



D/2 NEWS



<http://www.usps.org/localusps/d2/>

Volume 68

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

D/C Vincent J. Evans, AP

Greetings Fellow D/2 Members;

I just was thinking that it has been six months since I took over the helm for D/2. I know that I have been busy with Squadron and District business, but where has all of the time gone? No matter where I am if the opportunity presents itself, I try to promote my association with USPS. I totally respect what we do as an organization and if I can advance our presence with someone, I will do it as much as possible.



There are plenty of opportunities to interface with the public and something that has been on my mind recently is safety on the water. We all know that during the prime boating season, we are going to hear about accidents that involve injury or death. In just the last month, I have heard stories of both. P/C Armand Canestraro, P, of Lake George Squadron shared an article with me. It described a family that was returning from an outing, when they were suddenly struck by another boater. He kept going after the incident. There were injuries on the first boat, and an eight year old girl died from her injuries. The driver of the other boat was arrested the next day. He and his passengers had been drinking shortly before the accident. This tragedy could have been prevented on many fronts. The following link gives the details.

http://poststar.com/news/local/new-york-boating-safety-requirements-panned/article_654bc049-8c38-558e-9973-cf01a1c0ddf3.html

In the last couple of weeks a kayaker drowned on the Delaware River. He chose not to wear his life jacket. A kayak instructor was struck by a ferry in the New York harbor and his arm was nearly severed. The details as to what happened have not been reported as yet, but could this have been prevented. Why was an experienced person in a known shipping lane? These are just some of the reported ones. At the [USPS Governing Board Conference](#), the Coast Guard representative stated that there were 626 recorded deaths last year. Many of them could be related to BUI incidents. We must remain diligent when it comes to safety.

Since I just mentioned the USPS Governing Board Conference, I will give you a brief summary of the activities that I attended and will report on. My wife and I arrived Wednesday evening on 24 August. The next day I attended the DC\XO meeting which was about five hours in total. Membership remains one of the top subjects. Nationally we are down to 28,864 and last year it was at 30,100. As you can see, we are still losing more members than we are gaining. The National Bridge is hopeful that we will be able to turn the decline around in the near future. They feel that building membership should come from the Squadron level, as we are the direct contact to enlisting new members. District 2 is still doing good, compared to other Districts in the country. Thankfully, we have P/D/Lt/C John Steger, JN, who is monitoring the membership figures. He is compiling the numbers, from National, and forwarding the individual Squadron stats to the Squadron Commanders.

(Continued on P. 2.)

(Continued from P. 1.)

We have a District goal to increase the membership by 2 % by the end of the year. I think it is an attainable goal, and I totally support John's efforts in helping us to make that happen. I know that the Hudson Valley Squadrons are struggling to retain their current membership and to increase it if possible.

There are many changes happening along the Education front and I won't get into it here. I might just be repeating what D/Lt/C Karl Wagner, AP, will be reporting. In general, most of the changes are good and will update outdated material. Many of the courses will be updated by End Of Year.

The public relations firm R&M has been working with the National PR and Marketing Committees for the last 15 months. They are just completing Phase 2 of the 3 phase contract. I strongly feel that it is "too little too late". I can appreciate all of the work that the committees and their members put into this. What I think falls extremely short is what they are going to use for a public ad campaign. I have discussed it with quite a few people, and my position has not changed. A few people have agreed with me. Please use the following link to view the marketing ad. https://1drv.ms/u/s!AsP_f96sk8qUgwCizhtX3uECZuvP

I went to a Mohawk-Hudson Bridge meeting on 2 September. They are losing their meeting room that they have used for many years. The building is being sold, and will be torn down by next year. They formed a committee to review several suitable locations in the same locality.

Lastly, I have attended various functions of many of the District's Squadrons. My wife and I have gone to a couple of social events this summer. I went to a rendezvous hosted by the Mid-Hudson Squadron. I took the OTW training class that was held that day, with P/D/C Fred Mangelsdorf, SN, as the instructor. We went to a "Tuesday night sail" aboard ADEO Andy Cummings boat and a "Thursday night sail". Cdr. Andy Papademetriou, JN, was our Captain/host. My wife and I will be going to a clambake that is being hosted by the Penfield Squadron on 24 Sept.

Remember that the D/2 Fall Conference is scheduled for 7 and 8 October.

Please complete your registration forms on time.

The Editor reserves the right to edit articles as needed. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of District 2, The United States Power Squadrons or its editor.

**USPS
District 2**



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As I write this as we approach the waning days of the boating season and we begin to prepare for colder days and shorter daylight hours. Looking back towards the Spring 2016, it was a very busy season this year with all the education activities and events. Hopefully, many of you have taken the time to review the events reported from the USPS Governing Board Meeting in Pittsburgh PA as well as look at the *America's Boating Course* performance statistics. Looking at the USPS tagline: "*Come for the Boating Education...Stay for the Friends*", you can see that we have two main challenges: Get new members and non-members into classes and keep them engaged in boating activities to form the bond of friendship that keeps them as members. Sounds simple, right? Wrong. We know executing this strategy isn't simple to execute and it requires attention to detail, planning, adapting to changing conditions and most important, trying new ideas to see if they work or not.

Many USPS members - including me - started our boating education with a traditional, multi-week evening class that culminated with an exam and an invitation to join a local Squadron. For many recreational boaters that traditional classroom format works, but in today's fast-paced, 24/7, global, Internet-connected, work and life intermingled environment, other options are needed. Since I took the *Squadron Boating Course* almost 30 years ago, I travel more frequently for work, my children have more activities in the evenings and weekends and we're all used to video conferences over the Internet. With my typical schedule, I could not attend the *Squadron Boating Course* for 12 weeks in the evening as I did years ago - before kids and before the Internet and before cell phones. My guess is that many of you as well as the general boating public are in this situation and need alternative class formats. Alternatives include on-line courses (including *America's Boating Course*), one day and two-day courses, weekend courses and electronic meeting classes. These additional class formats allow students to learn on their schedule, rather than trying to fit into our schedule. This, in turn, draws more students into classes, which gives us the opportunity to engage with more people to become and stay members. As you would say in the Real Estate business: "Improves our curb appeal."

One of the most underrated courses that USPS has for new boaters is *Practical on the Water* powerboat handling. We call it a "seminar", but it is really a 6 to 8-hour course. It is the perfect compliment to *America's Boating Course* for new boaters and provides students with the confidence, skills practice and know how to start their boating adventures. Recent changes in *Practical on the Water* policy provides **cost reimbursement** for a members-only class. This means that you can have recent *America's Boating Course* graduates join for 18 months and then they can take *Practical on the Water* for **free**. Yes, that's right, I said **free, as in no cost**.

In essence, you can offer a "2-Day Learn to Boat Course Bundle". Day 1 is *America's Boating Course* – 8-hour version. Day 2 is *Practical on the Water*. Since you have to be a member to take *Practical on the Water*, students join via *America's Boating Course* and get an additional 6 months on their membership. You have 1.5 yrs to engage with a new member getting them into Piloting or Weather or any other Squadron activity.

This two-pronged approach of *America's Boating Course* and *Practical on the Water* gives you the ability to draw students into class, gets new dues-paying members and provides you with 1.5 yrs to engage with them so that they become long-term members. Now is a great time to start planning your "2-Day Learn to Boat Course" bundle for next Spring/Summer.

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”SM



D/ Lt/C Susan L. Darcy, JN, Secretary

From the desk of the D/2 Secretary,

I just drove back from facilitating two classes in Beaufort, SC and got quite a shock. The leaves on the trees are changing colors. Didn't Summer just start? How come Fall is so very impatient to be here? Don't they know our boating season is short?

It seemed I just got home from Pittsburgh and had to pack to drive to Beaufort. Before the meetings started, I did get to ride "The Duck" in Pittsburgh. I know I go to a lot of National Meetings and which not many of you have been able to attend. So I'll answer the question, why do I go? Partly to find out what is happening in USPS® and I guess as important, to see friends I've made who live in other areas of the country.

By now you all know that National dues are increasing on 1 December by \$2 for a single member and \$3 for a family membership. What else is happening? As we all know, Squadrons have lots of problems – not attracting members or retaining their members. Not being able to provide a complete slate for leadership positions and many other needed areas.

And these problems aren't just in our District but throughout USPS. National is looking at ways to consolidate and save. Ideas are floating around. Combine National Committees – combine Districts – redistribute Squadrons into different Districts that may make more logistical sense. We'll have to see what National comes up with and recommends.

As you are reading this, I hope it is before the Fall Conference which you all will be attending and bringing your three winning youth posters to be judged. The guest speaker sounds terrific – and I know most of us want to find out what really happened to the Concordia.

If it is after the Fall Conference, make sure to ask your Squadron Commander or Educational Officer to borrow one of the CDs they received at the Fall Conference – it will have a lot of good stuff on it that you will be able to use – like the best practices, the official logos, sample stationery and business cards, some seminars, possible awards for your Squadron plus a District 2 Directory. If you can't find a CD in your Squadron, let me know and I'll send you one.

In the last D/2 News, I offered to provide help where it was needed – the offer still stands. I would be happy to come and do some of the short seminars like "OT in 3" (Operations Training in 3 hours) or the short Leadership Development seminar or even the Secretary Seminar. If I can help in any way, I am available. Most of you know me so you know I mean I will help and not intrude. Again, I want to provide help where it's needed. Enough of my ramblings!

Hope to see you all at the next District Meeting. Or if you invite me to any of your meetings, I'll attend, schedule permitting.

Remember, I'm here to help – just ask!
Be the Best in USPS!

“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”SM

D2 VSC Report to D2 Fall Conference 8 October 2016

By D/Lt Robert J. Terry, D2 VSC Chairperson

Dated 15 September 2016



The 2016 VSC Report dated 15 September 2016 was last updated for D/2 VSC entries as of 14 September 2016. Based on that information, I have found the following information. To date, the highest number of reported VSC examinations for all D/2 Squadrons, is Norwalk SPS with 102. In 2nd place is Sacandaga PS with 52, and in 3rd place is Lake Candlewood SPS with 29 VSC examinations. Also based on this information for D/2 individual total VSC exams in first place is Jack Cohen of Norwalk SPS with 102 examinations. In 2nd place is Brian Barnier of Lake Candlewood SPS with 29 VSC exams. The 3rd place individual total is Philip Roeber of Sacandaga PS with 23 VSC exams. Our District with 26 certified examiners for 2016 has recorded a total of 298 examinations. Of those 298, only 244 exams had passed. This compares to 33 / 256 / 244 for 2015, 31 / 429 / 404 for 2014 and 34 / 300 / 274 for 2013.

Remember that VE totals for *Award Purposes* are gathered on info submitted up to 30 November 2016. Any VSCs after that date are only gathered for yearly totals. As USPS had again run out of VSC decals, you are requested to return any unused VSC 2016 VSC decals to USPS HQ as soon as possible (Before the end of 2016), for use by area's with an extended boating season.

Interesting information from the Executive Department Safety Committee Webpage. After that page loads, click in the left column on "Decal Awareness Program". Is your Squadron using this new program?

Decal Awareness Program

There is a new replacement tool in the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) tool box called "DAP", acronym for "Decal Awareness Program". The flyers and posters were designed to display the three primary aspects of the United States Power Squadrons; EDUCATION, SAFETY, and CAMARADERIE. Using the Vessel Safety Check decal at its nucleus is beneficial, as it's a recognizable symbol. Another benefit of the flyer is Squadrons and VEs can add their contact information electronically from their computer. Also displayed on the flyer is the Quick Response (QR) code for the USPS web site, plus a QR code for the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary VSC locator web site. This is a new National project that adheres to the USPS branding manual policy.

"Save a Life" boater safety signs were designed to be placed at recreational merchant locations & boat ramps. By including the form 7012 boaters will know in advance what is expected in order to pass a VSC. One of the signs is designed to have a Squadron address box and the other is a Universal sign that combines the USPS & USCGAUX.

With your leadership and support, the Decal Awareness Program can increase the annual Vessel Safety Checks.

Click on any of the images shown on that page to get a printable version of the item. Don't forget to use your USPS Office Max discount to have copies made.

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Chamber of Commerce Contact

Our Squadron invited the President of the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce to speak at one of our early 2016 Squadron membership meetings. We had previously invited both of our neighboring Squadrons, Lake George SPS & Mohawk-Hudson SPS to hear information from the Chamber President. Our Squadron agreed to join this Chamber at that meeting. Our membership was setup to encompass other USPS Squadrons, not just ours.

I attended a membership function after joining the Chamber and met with both new and current members. The next Chamber function was to staff a booth at what was promoted a “Canal Fest” in Waterford NY. I attended this function and helped staff their booth from 10:30AM until 5:00PM. The next Chamber function was to staff the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce display area at the week long, Saratoga County Fair. This County Fair came upon me quickly and we did not have much time to ask for volunteers for this event. This type of contact will take proper planning to be successful.

We are hoping that working with the Chamber we will have a great way to promote USPS to the public. USPS can display any of the USPS pamphlets or Squadron pamphlets at any of their events. USPS course materials, course offering and Squadron information can and will be distributed to a wider area than we ever were able to do before.

News about USPS and what it is all about, should be available wherever pamphlets can be displayed for the public to pick up. Using boat dealerships for literature displays is good but we are also leaving them at free literature areas at public libraries. If USPS is going to continue to exist, the public needs to know we are out there and what we can do for them.



“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”SM

Administrative Officer: Leslie White, AP



A Gratifying Afternoon at the Norwalk Boat Show

An integral component of the Sea Tow Foundation’s continuing promotion of safety on the water, is its program of *loaning* personal flotation devices (PFDs) to adults, but especially to children under 13. They are loaned for use on all watercraft, whether underway or stationary, and later returned.

As Power Squadron members, our educational programs continually stress water safety, including the essential truth that PFDs *prevent drowning and death*. It bears repeating that they keep a person’s body afloat and warmer, and importantly, maintain his or her head face-up. That allows breathing to continue even if the victim is unconscious, and in any event, makes rescue easier.

It can’t be repeated often enough that almost every drowning victim had a life jacket available but chose not to wear it! There were 736 deaths in boating accidents in 1 year in the United States, and 73% (537) of these deaths were caused by drowning. Of these 537, 90% (483) were *not* wearing PFDs.

In the light of these sad statistics, the Sea Tow Foundation aims to increase its water-safety efforts. As a result, it has recently expanded its critical mission to include PFD loaners at boat shows, and one of the first to benefit was the recent Norwalk Show.

I was pleased to represent the Norwalk Squadron in distributing the Foundation’s PFDs at the Show. This included ensuring that each jacket was worn properly, with straps secured. (It is *impossible* for someone to don a life jacket while floating in the water.)

It was very satisfying to see the yellow-clad wearers strolling down the docks and enjoying the boats on exhibit, and knowing that they were measurably safer. Especially for the children, the experience should carry forward into their future boating activities.

And yes, every PFD was returned.



“Come for the Boating Education.....Stay for the Friends”SM

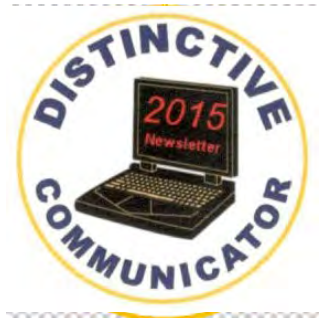
D/2 NEWS

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Address Correction Requested



Sail and Power Boating



D/2 Planning CALENDAR

2016 - 2017

3-4 October, Rosh Hashanah*
7-8 October, D/2 Fall Conference, Danbury, CT.
10 October, Columbus Day.
12 October, Yom Kippur*
31 October, Halloween.
6 November, Daylight Savings Time Ends.
8 November, Election Day.
11 November, Veterans Day.
24 November, Thanksgiving Day.
25 December—1 January, Hanukkah*
25 December, Christmas Day.
1 January, New Year's Day.
16 January, Martin Luther King Jr., Day.
12 February, Lincoln's Birthday.
14 February, Valentine's Day.
20 February, Presidents' Day.
22 February, Washington's Birthday.

***Note: All Jewish holidays begin the evening before the date given.**

(NOTE: PLEASE ADVISE THE EDITOR IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF THE D/2 NEWS.)