



the Bilge Pump

**BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON
A UNIT OF DISTRICT 1**

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

Volume 78, Issue 7 – March/April 2017

ANNUAL MEETING AND CHANGE OF WATCH



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14 March	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome.” – MDC	
28 March	<u>Annual Meeting</u> – “ <i>Officer Reports and Election of Officers</i> ” Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	<u>2</u>
2 April	<u>Change of Watch Dinner</u> – “ <i>Awards and Recognitions</i> ” Casa Mia at the Hawthorne, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	<u>3</u>
11 April	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome.” – MDC	
29 April	<u>Hartford Power Squadron 4th Annual Swap Meet and Cookout</u>	<u>4</u>
9 May	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome.” – MDC	
23 May	<u>Members’ Meeting</u> – “ <i>Big striped bass with light tackle and more</i> ” Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	<u>6</u>
Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities – For further details, see the current issue of Sounds of 1		
18 March	Spring Conference – United States Coast Guard Academy 31 Mohegan Ave. Pkwy, New London, CT 06320	
23 June – 25 June	June Rendezvous – Essex Island Marina	
24 June	June Council – Essex Island Marina	
15 July	Sail Race – Branford Yacht Club	
21 July – 23 July	Mini Cruise – Greenport, LI	
TBD July	Fishing Derby – Waterford	
11 August – 13 August	Mini Cruise – Milford	
17 September	High Speed Ferry to Block Island Trip	
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At the Helm

Cdr Patrick A. Pabouet, P | (860) 528-7700 | argus06108@aol.com Cdr Patrick Pabouet, P

I am in Orlando, FL with a group of District 1 members attending the United States Power Squadrons annual meeting and governing board. As your commander, I get to vote on changes that happen in our organization. I also vote on nominated leaders of different committees and anything that is brought to the governing board for a vote per the bylaws of USPS.

Last month we had a booth at the Hartford Boat Show. This year the weather was not very cooperative and attendance was not that great. Kudos go to Frank Pascucci and his helpers setting up and breaking down the show booth and everyone that staffed it.

Classes are starting up for the spring. Our Education Officer Roy Bergeron is looking for both Instructors and students. Please call him if you'd like to get into instructing or to take a class.

The District Conference is slated for March. This Spring Conference is the District's Annual Meeting where we elect a new slate of Bridge Officers. This year the conference is being held at the Coast Guard Academy and will be attended by Chief Commander Louie Ojeda, SN who will swear in the Bridge and provide us with news of all that is new at National. District Conferences are open to all members of District 1 so please feel free to join us.

Hartford will have its annual meeting on 28 March and I urge you to attend. It's your squadron, get involved.

Cdr Patrick A. Pabouet, P

Executive Department

D/Lt/C Timothy Tyler, JN | (860) 561-0669 | timtyler@timtyler.us

The Executive Department slows down this time of year, so I thought I'd use this space to share a short story called...

A GOOD VIEW

A couple were on a sailing trip on their boat. They had gone night sailing and were on the deck looking up at the sky.

One said to the other, "Look up. What do you see?"

"Well, I see thousands of stars."

"And what does that mean to you?"

"Well, I guess it means we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does it mean to you?"

"Well, to me, it means someone has stolen our bimini!"

D/Lt/C Timothy Tyler, JN
Squadron Executive Officer

Call to the Annual Meeting 28 March

D/Lt Clifford W. McKibbin, SN | Secretary | 860-673-1584 | <mailto:cliff15.mckibbin@comcast.net>

The Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at the Olympia Diner in Newington. The meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting. Elections will be held for the new Bridge, to take office at the Change of Watch dinner on April 2, 2017.

The Nominating Committee Slate follows. As a member, you can also nominate members to these positions by petition. To do this, please contact the Secretary (Cliff McKibbin) 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting (by March 13, 2017). Any petition properly submitted will then be made available to members 7 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Please call the Commander if you are interested in becoming active in your Squadron and participating on committees or learning more about the organization of the squadron.

If you arrive for dinner at 6:30 p.m. the cost is \$15 with cash bar - or just come at 7:30 p.m. for the free Annual Meeting.



Change of Watch Dinner



This year's Change of Watch (COW) dinner will be held at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT.

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 gives squadron members the opportunity to witness the transfer of responsibility of 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 a good time.

If you are only able to attend one event all year, this should be the one! Dinner at the Casa Mia is always memorable, so why not make your reservations, put on your glad rags and join us at what is sure to be another fun-filled event. You will receive an invitation to this event by US Mail in early March. It is requested you RSVP using information contained in the invitation.

Event Details

- Time:** April 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.
Place: Casa Mia at the Hawthorne, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT.
Menu: A cash bar will be available. Pizza appetizers will be served prior to dinner. We have arranged for an extensive entrée selection for this event. Menu specifics will be contained in your invitation. The meal will also feature Bread/Butter, Salad, Vegetable, & Coffee.
Cost: \$30 per person
Dress: USPS Blazer or business attire required.
Reservations: Contact Cliff McKibbin at 860-673-1584

HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON 2017 – 2018

Nominating Committee Slate

Bridge

Commander:	Cdr Patrick A. Pabouet, P
Executive Officer:	D/Lt/C Timothy Tyler, JN
Education Officer:	Lt/C Roy Bergeron, AP
Administrative Officer:	Lt/C James Salvatore, AP
Secretary:	D/Lt Clifford W. McKibbin, SN
Treasurer:	Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN
Immediate Past Commander:	P/C Michael J. Rinaldi, JN

Executive Committee Members at Large

P/Lt/C Thomas H. Berlandy, AP
 P/Lt/C James Monroe, AP
 P/Lt/C Frank Pascucci, Jr., AP
 Frank J. Ventrella, AP
 P/Lt/C Donald G. Watson, AP
 P/D/Lt/C Kenneth W. Weeks, Jr., AP

Elected Committees

Nominating (Chairman 2015-2018):	P/C Michael J. Rinaldi, JN	(Previously elected)
(2017-2019)	P/Lt/C Thomas H. Berlandy, AP	
(2017-2019)	P/Lt/C James Monroe, AP	
Auditing (Chairman 2017-2019):	William Waseleski, P	
Rules (Chairman 2015-2017):	P/D/Lt/C Kenneth W. Weeks, Jr., AP	(Previously elected)

Respectfully Submitted,
 P/C Michael J. Rinaldi, JN



**HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON
4th ANNUAL MARINE
SWAP MEET AND COOKOUT**

Come Find Your Treasure!

Sign up for a space and free yourself of no longer needed treasures. Searching for treasure? Stop by and find what you've been looking for at a great bargain.

April 29, 2017

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rain Date April 30, 2017

Portland Riverside Marina
37 Riverview St, Portland, CT 06480

Call Tim Tyler at (860) 561-0669

Email swapmeet@hartfordpowersquadron.com

Additional Information: hartfordpowersquadron.com/swapmeet



Safety Corner

“Towing”

The article is written by D/Lt/C Tim Tyler, JN. The opinions are his and do not necessarily reflect the views of the HPS or the USPS.

If you have been boating for any length of time you have either found yourself in the position of needing a tow or being called upon to give one. When I started out in boating, the Coast Guard was always there to lend a hand. Not so anymore. Abuses of the system have taken away this option for all but life threatening situations. Now you need to depend on a commercial towing company or a Good Samaritan. There are many things that need to be considered before engaging in a tow. The size of the two vessels, sturdy attachment points, type and length of towline, chafe protection, communications between vessels, the list goes on and on. Something as simple as a towline parting under the strain of towing can cause very serious injury or death. This article does not have the space to go into the specifics of towing and I encourage you to do an internet search and do some reading on the subject before your next trip. Understand that if you come across a vessel in need of help you are legally obligated to render assistance, but that assistance does not have to be a tow. Your responsibility is to save lives. You have no responsibility to another's vessel. The following is a partial reprint from boats.com that provides food for thought and offers up what I feel to be worthwhile advice.

TOWING AND THE LAW

If you decide to tow another vessel, you become a "Good Samaritan" in the eyes of the law and are thus protected from liability as long as you "act as any prudent person would". A lot of well-meaning skippers have been sued over that nebulous phrase so, if you have any qualms about your own abilities, don't attempt to tow another boat. Good seamanship will always be a defense but you may find yourself up against an "old salt" in court who will swear you were inept in your actions. In addition, your insurance policy probably has a clause that frees them of liability if you don't exhibit what they consider to be good seamanship.

Don't hesitate to refuse to tow someone if the weather is bad, if you think your boat is too small, or if you're unsure of your abilities. You have a legal (and moral) obligation to save lives, but the saving of property is not your problem. Stand by the disabled vessel until an acceptable tow boat arrives on the scene, but don't jeopardize yourself or your boat by attempting a rescue beyond your abilities.

If you're at the other end of the tow line, bear in mind that the laws of salvage entitle a rescuer to "fair compensation" for his services. In the pleasure boat world, most towing is done out of courtesy, and a thank-you (perhaps in addition to a favorite beverage) is satisfactory payment.

If you find yourself needing a commercial tow, be sure to agree on a price before the towboat leaves the harbor. At the same time, find out how they expect you to pay the bill, since some companies will impound your boat until you pay in cash. Towing services have various ways of charging: some use a flat rate while others charge by the hour. If the charges are hourly, be sure to find out if the meter starts when they leave the dock, or when they actually take you under tow. Don't forget that admiralty law is on the side of the towing company and, if you try to evade the cost, most courts will penalize you heavily.

Personally, paying for towing insurance is always on my spring commissioning list. It's relatively inexpensive, gives you piece of mind and can save hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

Stay safe.

Hartford Power Squadron Positions Available

Squadron Secretary

- ▶ Is a member of the Executive Committee (ExCom) and takes minutes at 10 Executive Committee meetings per year.
- ▶ The ExCom meets in Hartford at 1900 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except June and July.
- ▶ Takes minutes at the Annual Meeting of HPS on the 4th Tuesday of March.
- ▶ Is supervisor over the Bilge Pump Editor, the Web Master, and the Historian.

Executive Committee “Member at Large”

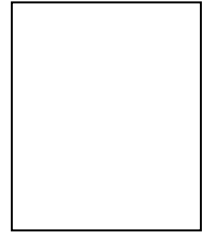
- ▶ Is a member of the Executive Committee of HPS and attends 10 Executive Committee meetings per year.
- ▶ Provides input to the ExCom on any matter before it, including future meetings, financial matters, education matters, Boat Show, etc. and any member concerns.
- ▶ May volunteer for additional duties at all HPS events.
- ▶ The ExCom meets in Hartford at 1900 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except June and July.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or any of those outlined in last month's *the Bilge Pump*, please contact Pat Pabouet at (860) 528-7700 or argus06108@aol.com.



Hartford Power Squadron
c/o 12 South Pond Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002-5007

Commander	Cdr Patrick A. Pabouet, P	860-528-7700
Executive Officer	D/Lt/C Timothy Tyler, JN	860-561-0669
Educational Officer	Lt/C Roy L. Bergeron, AP	860-841-8620
Admin. Officer	Lt/C James Salvatore, AP	860-346-0680
Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	D/Lt Clifford W. McKibbin, SN	860-673-1584



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May Members' Meeting Will Feature *"Big striped bass with light tackle"*

The May 23rd Members' Meeting will feature Captain Mike Roy of Reel Cast Charters. His presentation will focus on "Big striped bass with light tackle and more".

Captain Mike is the founder and operator of Reel Cast Charters, a full-time fishing charter based out of Old Saybrook, Connecticut. From largemouth bass to giant Bluefin tuna, fishing in both fresh and salt water his angling pursuits have taken him across the country. He has also fished internationally. An innovative angler, he is constantly applying new techniques. His enthusiasm and passion for the sport are contagious. Captain Mike is a United States Coast Guard OUPV Licensed Captain and graduate of Southern Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education. The seminar will feature a power point presentation.



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 jimsal1@comcast.net or 860-346-0680.