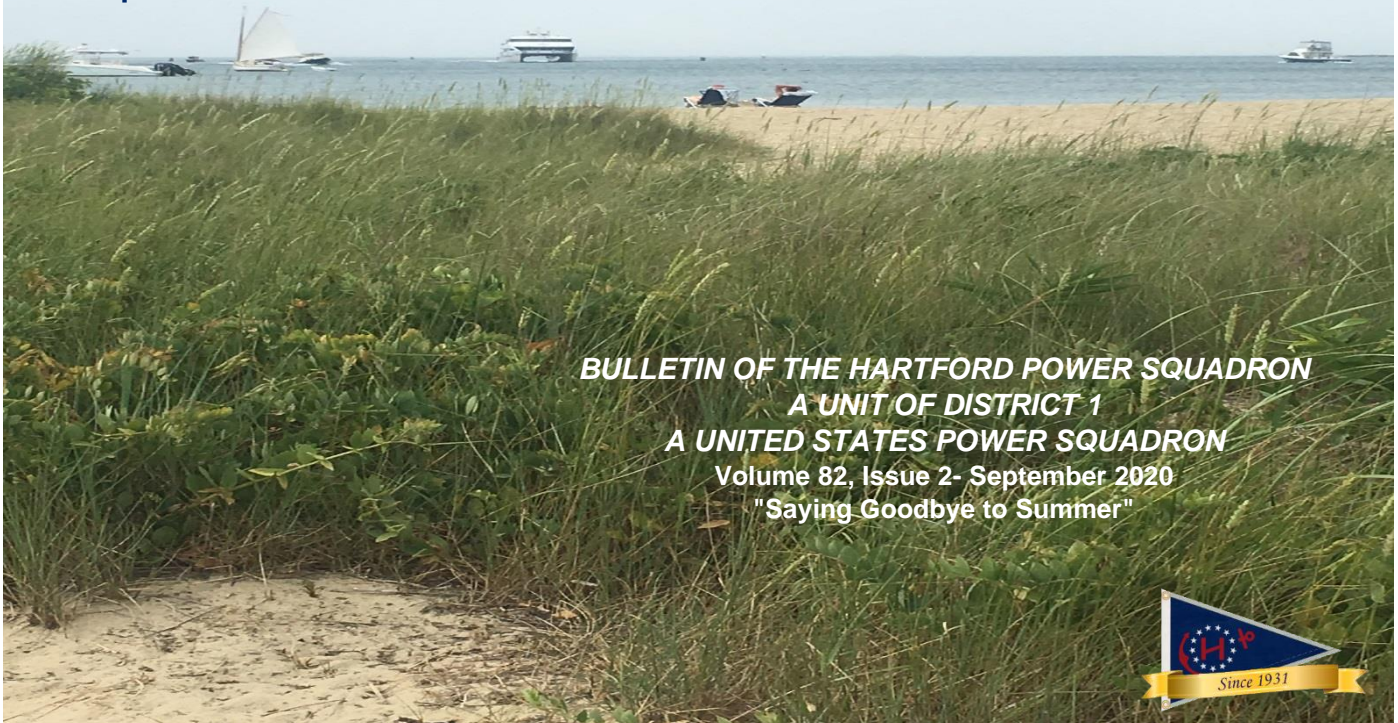




the Bilge Pump



BULLETIN OF THE HARTFORD POWER SQUADRON
A UNIT OF DISTRICT 1
A UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRON
 Volume 82, Issue 2- September 2020
 "Saying Goodbye to Summer"



Schedule of Upcoming Squadron Activities		Page
8 September 13 October 10 November 8 December 12 January 9 February	Executive Committee Meetings – TBD, check with the Secretary	
22 September	Members' Meeting- "Whales are back in New York Waters" Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT	6
27 October	Members' Meeting – "Tools Used to Restore Migratory Fish" Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike Newington, CT	
Schedule of Upcoming District 1 Activities		
21 November	District 1 Fall Conference Pattaconk Yacht Club 61 Dock Rd Chester, CT	
21-24 January 2021	The Hartford Boat Show Earth Expo Center - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT	
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At the Helm

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

As Labor Day draws near signaling the unofficial end of summer, seasonal activities are winding down. Families that would typically look forward to an end of summer “blowout” weekend are instead planning more intimate gatherings and wondering how their children will be educated as the school season begins.

I had honestly thought the summer months would have all but eliminated the COVID-19 virus and that by September, things would have pretty much returned to normal. I was mistaken. COVID-19 has proven to be more resilient than many people, including me, had thought. Although we in Connecticut were hit harder than some, as of this writing, Connecticut is currently faring better than a lot of other places. I believe this is because we have been practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and for the most part, have been acting responsibly.

So, where does this leave us as a squadron? Sadly, pretty much at a standstill. The things that make us what we are have been denied to us. We cannot effectively hold classes, and social gatherings are pretty much curtailed under the current rules. Even if they were not, many would still avoid public groups feeling that discretion is the better part of valor. Given what we are living through, who can blame them?

While we are all looking forward to brighter times, your Bridge is exploring options to let you know you are valued. We are looking for ways to provide educational opportunities and membership activities while keeping us all safe.

One thing we are doing, for one calendar year, is eliminating the Squadron portion of USPS dues for HPS members. We thought about refunding this year’s Squadron dues, but the logistics of doing so were prohibitive. Instead, beginning with the October billing for USPS dues with a December anniversary date, dues for HPS members with a single membership will be reduced by \$17. Those HPS members renewing a family membership will save \$25.00. These USPS dues discounts will also be extended to all new HPS members to encourage new member sign-ups. As an additional new member signing bonus, we have eliminated the one-time USPS new member initiation fee of \$25.00 for the same one-year period. For those contemplating joining our ranks, this would be an excellent time to do so. Please let your friends know.

We have also been trying to come up with a practical solution for members’ meetings. The Olympia Diner, where we hold our meetings, is open for business and can accommodate us. If we can get speakers, and if members are willing to attend, with some social distancing rules put into place, we can start having meetings again. To that end, we will be sending out an email to the membership asking their views on the matter. We will be asking if you are willing to attend in person, if you would be willing to participate via Zoom, or if you would not participate using either of these options. Depending on responses, we would consider holding live meetings again, or going with a hybrid live/Zoom scenario. When you get your email, please take a moment to respond. It will not take more than a minute, and it is essential to us that we understand your feelings on the matter. If you have any other suggestions for how we can resume members’ meetings, we would be grateful to get your input.

As far as classes go, we are investigating options for remote learning. In the meantime, we will be offering self-study courses at a reduced rate. You can find details on these offerings in the Educational Department portion of this newsletter. If you are stuck at home anyway, why not further your boating knowledge at a discounted price?

I miss our meetings and being able to break bread and swap boating stories with you all. I am hoping we can all see each other soon.

Stay safe out there.
Cdr Tim Tyler, SN

Education Department

Lt/C Patrick A. Pabouet, P | 860-781-7106 | Argus06108@aol.com

In this era of Covid-19 it has been impossible to schedule in-person classes in our normal venues. Many of our Instructors and Members are hesitant to meet two hours in a closed room as well.

As it turns out, most of our courses are amenable to a 'self-guided' approach. Several members have already picked up manuals, worked through the chapters and questions, and taken and passed the National test.

We would like to formalize this approach for the fall and possibly next spring. To make this option even more attractive, the Hartford Squadron will subsidize Hartford Members manual costs with a 25% reduction.

We offer the following approach:

1. You commit to a course and send us a check for the net cost of the course as shown below.
2. We will order the manual to be sent directly to your address.
3. You can work through the course at your own speed.
4. You can send us your answers to the chapter questions via email. We will check them and send back the results within 24 hours.
5. We will schedule the final test at a mutual time and location, even your own home. Courses such as Piloting and Advanced Piloting use 'take home' tests and these would be left with you for the prescribed time (1-2 weeks).

Unfortunately, ABC cannot be done this way because the State requires 'in-person' instruction. We are working out a Skype oriented course for the spring time frame.

Below is the list of courses and the 'Net' cost to you. If you are interested, please email Cliff15.McKibbin@comcast.net and he will get you started.

Course	Net Cost	Electives	Net Cost
Boat Handling (Formerly Seamanship)		Cruise Planning	34
On-line version	\$36	Engine Maintenance	29
Book	43	Marine Electrical Systems	29
Marine Navigation (Piloting)	43	Marine Communication Systems	35
Advanced Marine Navigation (AP)	31	Electronic Navigation	37
Junior Navigation	57	Radar for boaters	48
Nautical Almanac	28	Sail	29
Navigation	101	Weather	34
Nautical Almanac	28		

Report of the Coop Charting Outing

The Hartford Power Squadron has 'adopted' the CT River as part of the National CoOp Charting program. This is a joint program with the US Coast Guard and encourages squadron members to report on Aids to Navigation (ATON) that are out of position or have some other problem. The National Committee collects the reports from the Squadrons and publishes an annual report of the results. Last year the Hartford Squadron was 5th in the country for their efforts. We won't get the results of this year's efforts until the end of the year.

This year a small group of our members checked the ATONs (both fixed and buoys) on the CT River on July 18.

Roy Bergeron and Tom Berlandy generously furnished their boats. Roy's boat left the East Hartford ramp and Tom's boat left the Saybrook ramp under the I-95 bridge. The group met at Haddam Meadows State Park for lunch.

We found a dangerous log in the river, 2 buoys that needed paint and 2 that needed numbers repainted. In addition, the leaning fixed ATON on a pole that was reported last year was again reported this year. All of these were reported to the USCG.

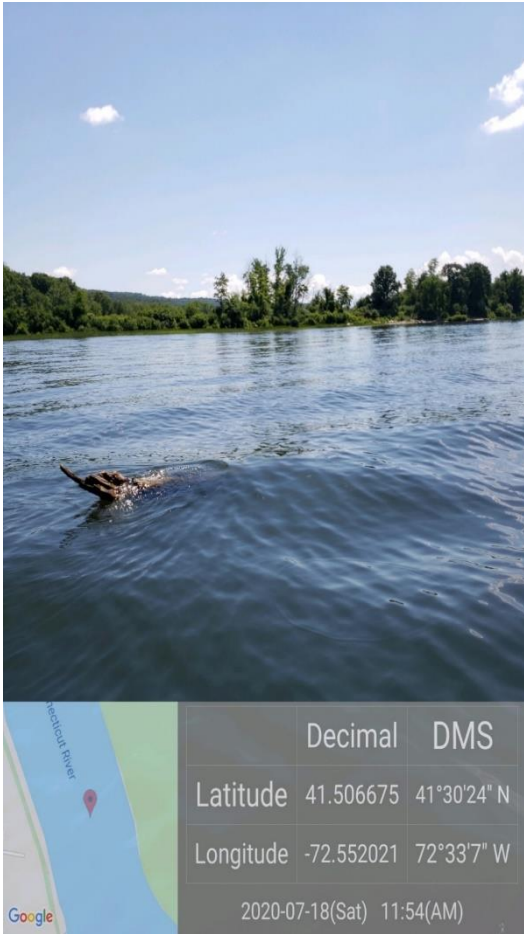
In general, the buoys were in much better shape this year than they were last year. All of those missing numbers had been renumbered. No buoys were found to be out of position. In total we reported on 57 ATONs. Fixed ATON's that didn't have a problem were not reported.

Lt/C Cliff McKibbin, SN



The group that surveyed the river L to R: P/Lt/C Roy Bergeron, AP, Lt/C Pat Pabouet, P, Lt/C Tom Berlandy, AP, Lt/C Cliff McKibbin, SN, Carrie Letendre, Ken Letendre, Lt/C Bill Waseleski, AP.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING PICNIC
Held at Ragged Rock Marina
Old Saybrook, CT August 22nd**



← Log sticking out of water



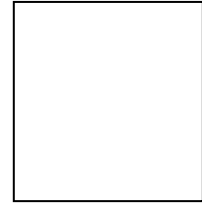
Members present L to R: Frank Pascucci, Pat Pabouet, Cdr Tim Tyler, Ted Wurz, Jim Salvatore, Cliff McKibbin, Bill Waseleski



Jim Salvatore prepares to fire up the grill



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September 22nd Members' Meeting

“Whales are Back in New York Waters”

by Lisa Piastuch

“SCHEDULING OF THIS MEETING IS DEPENDENT UPON SPEAKER AVAILABILITY AND RESPONSE TO MEMBER SURVEY”

After many years of absence, the whales are back in New York waters! Species such as the seasonally migrating Humpback and North Atlantic Right Whales, as well as the Fin Whale, are frequent visitors to the New York Bight. Using a variety of scientific tools, scientists are setting out to gain a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of these large whales and sea turtles in the Bight. Join North American Marine Environment Protection Association’s (NAMEPA) Education and Outreach Director, Lisa Piastuch, to learn more about the New York Bight Whale Monitoring Program, methodologies employed, basic facts about marine mammals and the results of the data collected as part of their work to protect the global oceans, lakes and river resources.



Lisa has a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Management from Sacred Heart University, where her research focused on coastal ecosystems restoration. Before joining NAMEPA, Lisa was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Bridgeport, teaching environmental conservation and ecology. In addition, Lisa has over ten years of professional experience in the non-profit sector, forming partnerships and fostering collaborations with various organizations. She continues to inspire and educate all ages on environmental stewardship.

Date: September 22, 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 o (860) 346-0680