with volunteers. Sadly, our organization is no longer thriving. Like many volunteer organizations that are no longer enjoying the success they once knew, many of our USPS squadrons are failing. But why?

If you look at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) annual surveys on volunteer rates in the United States for the last ten years, you will see that volunteerism has been steadily declining. Although these studies chronicle the decline, they do not postulate on the reasons for it. Although theories are wide and varied, there appears to be no consensus as to why people are no longer volunteering at the rates they once did. Declining volunteerism is undoubtedly contributing to our organization's breakdown, but while it may be adding to our membership fall off, I don't think we can say this is the only or even the main reason for it. Volunteerism is down, but it is not nonexistent, and our membership is falling much faster than the volunteerism rate.

So why else do volunteer organizations fail? There are many well-documented reasons for these failures, and while I don't have the space to get into them all, I feel our squadron is not suffering from anything unfixable if our members decide to act. I want to address briefly two of our biggest problems, which I think, if corrected, would go a long way toward saving our squadron. The first is member retainment. The smaller our membership gets, the fewer people we have willing to run things. The BLS report I referred to earlier places the volunteer population at about 25%. The percentage varies significantly based on age, gender, ethnicity, amount of education, marital status, whether couples have children or not, etc. For the sake of this conversation, I will not try to apply those variables to our squadron but will instead go with 25%. With our membership level hovering around 100, we should be able to recruit roughly 25 members who are willing to work on squadron activities. Our Merit Mark numbers show that we are at 15, a number that is down by 50% from just five years ago when we had 30. So, I think our Bridge needs to do a better job of recruiting and retaining members, and of getting those members to volunteer. But to do that, we need a fully functioning Bridge.

This brings me to what I feel is our second problem, burnout. If you look at the Merit Mark awards I mentioned, you'll see that with few exceptions, the same names have appeared for at least the past five years. There are names on that list that have been there for over 50 years! Don't you believe these people deserve a break? Most of the members that are no longer on the list are not there because they are deceased. They gave all they could until they were no longer able to do so. We should have a viable succession plan reaching out at least 4 or 5 years to replace our retiring bridge members, but we do not. We have a hard time just filling in the current year. There are no viable candidates to plug into a plan because our members are not coming forward to volunteer. There are critical positions in our organization that are crucial for our long-term success. Despite this fact, we have been down at least two positions for the last couple of years, and two or three more positions are destined to become unfilled in or next election.

So, where does this leave our organization? If our members don't come forward to help, we will inevitably fail. There will be no one to write the newsletter, no one to plan members' meetings or book guest speakers, no one to run the Educational Department or teach classes, no one to take the minutes or keep the books, and no one to write this column. I think you get the idea. If you have ever had the desire to help our organization, now is the time for you to step up and make your voice heard. Please come to our January meeting and seek me out. I'll introduce you to your Bridge members. Together we can find a way for you to help. If you get a call from someone from our Nominating Committee, please take the time to hear them out. If you can't help, please take the time to let us know why. Be honest. If the Bridge is trying to keep an organization alive but members no longer want to participate, do us the courtesy of letting us know. Perhaps we should let the Hartford Power Squadron die while it still has a degree of dignity. Next year (2021) will be our 90th anniversary. If you think HPS is worth saving, this would be the perfect time to let us know so that together we can start planning a comeback. If you can find some time to give us a hand, we can return our squadron to the thriving family it once was.

Please give saving your squadron serious consideration.

Stay safe out there.
Cdr Tim Tyler, SN



Educational Department

Lt/C Roy L. Bergeron, AP – Squadron Educational Officer | (860) 841-8620 | roybergeron01@yahoo.com

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 Roy at the email or phone number above.

Spring 2020 ABC3 Public Boating Course



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 Bristol. 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.

Executive Department

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Hartford Boat Show - January 16-19



District 1 will be sponsoring a booth at the Hartford Boat Show. The show now in its 51st year provides us with a terrific chance to reach out to the boating community and get them involved in our squadron. We can share our opportunities with the public and let them know who we are, America's Boating Club.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us with the show. Volunteering gets

you into the show for free on the day you are scheduled to work. It's still not too late to get involved. To assist with the booth and gain free admission to the show, please contact RuthAnne Collins at (860) 444-9027 or rdctruffles@sbcglobal.net. You can also contact Art Andrea at (203) 641-0954.

Even if you can't volunteer, we'd still love to see you at the show. Why not combine it with our Casino Bus Trip. Tickets are still available, and you can find more information on the trip on [page 5](#) of this issue.

25 February Members' Meeting

“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.



Lucille in the Houseboat Museum



Houseboats on a Side Canal



Working Boat at the Zuiderzee Museum

Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun

We are planning our third bus trip to Mohegan Sun. The outing will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020. This scheduling was chosen to allow for the enjoyment of boat show, enjoying the casino, or both. The bus leaves at 10 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m.

We will be selling seats for the same price as we did last year, \$30.00. This price will again include the bus trip, \$15 casino gaming credits, and a \$15 food credit that can be used at any restaurant in the casino, or as full payment for their incredible buffet. There are also many shops to browse if you so desire. The credits effectively make this trip a no-cost trip to you.

Although the cost does not include admission to the boat show, we are offering discounted admission for participants at the price of \$10 per person.

This trip is not just for squadron members; it is also a fund-raising event. Please bring your family and friends and let them know they are encouraged to invite others to join us.



Open to Members, Friends, & Family

MOHEGAN SUN Casino
BOAT SHOW BUS TRIP

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Bus departs from Two Locations - Leaves Casino at 5:00 pm
DOT Commuter Lot, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington at 10:00 AM
Putnam Park & Ride, 3029 Main Street, Glastonbury at 10:30 AM

Casino Trip only \$30 per person
Casino Trip with Boat Show Admission \$40

50/50 Raffle
\$15 Game Voucher **\$15 Food Voucher**
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

For Tickets Contact:
www.hartfordpowersquadron.com/bustrip.html
Or Email:
boating@hartfordpowersquadron.com

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We now accept credit card payments. For more information, directions, or to purchase Bus Trip/Boat Show tickets, go to <https://hartfordps.eventbee.com/event?eid=154086423>.

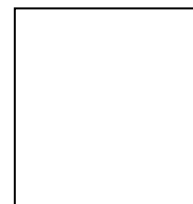
If it is more convenient for you, you may contact Cliff McKibbin at (860) 655-4623, or email him at boating@hartfordpowersquadron.com to reserve seats.

Let's keep the warmth of the holiday spirit going. Bus trip tickets make great belated Christmas presents! We had such a great time on our last trip that we are eagerly looking forward to this event. Let's fill that bus up and party again!



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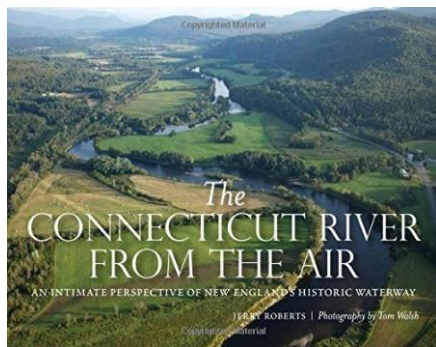
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January 28th Members' Meeting Will Feature *"The Connecticut River from the Air"*

by Jerry Roberts



The Connecticut River from the Air is a collection of extraordinary aerial images and an adventure chronicled by historian Jerry Roberts and photographed by Tom Walsh. The book provides an intimate perspective, exploring New England's greatest river from Long Island Sound, where its waters mingle with the salty brine of the Atlantic Ocean, to its source 410 miles to the north, just yards from the Canadian border. Amazing and beautiful sights appear along the River that can only be seen and appreciated from small, low-flying aircraft. Beauty and wonder can be found in historic canals and bridges as well as twists and bends in the River, shipwrecks, rock formations, and even sand patterns on the River bottom. From naturally formed oxbows to cornfield mazes, hidden valleys, quaint villages, industrial cities, and sweeping vistas, these Wonders of the River are the true treasures of this amazing waterway and its surrounding landscapes.

Author historian **Jerry Roberts** has spent his career digging up the past, discovering history's untold stories, and bringing them to the public through books, documentaries, and exhibits. He has served as executive director for several major museums in New York and New England. He likes to say that history is the best reality show ever produced.

The program is followed by Q&A and a chance to purchase the book and have it signed by the author.

Date: January 28, 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.