



the Bilge Pump

BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON
 A UNIT OF DISTRICT
 UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

Volume 81, Issue 3 – October 2019
 FALL EVENTS AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE



Schedule of Upcoming Squadron Activities		Page
08 October	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome” – MDC	
22 October	Members’ Meeting – “Emergencies at Sea” Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	
12 November	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome” – MDC	
10 December	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome” – MDC	
14 January	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome” – MDC	
16 – 19 January	Hartford Boat Show at Mohegan Sun	
28 January	Members’ Meeting – “Topic to be determined.” Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	
11 February	Executive Committee Meeting – “Bridge and general membership welcome” – MDC	
Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities – For further details, see the current issue of Sounds of 1		
16 November	District Fall Conference Manchester Country Club, 305 South Main St, Manchester, CT 06040	
8 December	District Christmas Party Campagna’s Restaurant, 151 Marlborough St, Portland, CT 06480	
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At the Helm

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

Normally the October message from squadron commanders, at least here in the Northeast, centers around summer ending, getting in those last trips on your boat, and even winterizing. Instead of doing that this year, I would like to talk about our squadron and what I can do to make it an organization that serves you better. Like many organizations the United States Power Squadrons, and of special importance to me the Hartford Power Squadron, have seen large drop-offs in membership over the last several years. Many studies have been done, and much money spent, but there doesn't seem to be a definitive answer to why there have been such large declines in membership. The fact is, young people are not joining, and long-time members are not renewing.

One reason I've heard for membership decline which I believe has credence is the internet. The internet has made it so easy to share information once so hard to find, that organizations such as ours that mainly exist to share information are becoming obsolete. Sad as it is, people now have very busy lifestyles and feel they have little time for the hands-on approach to learning we provide. They see no value in our approach when they can get the information they need from their computer in the comfort of their home using Google, or from their iPad while sitting in a bleacher at a football game. Is it the same quality learning they would receive from a seasoned boater with years of hard-won knowledge? My experiences on the water would say no. I found the water a much safer place to play before the internet. But I digress, I don't believe we can change their minds. Only time spent on the water can do that. At some point they will seek out that hands-on instruction which may no longer exist, or they will give up boating. Both scenarios are a real shame.

So, if we can no longer offer education, what can we offer? We can offer a sense of connection. The internet which is giving the impression that our educational methods are obsolete is also taking away human interaction, connections if you will. But our human nature is to build social bonds. I believe it is why social media is so popular. So, can we offer opportunities for social interaction? Yes, we can, and we do. But if attendance at Members' Meetings and other boating activities we offer is any indication, we're doing something wrong. Please don't misunderstand; although our Bridge works very hard to bring members programs it feels would be interesting to them, I feel we're working in the dark. As my dad used to say, "I aim to please, unfortunately sometimes my aim is a little off." I think our aim is a little off too, but aim can be corrected or improved.

It has been suggested we send out a survey to get a pulse of what our members expect and require from us to get involved. We can do that, but surveys are hard to get right, and no one wants to fill them out anyway. Bridge members could personally call each member, and perhaps in the future we will, but for now what I would ask is that you call me and tell me what we can do to make our squadron better for you. Tell me what you like, and don't be afraid to share what you dislike. Some things we might discuss are future activities and what benefits would be of worth to you. If you have children, I want to know what we can do to get them involved. Simply put, I want your ideas for making our squadron something that has value to you. My number is (860) 561-0669. If I can't get to the phone, please leave your name, a call back number, and the best time to reach you. Let's get acquainted; I sincerely look forward to hearing from you and would appreciate your help.

Stay safe out there.
Cdr Tim Tyler, SN

Appointed Committee Assignments for 2019-2020

These members have volunteered their time and effort in the following squadron positions:

Position	Incumbent	Position	Incumbent
Membership Chairman	Pat Pabouet	Historian	Cliff McKibbin
Bylaws Chairman	Ken Weeks	Law Officer	Ted Wurz
Chaplain	Cliff McKibbin	Parliamentarian	Ken Weeks
Cooperative Charting	Cliff McKibbin	Publications Editor	Elaine Cleary
Programs Chairman	Jim Salvatore	Photographer	Cliff McKibbin
Safety Officer	Pat Pabouet	Merit Marks	Tim Tyler
USPS Education Fund	Cliff McKibbin	Computer Records	Cliff McKibbin
Officer Training Chairman	Pat Pabouet	Webmaster	Frank Pascucci
Boat Show	Frank Pascucci	Budget Chairman	Cliff McKibbin
Ships Store	Tom Berlandy	Vessel Safety Check	Pat Pabouet

Editor's note: The elected committee chairmen (nominating, rules, and audit) were listed in the May issue.



Educational Department

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

Fall Course Schedule

We have a great line up of courses for this fall. If you are interested in one of these classes, please contact our Educational Officer Roy Bergeron for more details or to sign up for a course. Phone: (860) 841-8620 Email: roybergeron01@yahoo.com

Boat Handling (formerly Seamanship) – *The date/time and location of this course is still to be determined. Class will be held at St. James Episcopal Church, Farmington. (\$63 member, \$160 new member).*

After taking America's Boating Course online or in person, take Boat Handling to gain real-world boat handling and boating skills. You'll boat with more confidence and feel more confident on the water. Boat Handling gives you the boating skills you need to handle your boat like a pro - whether you are at the ramp, at the dock, or on the water.

This instructor-led course covers boat construction and function, your responsibilities as skipper, and getting your boat ready for launch. You'll learn boat handling, maneuvering, anchoring, tying basic knots, and much more. You will also learn boat handling and maneuvering skills that allow you to boat under various conditions in close quarters and on the open water. You'll get expert advice on the rules of the road, anchoring, emergencies, tying basic knots, and much more.

Course materials include a downloadable or printed student manual as well as a downloadable U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Advanced Piloting (Soon to be Advanced Marine Navigation) – *The date/time and location of this course is still to be determined. (\$57 member).*

Do you want to navigate unfamiliar waters in limited visibility or take an extended cruise with confidence? Learn to use radar, chart plotters, AIS, and other electronic tools to supplement basic GPS navigation. Obtain a thorough understanding of piloting techniques in a variety of coastal tide, current and wind conditions.

What's included? Advanced positioning techniques, such as advancing a line of position to obtain a running fix; use of a variety of electronic tools: radar, depth sounders, autopilots, chart plotters, laptop computer software, and more; hazard avoidance techniques using electronics (e.g. avoidance waypoints or safety zones in GPS); collision avoidance using radar, GPS, and AIS; working with tide and current data to determine clearances, depth of water, and effects of current; piloting in various wind and current conditions and the "Seaman's Eye" - simple skills for checking that one is on course. Ten classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. Also, the students have seven days to complete an open book exam.

Junior Navigation (Soon to be Offshore Navigation) – *The date/time and location of this course is still to be determined, but it is expected it will start in late October. (\$91 member).*

What happens when your GPS fails? Have fun and satisfy your curiosity about boating in the days before electronics in the *Junior Navigation* course. Learn to use a marine sextant to take sights on celestial objects such as the sun. Even if you are not traveling long distances offshore, remember that GPS is not infallible, nor always available. Be confident when no aids to navigation or land objects are in sight.

In *Offshore Navigation*, you will continue to use GPS as the primary position sensor as you learned in *Marine Navigation* and *Advanced Marine Navigation*, but with celestial navigation as your backup technique. Because terrestrial landmarks are no longer visible to the offshore navigator, you will learn to use a marine sextant and the sun as your reference point, derive a line of position and develop a running fix. You will also learn to calculate your latitude from a noon sight on the sun.

What's included? Determining precise time; using the *Nautical Almanac*; determining latitude from a noon sight; using special charts and plotting sheets for offshore navigation, and setting offshore navigational routines for recreational craft.

This interesting and challenging course emphasizes the practical aspects of daytime celestial navigation. You will also learn to prepare a sight folder that documents your positioning skills using sights taken on the sun. The course will take approximately 14 weeks to complete, and you will have two additional weeks to complete an open book exam.

Electronic Navigation (EN) – *This course is being offered as a self-study course. (\$65 member, \$162 new member).*

Are you overwhelmed by all those functions on your GPS or chart plotter? Want to use your tablet or smartphone to help you navigate on your boat? Are you interested in using a desktop computer program to plan your cruise and then copy that information to your GPS? This course covers the topics you need and want to know.

What's included? Navigating by establishing waypoints and routes; running the planned courses; electronic charting software for the desktop computer; tablet and smartphone apps that provide the electronic navigation function at the helm; hands-on exercises on a PC that simulates GPS function; using charting software and a chart plotter emulator and overview of the Automatic Identification System (AIS).

Cruising and Cruise Planning (CP) – *This course is being offered as a self-study course. (\$60 member, \$157 new member).*

Want to take a "road trip" on the water? Gain the confidence and practical skills needed to explore ports and coves for a weekend or weeks at a time. Take Cruising and Cruise Planning and join your fellow boaters for raft-ups and rendezvous up the river, down the bay, and along the coast. What's included? Cruise preparation and planning; boat and equipment; anchors and anchoring; security; chartering; cruising outside the United States; crew and provisioning; voyage management; communications; navigation; weather and emergencies.



Hartford Power Squadron Education Staff for 2019-2020

Our thanks go out to the members of the Education Department who have volunteered a significant amount of their time to teach our courses. Education is one of the primary missions of the United States Power Squadrons. The Hartford instructors have taught courses to over 9000 members and residents of Connecticut in the last 26 years.

Position	Incumbent	Position	Incumbent
Squadron Education Officer	Lt/C Roy Bergeron, AP	Assistant Squadron Education Officer	Vacant
Chairman Boating Instructor	Pat Pabouet	Marine Communication Systems Instructor	Vacant
Seamanship Instructor	Roy Bergeron	Marine Electrical Systems Instructor	Lt/C Roy Bergeron, AP
Piloting Instructor	Roy Bergeron	Electronic Navigation Instructor	Vacant - Currently being offered as a self-study course.
Advanced Piloting Instructor	Marty Abrams	Sail Instructor	Marty Abrams
Junior Navigation Instructor	Roy Guile	Weather Instructor	Vacant
Navigation Instructor	Roy Guile	Cruise Planning Instructor	Vacant - Currently being offered as a self-study course.
Engine Maintenance Instructor	Dick Stone - <i>Saybrook Sail & Power Squadron</i>	Instructor Training Instructor	Vacant
Basic Boating Instructors: Jon Emerson, Mike Goman, Cliff McKibbin and Tim Tyler.		Seminar Instructors: Roy Bergeron, Craig McAllister, Cliff McKibbin, James Monroe, Frank Pascucci	

The Education Department always has a need for more instructors and help with everything from grading exams to working with the national computer system to enter student information. If you would like to help, please call Roy Bergeron at 860 841-8620.

The September Members' Meeting

The first Members' Meeting of the season was an informative and entertaining meeting at which Brian Koehler, Supervisor, Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport, covered the topic of *"Steering by the Stars: Celestial Navigation."* Brian's love of the topic was clear as he guided guests in a discussion of the earliest forms of navigation up through navigational methods used today. Along the way, he explained how latitude and longitude are used to show us exactly where we are on the surface of the planet. Brian discussed how various cultures were all able to determine latitude early on using celestial bodies and various angle measuring devices, and why it was that longitude eluded them all until the British got serious about the subject and offered a reward equivalent to millions of today's dollars to anyone that could solve the problem.

Brian's presentation included a list of organizations that offer courses in Celestial Navigation. He was unaware that USPS offers such courses and will be adding our name to all future presentations.

Brian also brought along celestial navigation artifacts from the Mystic Museum, some of which are over 200 years old. Attendees could more closely inspect and handle the items if they wore white gloves supplied by the museum.

It was an enlightening evening, and if you missed it, you missed a great presentation! If you would like to get a flavor for what you missed, you can always visit Brian at the Mystic Planetarium. He will be very happy to see you.

A 50/50 raffle was held at the meeting, and the prize of \$38 was won by P/D/Cdr George Gilbert. George generously donated his winnings back to HPS. It's always a pleasure to see George, and we thank him for his donation.



Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun

We are planning our third bus trip to Mohegan Sun. The trip 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 leave at 10 a.m. and return 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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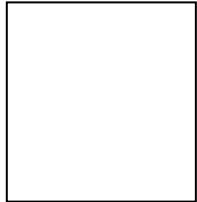
We now accept credit card payments. For more information, directions, or to purchase Bus Trip/Boat Show tickets, go to <https://hartfordps.eventbee.com/event?eid=154086423>.

If it is more convenient for you, you may contact Cliff McKibbin at (860) 655-4623, or email him at cliff99.mckibbin@comcast.net, to reserve seats.

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

Hartford Power Squadron
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October 22nd Members' Meeting Will Feature "Emergencies at Sea" by Captain Thomas Heinszen

You're out on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, and you ground your boat on a sandbar. You recheck your charts, and there is no sandbar there. The annual spring floods have created a sandbar where there once was none, and you're the lucky one that found it! The tide is going out, so you are soon to be high and dry. So, what do you do? If you're like a lot of boaters, you carry towing insurance on your boat, so you call your carrier Sea Tow. Different scenario. Now let's say you're out on Long Island Sound and you hit some rocks. You later check your charts, and sure enough, there they are. No excuse this time, but it happens. For now, though, you have a situation on your hands. This time the tide is coming in, and you're taking on water. Do you still call Sea Tow, or do you call the "Coasties?" Is this still a towing situation, or did it turn into a salvage operation? Does your Sea Tow policy still cover you, or do you need to rely your boat policy to cover you? Does your boat policy even cover you?



Our October speaker Captain Thomas Heinszen from Sea Tow will talk to us about Emergencies at Sea and will endeavor to answer these and any other questions you have on this often-misunderstood topic.

Please bring your questions and join us for what is sure to be an educational and entertaining evening.

- Date:** October 22, 2019
- 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.