



THE DRUM



A Publication of the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron

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From The Commander

By Mark Erway, AP

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

At the spring District Council and Conference our squadron received some very special recognition. This first one is that our very own Carrie Sproul was awarded the status of Life Membership in recognition of having earned 25 merit marks. That represents many years of support and going “above and beyond” the call of duty for Seneca Sail and Power. She is a hands-on gal, teaching, leading, administrating, organizing and cruising on the water with her Past Commander husband Merrill. Thank you Carrie!! You’ve earned it.

We had an additional surprise when we found out that Tom Alley was recognized as the District Member of the Year and was recognized at the awards ceremony on Saturday evening and made additionally special that Tom’s wife Lisa, and daughter Katie could be there to share the moment with him. This award is in response to all that Tom has done, not only in our own squadron, but for supporting and furthering the work and needs of District Six as well. It was my pleasure to introduce him and roast him just a bit at that ceremony. Thank you Tom for all that you do. Tom also was given the national recognition award for the District Six publication, *The Deep Six*, which he now edits and produces. Thanks to District Commander Bill Herrick and to the District Bridge for recognizing Tom’s contributions.

At our squadron level, we were given national awards for our website and for



our newsletter, *The Drum*, both of which Tom hosts, edits and produces for us. Again, recognition for a job well done, and we thank you Tom for all that you do.

With the coming of Spring and the anticipation of this year’s boating season, your Bridge and Executive Committee have been busy preparing a slate of educational offerings (specifics elsewhere in this issue), supporting Junior Sailing and making plans for our portion of the 2016 District 6 Commander’s Rendezvous coming up in July. A District Rendezvous is not a regularly scheduled event for us, and it has been many years since Seneca has helped to host one, so please set aside July 15th-18th to participate in all, or any part of, this special squadron event. We want to encourage you to invite your children and your grand children to come along and enjoy the events we have planned for them as well as for you. We will be having a Squadron Meeting (that means all members of the squadron are invited) at the Rooster Fish in Watkins, 223-301 N Franklin St, Watkins Glen, NY 14891, on Monday, May 2nd from 6 to 8 pm, to work out further details of the Rendezvous.

Crossing the Bar

P/C Lauren W. Lodge, S, passed away on April 15th, 2016.

P/C Lodge served as Commander of the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron in 2001. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his family and friends.

A closing thought is prompted by the question that is still asked, "So, what benefit do I get by belonging to the squadron?" First, there's a financial benefit which is easy to find on the national website, left hand side, just click on "members' benefits". From prescription cards to hotel/motel discounts, car rentals, member benefits from BoatUS, insurance discounts, and on and on. I have utilized just two of the benefits so far this year and it has more than covered the cost of membership already.

The rest is personal. I received a good education and am still receiving it. Much of it is the formal kind, like classroom and books. But far more is sharing a boat with others who love to be out on the water, and we learn from each other. It's gathering around a table after a FLYC race and talking about things that came up. It's the afterglow conversation at Denis Kingsley's house when a meeting is wrapped up and we just get to talk to people who are becoming dearer and dearer each time we meet. It's talking with a teenager about their hopes and dreams and seeing how the discipline and knowledge of handling a sailboat builds into their character something that

will be with them the rest of their lives. It's helping others gain the confidence to take their boat out at times other than a dead calm. It's in knowing that we've helped people realize there are rules and regulations that need to be adhered to. It's knowing that a Vessel Safety Check has helped someone realize they've got it right, or that they need to make some changes so that their family and their friends are as safe as they can make them. For me the benefits of membership have changed from what I can get to what I can give; from tangible to intangible; from a small circle of people we met to a growing circle of friends that we are getting to know.

Come for the education, stay for the friendship and fun. It's what we make of it. The more you give the more you will receive. The squadron is only as healthy as its members make it. Please help us keep on going strong, we really do have a lot to offer!

- Cmdr. Mark
SV F5

cmdr@SenecaPowerSquadron.US

From the Administrative Officer

By Rebecca Lewis



Hello to you! I am working on securing a location for our May dinner event. The event will be held Monday, May 2nd. It has been requested a location near the lake be an option to kick off the

boating Season. The event will be a buy your own appetizers and drinks. The Village marina opens April 22, 2016 so I will contact them ASAP. I have also been in contact with Rooster Fish Brewery already and am waiting for more information.

Below is a list of expectations for our Rendezvous July 15th-18th. Seneca Power

Squadron will be responsible for events on July 15th and July 16th.

We are working on plans for catering from Hector BBQ. Clute Park has been reserved for the evening of Friday, July 15th. More details to follow.

Overnight parking for cars and trailers of guests is being arranged at Eyerock Docks (Dr. Hobart's property) and at The Community Center.

Boat slips may be available at Watkins Glen Yacht Club. More details to follow.

Hotels are first come, first served; there will be no blocking of rooms or special rates as this weekend is also Wine Weekend at the race track.

The Drum

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Locations with water access and anchoring for boats are being checked into for the journey up Seneca Lake for some additional fun and refreshment.

Take care!

- Rebecca

AO@SenecaPowerSquadron.US

Please Note: Barry Lewis is not the Dock master for the the Village Marina for the 2016 season. Please direct all slip inquiries to the marina office.

From the Education Officer

By Tom Alley, SN



Did you hear about this “rendezvous thing” we’re hosting this summer? For those of you who have been around for a while, you might remember the one we hosted about ten

years ago, or the one that we hosted five years prior to that.

Formally, the event is known as the “District 6 Rendezvous” and it’s an event where all of the squadrons of our district get together for some socializing, some light-hearted competition, and of course a lot of boating.

The core planning committee for the Rendezvous got together in early April to begin brainstorming and putting some structure around various ideas. The plan is to showcase things that have made the Seneca Squadron successful to our sister squadrons while celebrating the marvelous playground we enjoy on Seneca Lake.

Junior Sailors will play a prominent role in this year’s event. It’s our intention to invite youth from across the district to show them what we’ve got so that other squadrons might be inspired to create their own programs.

News from the D/6 Conference

As some of you may be aware, the weekend of April 15th-17th was Spring Conference for District 6. There are a number of items in the District Education Officer’s report which may be of interest.

Course Restructuring

There is much discussion occurring on restructuring USPS courses from the typical 8-week class format to a series of 1-night seminars. As an example, the 8-week Seamanship class would be reorganized into a series of 8 seminars that people could attend.

If this change is adopted, its implementation will not be overnight. More likely, it will be phased in over many years.

Student Manuals → e-Books

As many of you know, the cost of student manuals has been steadily increasing at an alarming rate for the past several years. In an effort to reduce cost and overhead, the USPS will do a trial run with student manuals in an electronic format this fall. The first course to try this publishing medium will be Seamanship. While Seneca Squadron was one of the 17 squadrons that volunteered for this trial, the new e-books will not be available in time for our May/June course offering.

Blended Learning

Aside from restructuring classes into a series of stand-alone modules, there has also been discussion about reformatting courses for “blended learning”. In the case of USPS courses, this means that classes and seminars would utilize a combination of classroom and non-classroom venues for teaching. While we are all familiar with the classroom, the non-classroom portions would involve a combination of on-the-water training along with online (web-based) learning.

Examples cited in the DEO’s report include utilizing online formats for practice cruises and similar course projects.

ABC Online

New York State has finally approved an online version of the ABC course that will allow students to earn a NY Boater Safety Card. Prior to now, students were required to have a minimum of 8 hours of “seat time” in a classroom before they could be awarded a card.

The online course and exam, however, are still geared towards adults, which means there is still a place for Seneca’s ABC for Youth program.

OTW Updates

There has been an issue between the USPS and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) regarding on-the-water training. Despite talks at the national level between the USPS and the USCG, the USCG has refused to waive the requirement for having a licensed Captain when there are “fee-paying” individuals aboard a vessel. The USPS was given the option of either complying with the licensing requirement or of eliminating the fees and limiting the audience to dues-paying members.

According to the USCG, any on-the-water courses being taught to the general public require the presence of a licensed captain.

Pending further refinements in the ruling, Seneca’s Junior Sailing Program is compliant with the USCG criteria.

New DEO

After four years of serving the district, DEO Tom Shuell has announced he is stepping down following some recent health issues. Tom’s successor is Ken Green, the district’s (former) Assistant DEO, so I know we will be in good hands.

- Tom

SEO@SenecaPowerSquadron.US

Youth Committee Report

By Katie Alley, P & Maggie MacBlane, S

The Junior sailors have been hibernating this winter, but now that spring has arrived and some action is occurring, they have emerged from their sleep and are ready to get back on the water. With the new season approaching fast, new opportunities and adventures await the new and returning Junior Sailors.

With a new season comes new positions. That said, effective May 1st, Maggie MacBlane will be welcomed as the new co-chair of the Youth Committee alongside Katie Alley. Expect lots of tomfoolery (in addition to getting business done, we promise).

The first piece of business for this season was an organizational meeting that took place on April 15th for all interested and returning Junior sailors and their parents. Many new faces were present and the curriculum of the program and all class opportunities, including ABC, Seamanship, and Sail, were explained. All present had the opportunity to meet the majority of the coaches that will be participating in the program this year and learn a little bit about their boats.

Informational footage of the program was also shown so that everyone new could see some of our racing and cruising (and tomfoolery) that is sure to be experienced. Paperwork was handed out to several other returning and potentially new Junior sailors who could not attend the meeting, so we are expecting a sizable group this summer.

Also during April, Katie was able to attend the District 6 Spring Conference in Auburn. At least two people recognized her from the presentation she gave at the 2014 Fall Conference about the pilot version of the Junior Sailing program. At lunch, a couple from the Rochester squadron who sat with Katie, Captain Tom, and Commander Mark were very interested in the way SSPS conducts its ABC class and Junior Sailing program, and planned to take some of the information they gave them back home to their youth. At the conference, Katie also had the pleasure of inviting all of the district's youth to the Rendezvous this July, as SSPS will be showcasing the Junior Sailing program and is planning several fun and educational youth activities. Also at the conference, *Tomfoolery's* Captain and Seneca Junior Sailing's founder, received his well deserved District 6 Member of the Year award. We are very proud of Captain Tom Alley and grateful to have Junior sailing and a Youth Committee with his guidance. Congratulations Captain!

In an attempt to seek ways to connect with even more people, Seneca Junior Sailing also now has an Instagram account to post pictures and videos as well as a Twitter account to send quick, short updates. Many of you reading this probably do not have Instagram or Twitter accounts, but this does not mean that Katie and Maggie cannot teach you! In the meantime, the Facebook page will

be regularly updated, and you can invite any youth to follow us on Instagram and Twitter!

Like us on Facebook:
Seneca Junior Sailing

Follow us on Instagram:
@senecajrsailing

Follow us on Twitter:
@senecajrsailing

Now for the not so fun part of Junior Sailing: paperwork. All those new and returning to the program for the 2016 season must turn in their registration forms and payment no later than April 29th. (May 15st for those not enrolling in the Seamanship class.)

Up next on the Junior Sailing calendar is a waterfront orientation meeting for parents and sailors on May 28th at the Watkins Glen Village marina from 11 a.m. - noon. This will give parents and students alike the opportunity to tour the coaches' boats as well as meet the other Junior Sailors. Everyone will be happy to return to the lake again.

The Junior Sailors are clearly getting ready for another fantastic season! In conclusion, here is a terribly cheesy joke:

What do you say a Captain has when he is in a bad mood?

A latitude. ☺

Upcoming Classes and Seminars

By Seneca Squadron Education Department

Instructor Recertification

If your USPS Instructor Certification is expiring this year, there will be a 2-hour recertification seminar to be held in late May.

- **When:** Thu., May 26th, 7:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Kingsley Residence

- **Instructor:** Charlie Fausold
- **Cost:** Free!
- **Registration Deadline:** May 20th.

Please contact Tom Alley (SEO@SenecaPowerSquadron.US) to register.

Seamanship

A 9-week class to cover the basics of recreational power and sail boat handling. This is an overview class that will spend 4 weeks in the classroom and 4 weeks aboard various boats for some hands-on instruction. The final session consists of a written exam.

- **When:** May and June.
- **Where:** Classroom TBD. On-the-water session at Watkins Glen Village Marina.
- **Instructors:** Jim McGinnis, Cliff Geer and Peter Knott
- **Cost:** \$90
- **Registration Deadline:** Late registration available now

Sail

An intensive 9-week class to cover the theory and practice of sailing. Students will spend 3 weeks in the classroom followed by 5 weeks aboard various sailboats. After a review session, there will be a final exam at the end of the course.

- **When:** July and August.
- **Where:** Classroom TBD, On-the-water sessions at Watkins Glen Village Marina.
- **Instructors:** Various
- **Cost:** \$75
- **Registration Deadline:** Jun 8th

Seamanship/Sail Combo Offer

The Seamanship and Sail courses complement each other nicely. Since we schedule them to run in tandem, why not

sign up for both? To sweeten the deal, the Squadron will offer a \$10 discount for the package if you register for both classes at the same time. Students who have done this in the past have remarked that it was a great way to spend the spring and summer on the water!

Junior Navigation

The Junior Navigation course is the USPS's introduction to celestial navigation.

Part of this course involves a fair amount of field work to collect observations of the sun. In the past, this work was delayed until the end of the course, but this has proven to be impractical. As such, we will begin the course with the field work required to build a sight folder in preparation for the classroom portion of the course. We will focus on collecting the sights necessary while the weather is still conducive to outdoor work.

We will meet at the Watkins Glen Village Marina where we can go out and take sights from various boats so that everyone can learn the proper techniques for handling a sextant and for collecting the sights needed in the course.

- **When:** Beginning Summer 2016.
- **Where:** Village Marina, Watkins Glen
- **Instructors:** Tom Alley and Jim Morris.
- **Cost:** \$150 (new students), Free for returning students.

Questions? Contact Tom Alley (see e-mail address below).

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Policy reminder: It has been our practice in the Seneca Squadron to offer scholarships to our outstanding students. If you receive a perfect score on the final exam of any of the Advanced Grade or Elective courses, the next course is on us! (In plain English: It's free. No charge. Gratis. Got it? Good! Now sign up for one of our classes!)

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If there is a particular course you are interested in taking that isn't listed here, please contact Tom Alley, the Squadron Education Officer, with your request:

SEO@SenecaPowerSquadron.US

Free Skin Cancer Screening Clinic

As boaters, we tend to spend a lot of time out in the sun. Because of this, we run an increased risk of various ailments that can result from getting too much of a good thing over a long period of time.

To help keep your mind at ease and allow you to better enjoy your nautical hobby, there will be a free skin cancer screening at the Falck Cancer

Center/Arnot Ogden Hospital from 5 to 7 PM on Monday May 9th.

There is a required pre-registration for the 15 minute slots. To register for an appointment call:

Health On Demand at 607-737-4499.

Medical personnel involved in the screening include a dermatologist,

plastic surgeon, and a physician assistant.

What's even better is that the dermatologist and PA are both boaters who appreciate your desire to spend time out in the sun!

The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN



It's spring, which for me means it's "busy time" again.

This month both our squadron and district newsletters have to be pushed out at the same time.

We're also in a frenzy of activity to get this summer's Junior Sailing logistics organized. Let's not forget offering another session of the Seamanship course. ...and Sail. ...and JN.

Oh, shoot! We have *how many* instructors who need to renew their USPS certification? (Ans: 8) Looks like

we need to organize a certification renewal seminar, too.

There's also the issue of getting my own boat ready to launch and getting all of the logistics worked out for Junior Sailing and its fleet of five classroom boats. We have a couple of new coaches joining us this year, so there's some orientation to take care of for them along with developing a coach-in-training program for our high school seniors who want to become coaches next year when they come home from their first year of college.

Oh, yeah, there's the "day job" to worry about as well. Getting marching orders to pack my bags and travel during this time of year only adds to the challenge of it all. I'll have to remember to send

some postcards to my boat so she knows I haven't forgotten about her.

I wonder if my flares have expired? Better add that to "The List". Oops, the paper is full. I'll have to start another page. (I'm up to four pages now, in case you're interested.)

Yes, it's spring, and it's a busy time of year!

- Tom

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As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:

editor@SenecaPowerSquadron.US

Calendar of Events

May 2016

- 1 Seneca Drum May issue publication.
 2 Membership Happy Hour & Rendezvous Planning Meeting (1800)
Rooster Fish Brewing, Watkins Glen
 9 Seamanship Class (1900)
Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen
 16 Seamanship Class (1900)
Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen
 17 Bridge Meeting (1900)
TBD
 21-27 National Safe Boating Week
 21 White Museum event (1100-1700), Oswego.
 Gene Little (Ithaca S&P/USCGA) says we can set up a table for USPS info. We could also be involved in giving Vessel Safety Checks if we wanted to.
 23 Seamanship Class (1900)
Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen
 26 Instructor Recertification Seminar (1900)
Kingsley Residence
 28 Junior Sailing Waterfront Orientation (1100)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 30 Seamanship Class (1900)
Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen

June

- 3 Seamanship Class (1830)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 10 Seamanship Class (1830)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 11 Junior Sailing Session #1 (1000)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 17 Seamanship Class (1830)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 17-18 Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival
Watkins Glen Village Marina & Waterfront
 21 Bridge Meeting (1900)
TBD
 24 Seamanship Class (1830)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 24 Deadline for Drum Articles
 25 Junior Sailing Session #2 (1000)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 TBD Seamanship Final Exam (1900)
 TBD Junior Navigation Class begins

July

- 1 Seneca Drum July issue publication.
 1-2 Tall Ships - Toronto
 July <http://www.sailtraining.org/tallships/2016greatlakes/TSC2016index.php>
 8 Sail Class Begins [Tentative]
 9 Junior Sailing Session #3 (1000)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen

- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
TBD
 15-18 D/6 2016 Rendezvous
Watkins Glen, Geneva, Cayuga, Ithaca
 30 Junior Sailing Session (1000)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen

August

- 6 Junior Sailing Session (1000)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 11 ABC Session #1 (1900)
Watkins Glen Yacht Club, Watkins Glen
 13 Junior Sailing Race #1 (1245)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 16 Bridge Meeting (1900)
TBD
 18 ABC Session #2 (1900)
Watkins Glen Yacht Club, Watkins Glen
 20 ABC OTW Session (0900)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 20 ABC Final Exam (1300)
Watkins Glen Yacht Club, Watkins Glen
 22 Deadline for Drum Articles
 27 Junior Sailing Race #2 (1245)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen

September

- 1 Seneca Drum September issue publication.
 8-11 Tall Ships - Erie, PA
 10 Junior Sailing Race #3 (1245)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 16-18 Seneca Barge Race (Junior Sailing)
Seneca Yacht Club, Geneva, NY
 17-18 Tall Ships - Brockville, Ontario
 20 Bridge Meeting (1900)
TBD
 24 Junior Sailing Race #4 (1245)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen

October

- 1 Optional Junior Sailing Race (1245)
Village Marina, Watkins Glen
 18 Bridge Meeting (1900)
TBD
 24 Deadline for Drum Articles

November

- 1 Seneca Drum November issue publication.
 15 Bridge Meeting (1900)
TBD

December

- 19 Deadline for Drum Articles

January 2017

1 Seneca Drum January issue publication.
 TBA Change of Watch (1300)
 TBA Bridge Meeting (1900)

February

TBA USPS Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL
 TBA Bridge Meeting (1900)
 TBA Deadline for Drum Articles

March

1 Seneca Drum March issue publication.
 TBA Bridge Meeting (1900)

April

TBA Junior Sailing Organizational/Kick-Off Meeting
 TBA Bridge Meeting (1900)
 25 Deadline for Drum Articles

Calendars are "living documents." For the latest information on squadron activities, please check our web site:

<http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US>

or our Facebook page:

<http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron>

for any last-minute changes.