

THE DRUM

From the Commander

Charlie Fausold, N



The first snowflakes are drifting down from Lake Ontario, most boats are on the hard, and another season has come to an end. It has been a typically busy year for the Seneca Sail and Power Squadron. Squadron Education Officer Tom Alley, Assistant SEO Tom Taylor and an able corps of instructors put together a comprehensive slate of educational offerings ranging from the basic boating course to our most advanced course, Navigation. Administrative Officer Ray Margeson organized a busy and varied social calendar. And most important it turned out to be a pretty good year for boating!

A special emphasis over the past year has been on expanding the ways that we communicate with our members and the general public. At the beginning of the

year Tom Alley led an effort to revamp our squadron website: www.senecapowersquadron.us. Be sure to check it regularly for the latest information on courses, social events and other squadron business.

As great as our website is, it is not sufficient to reach everyone, since different people access information in different ways. For example, over half the U.S. population is on Facebook, and our squadron needs to be there too. And now we are! Find us at: www.facebook.com/senecapowersquadron. Stop by and don't forget to "Like" us!



Unlike the website, Facebook is interactive. My hope is that squadron members will visit often, and post comments, updates and photos of their various happenings on the water and off. In doing so, we will provide a vivid demonstration of both the important work we do as well as how much fun we have doing it!

Finally, with this issue we are also resurrecting our squadron newsletter, The Drum. We

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Visit our web site:
<http://www.SenecaPowerSquadron.US>

hope you enjoy it. Contributions of material and ideas for future content are most welcome!

To conclude on a somber note, we were saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and fellow boater, V. Scott Stevens, JN. As Squadron Public Relations Officer Scott helped to "spread the word" about our activities, including spending many hours hosting our information booth at the Arnot Mall Boat Show every spring. His energy, enthusiasm and friendly good cheer will be sorely missed and our heartfelt sympathies go out to his family.

A special thanks to the Bridge and all squadron members who helped make this a successful year.
- Charlie

District 6 Fall Conference – Rome, NY

Your Commander attended the USPS District 6 Fall Conference hosted by the Utica Sail and Power Squadron in Rome, NY. Among the interesting information presented were results from two surveys that have been conducted by USPS National and by our counterparts in the Canadian Power Squadrons. The CPS survey was external, and looked at the potential for drawing new members from four groups: cottage owners, fishermen (male and female), families and serious boaters. The conclusions were that fishermen/women are not interested in taking boating courses or seminars; they just want to fish. Cottage owners mainly use small boats not too far from home, and they likewise aren't very

interested in Power Squadron offerings. Families are interested in educational programs, although not the 8 or 12 week courses that USPS offers.

The USPS survey was internal, and looked at our current demographics. In a nutshell, it found that most USPS members live near the east or west coasts, are at or near retirement age, and have large boats.

We can be sure that the marketing folks at USPS Headquarters will be studying the results of these surveys for insights as to how we can increase participation in our programs and encourage new membership.



USPS National Education Officer VC Bob Bradenstein, SN hosted a lively town hall discussion at D6 Fall Conference in Rome, NY.

Change of Watch – 2013 January 20th

By Ray Margeson, Administrative Officer



Swearing in of the Bridge members at the 2012 Change of Watch ceremony.

On January 20th we will have out annual Change of Watch and it marks the beginning of another year of our efforts to continue to provide education and training to both our members and to the general public.

Our social schedule should hold no surprises in 2013 and we expect to have some great presenters at our meetings. If you have a potential speaker in mind, please feel free to pursue them yourself or let me know about them and I will take it from there.

Hope you all will continue to attend our meetings and to avail yourself of our educational offerings.

- Ray



Educational Offerings

Upcoming Courses for 2013

The Seneca Education Department has another busy year planned for its instructors, but that means we have a lot of offerings for the Squadron membership!

Already in progress, we are offering **Marine Electrical Systems** at the Big Flats Community Center every Thursday in January and February. This is an 8-week class (including the final exam).

Beginning in March and continuing through April (total of 8 weeks), **Marine Communication Systems** will be offered, also on Thursday evenings and also at the Big Flats Community Center. There are still openings available in this course.

The month of May officially starts the boating season in Upstate New York and it also heralds in the season of on-the-water classes beginning with **Seamanship**. This is a 9-week course split between

classroom (4 weeks), on-the-water (4 weeks) and a final exam. This course lays the groundwork for confident boat handling and provides students with practical, hands-on experience to carry forward to all aspects of boating.

Starting in July, **Sail** will be offered. This 9-week course will spend 2 weeks in the classroom, then 5 weeks on the water aboard various sailing vessels of the Seneca classroom "fleet". A final week of review is then held in the classroom and the course is capped off with a final exam.

Information about all of our courses is available on the squadron web site or by contacting Tom Alley, the Squadron Education Officer by e-mail at alley@acm.org or calling him at 607-377-6262.

In Memory, V. Scott Stevens, JN

It is with great sadness that the Seneca Squadron announces the passing of Scott Stevens, long time member and Public Relations Officer.

Age 65, Scott passed away at his home on November 19th, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Kiyoko Suzuki Stevens; sons and daughter-in-law, Vinton "Bo" Stevens of Ithaca, Sayre S. and Liz Stevens of Watertown, NY; daughter and son-in-law Antoinette M. "Toni" and Matthew Moffe of Elmira.

Scott was a U.S. Air Force veteran serving in Brindisi, Italy and later in Wakkanai, Japan. He devoted his life to his work at the Hilliard Corporation for 36 years before retiring as Sales Manager in 2009. While at Hilliard, Scott earned his M.B.A. from Syracuse University. His work took him to 28 different countries and to all 50 states.

As a teenager Scott developed a love for sailing at Camp Cory on Keuka Lake. He renewed his passion for sailing when he retired, taking numerous courses and exams to become an accredited sailor. Scott purchased a sailboat and joined the Finger Lakes Yacht Club and Seneca Sail & Power Squadron where he served on the Executive Committee as the Public



Vinton Scott Stevens, 1947 - 2012

Relations Officer and attained a grade of Junior Navigator.

Very generous with his time and talents, he would help his children and friends at the drop of a hat. Scott's greatest love was time spent with his children and grandchildren. He will be forever loved and missed.

Those wishing may remember Scott may do so with a donation to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Sandy Relief, 911 Stowell Street, Elmira, NY 14901.

SENECA SQUADRON NEWS



Seneca Sail & Power Squadron has been recognized by USPS District 6 with the

Prince Henry Award

for outstanding achievement in teaching celestial navigation courses (Junior Navigation and Navigation) for the educational year of 2011-2012.

Congratulations to the Seneca Education Department and its dedicated team of instructors and the students that made this possible!

Report from Seneca's Latest Weather Class

By Don Kloeber, Instructor

Seneca Sail & Power Squadron completed the 2012 USPS WX course in early December. Instructors were Don Kloeber and Tom Taylor and for the first time (that I am aware of) the number of general public class participants exceeded SSPS members. While none have committed to buying boats (yet) there was some interest expressed in taking additional SSPS courses.

On Saturday Dec 1st the class made a field trip to the NOAA National Weather Service office in Binghamton. Mike Evans, the Binghamton Science and Operations Officer hosted a tour of their facilities and demonstrated the various computer models and extensive input data available to them. He discussed and demonstrated the various services performed by the National Weather Service as well as what a typical day in the life of a forecaster is like.

A particularly interesting segment revolved around a case study that Mike had done on the July 26th tornadoes that touched down in the town of Elmira and several surrounding areas.



WX students and guests pose for a class photo in front of the NWS office in Binghamton, NY.



WX students are shown an overview of the data processed to create watch and warning "boxes".

The National Weather Service confirmed winds peaked near 110 mph and the tornado traveled 10 miles downing trees and power lines, and causing extensive damage to homes, buildings, and infrastructure in the town of Elmira.

In a related discussion Mike demonstrated how storm "Watch" and "Warning" boxes are generated and modified by the forecasters. The results are the automated written and audio advisories that are distributed to the media and broadcast on the NOAA Wx VHF frequencies.

A representative from the Binghamton NWS office will be our guest presenter at our February 4th, 2013 monthly meeting – more details will be distributed as we get closer.

- Don

Seneca Squadron Hosts *Water Trainer*

This past summer Seneca Squadron hosted the USPS vessel *Water Trainer* as it was passing through our area.

Water Trainer is a 20' center console Boston Whaler 200 Dauntless with a 200 horsepower Mercury outboard and custom graphics. The unit comes complete with trailer and Ford pickup towing vehicle and is available to USPS squadrons for conducting on-the-water training. The graphics on the boat and tow vehicle turn the whole unit into a dramatic

"billboard," and we used the opportunity to park *Water Trainer* at the Clute Park and Village Marina launch ramps one warm August weekend to promote our programs.

Reportedly a couple of our senior members took *Water Trainer* out on the lake to see what that 200hp Merc could do, but that is another story!



Water Trainer and her tow vehicle at the Watkins Glen Village Marina.

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, NY14814

Seneca Sail & Power Squadron Members