



THE DRUM



A Publication of the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron

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Please report any errors or omissions to the Squadron Newsletter Editor at: editor@SenecaPowerSquadron.US.

From The Commander

By Mark Erway, AP

Our Squadron is not only alive and well, but thriving, growing and introducing the joy of boating and boating education to a number of new people.



It is my privilege to be one of the coaches for our Junior Sailing program, and as such get to work with and get to know some very talented and capable youth. We are having a blast on Saturday mornings, and whether it is rain or shine, blowing or calm, we connect and grow and it is incredibly rewarding to watch young people take the helm of a 6 or 7 ton vessel as they gain confidence in themselves and their abilities. These young people and their parents have found this program so rewarding that they have joined the Squadron. In fact, one of the mothers, who has joined us for each outing is interested in serving our Squadron in the area of public relations. That has reaffirmed to me anew, that everything we do, every connection we make, which are not only extremely meaningful to us as we live life, but also can benefit our organization.

Additionally, I have taken the plunge into co-teaching the Seamanship class with Peter Knott. This class is mostly youth, but one of the Dads has decided to sign up for the course as well because he found it so informative. Again, we are making connections and forming friendships as we educate and train. This class is looking to its On-The-Water training coming up in July and August.

Our programs, educational and social, connecting with young people and their families, are the way to our future and to sustainability. Each of us can play a part in that as we interact with people at the various marinas that we call home. We do it through education programs; we do it through our meetings and waterfront events where we can invite others to be our guests; and we even do it through our Vessel Safety Check group where we now have five local members, trained, ready and willing to help people understand basic safety requirements that give confidence for themselves, their families and friends, as they boat on our beautiful lakes and streams here in the gorgeous Finger Lakes region.

It is an honor to be part of this great Squadron with you all. I thank each of you for the part you play in making Seneca Sail and Power Squadron the dynamic group that it is.

Fair winds, safe boating,

- Cdr. Mark

From the Executive Officer

By Charlie Fausold, SN-IN



Along with Seneca Sail and Power Squadron colleagues Cdr. Mark Erway, Jim McGinnis, and Ray Margeson, I have recently endeavored to become a certified USPS Vessel Safety Examiner. Under the expert tutelage of Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Chair Don Kloeber we have studied VSC requirements and procedures, taken an exam and each conducted five supervised VSCs.

As most USPS members know, VSCs are courtesy, voluntary boat inspections. We look to see that the vessel complies with federal and state safety requirements and discuss other issues that may not be legally required but are certainly “good practice” when out on the water. If an area for improvement is identified it is up to the boat owner to do so. VSCs are not enforcement actions

and we don't issue tickets or report findings to any regulatory agency.

As might be expected with a USPS program much learning goes on during a VSC. The boat owner/operator is reminded of safety requirements and best practices and is prompted to check the safety systems on his/her vessel. All of the VSCs I have done so far have been on boats owned by experienced, responsible and diligent skippers. Yet in every case we found at least one issue that needed attention, even if it was only a burned out bulb on a navigation light.

Conducting a VSC is also a learning experience for the examiner. Going through different types of boats, seeing how they are set up and discussing experiences with the skipper has been both enjoyable and informative.

Finally, of course, VSCs are a great way to introduce other boaters to the programs and benefits of USPS membership.

Have you had your Vessel Safety Check for 2015?

- Charlie

From the Administrative Officer

By Rebecca Lewis



in all that the group has to offer. I have heard the youth sailors of the Junior

There are so many great things to share. I am excited to welcome all of our newest members. It's absolutely wonderful to see so many of you taking part

Sailing program are enjoying the activities tremendously and the season has only begun. I look forward to hearing all about your experiences once you have completed the season.

The calendar of events for the Power Squadron is available on Facebook as individual month-by-month page images. The images are easy to save so you may print them to hang at home for your convenience. Should any changes to the calendar need to be made we will be sure to notify everyone and a newly updated calendar will be posted to Facebook.

The Drum

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Squadron Web Site

<http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US>

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Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Seneca Sail & Power Squadron or of the United States Power Squadrons.

Our July dinner event will be held at the Village Marina on Monday, July 13th. The event will be out behind the Marina Bar and Grill on the covered deck. Please bring a dish to pass. Of course you will be able to purchase drinks in the bar. Terry Stewart and Lisa Oldroyd will be our guest speakers once again. This time they will be sharing their experience of sailing down the East coast this past autumn/winter.

And another special event will be taking place on Tuesday, September 8th. This event is an evening cruise on board the Schooner *True Love*. This cruise is limited to 22 attendees and will run 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Please call or email me early if you are interested in participating in this cruise. Non-alcoholic refreshments and light appetizers are included. Wine is available for purchase during the cruise.

Cost is \$35 per person. Payment is due by Tuesday, September 1st. You may drop it off at the Village Marina if it is convenient, I can be found on Kestrel on Dock 3 or you may mail your payment to: Rebecca Lewis, 8825 Curtis Hollow Road, Campbell, NY 14821

- Rebecca

From the Education Officer

By Tom Alley, SN



Based on the results of a member survey done by the Squadron a couple of years ago, there is a significant interest in topics concerning

boat maintenance, upkeep and repair. The Seneca Squadron Education Department is pleased to announce the availability of a series of hands-on seminars that will cover a number of aspects of boat maintenance.

Learning how to properly execute some boat maintenance tasks can be intimidating, especially if you are doing something potentially damaging to your own boat! Wouldn't it be great if you could "practice" on someone else's boat before jumping in with both feet on your own vessel? Well, you can now!

A 12-foot daysailer has been donated to the Seneca Squadron. It's a bit tired and neglected, but with some TLC and a little elbow grease she can be refurbished into a fine vessel. Your instructors are busy developing various seminars to teach you how to prep and paint a

fiberglass hull, how to restore the wooden trim on an older boat, how to go through the basics of re-rigging, and other aspects of cleaning, rejuvenating, and sprucing up an older boat. The boat is small enough that it can be easily refurbished without being intimidating, and we have plenty of local expertise available to make sure it gets done properly.

The plan is to offer a series of hands-on seminars during the fall and early winter where students will participate in the restoration effort of this small craft while learning the proper techniques to ensure professional-grade results. Students can sign up for just the seminars that interest them or they can sign up for them all. Upon completion, they will have the knowledge, and sufficient practical experience, to do similar tasks to their



The Fledwind 12 boat that has been donated to Seneca Squadron.

own boats with confidence.

A second benefactor has been kind enough to donate space in a *heated* barn where we can do the restoration work. The site is conveniently located in Horseheads, so it is reasonably accessible by all of Seneca's membership.

Once the project boat has been refurbished, per the donor's request, it will be auctioned off at a fundraiser for St. Mary Our Mother Elementary School, where the proceeds will be split evenly between the Squadron and the school. The school wins by having a showcase piece for their fundraiser. The Squadron wins financially, by having some unique educational offerings, and we'll get our name broadcast through the fundraiser. Squadron members win through the acquisition of some boating skills that they might not otherwise have been able to attain.

Best of all, you won't have to "practice" on your own boat!

Interested in learning some new boating skills this fall? Contact me!

- Tom

SEO@SenecaPowerSquadron.US

Youth Committee Report

By Katie Alley, P

I believe I speak for all of us when I say I am glad that the marina is full of boats and happy boaters once again. If you have been around the marina on Saturday mornings the past few weeks, you may have seen some new boaters as well. This season, Seneca Junior Sailing has eight enthusiastic members, five of which are new to the boating world.

Already, there have been great learning opportunities on the four boats enrolled in the program – *Midnight Star*, *Seek Ye 1st*, *Tark*, and *Tomfoolery*. Our coaches – James Sherrick, Mike Crouse, Denis Kingsley, Tom Alley, Jerry Tintz, and Mark Erway – have been very knowledgeable and friendly.



Isaac and Maggie prepare Tomfoolery for departure.

This year, with more coaches and boats and fewer Junior sailors than last, Junior sailors have been able to rotate between boats and coaches, rather than being assigned to one boat with one coach like last year. Personally, I find this beneficial, as I have been sailing on *Tomfoolery* with Captain Tom for 16 years now. It's exciting and educational to operate different boats and take orders learn from someone other than my dad.

After orientation and three training sessions, the Junior sailors have already had practice with basic boat terminology, boat handling, fundamental sailing tactics, maneuvering under power, docking, rules of the road, man-overboard drills, and mild foul weather. The three “veteran” Junior sailors – Rolf

Lewis, Maggie MacBlane, and myself – have taken up roles to assist the newbies.

The program will continue with training sessions throughout July to familiarize Junior sailors with the boats before competing in the Finger Lake Yacht Club's Saturday races in August and September.

It is great to see so much interest in this program. Teens who have lived in Watkins Glen and the surrounding area their entire life are now finally experiencing the joys of boating. One parent has joined the Junior sailors consistently during our sessions as well. As a result, several families and apprentices have joined the power squadron. Yay!

As many of you may have noticed, the Power Squadron and the Junior Sailing Program were featured in an article on boating safety in the *Star Gazette* back in May. If you did not have the chance to read this article, it can be found at

this link:

<http://www.stargazette.com/story/news/local/2015/05/08/seneca-youth-sailing-safety/26971193/>

In terms of other youth activity, Maggie MacBlane and I plan on leaving Watkins Glen on June 29th aboard *Tomfoolery* with Captain Tom for Lake Ontario. We will be traveling along with Mike Crouse and his family on *Seek Ye 1st*. This two-week cruise will provide us experience with locking in the canals, cruise planning, provisioning, and traditional navigation techniques, as well as sailing on open-water, in heavy weather, and potentially at night. (We hope not to gain experience with boat repairs.) We are optimistic that the recent rainfall will not lead to high-water in the canals resulting in them closing and delaying our trip.



Tark departs her slip with Junior Sailors aboard.

Meanwhile, Rolf Lewis will be on his trip to Europe through the People to People organization. He will be spending two days at the United Kingdom Sailing Academy, the official school for the America's Cup racers. Sailing in the North Atlantic is a great opportunity for him!

Stay tuned – the youth have a busy summer ahead of them and are sure to have stories to share. See you all soon!

- Katie



Isaac and Maggie get hints from Coach Mike aboard Tomfoolery.

Upcoming Classes and Seminars

By Seneca Squadron Education Department

ABC for Youth

America's Boating Course is the public class offered by the Squadron that enables students to attain their New York State Boater Safety Card. Adults can sign up for free classes with their local Sheriff's office, but where can you send your kids or grandkids? The answer is, "Right here!"

Seneca Squadron instructors will present the same material covered in the adult classes in a format compatible with young mariners between the ages of 12 and 16. Parents may audit this class for free (in fact, we encourage it).

Class details are as follows:

- When: August 13th, 20th and 22nd.
- Where: Watkins Glen Yacht Club
- Lead Instructor: Jim McGinnis
- Cost: \$40/student (add \$20 if you want to keep the textbook when finished).

Seminar Pricing Changes Announced

Effective 1 August, a \$10 fee will be charged for recording seminar attendee completions. This fee will be offset by a \$10 reduction in the cost of student seminar kits purchased as of 1 July. Headquarters will invoice squadrons for

seminar completions separately from the seminar materials. When pricing seminars, squadrons and districts need to include the attendee completion fee in their pricing calculations as the fee will not appear as part of the cost in the education catalog. In addition, effective 1 Aug., the books, guides and CDs included in student seminar kits will be listed and priced separately as supplemental materials in the education catalog. Note: This change does not include the Instructor Kit, which will continue to include all materials currently provided. Questions? Email me. Email: [Steve Abbott](mailto:Steve.Abbott@usps.org)

Software Releases and Updates

Get the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety App

A welcome addition to any boater's mobile phone, the new U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety App is now available for iOS and android devices. The app includes a wealth of data, including state boating information, a review of must-have and should-have safety gear, and a quick rules of the road review. You can

even file a float plan with the app. Of particular interest to Homeland Security Officers is the option to report suspicious activity. I strongly encourage boaters to download the FEMA and BoatUS apps if they haven't already.

Email: [Bill Husted](mailto:Bill.Husted@usps.org)

Celestial Tools V4.9.1 Now Available

To get the latest version, visit <http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/n/ols.htm>. V4.9.1 corrects a few minor bugs.

Email: [Stan Klein](mailto:Stan.Klein@usps.org)

Seneca Junior Sailing & Youth Committee



Meet Seneca's 2015 Junior Sailing Staff.

L to R: Coach Mark Erway, Coach Denis Kingsley, Coach James Sherrick, Coach Mike Crouse, Coach Tom Alley, Coach Jerry Tinz, and Youth Committee Co-Chairs Rolf Lewis and Katie Alley.

The 2015 Junior Sailing program kicked off on June 6th with seven students and one parent participating. Stay tuned as we report on their accomplishments and adventures through the summer and fall!

For more on Seneca's Youth Program, check out the feature article on page 26 of the Summer issue of *The Ensign*.

The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN



Being the editor of a newsletter is great, because you always get the last word! As such, I will take advantage of this and bore you with my thoughts and comments at the end of each issue of *The Drum*.

You've probably noticed a slightly new look to this issue of *The Drum*. That's because I've made some changes to the Microsoft Word template used to generate each issue. These changes were necessary to make our template compatible with the next release of Word, which is due out later this year.

For you technophiles out there, Word 2016 will no longer support "Publication Layout" for documents. In pre-release versions of the software, Word would

translate publications into a format that was not editable.

As a result, I created a new template that will port to the next version of Word in a more seamless manner. The new documents no longer make use of text boxes to create columns – a very manual process when laying out each issue. Rather, this format makes extensive use of Microsoft Word "Styles" and "Section Breaks". (If you use Word very much, you really should get familiar with these powerful features!)

While we're talking about technology, I must say that I am truly amazed at how far communications have come in the last 20 years. The proliferation of cell towers and smart phones has taken communications to a whole new level.

Two decades ago, while we would still be using personal computers to type up and lay out club newsletters, they would need to be printed and then mailed (as in, via the U.S. Postal Service) to each member. Now, I'm busy putting on the

final touches to this issue while I am at anchor on my boat many miles away from home. With the press of a button, I can push the newsletter to the Seneca Squadron membership. Another couple of keystrokes will allow me to upload the newsletter to the club web site, which resides on a server in my basement, where the whole world can read it.

Even as an engineer, I have to resort to the word "magic" to describe how all of this works. These are amazing times.

So let me know how you like (or not) the new format to this newsletter. Send your thoughts to:

editor@SenecaPowerSquadron.US.

Rest assured, I'll be checking my e-mail from the next anchorage.

Fair winds!

- Tom

2015 District Rendezvous News



Rochester Sail and Power Squadron 2015 Squadron Rendezvous July 30-August 2, 2015



Oak Park Marina (Sodus Bay)
6483 Lake Bluff Road, North Rose, NY 14516
315-587-2300 (Marina)



Thursday, July 30, Arrive anytime

Squadron Annual Rendezvous Begins at Oak Park Marina on Sodus Bay
“Disorganized” Dinner at Dockers Restaurant at Oak Park

Friday, July 31

8:30AM “Breakfast on the Beach”
Contests and games

Afternoon Commander’s Cocktail Hour
5:00PM Dinner at Dockers Restaurant

Saturday, August 1

8:30AM “Breakfast on the Beach”
Contests and games

2:00PM Executive Board Meeting
5:00PM Dinner at Connelly’s Cove



General Registration fee: \$5.00 per family

Special Squadron Rate Dockage Fees:

\$1.00/ft. first night, \$1.00/ft. second night, \$.75/ft. third night

Dockage at Oak Park includes full access to their amenities (hot tub, pool, etc.)

Landlubbers option: Hotel @ Oak Park 315-587-2300

\$90/night (Squadron price)

Questions??: contact Jerry Lighthouse [585-247-0618](tel:585-247-0618) email: onplane@frontiernet.net

or

Jack Howell [585-621-8893](tel:585-621-8893) email: pat.jack@gmail.com

This information is so you can get these dates on your calendar. An “official” flyer and registration form will be coming out soon. Watch your emails!

Calendar of Events

July			
10	Seamanship Class (1900) <i>Big Flats Community Center</i>	26	<i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i> Junior Sailing – Race #4
10	Junior Sailing Lake Ontario Cruise returns <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	27	<i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i> D/6 Fall Council
11	Junior Sailing Session #4 <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>		<i>Hibiscus Harbor, Cayuga, NY</i>
12	Junior Sailing Practice Race (with FLYC) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	October	
13	Picnic with Terry & Lisa <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	20	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>
17	Seamanship Class (1900) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	TBD	Nominating Committee <i>Location TBD</i>
18	Junior Sailing Session #5 <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	23	Deadline for Drum Articles
21	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>	November	
25	Junior Sailing Session #6 <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	TBD	Squadron Dinner Meeting <i>Location TBD</i>
August		TBD	D/6 Fall Conference <i>Location TBD</i>
8	Junior Sailing – Commodore’s Cup Event <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	17	Bridge Meeting/CoW Planning (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>
13	ABC for Youth Session #1 (1900) <i>Watkins Glen Yacht Club</i>	December	
15	Junior Sailing – Race #1 (1300) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	01	Nominating Committee <i>Location TBD</i>
18	August Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>	15	Bridge/CoW Planning (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>
20	ABC for Youth Session #2 (1900) <i>Watkins Glen Yacht Club</i>	18	Deadline for Drum Articles
22	ABC for Youth OTW Session/Exam (0900) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	January 2016	
25-30	National Governing Board <i>San Diego, CA</i>	17	Change of Watch <i>Location TBD</i>
28	Deadline for Drum Articles	19	Bridge Meeting <i>Location TBD</i>
29	Junior Sailing – Race #2 (1300) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	February	
September		14-21	USPS Annual Meeting <i>Orlando, FL</i>
8	Squadron Cruise Aboard <i>True Love</i> (1730) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	17	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>TBD</i>
11	Junior Sailing – Geneva Race Departure (1000) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	20	Deadline for Drum Articles
13	Junior Sailing – Geneva Race Return (1500) <i>Village Marina, Watkins Glen</i>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>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.</p> </div>	
15	Bridge Meeting (1900) <i>Location TBD</i>		
19	Junior Sailing – Race #3		