

# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®

For Boaters, By Boaters™




## THE DRUM

A Publication of the Finger Lakes Chapter

In this issue...

- From The Commander ..... 1
- From the Administrative Officer.....3
- From the Education Director .....3
- From the Assistant Education Officer.....4
- Membership Thoughts .....5
- From the Public Relations Officer.....6
- Upcoming Classes & Seminars .....6
  - Advanced Piloting .....6
  - Marine Electronics.....6
  - Sail Course .....6
  - How To Register .....7
  - Looking for Something?.....7
- Long-Term Class Schedule.....7
- USPS News: Local, District, National & More .....8
  - New Member Welcome .....8
  - Tip of the Day .....8
  - Important Information on Life Jackets .....8
  - Happy Birthday! .....8
  - Got News? .....8
- Sailing in Central Park.....9
- A Brief History of the United States Power Squadrons ..... 10
- The Last Word .....13
- Calendar of Events.....14
- Report any errors or omissions to:  
[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

### From The Commander

By Jim McGinnis, AP

#### Fall News

The boat is under wraps and leaves are falling. Summertime is gone but we are enjoying a few warm days mixed with those close brushes with freezing temperatures.

Make sure you've checked and re-checked the antifreeze in the engine block and all water lines. I always put anti-freeze in the bilge as a last step after I pull the batteries (so the bilge pump doesn't pump it right out) for any winter snow/rainwater that collects down there. If you are winterizing for the first time or doing it on a new boat for the first time, it's helpful to have someone check it with you. Water can get trapped and freeze in some unsuspected places (like cockpit drain tubes). We have some experts in our club that have done winterizing for many years and are very happy to assist for a small liquid remuneration.



#### Cruise Planning

I am currently taking the *Cruising & Cruise Planning* course being taught by Don Kloeber, who is the local "Guru of Cruising" as you have seen from our previous newsletters. Don and his wife, Marge, made a trip to Georgian Bay up the Trent Severn Waterway through the locks and he has promised to give a presentation to the membership next year for one of our social events.

This *Cruising & Cruise Planning* course has been updated to include planning and conducting a cruise in a practical exercise much like the practical exercises in *Piloting*, and *Advanced Piloting*. If you'd like to audit just one session let me know and you could

attend on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in Montour Falls.

I am working on a plan to charter a boat in the Exumas. It's a chain of islands just south of Nassau in the Bahama's that escaped the wrath of Hurricane Dorian.

### District Meeting

Charlie Fausold, Tom Alley and I are heading to the District 6 Meeting in Syracuse on November 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be getting an overview of District 6 activities from District Commander Nancy Bieber.

The reality is that the District and National membership is generally declining. National and the District are looking to reverse that trend with the restructuring of all classes and the rebranding effort to be "America's Boating Club."

### Great news on new members

We have been fortunate to add nine new members this year. The primary reason we are bringing in new members is our educational program. It's important that we sustain that strength and encourage members to continue their education. We have also achieved an increased level of visibility with efforts in the press. (Thanks to Glenda Gephart!) Articles on our Basic Boater Safety Class, Brianna's Law and the Lifejacket Loaner Tree in Clute Park have made it to all the regional media.

### Nomination for Officers

Please consider taking a more active role in the club. Tom Taylor, Ray Margeson and Jim Morris are the 2019 nominating committee members for the elected roles that take office on January 13<sup>th</sup> for the new year. Carefully consider how you can support our fundamental purpose of Safety, Education and Community Service.

In addition to the elected roles, we also need people to teach and support the offering of boating classes, conduct vessel safety checks, coordinate events, provide membership contacts and a myriad of other roles. *[Like writing newsletter articles! – Ed.]* We would also like to extend our reach to Hammondsport and Ithaca in the future and would need additional human resources to achieve that goal.

### Safety through Education

Lynne and I had a lot of good days on *S/V Brewster* this summer. One weekend, we raced with the Finger Lakes Yacht Club to Lodi and back to Smith Park for an overnight on a mooring ball. Please take advantage of those classes to increase your own safety and enjoyment on the water. Plan a cruise for 2020!

- Jim, *S/V Brewster*  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)

### The Drum

*Published six times per year by the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club. The opinions expressed in **The Drum** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of America's Boating Club, its officers, directors, or members.*

#### General Information

[info@abc-flx.org](mailto:info@abc-flx.org)

#### Commander

James McGinnis, AP  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)

#### Executive Officer

*[Position Vacant]*  
[xo@abc-flx.org](mailto:xo@abc-flx.org)

#### Administrative Officer

Phil Cherry, S  
[ao@abc-flx.org](mailto:ao@abc-flx.org)

#### Education Officer

Charlie Fausold, SN-IN  
[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

#### Secretary

Fred Seip, S  
[sec@abc-flx.org](mailto:sec@abc-flx.org)

#### Treasurer

Marcia Taylor, AP  
[treas@abc-flx.org](mailto:treas@abc-flx.org)

#### Assistant Education Officer

John Flick  
[aseo@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo@abc-flx.org)

#### Membership

Mark Erway, AP  
[membership@abc-flx.org](mailto:membership@abc-flx.org)

#### Public Relations Officers

Glenda Gephart &  
Judy Cherry, S  
[pro@abc-flx.org](mailto:pro@abc-flx.org)

#### Vessel Safety Check Chairman

Ray Margeson, AP  
[vsc@abc-flx.org](mailto:vsc@abc-flx.org)

#### Web Site Administrator

Thomas Alley, SN  
[webmaster@abc-flx.org](mailto:webmaster@abc-flx.org)

#### Youth Committee Chair

Katie Alley, P  
[katie@abc-flx.org](mailto:katie@abc-flx.org)

Unless attributed otherwise, ©2019 copyright by America's Boating Club - Finger Lakes Chapter. All rights reserved.

## From the Administrative Officer

By Phil Cherry, S

### USPS History



Have you ever read the history of the US Power Squadrons? It's really interesting and it won't take long to

read. A brief summary of the early years of the USPS can be found later in this issue of the newsletter. (You can find the full article on the United States Power Squadron (USPS) website at <http://www.usps.org/national/historian/uspshistory.html>)

What I find interesting is the blending of our educational mission with that of national defense. The article linked above talks in a few places how the USPS was called into action during World

War I and World War II. In April, 1917, when war was declared with Germany, the USPS, then a fledgling organization of mostly east coast boaters, wrote to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, volunteering the entire USPS instructional program for the training of men for naval coastal defense, and subsequently enrolling over 5,000 students who ultimately joined the armed forces, many of whom became officers because of the advanced training provided by USPS. As similar situation ensued following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the beginning of WWII. The USPS was called upon to help train soldiers in safe boating, piloting, navigation and seamanship.

My point in raising this is to highlight the important role the USPS has had in our nation's history.

While our organization has been aiding the United States in defense of our country, we've also been working to educate literally thousands of individual boaters in those same subjects we trained our soldiers in. I'm trying to think of another member driven, informal private sector educational organization that has been as influential to society as we've been... and there aren't many.

Take a look at the USPS's website and read up on our history. Safe boating is no accident, and we can thank the USPS's founding members for setting our organization on a course of service, education and success for now over 100 years.

- Phil

[ao@abc-flx.org](mailto:ao@abc-flx.org)

## From the Education Director

By Charlie Fausold, SN-IN

### Educational Happenings



October is a month for doing the weather dance: "Should I haul my boat out

now, or wait another week?" The desire to take advantage of a few more warm and beautiful fall days

on the water is tempered by the very real possibility that when you finally get around to those winterization chores it will, in fact, feel like winter.

October is also a good opportunity to think about taking advantage of one of the major benefits of belonging to our club, which is access to top-quality classes and seminars to further your boating knowledge and enjoyment. If you can't be on the

water, then joining other club members in a shared learning experience is an enjoyable way to spend a winter evening.

Two classes are currently underway. Navigation (N), which provides the knowledge and skills to plan and navigate blue water voyages, is now in the classroom phase after devoting the summer to taking celestial observations and completing sight folders. Cruising and Cruise Planning

(CP), which is self-explanatory, is just getting underway with an enthusiastic group of seven students under the guidance of instructor Don Kloeber, assisted from time to time by his wife, Marge. The Kloebers' extended cruise to Georgian Bay via the Trent-Severn Waterway this past summer, aboard their Paceship Trawler, *Bacchus*, adds a real-world context to the course material.

Registration is now open for Advanced Piloting (AP), which will begin Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> in

Room 115 of the Schuyler County Human Services Complex in Montour Falls. AP builds on Piloting, which is a prerequisite. It focuses on navigation in coastal waters where greater distances require increased accuracy in course plotting and tides and currents must be taken into account. It also introduces more advanced electronic navigation tools such as radar. The registration fee for AP is \$80 for members and \$38 for additional family members sharing the student materials. Club members who have taken Piloting are

strongly encouraged to join us for AP. Contact me at

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

or call me at 607-207-7771 to sign up.

Finally, if there is another class or seminar that interests you, please let me know. We have recently added to our ranks of certified instructors and they are eager to put their new skills to good use!

- Charlie

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

## From the Assistant Education Officer

By John Flick

### Can You Hear Me Now?



I hope you will listen to me better than my wonderful wife does. Actually, I don't have a

wife, but I was hoping to get your attention. You should listen to me because I am one of the messengers of safe boating. Please bear with me while I explain and no I have not been smoking anything.

I don't like myself too much nor do I think I actually know anything, but I am familiar with the work of the Coast Guard, the National Fire Protection Agency and

the ABYC. I am the self-appointed person at the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club who tries to communicate through these articles the collaboration of hundreds of experts who work hard at keeping us safe on the water.

The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), a voluntary standards organization, has about 400 people who contribute to the many technical committees. Tell me that's not an amazing number. If you ever meet one of these generous volunteers at the airport, marina, etc., I hope you'll say thank you and buy them a coffee or an adult beverage or something. These people help keep us safe on the water like America's military and various law enforcement agencies keep us free, keep

terrorism at bay, and keep our streets safe.

Thank goodness that I am only one of many messengers. ABC leadership and instructors should also be listened to as well. These hardworking folks are keeping you safe by teaching you a broad spectrum of skills and knowledge from celestial navigation to weather to how to operate your boat to how to maintain your boat and so on.

What is your next class or seminar going to be?

Are you listening to me?

- John

[aseo@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo@abc-flx.org)

o o o o o

# Membership Thoughts

By Mark Erway, AP

## Membership Report



Our most recent new members are David Locke, Maura Toole and Kris West and we greet

you with a hearty “welcome aboard”. You have joined us at a very exciting time as the new leadership team is getting settled in and making plans for a great 2020.

Overall 2019 was a good year for us. Records show that we currently have 79 active members. Since January we have received 12 new members but lost 8 existing members. It's good news that we had so many new folks join, but sad news when people don't renew for whatever reasons. If we are falling short of your expectations, please, just let someone in leadership know so that we can assess and respond appropriately.

Most times it only takes a word or two to help us better understand things.

A review of members who joined us in 2019, in chronological order, are: Glenda Gephart, Bill Phoenix, Wendy Reynolds, Walter Vancise, James and Rhea Gerdes, Rachel Nichols, Greg Glaesemann, Ellenanne Mansfield, and as noted above, David Locke, Maura Toole, and Kris West. Leaving us during 2019 were, Mike and Christine Brazil, Claudia and Jeff Demeritt, Gary Bulas, Cliff Geer, Kathleen Healy, and Andrea Johnson.

Our leadership team is working hard to provide us with activities and educational opportunities that make membership a value worth the effort. As we all know, a dynamic and healthy organization should not rest simply with a small core of people, typically those in leadership, but needs all of us participating in one way or another to provide the synergy that will keep us moving forward.

One of the greatest assets that we have in our organization is the collective boating knowledge of its members. When those capable people become instructors, through a rigorous process, that translates into an excellent educational program in America's Boating Club – Finger Lakes Chapter. Combined with excellent instructional books and presentations, developed over years of practical application on a nationwide basis, we can provide some of the highest quality boating education that is available anywhere.

To our membership – please avail yourself of the educational opportunities as they come up. And please, above all, participate as much as possible in our activities, and that will help ABC-FLX remain a vital and important part of making recreational boating safe and *FUN*.

- Mark  
[membership@abc-flx.org](mailto:membership@abc-flx.org)

## From the Public Relations Officer

By Glenda Gephart

### Education Opportunities



Simply reading the announcement for the cruise planning course is enough to get one's imagination

churning. Where would I go? Sail or power? Duration? And, most importantly, how many adventures would I have along the way? While fantasizing is fun, some of us do make the decision to turn

the dreams into reality. The cruise planning course, with all that it teaches, can be the first step on that path to a great adventure.

Knowledge certainly decreases apprehension and increases the fun. The many courses offered by America's Boating Club, and the Finger Lakes Chapter specifically, do just that.

The ABC-FLX board is committed to better publicizing the courses. We can announce the courses in the newspapers and on social media, but the most effective way to spread the word will always be through conversation.

You can help. When you see courses announced in *The Drum*,

tell your boating friends, help them understand the value of learning as much as they can. Chapter membership, while desired, is not required.

Educated boaters mean a better environment for everyone. It's a cliché, but we really are all in this together. Enjoying the lakes and having those adventures.

- Glenda  
[pro@abc-flx.org](mailto:pro@abc-flx.org)

## Upcoming Classes & Seminars

### Advanced Piloting

Registration is now open for Advanced Piloting (AP), which will begin Thursday, February 6 in Room 115 of the Schuyler County Human Services Complex in Montour Falls.

AP builds on Piloting, which is a prerequisite. It focuses on navigation in coastal waters where greater distances require increased accuracy in course plotting and tides and currents must be taken into account. It also introduces more advanced electronic navigation tools such as radar.

The registration fee for AP is \$80 for members and \$38 for additional family members sharing the

student materials. Club members who have taken Piloting are strongly encouraged to join us for AP.

Contact Charlie Fausold at  
[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

or call 607-207-7771 to sign up.

### Marine Electronics

With more and more electronics finding their way onto our boats – and into our lives in general – it makes sense to try to get a greater understanding of how they work and what it takes to make them operate properly and reliably.

If you are interested in learning more about marine electronics –

and electronics in general – please consider joining the Finger Lakes Chapter (Seneca) for their ME course in the spring of 2020.

Contact SEO Charlie Fausold for additional details:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

or call 607-207-7771

### Sail Course

If you have always wanted to learn how to sail, the Finger Lakes Chapter (Seneca) is happy to announce its popular on-the-water (OTW) version of the USPS Sail course.

The course will take place in the early summer of 2020, but seats

are limited, and they tend to fill up fast! The course will be taught in the Watkins Glen area and the OTW sections will be held in the Village Marina of Watkins Glen.

To get on the list of potential students, contact SEO Charlie Fausold for additional details:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

or call 607-207-7771

## How To Register

If you have questions about any of these courses, or better yet, to

sign up, please contact either of the following individuals:

Education Director Charlie Fausold, Finger Lakes Chapter:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)

or call 607-207-7771

Assistant Education Director John Flick:

[aseo@abc-flx.org](mailto:aseo@abc-flx.org)

Or you can go to the national web site ([www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)) and register under the "Find A Boating Class" tab on the member home page.

## Looking for Something?

The Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club will be happy to accommodate requests for courses not currently on our schedule of formal offerings. If there is an area in which you would like to get some instruction, please contact Charlie Fausold, the Chapter Education Director, with your request.

Available subjects for instruction can be found on the chapter web site:

[www.abc-flx.org](http://www.abc-flx.org)

## Long-Term Class Schedule

*Seneca Education Department*

Courses	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Public	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC
Basic	Boat Handling	Sail	Boat Handling	Sail	Boat Handling	Sail
Advanced Level	Piloting	Advanced Piloting	Piloting	Advanced Piloting	Piloting	Advanced Piloting
Senior Level	Navigation			Junior Navigation		
Electives	Radar for Boaters	Marine Electronics	Electronic Navigation	Instructor Training	Marine Comm.	
	Instructor Development					
	Cruise Planning					
Seminars	GPS Nav	Power Boating	Paddle Smart	Trailering and Docking	Partner in Cmd.	
Self Study	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class

# USPS News: Local, District, National & More

## New Member Welcome

We extend a heartfelt welcome to our newest members:

- Ellenanne Mansfield
- David Locke
- Maura Toole
- Kris West

Welcome to the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club! We look forward to meeting you in person at our next meeting.

## Tip of the Day



Charlie Fausold passes along this money-saving tip: To reduce per foot slip rental fees, try a folding bowsprit!

## Important Information on Life Jackets

A new nine-minute video regarding inflatable life jackets has been released recently by The Corps Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The video is titled "*Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need To Know*" and is available on YouTube at:

[youtube.com/watch?v=g5eniRI0mXM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=g5eniRI0mXM).

Author: [Chip Meany](#)

## Happy Birthday!

Best wishes to Finger Lakes Chapter members who are celebrating their birthday in next couple of months.

### November

- Judy Cherry
- Thomas Keebler
- Glenda Gephart
- Andre Wigley
- Patricia Dawson-Elli

### December

- Debra Pietro
- David Locke
- Cris Broderick
- Denis Kingsley

- Robert Drake
- Brandon Seip
- John Flick
- Marcia Taylor
- Lisa Oldroyd-Stewart

## Got News?

*By Tom Alley, Editor*

Do you have any squadron-related news or announcements? Contact your editor and have it printed here. We're happy to publicize anything of interest to our members, whether it's for the Seneca Squadron or one of our neighboring squadrons.

Contact Tom Alley:

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

o o o o o



# Sailing in Central Park

By Jim McGinnis

SV Wasp



Figure 1: Life of the foredeck - Cut away all paper bags! Chapter 6 and 7 of [Stuart Little](#).

I have no idea how much of an influence the book about Stuart Little has had on my life, but I have never forgotten this scene or his bravery in the face of a raging sea. If you are not familiar with the book from 1945,

take a look at the link above for Chapter 6 and 7.

This summer I had the opportunity to sail a radio-controlled boat in Central Park and jumped at the chance. Of course, as everyone knows, if even two sailboats spy each other on a lake, they are racing in some form. I admit that happened even when the competition was mostly 7 to 10-year-olds in these unfamiliar waters. My choice was a beautiful 4-foot sloop with a tall mast and a deep bulb keel. I was smitten. It took me a few

minutes to get the hang of it and be able to hold a course. Then I saw a solid puff indicated by the cat's paws ahead and deftly turned to weather. Telltales streaming, she leaned right over and began picking up speed across the pond, passing ever boat in the area. Sweet.

Oh yeah – I got the Tee shirt.



# A Brief History of the United States Power Squadrons

*From the USPS National Web Site*

[www.USPS.org](http://www.USPS.org)

History has been defined as the ideas, acts, and events, which shape the future. USPS has been shaped by its history and to understand our present more fully, we must first look back into our past. Seldom does the complete story of an organization's founding survive the passage of time. So we grope today for much of the story of our beginnings. The gaps in what remains to us in the minutes, manuals and magazines of the early era have had to be filled in with assumptions and the memories of early recruits.

This much is certain: in the list of founding fathers the name of Roger Upton of Boston and Marblehead, Massachusetts stands pre-eminent. The "power squadron" idea was the projection of his thoughts. The power squadron spirit was the reflection of his enthusiasm and early growth was the fruition of his labors.

To begin our story we must go back in time to the world of boating at the turn of the century. Recreational yachting in the early 1900s was largely confined to sailing craft and large steam yachts manned by professional crews. The commercial ships of the day were all steam-driven. Steam had become king by the dawn of the twentieth century and commercial sailing schooners were fast becoming relics of a bygone era. Gasoline-driven craft were coming into their own by 1909 but with little enthusiasm on the part of out-



*Photo 1: New York Yacht Club fleet, marblehead, MA.*



*Photo 2: Boston Yacht Club, Marblehead, MA.*

and-out sailors. Yacht clubs taught and promoted the sport of sailing and as motor yachts joined the fleet there were few activities for them. Yachting was still for sailors and the new breed of powerboat men found scant fun on club cruises and almost none in racing.

Roger Upton was a sailing member of the Boston Yacht Club in 1909 but, unlike so many other sailors, the newfangled powerboats captivated him. He owned a 50-foot ketch named Nirvana and often cruised up the coast to Maine. Because he was a businessman, and because wind power was so often unreliable, he bought a 35-foot motor launch with a gasoline engine to serve as tender for the ketch and to tow her when she was becalmed. The following year he installed a 20-horsepower convertible kerosene-gasoline engine in the ketch, making it possible for him to return to his business on time. The reliability of power appealed to him and he grew to love power boating.

How long the idea incubated in Upton's mind we'll never know but, in the summer of 1911, he spread his thoughts before a small group of his colleagues at the Boston Yacht Club. Upton's idea was for a club-within-a-club, to embrace a select group of "gasoliners" who would develop such forms of cruising and racing as the new type of yachts allowed. To quote from one of his articles, "To my mind the organization can be of use to yachtsmen for three major rea-

sons: first, improvement in navigating ability of power-boat owners; second, promotion of acquaintance and social intercourse by the power-boat owners; third, the fitting of power-boat owners to be of possible use to the Navy in time of war so that they might be received as volunteers should they so desire."

Upton was elected Rear Commodore of the Boston Yacht Club in 1912 and with the acceptance of his ideas was placed in charge of the unofficial Power Boat Division of the fleet. A self-taught navigator and stickler for doing things right, he soon kept the division's 36 members busy with studies, cruises, races and drills modeled after U.S. Naval maneuvers.

The social side of the organization included monthly dinners at which ship and tow captains, marine inspectors and others were guest speakers. Out of these activities grew confidence in and a change of attitude toward the new breed of yachtsman.

There was a need for education at the time. The laws of the United States governing navigation applied only to steam vessels, and they were governed by a board of steamboat inspectors who were old, crusty, sea-going men. These inspectors had no use whatsoever for the small internal-combustion yachts, and it was their fondest hope to gain control of these boats and have them supervised by the same stringent rules, which governed ocean liners, and other steam-

powered vessels. Upton and other USPS founders set out to protect power yachts from these steamboat inspectors and to remove forever the stigma of ignorance and foolhardiness, which they and professional sea captains and sailors had bestowed on their owners.

During the summer of 1912, twenty Power Boat Division vessels were invited to go with forty windjammers on the annual Boston Yacht Club cruise to Portland, Maine. The powerboats cruised in squadron formation with an elaborate system of maneuvers executed by means of flag signals. During the cruise a screeching nor'wester blew up. Many of the sailing yachts were dismasted or otherwise disabled. The power yachts under Upton's command went to their rescue, towing disabled craft to port. No losses were reported. To quote the September 1912 issue of Motor Boating Magazine, which dramatized the rescue with a six-page photo story, "The fellows of the Powerboat Division provided meritorious service and emerged from the ordeal crowned with glory."

On 14 October 1912, a letter from Rear Commodore Roger Upton was read by the Executive Committee of the Boston Yacht Club, petitioning the club to officially establish his Power Boat Division. As the minutes of that meeting disclose, the Executive Committee granted Mr. Upton's petition unanimously. At the annual meeting in January 1913, the name was changed to "Power Squadron"

and the club-within-a-club was officially recognized. Its officers and rules were printed in the 1913 Boston Yacht Club Yearbook. Officers were Roger Upton, commander; C. N. Burnell, lieutenant commander; and Nathaniel L. Stebbins, a noted Boston marine photographer, secretary.

A distinguishing Power Squadron pennant was designed to be flown above the Yacht Club burgee. It featured a red field with centered white star at the hoist; the center third was white and the outer end, blue. Only when a prospective member was able to pass what now seems to have been a fairly stiff examination in advanced piloting subjects was he authorized to fly the streamer. Though powered vessels were referred to as "stinkboats" by sailing

members, their owners and operators were held in great esteem for the knowledge they had acquired of seamanship and navigation.

So ends the birth of the idea and its development into an active movement. But it was only the beginning. Assisted by a three-page story in Yachting Magazine, news of the Boston outfit's activity spread and other clubs began to plan along the same lines. Yacht clubs around the metropolitan New York area and elsewhere started talking squadron ideas and selecting men for membership.

In June 1913, additional interest was generated when Charles F. Chapman, associate editor of Motor Boating Magazine, gave the idea a full-page spread. The Boston Yacht Club called 30 delegates representing 70 clubs

and associations of powerboat owners to assemble at the New York Yacht Club for a conference to consider the formation of power squadrons. Commander Roger Upton explained in detail the reasons, which led to his forming the Boston Yacht Club Power Squadron, and told of what was being accomplished in instructing power yachtsmen in the rules of the road and handling of their boats.

o o o o o

*Part II of this article will appear in the next issue of The Drum.*

o o o o o

*This article also appears on the United States Power Squadron (USPS) website at:*

<http://www.usps.org/national/historian/uspshistory.html>

## The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN



Once again, it's time to start putting together my column and layout the contents for another newsletter.

What to

write about this time? Then again, I've been doing this for so long that maybe the question should be, "What haven't I already written about?"

With the boating season winding down many of us are taking advantage of opportunities to take classes or work on projects (or both). Others focus on non-boating activities or choose to travel/migrate to places with a more civilized climate.

What's your editor doing? All of the above. There is the ever-growing list of boat projects (I finish one and add two more to the list), there is the classroom work (though I play the role of the instructor instead of the student in most cases) and then there are the plans to go south for a bit (but in my case, it will be for the USPS Annual Meeting, not really a vacation).

Yup, it's a busy time.

I was hoping to have a little time to get some things accomplished around the house and perhaps write a few more magazine articles to help bolster the family boating fund, but unfortunately those goals keep getting pushed down the list further than I like.

### What's Coming?

In a short time, District 6 will be holding its Fall Council & Conference. Several of your fellow Finger Lakes Chapter members will be traveling to Fayetteville, NY to represent our squadron and to bring back news from National Headquarters. Expect to hear more about that in the next issue of *The Drum*.

Shortly after our next issue comes out (January 2020), our very own squadron will be having its Change of Watch (CoW) ceremony. At that time we will see some changes in personnel filling various offices, committee chairs and leadership positions. If you're at all interested in becoming more involved in your boating club, I would encourage you to contact anyone on the Bridge, Executive Committee, or Nominating Committee. With relatively few exceptions, the workload of any given position is very manageable, even for those with a busy

schedule. Best of all, the work is both fun and rewarding.

After our Change of Watch will be the National Annual Meeting. Having attended a couple of them, I can say that they are very interesting and the talent you will meet there is impressive. Your humble editor will be in attendance again owing to his position in a District-level office, but that doesn't mean you can't attend, too. If you find yourself in central Florida in February, please plan to stop in for a visit!

Right after the National meeting will be the District Spring Conference, after which we'll be getting our boats ready to launch again. What a way to make the winter go by quickly!

Now if you sign up for a class or a seminar or two, and also attend one or more of our social events, I'll bet you'll feel like you never really put your warm-weather clothes away for the winter. It's worth a try, isn't it?

- Your Editor, Tom

o o o o o

As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:

[editor@abc-flx.org](mailto:editor@abc-flx.org)

o o o o o

# Calendar of Events

## November 2019

---

- 01 Seneca *Drum* November issue publication date
- 08-10 District 6 Fall Council & Conference (D/6)
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 *The Deep 6* fall issue publication date. (Delayed 1 week to cover Conference activities.) (D/6)

## December 2019

---

- 16 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## January 2020

---

- 01 Seneca *Drum* January issue publication date
- 12 Seneca Change of Watch
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 15 Deadline for D/6 *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

## February 2020

---

- 01 *The Deep 6* winter issue publication date. (D/6)
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 09-16 USPS Annual Meeting, *Ponte Vedra, FL* (National)
- 22 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## March 2020

---

- 01 Seneca *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## April 2020

---

- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 17 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 24 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## May 2020

---

- 01 Seneca *Drum* May issue publication date.
- 01 *The Deep 6* spring issue publication date. (D/6)
- 12 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 16-22 Safe Boating Week (National)

## June 2020

---

- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 12-13 Waterfront Celebration & Cardboard Boat Race, *Watkins Glen, NY*.
- 19 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## July 2020

---

- 01 Seneca *Drum* July issue publication date.
- 14 Bridge Meeting (1900).
- 24 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles. (D/6)

## August 2020

---

- 01 *The Deep 6* summer issue publication date. (D/6)
- 11 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 21 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## September 2020

---

- 01 Seneca *Drum* September issue publication date.
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)

## October 2020

---

- 13 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 16 Deadline for *The Deep 6* articles (D/6)
- 23 Deadline for *Drum* articles

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

<http://www.abc-flx.org>

*or our Facebook page:*

<http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron>

*for any last-minute changes.*