



the Bilge Pump

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

Volume 81, Issue 2 – September 2019

FALL EVENTS AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE



Schedule of Upcoming Squadron Activities		Page
10 September	Executive Committee Meeting – <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – MDC	
24 September	Members’ Meeting – <i>“Steering by the Stars: Celestial Navigation”</i> Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	6
08 October	Executive Committee Meeting – <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – MDC	
22 October	Members’ Meeting – <i>“Topic to be determined.”</i> Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	
12 November	Executive Committee Meeting – <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – MDC	
10 December	Executive Committee Meeting – <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – MDC	
07 January	Executive Committee Meeting – <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – MDC	
16 – 19 January	Hartford Boat Show	
21 January	Members’ Meeting – <i>“Topic to be determined.”</i> Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT	
11 February	Executive Committee Meeting – <i>“Bridge and general membership welcome”</i> – MDC	
Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities – For further details, see the current issue of Sounds of 1		
14 September	Cross Sound Ferry Lighthouse Cruise – 2 Ferry St, New London, CT 06320	
21 September	Poker Run – <i>“Hamburg Cove Yacht Club”</i> – 13 Cove Rd, Old Lyme, CT 06371	
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This month’s cover photo was taken this summer and is of Latimer Reef Light in Fishers Island Sound. ©, 2019, Kelly Rarden.
 Enter our Summer Photo Contest, and your picture might be featured here too!



Fallen Comrade

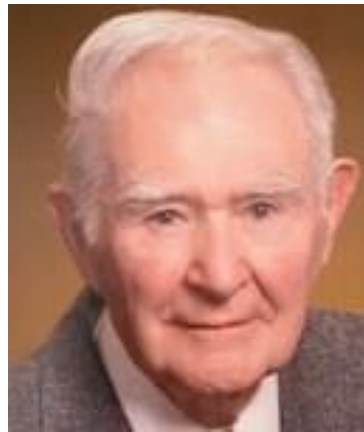
P/Lt/C Donald Gates Watson, AP, passed away peacefully on 24 July 2019.

In our last issue, we celebrated our beloved longtime member Don Watson's 97th birthday. Now it is our sad responsibility to report Don passed away on July 24th. Don was predeceased by his beloved wife of 69 years, Anita Jean (Adsit) Watson, also by his brother Elmer Ellsworth Watson Jr. and Margaret (Jergens) Watson. He leaves behind two daughters, Nancy and Sara Watson of Rocky Hill, and his nieces and nephews.

Don was born in New London, CT, the son of the late Elmer and Mable (Dotzauer) Watson. He graduated from Chapman Technical High School in 1940 with strong woodworking skills. He went on to apprentice for a cabinet maker, creating beautiful Hepplewhite Dining room furniture, and then joined the Austin Pipe Organ Company where he built piano cabinets.

When World War II broke out, Don joined the Army in 1943. He became a Sergeant in the 271st Battalion Combat Engineers, 71st Division under the command of General George Patton. His unit traveled the farthest East of all the allied forces into Steyr, Germany and liberated two concentration camps along the way.

When returning home, he began his career as an Underwriter. During his tenure he earned a membership into Underwriters Association. His interest in the Businessmen's Association and one of the Commerce where he became President & served the Rocky Hill representative to the Governors of Commerce. In 1960 Don became very involved in the community of Rocky Hill. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Finance, Commission for five years, and was a member was elected as one of the last Town Selectman a member of the Republican Town Committee, becoming Vice Chairman & Chairman. In 1988 years Don was Rocky Hill's representative to the the Great Meadows Conservation Trust where he served for over two decades in various positions. He continued his support, working to protect the Connecticut River & the Great Meadows wetlands. Don was recognized for all of his service to the town of Rocky Hill & the nation when October 17, 2005 was declared Don Watson Day!



Don was an insurance agent & financial planner for CIGNA. His business led him to become the President of the Million Dollar Round Table and Hartford business led him to become the President of the Rocky Hill Chamber of Commerce on the Board of Directors. He also became involved in the community of Rocky Hill. He worked on the Town Charter Revision of the Planning & Zoning Commission. He in 2015, at the age 93. For 45 years Don was serving on the nominating committee and he was named Republican of the year. For 15 Connecticut River Assembly. He developed

Don & Anita shared a love of the sea. Together they enjoyed boating, fishing, and sailing. He owned several boats, while also sailing on many others. They made several trips up the East Coast from Florida to Connecticut.

Don joined the Hartford Power Squadron in 1949 and became a lifelong member. He taught boating safety and navigation, and over the years he held several executive positions. He was a Lieutenant Commander and an Advanced Pilot, holding 38 merit marks for leadership. Don also enjoyed the sport of Skeet Shooting and was an active member of the Rockville Fish & Game Club, becoming Chairman of Trap & Skeet.

Your friends in the Hartford Power Squadron salute you and wish you Godspeed. Our dear sweet friend, you will be missed.



Don and Anita at the 2007 Change of Watch



Don representing our squadron at the 2006 Hartford Boat Show



At the Helm

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

As I write this, I'm sitting on the stern of our boat in Old Saybrook enjoying the view across the river of Calves Island in Old Lyme. There is a light summer rain and thunderstorms are predicted for this afternoon through midnight. The marina is empty, which is normally the case during the week, and the effect of the gentle rain and dearth of people is a tranquil one. All will change in a couple days as people head for their boats to enjoy the unofficial last days of summer *aka Labor Day weekend*. We're hoping to get some last-minute cruising in too and will end the season with the **District Poker Run at Hamburg Cove**. We will be a "station boat" for the event and would love to see a big showing from HPS. For more details, and to register, contact Charles Marino at bluenoseii@sbcglobal.net or 203-232-1277.

Details on our **Summer Photo Contest** can be found on [page 5](#). Please consider sharing your photos with us. We would love to see photos of how you spent your summer. Should your photo take first prize, it will be featured on a future cover of *the Bilge Pump* making it possible for everyone to enjoy a snapshot of your summer.

As usual, we have a great selection of continuing education courses for you to sign up for this fall. Please consider taking one of these great courses and make the water a better, safer place for all to enjoy.

Our **September Members' Meeting** will feature a great speaker from Mystic Seaport. The topic will be "Steering by the Stars." Details are on [page 6](#). This meeting is sure to be a well-attended and will capture your imagination. It will have you contemplating about how ancient mariners learned to use the stars as guiding lights to lead them into the unknown to discover, and return to, new lands. If you haven't been attending meetings, you will want to attend this one. I look forward to seeing you there.

Stay safe out there.

Cdr Timothy F. Tyler, SN

Educational Department

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

Spring Education Results

HPS Spring Education Results: We are pleased to report the following students that passed our spring courses. In addition, those students that joined the Hartford Power Squadron are indicated with an *. Please welcome them at our Member's Meetings.

ABC – Farmington – Sean Connor/Dave Sinder
28 February 2019 to 09 May 2019

- Paul A. Dolinsky
- Diana Garey
- Gail Hayes

ABC – Hamburg Cove YC – Pat Pabouet, Cliff McKibbin
18 May 2019

- Jeff Charnok
- Alex Lebedev
- Kurt Schilling
- Lisa Golebiewski
- Richard Heanue
- Kathleen Formoso
- Tyler Boissevain
- Natalie Boissevain

ABC – Bantam Lake YC – Pat Pabouet, Dave Sinder
8 June 2019

- Chris Murphy
- Ronan Murphy
- Devon Murphy
- Conor Murphy
- Christine Clauss
- John Conoscenti

Piloting – Roy Bergeron
21 February 2019 to 9 May 2019

- Shawn Hoar
- Betsy Carnes
- *Brad R. Fresher
- *Daniel L. Aldrich
- *Thomas Gonet
- *Jeannie Robbins

Two Year Course Schedule

Please use the two-year schedule below to plan your unique education schedule. By working your way through the advanced grade courses, you enhance your boating knowledge while making boating safer for yourself, your crew and other boaters cruising the waters with you. Take the elective courses to fill in your expertise in specific areas such as Electronic Navigation or Cruise Planning.

Advanced Grades	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021
Boat Handling	X		X		X
Piloting (Soon to be Marine Navigation)		X		X	
Advanced Piloting (Soon to be Advanced Marine Navigation)	X		X		
Junior Navigation (Soon to be Offshore Navigation)	X				X
Navigation (Soon to be Advanced Offshore Navigation)			X		

Electives	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021
Marine Electrical		X			X
Marine Communication			X		
Electronic Navigation	X			X	
Engine Maintenance		X			X
Weather			X		
Sail					
Cruising and Cruise Planning	X			X	



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) – Begins 10 October at 1900 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. In addition, 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).

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? 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.



Summer Photo Contest



It's not too late to enter our Summer Photo Contest. The contest is open to all members of the Hartford Power Squadron. The deadline for submissions to the contest is 11:59 p.m. on October 1, 2019.

First prize will be a 13" x 19" gallery-wrapped canvas print of the winning photograph. We will feature the winning photograph on the cover of the November-December 2019 *the Bilge Pump*, and feature the top five runners-up photos in that issue.

You can find full contest rules and details for submission on our website at http://hartfordpowersquadron.com/photo_contest.html. Please use a computer and not a smartphone for submitting your entries.

June 15 Co-Op Charting Outing

This past spring, Hartford Squadron sponsored a CoOp Charting outing on the Connecticut River.

The Cooperative Charting Program of the United States Power Squadrons is conducted in close coordination with the Marine Chart Division, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Program is a major public service of the USPS. Under it, members supply information to the Marine Chart Division of NOS/NOAA leading to corrections to nautical charts, small craft charts, Coast Pilot publications, and formerly, Small Craft Facilities. They also supply data on depth surveys, range status, tidal current surveys, and geodetic marks. The Aid TO Navigation (ATON) Inspection program allows for damaged or misplaced Aids to be reported. The Adopt-A-Chart subprogram provides for individual squadrons to assume responsibility to keep a chart, or a portion of a chart, in their local boating area up to date and get recognition on new editions for their work. We have been told the Cooperative Charting Program is recognized as the most effective user-participation program in all the Federal services.

Tom Berlandy took his boat from the Saybrook ramp under the I-95 bridge to Haddam Meadows with Cliff McKibbin, Ken Letendre, and Jon Emerson as observers. Pat Pabouet brought lunch to Haddam Meadows State Park. Due to mechanical problems, we have not yet been able to survey the river from East Hartford Landing to Haddam Meadows State Park. We are hoping to complete this activity before the end of this year's boating season.

The outing found the following:

- 7 Fixed ATONs and ranges with no problems. These are not reported.
- 26 Buoys with no problems. These we can report and get credit for.
- 5 Buoys with missing numbers. These are reported.
- One fixed ATON with the number board broken in half was reported.
- One fixed ATON was reported as the pole was leaning at more than 15 degrees. This was just above the Haddam Bridge and was perhaps due to the ice dam that occurred in the winter.

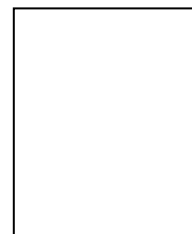


Participants included L. to R.:
Lt/C Clifford W. McKibbin, SN; Jon Emerson, JN; Ken Letendre, AP; Lt/C Pat Pabouet, P; P/Lt/C Tom Berlandy, AP



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September 24th Members' Meeting Will Feature "Steering by the Stars: Celestial Navigation"

by Brian J. Koehler
Supervisor, Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport



When we look up at the sky, we are seeing the very same stars that guided sailors long before the invention of navigational tools. Over time, we have advanced from compass to sextant to the modern GPS units that many of our smartphones have. It is important now more than ever to foster an interest in the traditions of the past. Our September presentation will provide a detailed overview of the evolution of maritime celestial navigation, beginning with the earliest recorded methods and advancing through the present time. We'll explore deduced reckoning, easting-westing, latitude by the noon sun during the day and Polaris by night, and the "Quest for Longitude" and its results. We will conclude by examining how these methods and tools have laid the groundwork for the modern GPS navigation upon which we all rely in our world today.

Since 1960, the Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport has been a center for science education, inspiring visitors to draw connections between our maritime history and the world around us. Supervising those efforts since 2013 has been Brian Koehler. His primary responsibilities have been to lead, manage, train, and support the planetarium staff of educators and volunteers. He oversees daily operations, public shows, school programs, and equipment maintenance. He is responsible for developing new programming, as well as modifying existing programming, to

meet the newest Science Education Standards at both federal and state levels. Finally, he is spearheading new marketing efforts to increase the visibility of the Planetarium, with the ultimate goal of maximizing their attendance potential.

Please join us for our kickoff meeting of the fall season for what is sure to be an educational and entertaining evening.

Date: September 24, 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.