



# THE DRUM



## From the Commander

Mark Erway, AP



Ah, “spring commissioning”, that special time of the year is upon us finally, and soon we will be in full swing getting our gear and our boats ready for launch. It’s a great time to give our boats a close inspection from stem to stern and top to bottom, checking for anything that looks suspicious, possible water intrusion, weak spots, rotted lines, hardened hoses, places where water may have reached, frozen and expanded and broken things apart. When it thaws things can return to near normal positions and look fine.

I experienced a 1½” bronze gate valve in a water inlet line that had apparently suffered from being frozen. A quick visual inspection didn’t reveal the crack. It was only after launch, when I opened it to test it, while in the water, it

allowed a high-pressure spray to hit me in the face and surprise the daylights out of me. Had I been more diligent I would have discovered it. We also need to check the dates on the inflatable vests and safety flares and other emergency equipment like fire extinguishers; restock and update our first aid kits; check the PFD’s for signs of deterioration and replace as needed; and make sure all is ready for the water. A great way to make sure all is ready is to have a non-threatening, non-legally binding Vessel Safety Check given by a friendly fellow boater who has studied to become a qualified examiner. It only takes about 30 minutes of your time but is worth its weight in gold for the peace of mind you get when you know your boat meets basic safety qualifications. Please contact our Squadron Vessel Safety Check Chair, Don Kloeber, at [vsc@SenecaPowerSquadron.US](mailto:vsc@SenecaPowerSquadron.US) to set up a time.

While at the District 6 Spring Conference in Binghamton this April, I was made aware of a new initiative by NYS DEC to stop aquatic hitchhikers from

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<http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron>

being transported from one body of water to another, and it is called “CLEAN IT, DRAIN IT, DRY IT”. We need to be keenly aware of the very real problem of invasive species of water plants and that we boaters can inadvertently transport them from one lake or river to another. There is a need to educate all boaters about this very real danger, so our DEC is asking that you do three things whenever you leave a waterway: 1) Check for and remove any visible plants or debris. 2) Clean and drain your boat and equipment. 3) Dry

everything that came into contact with the water. "Clean it. Drain it. Dry it." And I would add, not just the boat, but carefully check the trailer, which can hook onto all sorts of plant life during the launch and retrieve process.

As for the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron, we have had a major change of officers and leadership, and we are finding our way in the process of running our Squadron. Most of our Executive Committee attended a workshop on Operations Training, ably presented by Past Commander Charles Fausold, which helped us to see how each of the offices, duties and responsibilities are linked and supportive of the other. We have plenty of activities planned for the summer between our social events and educational offerings, which I will not list here. We have a robust plan for continuing our Seneca Junior Sailing program and we are excited about another season helping young people learn the joy of sailing. Keep up with all the various activities we have planned for this year by checking out our Facebook pages at "Seneca Sail and Power" as well as at "Seneca Junior Sailing" and at our member website [www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US](http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US).

Common Sense Rule - As I am writing this article April 26<sup>th</sup>, just heard this on CNN... April 25 - At least four people are reported missing after a severe storm capsized sailboats Saturday afternoon during a regatta in Mobile Bay, Alabama, Coast Guard

spokesman Carlos Vega said. Five people had been reported missing, but one of them has since been rescued, the Coast Guard said. More than 100 sailboats took part in the Dauphin Island Race and as many as 50 people in all were rescued from the water, the Coast Guard said.

The loss of life is a terrible tragedy and our hearts go out to these folks that are members of our greater community. This is a serious reminder that we MUST always check the weather reports before we head out and if there is a threat of severe weather we have to keep an eye on the sky for fast moving frontal systems. Almost every one of us has a smart phone, we should all have VHF marine radios, and these devices have up-to-the-minute weather being reported on them including radar and NOAA emergency warnings. Pay attention. Don't get caught unaware. Skippers, you are responsible for your boat and anyone on it. If you see things turning ugly, put that life vest on and have everyone of your crew do the same and get the boat as ready as you can. We can all enjoy boating if we use our heads. Always have a plan in mind if things get challenging.

Best wishes to our fleet this summer as we look forward to enjoying the 2015 boat season!!!!

- Mark ([cmdr@SenecaPowerSquadron.US](mailto:cmdr@SenecaPowerSquadron.US))

## From the Executive Officer (XO)

By Charlie Fausold, Executive Officer



As the snow banks slowly recede and we begin to think about Spring Commissioning of our boats it is an opportune time to assess safety equipment. The

District 6 Spring Council that I recently attended featured an excellent refresher course in first aid,

and among the topics I found especially useful was a listing of the suggested contents of an on-board first aid kit.

### Suggested First Aid Kit Components

- Water proof case
- 2 absorbent compress dressings (5x9 inches)
- 25 adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- 2 adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)
- 5 antibiotic ointment packets (approx. 1 gram)
- 5 antiseptic wipe packets
- 2 packets of aspirin (81 mg each)

- 1 blanket (space blanket) (Available on Red Cross store)
- 1 breathing barrier (with one-way valve)
- 1 instant cold compress
- 4 pair of nonlatex gloves (size large)
- 2 hydrocortisone ointment packets (approx. 1 gram each)
- Scissors, shears (do not use for fishing!!!!)
- 1 roller bandage (3 inches wide)
- 1 roller bandage (4 inches wide) 5 sterile gauze pads (4x4 inches)
- Oral thermometer (non-mercury/nonglass)
- 2 triangular bandages
- Tweezers

- Over the counter medications (Tylenol, Dramamine, Benadryl)

#### Other possible items

- Forceps
- Warm pack compress
- Eye drops
- Quick Clot
- Tourniquet
- Distilled water
- Automatic External Defibrillator
- Portable Oxygen tank
- Light source/ cyalume light stick

- Charlie

## From the Administrative Officer (AO)

By Rebecca Lewis, Administrative Officer



Hello everyone. May is officially here and we are on the doorstep to another boating season. Several events are scheduled this month and are sure to be enjoyable.

May 4<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Squadron Dinner. Join us for "A Night at the Boat Museum".

This event is a catered event and

will be held at the Finger Lakes Boat Museum in Hammondsport, New York. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with refreshments and a tour of the facility before dinner. Dinner starts at 6:45 and our guest speaker will be Edward Wightman, President of the FLBM. Dinner is \$25/person. RSVP Rebecca Lewis at [ao@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:ao@senecapowersquadron.us) by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

May 16<sup>th</sup> all SSPS members are invited to partake in the Finger Lakes Yacht Club "Block Party" to be held at the Village Marina boat yard in Watkins Glen at 1:00 p.m. Enjoy pizza provided by the FLYC, music, and good company. All members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass, your beverage of choice, and your own lawn chairs.

And never forget, it is always best practice to use our knowledge of safe boating when enjoying our boats. May 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> is National Safe Boating Week. It's a

great opportunity to share all that the Power Squadron has to offer.

**Here's a handy little tip I just read about in the April 2015 issue of Sail Magazine:** Have a cut or wound and need to stop any bleeding? Use cayenne pepper. Apply it directly to the wound in powder form or mix it with some water to be applied as a paste and wrap with gauze, it should stop the bleeding in short time. The powder must be cayenne pepper only, not a mixture of spices.

This technique even works for pets that get cut too. It's cheap, easy to keep in stock, there's no burning, and even better - it's also great when used in cooking.

- Rebecca

# Educational Updates

By Tom Alley, Education Officer

First off, congratulations to our newest Certified Instructor: Rolf Lewis. Rolf recently completed the Instructor Development course and submitted his lesson plans for evaluation at USPS HQ, where his work was accepted and validated. *Congratulations, Rolf!*

Another significant accomplishment within our squadron was that of Charlie Fausold attaining the grade of Senior Navigator (SN). SN, formerly known as a "full certificate," indicates that the recipient has completed all of the advanced grades and has also completed all of the elective courses offered by the USPS. To put this into perspective, only 58 individuals were awarded the SN grade nationally in 2014. *Congratulations, Charlie!*

Another accomplishment of note is Bill Boychuck who just earned his Master 100 Ton from the U.S. Coast Guard. *Congratulations, Captain Bill!*

Hats off and nods to the group that just completed Operations Training in early April: *Congratulations Mark Erway, Denis Kingsley, Rebecca Lewis, Rolf Lewis, Jim McGinnis, Marcia Taylor and Jerry Tinz!*

Finally, recognition to Katie Alley, Celeste Waclawik and Ron Waclawik who successfully completed Piloting. *Congratulations, Katie, Celest & Ron!*

Whew! That was a lot of people doing a lot of work! Many thanks to our team of instructors and volunteers who help make all of this possible!

## *Junior Sailing*

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be expanding our efforts in the Seneca Junior Sailing program this coming summer. I'm very pleased (and grateful!) to report that we've had several additional volunteers step forward to be coaches, but we could still use a few more. Based on feedback from last year's coaches, it is a very rewarding and enjoyable experience, so please consider volunteering some of your time.

Not ready for a summer-long commitment? We could use a couple of volunteers to handle the sessions during times when our existing coaches will be on some scheduled vacations.

## *Upcoming Classes*

Marine electronics have evolved a great deal in just the past few years. If you're still trying to figure out what all of these little boxes can do for you (or how to use the ones you already have), please consider the Electronic Navigation Course that will be offered this spring. Details are on the next page.

## *Web Site Updates*

Watch for some updates coming to the Squadron web site (<http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US>) in the near future. Because of all of the activity in our Squadron, the calendar will be migrating to Facebook so that we can keep all of you better informed on a more timely basis. We will also be adding a page for our Junior Sailing coaches and our new Young Mariners Committee.

## *...and Now For Something Completely Different*

Your Squadron Bridge and Educational staff is beginning to look into a possible opportunity for new courses/seminars to offer next winter. (I know, I know, we haven't even gotten our boats launched yet!) However, to make this happen, we have some logistical challenges to overcome.

We are looking for a space that's about the size of a one-car garage with power and the potential to be heated enough to be useable as a workshop during the winter months. If you know of such a space, please contact me. (607-377-6262 or [tom@alberg35.org](mailto:tom@alberg35.org))

- Tom

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## Celestial Tools V4.8.0 Now Available

To get the latest version of the USPS Celestial Tools, visit

<http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/n/tools.htm>. It includes bug fixes and new features.

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## Sight Reduction Spreadsheet

If you like to take celestial sights to keep your offshore skills sharp, but hate reducing the sights, Seneca Squadron now has a spreadsheet available to help you do this quite painlessly. Check out the JN class website for this free utility or contact your SEO.

## Calendar of Courses & Seminars

by Tom Alley, Education Officer

### Summer 2015 Courses

#### *Marine Navigation Systems*

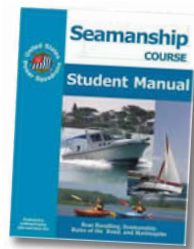
This is the third and final module of the Marine Electronics series, "Electronic Navigation." While the US version of the class is not yet ready, our friends and neighbors in Canada have made their course available to us. Anyone taking this course will receive credit for the third Marine Electronics module. If you are interested in taking this class, please contact me so we can schedule it.



- Prerequisites: None (Piloting, MES and MCS recommended)
- When: June-July 2015.
- Where: TBD
- Duration: 9 weeks
- Instructors: TBD
- Cost: \$80

#### *Seamanship*

The Seamanship course is the next step after completing America's Boating Course (ABC), taking the knowledge and skills learned there and expanding and extending them with this newly updated edition. The course presents material applicable to both power and sail, covering such topics as the construction and functioning of a boat, the skipper's responsibilities, preparing the boat for use, handling and maneuvering a vessel under various conditions in close quarters and on the open water, rules of the road, anchoring, emergencies, and marlinespike/basic knots.



The Seneca Squadron is altering the presentation of this class slightly from prior years in order to make it more family-friendly and youth-oriented. (Course *content* remains unchanged.)

- Prerequisites: None.
- When: Fridays starting June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Duration: 9 weeks

- Where: Big Flats Community Center & Watkins Glen Village Marina
- Lead Instructor: Tom Alley
- Registration Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Cost: \$90

#### *Sail*

Sail (Sa) is a complete sail course beginning with basic boat designs, rigging and sail processes for the non-sailor. The course proceeds into the physical aspects of sailing, sail applications, marlinespike, helmsmanship, and handling of more difficult sailing conditions, navigation rules, and an introduction to heavy weather sailing.



The course is taught over a 9-week period with a mix of classroom and on-the-water sessions. Students are expected to take on an active role aboard the instructional vessels so that they can feel, first-hand, the effects of design parameters on the handling and performance of a boat.

In order to teach the course in the time available (boating season in upstate New York is WAY too short), the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron recommends that students have completed the Seamanship course prior to taking Sail. This allows instructors to skip over material also covered in the Seamanship class.

- Prerequisites: Seamanship
- Instructors: TBA
- Duration: Approximately 9 weeks.
- Scheduling: Friday evenings, July - mid-Sept.
- Location: Watkins Glen Village Marina
- Cost: \$80 (USPS Members)

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

- Tom

## Youth Committee Report

by Katie Alley P, SSPS Youth Committee Co-Chair

After what has seemed like eternal ice age, the world has slowly but surely thawed out and all of us boaters are growing anxious, including the junior sailors. My sailing companions and I are more than excited to know that *Tomfoolery's* launch date is less than three weeks away and that Junior Sailing activities are right around the corner.

During the ice age, much planning and preparations have taken place for 2015 Seneca Junior Sailing. Rolf Lewis has been busy designing exquisite posters with catchy slogans and striking images to attract attention to the program. These posters will be hung up in area high schools.

As many of you know, Tom Alley has worked hard to recruit more boats and coaches to potentially expand the program. Currently, there are three boats and five coaches enlisted. Tom is looking to possibly gather an additional boat or two to act as fill-ins when another boat is unavailable. The program will be open to 15 junior sailors this summer, who will be divided into three crews.

A proposed calendar has been organized for the program's activities this summer, similar to the pilot schedule followed last year. During June and July, we plan to have training sessions on Saturday mornings, to have sailors become familiar with the boats and the rules of road. After introducing racing tactics, the junior sailors will participate in the Finger Lake Yacht Club's Saturday races during August and September. Longer, cruise-style races, including the Commodore's Cup Race and the Seneca Barge Race in Geneva, will be invitational for experienced and skilled junior sailors.

The newly formed Youth Committee, composed of Rolf and I, aspire to arrange more social events for the junior sailors and their parents. The program will also encourage enrollment in USPS courses throughout the summer, especially the ABC class offered in August. Tom has also considered expanding the program to include seminars on topics including boat ownership and maintenance, particularly during the spring and fall.

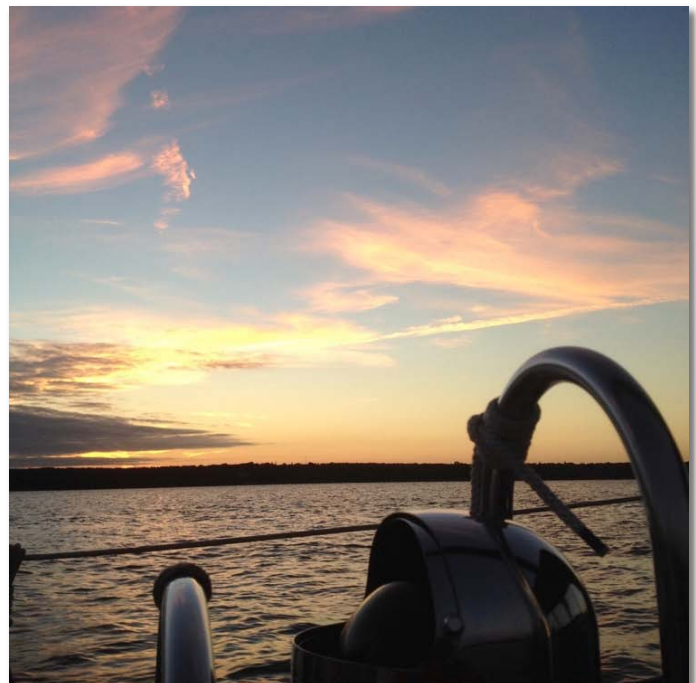
Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, is our orientation meeting date for interested and returning junior sailors and parents. Everyone will have a chance to hear about the program, meet the coaches, and tour the boats.

The due date for registration will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the sailing adventures are set to begin June 6<sup>th</sup>!

Finally, I am beyond ecstatic to announce that *Tomfoolery's* departure date for her voyage to Lake Ontario is less than 2 months away. *Tomfoolery's* crew will be traveling with Mike Crouse and his crew on *Seek Ye First*. With both Tom and Mike being junior sailing coaches, several legs of the trip will be open for junior sailors to join as crew – including segments in the canal and on both Seneca Lake and Lake Ontario. The trip will provide opportunities for the crew to experience canals, locking, open-water sailing on a large lake, and practice with traditional navigation techniques. Can't wait for this adventure!

I'm sure glad the ice age is over. See you all at the marina very soon!

- Katie



New Adventures.  
New Horizons.  
Sail. Race. Cruise.



*Seneca Junior Sailing*

**Seneca Sail and Power Squadron**

A unit of the United States Power Squadron

To learn more: [info@SenecaPowerSquadron.US](mailto:info@SenecaPowerSquadron.US)

# Vessel Safety Examination

By Ray Margeson

United States Power Squadron, in cooperation with the US Coast Guard, has the ability to conduct Vessel Safety Examinations to ensure that watercraft meet the Coast Guard safety requirements.

Seneca Sail and Power Squadron currently has one certified Vessel Safety Examiner, Don Kloeber, whose home port is Sampson. Vessel Safety Checks in the Watkins Glen area were typically performed by Peter Knott.

Currently, four members of the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron are working for their certification as Vessel Safety Examiners. Those members are Mark Erway, Charlie Fausold, Jim McGinnis and Ray Margeson. They have passed the written examination and after they perform five Vessel

☐ Safety Checks under the supervision of a currently certified Vessel Safety Examiner they will be able to perform Vessel Safety Checks.

These Vessel Safety Examinations are intended to ensure that watercraft comply with the Coast Guard safety standards. If the vessel passes the examination, a sticker is issued. If the vessel fails any required standard, there is no adverse action. The check is simply intended to further safe boating.

So, this summer is a good time to get your annual Vessel Safety Examination performed by one of your squadron shipmates.

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**Seneca Squadron  
Members invited!**

It's time to kick-off the season  
Join us for the

## FLYC BLOCK PARTY

When: Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 1:00p.m.

Where: Village Marina Boat Yard, Watkins Glen

Bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs, and your own beverage.  
Pizza will be Provided.



## Seneca Squadron 2015 Calendar

*By the Seneca Squadron Executive Committee*

<b>May</b>		<b>November</b>	
4	Squadron Dinner Meeting <i>Boating Museum of the Finger Lakes</i>	??	Squadron Dinner Meeting <i>Location TBD</i>
16	FLYC Block Party (1300) <i>Watkins Glen Village Marina Boatyard</i>	??-??	D/6 Fall Conference <i>Location TBD</i>
19	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>	17	Bridge Meeting/CoW Planning (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>
17-23	Safe Boating Week	<b>December</b>	
30	Junior Sailing Orientation Meeting (1030) <i>Watkins Glen Village Marina</i>	01	Nominating Committee <i>Location TBD</i>
<b>June</b>		15	Bridge/CoW Planning (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>
2	Junior Sailing Registration Deadline	18	Deadline for Drum Articles
16	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Margeson Residence</i>	<b>January 2016</b>	
26	Deadline for Drum Articles	17	Change of Watch <i>Location TBD</i>
<b>July</b>		19	Bridge Meeting <i>Location TBD</i>
13	Picnic with Terry & Lisa <i>Location TBD</i>	<b>February</b>	
21	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>	14-21	USPS Annual Meeting <i>Orlando, FL</i>
<b>August</b>		17	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>TBD</i>
18	August Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>	20	Deadline for Drum Articles
25-30	National Governing Board <i>San Diego, CA</i>	<p>Calendars are "living documents." For the latest information on squadron activities, please check our web site:  <a href="http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US">http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US</a>            or our Facebook page:  <a href="http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron">http://facebook.com/SenecaPowerSquadron</a>            for any last-minute changes.</p>	
28	Deadline for Drum Articles		
<b>September</b>			
??	Squadron Dinner Meeting <i>Location TBD</i>		
15	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>	<b>October</b>	
27	D/6 Fall Council <i>Hibiscus Harbor, Cayuga, NY</i>	20	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>
<b>October</b>		??	Nominating Committee <i>Location TBD</i>
20	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>	23	Deadline for Drum Articles



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## Seneca Squadron – Who’s Who?

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

**Commander:** Mark Erway

[cmdr@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:cmdr@senecapowersquadron.us)  
607-215-1624

**Executive Officer:** Charlie Fausold

[xo@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:xo@senecapowersquadron.us)  
607-535-4641

**Administrative Officer:** Rebecca Lewis

[ao@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:ao@senecapowersquadron.us)

**Education Officer:** Tom Alley

[seo@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:seo@senecapowersquadron.us)  
607-562-3909

**Assistant Education Officer:** Jim McGinnis

[aseo@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:aseo@senecapowersquadron.us)  
607-358-4409

**Secretary:** Jim Morris

[secretary@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:secretary@senecapowersquadron.us)

**Treasurer:** Marcia Taylor

[treasurer@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:treasurer@senecapowersquadron.us)

**Membership Chair:** Sue Morris

[membership@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:membership@senecapowersquadron.us)

**Public Relations Officer:**

[pro@senecapowersquadron.us](mailto:pro@senecapowersquadron.us)

**Executive Committee Members:**

Dennis Kingsley	Tom Taylor
Ray Margeson	Jerry Tinz

**Youth Committee Members:**

Katie Alley	Rolf Lewis
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*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.*

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## THE DRUM

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Attn: Editor  
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Big Flats, NY 14814

Seneca Sail & Power Squadron Members