

# THE DRUM

## From the Commander

*Charlie Fausold, N*



### New directions for the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron.

You may ask, "What new directions?" Well, we need our members to help answer that question! What we know for sure is that the time has come for the Seneca Squadron to look carefully at what we do and how and why we do it. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the organization by demonstrating and increasing the value of USPS membership, while remaining true to our mission.

Over the next six months the Executive Committee will be developing a new Strategic Plan to present at the Change of Watch in January. We are forming four Task Forces which each have been charged with gathering information, examining the current situation, and developing recommendations for the






future. I have specifically directed each Task Force to not necessarily be bound by tradition. Instead they should ask, "If we were forming a new organization dedicated to boating education and comradeship today, how would we do it?"

The four Task forces are:

**Public Awareness**, which includes the materials, methods and strategies for increasing our visibility and informing the general public about the programs and activities of the squadron, with the ultimate goal of increasing both educational outreach and membership. Chair: XO Mark Erway, P

**Education**, which includes the courses, seminars and programs offered or potentially offered by the squadron as well as the instructors and infrastructure needed to effectively deliver the programs. Chair: SEO Tom Alley, SN

**Social Activities** include the various events that promote and facilitate social interaction among squadron members and contribute to our general

<b>JULY 2013</b>	
	From the Executive Officer New Boat & New Discoveries ..... 2
	Educational Updates ..... 3
	Marine Electronics - The Digital Frontier What's your favorite marine app? .... 4
	Member Profiles • Dawn Dowdle ..... 6
<hr/> <p>Visit our web site: <a href="http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US">http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US</a></p> <p>Or LIKE us on Facebook:  <a href="http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron">http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron</a></p>	

enjoyment of boating. Chair: AO Ray Margeson, P

**Member Involvement** includes strategies and approaches for attracting and retaining squadron members as well as increasing the participation of members in squadron leadership positions and as instructors. Chair: TBD

In developing the Strategic Plan we hope to involve as many of our current members as possible. In fact this is critically important. We are not asking for a major investment of

## From the Commander (con'd)

time, but we do need your thoughts and ideas. If you receive a survey from one of the Task Forces please take a few minutes to fill it out. If there is something you think the squadron should be doing differently, please let us know. If you have a particular interest or expertise in one of the Task

Force areas, please consider getting involved by contacting one of the Task Force Chairs listed above or Commander Charlie Fausold, N-IN, [cfausold@stny.rr.com](mailto:cfausold@stny.rr.com), 607-535-4641.

---

## From the Executive Officer

*By Mark Erway*

This season has been a bit unusual for Annie and myself in that we were between sailing vessels and had begun to wonder if we would find the affordable upgrade that we had in mind.



After a diligent search we have been successful in obtaining a 1986 Hunter 28.5 that is currently at a slip in Ithaca, just south of Treman State Marine Park, on the channel leading to Cayuga Lake. The current plan is to end up at the Village Marina in Watkins in early July. That leads to a couple of scenarios that we are contemplating, which is all just part of the wonderful adventure of owning a boat, particularly a sailboat.

We have discovered that there is a Squadron in the Ithaca area. At Johnson's refueling dock is a very nice 4 by 4 placard of the USPS logo. At the Treman State Marine Park bulletin board is a nice write-up about an upcoming ABC course, and one about the classes being held to help people "lock through" the Cayuga-Seneca Canal System. But beyond that we haven't seen much in the way of "tangible" information, and by that I mean, tri-folds that contain information pertaining to the purpose of USPS, along with pertinent contact info (emails,

Facebook, etc.); or a calendar of events; or things that are open to the public; vessel safety check 'how-to' information and the like.

I hope that each of us Squadron members does our part in letting others know about USPS and it's benefits as we befriend and help others on our pier and in our particular marinas. Find ways to display the Squadron, through use of the pennant, the VSC stickers, and in conversation telling people of the things you've learned and help it has given you over the years. We tend to forget how much we've learned and what a huge learning curve it all is to new folks.

And now that we approach mid-season, it's time to look our vessels over for things that may be working loose, like motor clamps; or for cracks that weren't there before; check wiring and connections that may be chafing or coming loose, and fuel lines and fuel tanks for integrity; dock lines for chafing; make sure all the navigation lights and running lights are still working, and check battery levels. Remember that your flares and automatic life vest inflators need to be replaced at least every three years. How about your first-aid box? Is anything out dated? If you are the Skipper, it's your responsibility.

*SAFE BOATING!*

*- Mark, S/V A Fresh Breeze*

## Educational Updates

*By Tom Alley, Education Officer*

If you wait long enough, things will change. That's true of the weather, the wind, and the waves. Sometimes changes are for the better, and other times not so much. Some changes we can influence and steer, some we cannot.

As discussed in his column on page 1, Commander Charlie is calling our attention to changes that are occurring in the Power Squadron at a national, district and local level. Some of these changes are exciting. Others - not so much. In fact, many trends cause one to wonder if the USPS will even exist in another decade or two.

What can you do? Plenty!

For example: 15 years ago there was no such thing as an on-the-water (OTW) educational program. However, there was one squadron that dared to consider such an idea. A dozen years later the format and procedures developed by a small handful of volunteers from one squadron became the template for the OTW program rolled out by National Headquarters. It took a while, but the idea hatched by just a couple of people is now "standard operating policy" and has national acceptance.

By the way, the idea was proposed (and implemented) by a "newbie" - someone who had been a USPS member for less than 5 years.

One person can make a difference.

So, are you new to the group? Good! We need new ideas and fresh people.

Don't feel you have sufficient expertise or experience? Perfect! As long as you know what you like and what turns you off, you have all the qualifications needed to help steer the ship.

As mentioned in Charlie's article, I have been asked to organize and supervise a "task force" to take a look at our educational program and see what ideas we can come up with that will help lead us into the next decade (or two) of leadership in boating

education. I'll be reaching out to some of you to join me in this, but I'll also welcome anyone with an interest in sharing their ideas and viewpoints.

Oh, are you curious to know the details (who/where/when) of the origins of OTW training? Volunteer for the task force and I'll tell you the story. (Hint: It didn't happen very far from here!)

o o o o o

Since the last newsletter, we've completed another course. Congratulations to the students who recently passed the new Marine Communications Systems (CS) course in May! Way to go, Ray, Lynn, Mark, and Chuck!

o o o o o

Interested in taking a course this fall and/or winter? We are trying to organize both Piloting and Advanced Piloting. If you are at all interested, please contact me right away!

o o o o o

Information about all of our courses is available on the squadron web site or by contacting me by e-mail at [seo@SenecaPowerSquadron.US](mailto:seo@SenecaPowerSquadron.US) or by calling me at 607-377-6262.

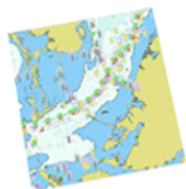


## Marine Electronics – The Digital Frontier

*Laptops, smart phones and tablets have saturated our lives to the point of becoming ubiquitous and as common as a wristwatch. (In fact, many people carry a cell/smart phone instead of a wristwatch!) These ultra-portable devices offer capabilities not even dreamed of a decade ago and are finding an increasing number of applications in all facets of our lives, including boating.*

*We want to make this column a regular one in this newsletter. To do so, we need your help. So, what's your favorite app? Tell us about it! - Ed.*

### MacENC



MacENC (which stands for "Electronic Navigational Chart") is an application that will turn your Mac into a full-featured chart plotter. It will interface with just about any GPS via USB cable or Bluetooth and, with an optional NMEA gateway can also collect data from other instruments, including AIS and radar. This software will work with both vector and raster charts, which can be downloaded free from the NOAA web site.

I've owned this software for a number of years (since version 3 or 4, actually) and have been very pleased with its performance. It's proven to be useful not only as a chart plotter while underway, but also as a planning tool prior to making extended trips and also as a way to capture data on boat performance with its ability to export positional data in CSV format for later analysis in

spreadsheets such as Excel.

- Current Version: 8.60
- Requirements: Mac OS X v10.4 or later.
- Cost: \$180 (includes free updates to all future versions)
- Web Site: <http://www.macenc.com>

### GPSNavX

If you don't need all of the features of MacENC, this is a slightly less-capable chart plotting application for about one-third of the price. Despite the significantly lower price, it still boasts an impressive number of features.



Additional information about GPSNavX:

- Current Version: 6.0.2
- Requirements: Mac OS X 10.4 or later
- Cost: \$60
- Web Site: [www.gpsnavx.com](http://www.gpsnavx.com)

### BoatLogix Go

BoatLogix Go - (30 day trial) Computer based logbook and boat management utility for your Mac, iPad or iPhone. Works with MacENC.

- Current Version: 12.0.4
- Requirements: Mac OS X 10.6 or later, iOS 6
- Cost: 30 day trial, then \$30
- Web Site: [www.macsailing.net/fbb](http://www.macsailing.net/fbb)

## SENECA SQUADRON NEWS

### BRIDGE MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGED

Due to an increasing number of schedule conflicts, the monthly meeting of the Bridge and Executive Committee have been changed from the second Tuesday of each month to the third Tuesday.

Bridge meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in seeing how your Squadron is run, contact one of the Bridge officers for the details of the meeting time and place. You will be more than welcome to attend!

## Marine Electronics – The Digital Frontier

Contributions from Ray Margeson, Charlie Fausold, and Tom Alley

### Wind Meter



If you don't like the idea of climbing your mast to install an anemometer or shelling out good bucks for a handheld wind speed device, you can download a free Android app from Druidlab called simply "Wind Speed Meter Anemometer".

Wind Meter is sound based anemometer to estimate wind speed. It works by analyzing the sound of wind passing the device microphone.

Wind Meter includes compass integration so you can easily find wind direction too.

I find that it gives me a quick and dirty reading of wind velocity. There is even the ability to calibrate the app by comparing with a standard anemometer and adjusting ranges in the app. Only problem, just like a hand held anemometer, is that you have to hold it up to the wind and wait for it to read – but it does keep track of the maximum wind speed while you have the app open.



- Current Version:
- Requirements: Android
- Cost: Free
- Web Site: <http://www.druidlab.com>

### Sailing Weather (Android)



Sailing Weather is a simple but fun app. Based on a location you predetermine and values you set for temperature, precipitation and wind speed, a quick look at the app tells you if it is a good day for sailing (sailboat icon) or not (house icon).

- Current Version: 8.61

- Requirements: Android v2.2 or higher
- Cost: Free
- Web Site: <http://www.kickstandtech.com>

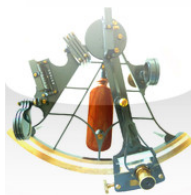
### Rainy Days



A quick tap on the Rainy Days (Android) app brings up a scalable earth-view precipitation radar screen with your location highlighted. It also shows the past two hours in 10-minute intervals so that you can see the speed and direction of approaching storms.

- Current Version: 2.3.2
- Requirements: Android OS
- Cost: Free
- Web Site: <http://code.neenbedankt.com>

### Sight Calc



Sight Calc is a specialized calculator for the iPhone or iPad that eases the task of calculating sight reductions via the "Law of Cosines" method. It does not use Nautical Almanac data, so you must first compute LHA (Local Hour Angle) and declination, and determine your approximate latitude. It is designed particularly for students learning celestial navigation, such as the Off-Shore Navigation courses taught by the US Power Squadrons®. If you are unfamiliar with how to do sight reductions, some good resources are available from the U.S. Power Squadrons® at [www.usps.org/eddept/jn/](http://www.usps.org/eddept/jn/). In particular, this calculator is useful in conjunction with Form SR96a.

- Current Version: 1.1
- Requirements: iOS 5.0 or later
- Cost: Free
- Web Site: <http://itunes.apple.com>

## Member Profile – Dawn Dowdle

Next up in the profile series is our Squadron Treasurer, Dawn Dowdle, P.

### Tell us a bit about yourself?

I am in my second term as Treasurer for the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron. My husband, Wilbur, and I live in Wayne, New York, located between Keuka and Seneca Lakes.



### What type of boating do you like to do?

We came from totally different boating backgrounds. Wilbur grew up on Keuka Lake with powerboats and Hobie Cats, and I was introduced to boating in my early 30's, beginning with a pontoon/house boat that my father built, called the *Manhattan Dream*. Over the years my experience grew as I crewed the *Manhattan Dream* series to the last, a 38-ft. Marine Trawler Yacht, which still cruises Seneca Lake.

Wilbur and I enjoyed our 19' Cruiser Inc., power boat on Keuka Lake for several years, but we fell in love with sailing when we crewed the retired America's Cup winner, *True North* in a 3 boat race in St. Maarten. After two years of researching and searching we found a 28-ft. Newport and slip at the Watkins Glen Village Marina! That's where we found our current boat, *The Irish Wake*, a Hunter 336.

### What is your most memorable "sea story"?

I have had many memorable boating experiences over the years from motoring through the locks of the Erie Canal from Seneca to Oneida Lake, crewing on a 118-ft, two-masted schooner called the *Grace Bailey* through Penobscot Bay, crewing retired America's Cup *True North* and *Stars and Stripes* racing in the Caribbean, and sailing 40 and 50 knot winds on Seneca Lake, but my most

memorable will always be crewing with seven other Seneca Ladies willing to give their all to work together to learn to be better sailors, better helmsmen and better crew all around, on the 36-ft *Seek Ye 1<sup>st</sup>* on Seneca Lake.

Nothing can beat on the water experience for training, so we challenged ourselves while taking the challenges of others in a seven boat race. We took second place, missing first place by only seconds that day but we earned competence and confidence. Working together accomplishes these things and more, I believe the Power Squadron can be the platform to bring such experiences to individuals, couples and families.

### How long have you been involved with USPS?

When we began sailing Wilbur thought he knew all he needed to know from sailing Hobie Cats, I only knew I had a lot to learn, this was a whole different world from power boating. It soon became apparent, we BOTH had a lot to learn.

Talking with our marina neighbors, we learned about the USPS, specifically the local Seneca Sail and Power Squadron and the opportunities for classroom and on the water classes. We were invited to one of the monthly dinners and discovered not only our neighbors but met other boaters from other marinas, what a great way to network and meet people with similar interests. We've only been members since 2008 but have completed classes together in Seamanship, Piloting, Sail and more. These classes are applicable and geared to power boating and sailing and have proved invaluable as is the help and advice from our fellow members.

### Why do you belong to USPS?

The Power Squadron opened doors for me and has allowed me to further my boating skills and enjoyment. As an active member of the Power Squadron, I'm able to share my experiences and the many opportunities and benefits of the Power Squadron with others.

## Seneca Squadron Calendar

*By the Seneca Squadron Executive Committee*

### January 2013

- 15 Bridge Meeting (Kingsley's, Horseheads)  
20 Change of Watch (Holiday Inn, Elmira)

### February

- 12 Bridge Meeting (Kingsley's, Horseheads)  
15-16 D6 Spring Council (Ramada Inn, Geneva)  
23 Deadline for Drum Articles

### March

- 03 Mall Boat Show Setup (Arnot Mall)  
04-11 Mall Boat Show (Arnot Mall)  
11 Tear Down Boat Show Booth (Arnot Mall)  
12 Bridge Meeting (TBD)  
22 *First Session Boating Class (Big Flats Community Center, Tentative)*

### April

- 5-7 Spring Conference (Ramada Inn, Ithaca)  
9 Bridge Meeting (TBD)  
13 Spring Launch Party (Fulkerson's Winery)  
13 *Second Session Boating Course (Big Flats Community Center)*  
24 Deadline for Drum Articles

### May

- 6 Dinner Meeting (Tag's, Big Flats)  
14 Bridge Meeting (Kingsley's)  
18-24 Safe Boating Week  
24 File Historian Report

### June

- 11 Bridge Meeting (Kingsley's)  
24 Deadline for Drum Articles  
29 Partner in Command Seminar (TBD)

### July

- 13 *Flare Up! (TBD)*  
16 Bridge Meeting (Fausold's, Valois)  
23-26 District 6 Rendezvous (Bonnie Castle Resort, Alexandria Bay)

### August

- 20 August Bridge Meeting (TBD)  
26 Deadline for Drum Articles

### September

- 03-08 USPS Fall Governing Board (San Antonio, TX)  
9 Monthly Dinner Meeting (TBD)  
17 Bridge Meeting (TBD)  
??-?? D/6 Fall Council (TBD)

### October

- 15 Bridge Meeting (TBD)  
??-?? Nominating Committee (TBD)  
28 Deadline for Drum Articles  
?? Oktoberfest (Fulkerson's Winery *tentative*)

### November

- 05 Monthly Dinner Meeting (TBD)  
??-?? D/6 Fall Conference (TBD)  
19 Bridge Meeting (TBD)

### December

- 03 Nominating Committee (TBD)  
17 Bridge/COW Planning (TBD)  
(One week early)  
20 Deadline for Drum Articles

### January 2014

- 15 Bridge Meeting (TBD)  
?? Audit Books (TBD)  
19 *Change of Watch (TBD tentative)*

### February 2014

- 2 USPS Annual Meeting (Jacksonville, FL)  
21 Deadline for Drum Articles

*Calendars tend to be "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.*

---

## Seneca Squadron – Who’s Who?

---

Not sure who to contact with questions or suggestions for *your* squadron? Well, here’s a list to get you started!

**Commander:** Charlie Fausold  
[cmdr@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:cmdr@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-535-4641

**Executive Officer:** Mark Erway  
[xo@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:xo@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-215-1624

**Administrative Officer:** Ray Margeson  
[ao@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:ao@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-732-0579

**Education Officer:** Tom Alley  
[seo@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:seo@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-562-3909

**Assistant Education Officer:** Tom Taylor  
[aseo@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:aseo@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-725-0373

**Secretary:** Jim McGinnis  
[secretary@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:secretary@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-358-4409

**Treasurer:** Dawn Dowdle  
[treasurer@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:treasurer@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-769-8604

**Membership Chair:** Carrie Sproul  
[info@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:info@senecapowersquadron.us)  
 607-562-3334

**Public Relations Officer:** (Volunteer needed!)

**Executive Committee Members:**  
 Dennis Kingsley      Terry Stewart  
 Pat Jackson            Jerry Tinz

---

*The Seneca Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, is an organization dedicated to the advancement of responsible and safe boating through continuing education and social interaction.*

---

## THE DRUM

---

Attn: Editor  
 38 Woodland Drive  
 Big Flats, NY 14814

Seneca Sail & Power Squadron Members