

# 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 Executive Officer .....3
- From the Administrative Officer.....4
- From the Education Director .....5
- From the Assistant Education Officer.....5
- Membership Thoughts .....7
- Water Lines .....8
- Upcoming Classes & Seminars .....9
  - Instructor Recertificaton .....9
  - Marine Electrical Systems .....9
  - Marine Communications Systems ....9
  - Sail Course .....9
  - How To Register .....9
  - Looking for Something?.....9
- Long-Term Class Schedule..... 10
- USPS News: Local, District, National & More ..... 11
  - New Member Welcome ..... 11
  - Happy Birthday! ..... 11
  - Breaking News: Short Film Debut at the D/6 Spring Conference! ..... 11
  - Free Vessel Safety Checks..... 11
  - Got News? ..... 12
- A Pacific Crossing ..... 12
- The Last Word ..... 13
- Calendar of Events ..... 16
- Conference Location & Schedule ..... 17
- Spring Conference Venue ..... 18
- Spring Conference Meal Choices ..... 19
- Conference Reservation Form ..... 20
- Report any errors or omissions to:  
editor@abc-flx.org

### From The Commander

By Jim McGinnis, AP      SV Brewster

#### Winter Blues

Of course, *Brewster* is under wraps while snow/rain are falling. But 2020 is shaping up nicely. We have an experienced slate of officers from the Change of Watch on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Charlie Fausold and John Flick maintain their Education roles. Phil Cherry is taking the XO position which was vacant last year, and Fred Seip is stepping into the Admin Officer role. New to the Bridge is Rachael Nichols as Secretary. Please thank Rachael for taking this role when you see her.

We have quarterly membership meetings planned through the year, including a Rendezvous for two nights (7/31 and 8/1) at Sampson State Park. The Sampson Marina is newly renovated and 8-foot deep everywhere. It is 21 nm to Sampson (about 4 hrs traveling at 5 knots) with good anchoring points at Smith Park and Lodi if desired. You can travel up Friday anytime or Saturday morning. Please plan to join



us for this fun weekend. We have (8) larger Boat Slips reserved (30 Amp). Please let me or Fred Seip know if you want to take one of those Slips. They are going fast. You could also drive up to Sampson to meet us there if you are not able to attend by boat. Here is some information on Sampson.

<https://parks.ny.gov/parks/154/>

Don Kloeber keeps his *MV Bacchus* at Sampson, so we have a good contact with the Marina Supervisor, Tim Wixom. Don has committed to help us coordinate several events for the day on Saturday.

#### District 6 March Meeting

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> is the District 6 Spring Conference at

The Radisson Hotel in Corning. You have a unique opportunity in late March to attend part or all of the next USPS District 6 Bridge Meeting. Our Chapter, ABC-FLX, (a.k.a. Seneca Sail and Power Squadron) is Hosting the conference. Phil Cherry sent out the detailed agenda and registration form. The registration form is due March 4<sup>th</sup>. Let me or Phil know if you need a copy.

**Options:**

1. Come for the entire event - Friday PM to Sunday AM. Agenda attached.
2. Come for Lunch Saturday - the Guest Speaker, Ellen Brody, talk about the creation of a new Marine Sanctuary in Lake Ontario. (There are only 14 of these sanctuaries nationwide.)
3. Come for some combination of the events. Glass Museum Tour (Fri) Guest speaker and Dinner. (Sat) Music after the Dinner provided by Take 3. (Phil Smock and his band.)

There is no requirement to stay at the hotel (Lynne and I will probably stay there). If you can help for

2 hrs. with Weekend Registration on Friday PM or Saturday AM – Please call Lynne 607-210-4009. If you could donate a gift basket for the Fund Raiser – call Lynne as well. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to see the workings of the District, visit with our squadron member and make some new Boating friends!

**SV Endless Summer Cruise**



Lynne and I just returned from Cape Coral where we bareboat chartered a 40-foot Leopard Catamaran for a several-day cruise up to Cayo Costa Island and Useppa Island. Weather was perfect until the last day when we got chased back to the Marina in 20-25 knot winds. We anchored in Pelican

Bay in about 8ft of water for the night and had no issues with the spot. The next day we headed out Boca Grand Pass and set the sails in the Gulf in 10 to 12 knots of wind. Just enough to get the big cat moving nicely. We saw dolphins, a sea turtles and had a Great Blue Heron step right up on the boat that night. We also stayed at Useppa Island which is a unique private Island off Fort Myers/Sanibel Area. They had a fleet of true Cat Boats there which made me think of days sailing the broad beamy boat with the mast stepped in the bow from New England. Great Trip.

- Jim, SV Brewster  
[co@abc-flx.org](mailto:co@abc-flx.org)



## From the Executive Officer

By Phil Cherry, S

SV Harmony

### Connectivity Costs



As a relatively new boater here on Seneca lake I haven't yet ventured out onto the Erie Canal system to

Lake Ontario or beyond. I hope some day to do that, maybe even this year. It's spectacular to think that here we are in upstate NY, hundreds of miles from the ocean, nestled in our cozy Finger Lakes community and yet we can sail or power our boats to anywhere in the world, all thanks to the Erie Canal system.

I'm sure we all appreciate the engineering, cultural, economic and recreational wonders of the Canal. The canal system celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> year recently, the first leg of the system having been started back in 1817. In 2000, the system was designated by Congress as the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The Corridor spans 524 miles across the full expanse of the upstate New York encompassing over 4,800 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 3.2 million people, including us here in Schuyler county and surrounds.

But that same corridor is also a pathway for the spread of invasive species such as hydrilla, water chestnut and zebra mussels, to name a few. Late last year, under the umbrella of New York State's

Reimagine the Canal Initiative (<http://www.canals.ny.gov/reimagine/TaskForceReport.pdf>), the Erie Canal Aquatic Invasive Deterrent Study was commissioned to look at the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and methods to prevent the spread of AIS to the Great Lakes, the Hudson and inland waterways across New York State. That report was published in October, 2019 and can be found [here](#). Some of the possible solutions to preventing the spread of AIS are quite significant, such as permanently closing certain locks between Seneca Lake and Lake Ontario to serve as a dry barrier to the spread of AIS into the Canal. Clearly such a solution would have a negative effect on commerce, recreation and tourism, but so do the AIS. It's a difficult topic and I encourage you to read the report.

In addition, just this month, the Governor proposed a \$300 Million appropriation to *Reimagine the Erie Canal* by creating recreational activities on the Canal to boost tourism, mitigate flooding, enhance irrigation, recreational fishing and restoring wetlands. It's too soon to know whether that investment will become a reality, but the proposal does have the ability to affect us here in the Finger Lakes, and as such, bears watching.

Under any circumstance, we here at the Finger Lakes Chapter of America's Boating Club need

### The Drum

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to be engaged in the future of the Canal system and pay close attention to the issue of invasive species. We have the luxury of being able to go anywhere in the world on our boats, but that connectivity

comes with the responsibility to manage for invasive species and to do all we can to promote the canal and safeguard it for another 200 years.

- Phil

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## From the Administrative Officer

By Fred Seip, S

SV Harmony

### Prepping for Spring



I am impressed by and happy to serve with this Bridge team. It is exciting to be part of a Club

which is on the front line of boating safety and education in the Finger Lakes Region. I joined the Power Squadron primarily for the boating courses and to socialize with other boaters, ABC has not disappointed.

I don't know about you, but I am ready for summer, well spring anyway. This is the time of year that I start planning (and buying) what I need for my upcoming boat projects. My projects include replacing a couple of portals, some fiberglass work and a little painting. It's so difficult for me to stop myself when I start thinking of all the projects that I would 'like to do' but then reality sinks in and I factor in cost, time and the fact that my sailboat (Hunter 31) is 37 years old, I'll probably just do a good bottom paint.

We are looking to increase the level of engagement of our membership and that's where you all come in... please check the schedule and join us in our

courses and social events. We are planning to have quarterly get-togethers so check the come and have some fun with us. We are planning a meet-up at Sampson State Park on July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a great time for us to get together and show our presence as a Club, I'm excited. We will be passing out more info about this but please email or call me if you have any ideas.

I read a tee shirt that said, 'Time wasted at the lake is time well spent'. I'm looking forward to wasting some time.

- Fred

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

## From the Education Director

By Charlie Fausold, SN-IN

SV Morning Glory

### Subtitle



Winter is a busy time for the Education Department and this year is no exception. The

Navigation class has just concluded, and exams and sight folders are being processed and evaluated. Congratulations to all who have completed this rigorous course, the capstone of the USPS navigation series.

Meanwhile, Advanced Piloting (soon to be known as Advanced Marine Navigation) is in full swing, and we have a good turnout for Marine Electrical Systems (MES) which will begin in March. We were pleased to welcome Ithaca S&PS Commander Auguste Duplan to our AP group, and look forward to meeting a couple of members of the Ithaca Flotilla, US Coast Guard Auxiliary in MES. ABC classes are planned for Ithaca and Watkins Glen, and we are considering additional classes on Keuka Lake

and the northern end of Seneca. See elsewhere in this issue for a more complete calendar.

Finally, several of our instructors are due for recertification. A 2-hour Instructor Recertification seminar will be held Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9 pm in Room 115 of the Schuyler County Human Services Building.

- Charlie

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

## From the Assistant Education Officer

By John Flick

### Players and Perspectives in the Growth of the Recreational Boating Industry



Any regular *Drum* readers from last year may have noticed that my natural inclination is to write articles of

a semi-technical nature. This month, I would like to deviate from that and take a wacky and

fun macroscopic view of our recreational boating industry. How did this all come to be and where are we today?

At some point in time over the last hundred years or so, enough disposable income started floating around (another bad pun) that there was demand for boats made strictly for pleasure. In other words, the boats didn't have to necessarily work catching fish, fighting, conquering/discovering new lands, carrying goods or transporting people for a purpose. Lavish yachts of their day were available to royalty in the 1600's but when I say demand, I'm talk-

ing about the more average income earners like lots of us who could afford a wooden boat, (then later a fiberglass boat) back when they were mass produced.

The naval architects, or the people designing these craft, had to transition or focus on different things than before. The basics would remain the same, such as stability, seaworthiness, performance, cost, et cetera. The next highest priorities might be aesthetics, spacious cabins, the comforts of home, and speed. Unfortunately for us boat owners and boat users, the lowest priorities are the ability to maintain, service, survey, and repair the boats.

The detailed plans are given to the builder to make our dream boat a reality. But wait, there is much more to it. Your builder had to make a mold for the hull, deck, and other various components such as the hull liner. The architect will have been very specific on the details such as how many layers of a particular type of glass and resin in different areas of the boat. How closely did your builder follow the lead of the designer?

After they have made something that will float, they have to fill it with systems. Imagine having to find suppliers for hardware, deck/hull fittings, engines, air conditioners, plumbing, electronics, electrical, running gear, head, galley, bow/stern thrusters, stabilizers, water makers, and on and on, not to mention sails and rigging as applicable. Imagine having to install all these goodies such that they all work well, consistently, and harmoniously together.

Another perspective is the manufacturer of the various building blocks or systems. Will the manufacturer or the boat owner read the installation manual and install the component(s) per the manufacturer's recommendations and per safety standards?

How about the perspective of the boat brokers, the retailers (or West Marines of the world), the insurance companies, the surveyors, the lenders, the show organizers, yacht clubs, regulatory and

educational organizations, and so on?

I think we would all agree that lots of boats are complicated, so, the service, repair, winterizing, and maintenance perspective is important.

I've had the good fortune of having a number of these perspectives holding various positions over the decades. My current angle is that of a technician (or mechanic). Too often, I've looked at a boat issue and thought how on earth am I going to run that wire, access this or that, remove and re-install the which-a-ma-thingy, and the list is endless. I hope you will learn from my past shortcomings and know that everything can be replaced or repaired. Maybe this statement is obvious or maybe not.

There are specialized craftspeople who can achieve very impressive results. For example, I've seen Boston Whaler brand boats with relatively thin fiberglass hull layers damaged in hurricanes and repaired such that we would never know they had been damaged. This glass and gelcoat work is magical artwork, unlike replacing a deck fitting, replacing a pump, or tightening a nut to a certain manufacturer's torque wrench specifications.

The main point here is the following: Systems will fail, components are going to break, parts are going to corrode, cafe, or wear. I don't care what brand, model,

year, sail or power, diesel or gas, salt or fresh water, boat you have. For those of you that don't get to use your boats much, you are not exempt from Murphys Law. Lack of use and stagnation in a damp environment is possibly worse on a boat than regular use.

The great thing, though, is that, again, everything can be repaired or replaced. Repairs may require the skills of a fiberglass expert, a rigger, an electrician, heating and air conditioning pro (HVAC), a technician or some combination of the above, but one last time, despite some possible skepticism, it all can be done successfully. Please note that I didn't necessarily say inexpensively.

Maybe your boat is sparkling shiny expensive new or maybe it's three or four decades old with salty stories. Either way, go to sea or the lake knowing that system challenges are inevitable, and they will be solved/resolved with a couple bucks and some ingenuity.

If there are any voids in your boating knowledge, that can be fixed as well. Check out the great list of classes offered by ABC and sign up today. You'll be glad you fixed it.

- John

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

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# Membership Thoughts

By Mark Erway, AP

## Membership Report



Spring is about to spring and of course we begin to think of launching our boats for the season. Then

that makes us think about the things we need to do before launch. Hopefully a list was made of those things that are not standard items for lunch. Standards items are on our pre-printed check list, right? But I digress...

A couple of recent questions concerning membership made me realize we all need some reminders about our membership.

1. Membership is renewed on a yearly basis in the month you began your membership. If you joined in January, your renewal will be due in January. If you are late by one month you are considered "late". If you are late by two months you are considered "past due", and if you are later more than three months you are considered a "non-renewal". After that you have to be reinstated.
2. Membership cards are issued only at the start of your membership. They are no longer re-issued with each year's renewal. If you need a membership card, please let me know and I will request one for you.

3. If you are a member of the United States Power Squadrons or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, you do NOT need a Boaters Safety Certificate to be compliant with Brianna's Law.

From the [NYS Parks and Recreation](#) website, here is the way that exemption is worded in "Brianna's Law".

*(Authority: Article 4 of the Navigation Law and subdivision (8) of section 3.09 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law)*

*Part 451 of 9 NYCRR is repealed and a new Part 451 is adopted to read as follows: PART 451 – SAFE BOATING*

*Section 451.5 Exemptions.*

*(a) A person is exempt from carrying a boating safety certificate or taking the course if they hold at least one of the following valid certifications, licenses, memberships or status. A copy of that certification, license, membership or status information must be carried by the operator and produced upon request of a law enforcement or judicial officer. A law enforcement or judicial officer may require the operator to produce the original certification, license, membership or status document within a reasonable time period:*

- (1) safe boating instructor certification issued by the agency;*
- (2) membership in good standing of the United States Power*

*Squadron or a safe boating certification issued by the United States Power Squadron;*

*(3) membership in good standing of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or a safe boating certification issued by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary;*

So that's a pretty decent benefit for being a member.

Now, let's get back to thinking about spring launch. It takes a lot of time to do all that is required to own and properly maintain a boat. I want to ask you to add something to your schedule that could make a difference, not only for yourself, but for another boater. After you've done all the maintenance, after you've made sure, as the skipper, that your boat is ready, schedule a Vessel Safety Check with one of our club VE's. Then, consider how you might volunteer a little bit of your time to help the leadership, instructors, and VE's in our club do their bit, as they volunteer their time to educate and help other recreational boaters. Let them know what your interests are. That will be a win-win situation for us all.

Got a friend that might benefit from being a member? Personal invitations are the best.

Regards,

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

# Water Lines

*By Glenda Gephart, Public Relations Officer*

## Subtitle



The ABC-FLX Facebook page (page name: America's Boating Club – Finger Lakes Chapter)

has good information about our class offerings and local events and some really fun photos and videos.

One of my favorite recent videos was posted on Jan. 29 and showed a knot-tying “artist” demonstrating his skills. The post was shared from a page called Tractor Fan Club. It was fascinating.

If you enjoy our page, you also should be taking a look at the District 6 postings (page name: United States Power Squadrons District 6) for more education and entertainment. The variety is impressive.

Updates from chapters in the district share the page with reminders about the Central New York

Boat Show and quick instructional videos. News about Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River flooding is posted along with news from the U.S. Coast Guard. Facebook is the target of well-deserved criticism. But when thoughtful people who share your passions manage the pages, being a Facebook user is a smart idea. So, like our page! Follow District 6! Know what's happening, enjoy the videos and let a smile appear.

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

## Upcoming Classes & Seminars

To register for any of these classes or to get more information, please contact Education Officer Charlie Fausold at:

[seo@abc-flx.org](mailto:seo@abc-flx.org)  
or call 607-207-7771

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### Instructor Recertification

If you are a USPS Certified Instructor and your certification is about to expire, a 2-hour Instructor Recertification seminar will be held Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9 pm in Room 115 of the Schuyler County Human Services Building.

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### Marine Electrical Systems

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 the introductory marine electrical systems course beginning on March 18<sup>th</sup> in Montour Falls, NY.

Instructors: Tom Alley & John Flick.

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### Marine Communications Systems

This is part two of the three-part Marine Electronics elective offered by America's Boating Club. After you master the basics of marine electrical systems, you'll be ready for a better understanding of marine communications and basic electronic instrumentation.

This course will be offered in the fall of 2020.

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### Sail Course

If you have always wanted to learn how to sail, or if you've been sailing for a while and want to hone your skills to the next level, 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 (May-June) 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 as soon as possible.

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### 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.

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### 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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Public	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC
Basic	Sail	Boat Handling	Sail	Boat Handling	Sail	Boat Handling
Advanced Level	Advanced Piloting	Piloting	Advanced Piloting	Piloting	Advanced Piloting	Piloting
Senior Level			Junior Navigation			
Electives	Marine Electronics	Electronic Navigation	Instructor Training	Weather	TBD	TBD
	Marine Communications		Engine Maintenance			
Seminars	Power Boating	Paddle Smart	Trailer & Docking	Partner in Command		Man Overboard!
	Trailer Your Boat	Advanced Powerboat Handling				
	Instructor Recertification					
Self Study	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class	Any Class

## USPS News: Local, District, National & More

### New Member Welcome

First, we welcome new members Andrew and Helene Price of Endicott, who officially became new members on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. We are pleased to have you aboard and hope you'll find classes and programs that will be of interest.

Next, we welcome Captain Dennis Daniels, who holds a USCG Master. He has been a long-time member of USPS, is a Past Commander and transferred to us from the Buffalo Squadron at the beginning of January. He has been an instructor for years, taught numerous Boater Safety Courses, and has been involved in other aspects of maritime education for many years. He brings a wealth of experience and capability to our club. Welcome aboard!

### Happy Birthday!

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

#### March

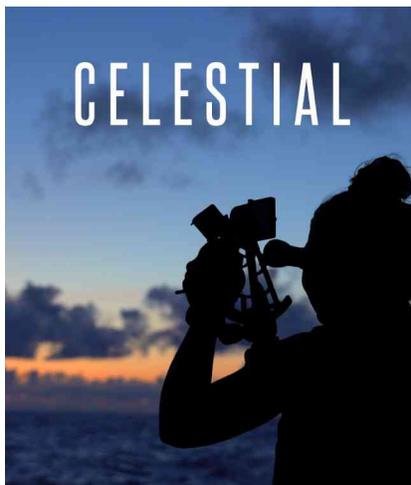
Bill Clack  
Mark Erway  
Helene Fausold  
Rhea Gerdes  
Jim McGinnis  
Steve Pietro  
Wendy Reynolds  
Terry Stewart

#### April

Henry Cabezas  
Carolyn Ann Clack  
Dave Dawson-Elli

Andrea Johnson  
Andrew Seubert  
Anthony Validzic  
Walter Vancise

### Breaking News: Short Film Debut at the D/6 Spring Conference!



Electronics have permeated into every aspect of modern society, making us reliant on them for basic everyday tasks like communication and research. In the sport of offshore sailing, where the night sky has been used to navigate for thousands of years, most people would be hopeless without their GPS. Today, few people have had the opportunity to learn how to navigate using celestial bodies.

*Celestial* follows a crew of students onboard the schooner *S.S.V Tabor Boy* as they compete in the 2019 Marion to Bermuda Race navigating exclusively with celestial navigation. Directed and produced by Jack Gordon, the film gets an intimate look at life onboard the

vessel and the intricacies of navigating celestially.

By following the three Watch Officers and the Captain onboard *Tabor Boy*, the film shows the value of learning to navigate celestially and the deeper connection it produces between the sailor and the sea. Onboard the vessel for the entirety of the race from Massachusetts to Bermuda, the film captures the mental and physical strain of offshore sailing.

Thanks to director and producer Jack Gordon, this film has been made available to District 6 for a screening at the Spring Conference. Check the conference agenda at the end of this newsletter for the screening time. This event is open to the public, so invite your friends!

In the meantime, check out the trailer at [www.celestialfilm.org](http://www.celestialfilm.org).

RUNTIME: 28 minutes

### Free Vessel Safety Checks

By Ray Margeson

ABC-FLX has a team of Vessel Safety Examiners that provide free vessel safety examinations to Coast Guard standards. This summer, your team will be doing group inspections at several marinas around the area. The team consists of members Mark Erway, Charlie Fasould, Don Kloeber and Ray Margeson.

We are looking for some volunteers to assist at these inspections and we are looking for anyone interested in joining us

and thinking of becoming a certified Vessel Safety Examiner. Contact any of the named inspectors if you wish to be involved.

### 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)

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## A Pacific Crossing

*By Charlie Fausold*

*My father joined the army in 1945 while still in high school and served in the occupational forces in Japan after the war. Following is an excerpt from a journal he kept while on board a troop ship in the Pacific returning home in 1947.*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. Time 08:45. I missed writing yesterday. Awful wind all day long yesterday. Sun out part of time. Ship rolled pretty heavily from side to side. In a.m. sun was out - turned white caps to gold. Very pretty. Sea is calmer today. Clear and cold this a.m. but a shower just came up from Southeast. Hope it won't last. We traveled 345 miles Tuesday. 3085 miles to go. Have been 1705 miles. This is our sixth day out. Average speed 14.6. - down on account of storm. Ships position as of 08:00 Wednesday Lat

35° 30' N, Long 173° 59' E. Had fair chow yesterday and today so far. I'm drinking often as a necessity. We will all lose weight I'm afraid. Good chow but not enough. I can just make next meal. If I missed one I'd starve. Took a shower Tues. night in salt H<sub>2</sub>O. Awful. Saw "Anna and the King of Siam" last night. Slept good last night. Picked up another half hour last night in time. Will stop for now. Time 20:00. I just came down

*Vessel*

from movie "Two Smart People". Good. Clear tonight. Cloudy on horizon. Windy. Fairly smooth though. We crossed 180 meridian this a.m. at 0330. Still not sure about date. Ship sprang a leak in bow. Fixing it now. I noticed we are really moving tonight. 362 miles yesterday. 2067 miles so far. 2723 to go. Average speed 15.4. Position Lat 35° 42' N, Long 178° 34' W. Abandon ship drill this p.m. again. Will close for tonight.



Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>. Time 20:10. Well tonight all activities are suspended, and all decks are off-limits. We are having an awful wind. All day it is been rough. Many times water has come up even with the rail on bow. Waves are often higher than boat deck. I'm writing this on my bunk. You can feel ship vibrate. It is going from left to

right and front to stern. Spray comes clear over whole ship. Storm equals that of?? We were off course. I don't (know) if we are back on or not. I spent most of day sleeping on bunk. Watched waves awhile this a.m. They are huge but not as high as that tree by Waldo Beckhorn's. Like Miss Cook (friend of Aunt Ida's) once told me. She was wet about waves being that high. Good chow a.m. and p.m.

Noon chow I didn't like. I can hardly write this. Wow. It feels like riding our steel tractor just before plunging down to meet next wave. I hope plates hold. Sun was out for a while today. Last night I opened my cheese and we had cheese and bread at 23:00. I slept fine!

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## The Last Word

By Tom Alley, SN

### News from National



For this issue I'll take off my "editor's hat" and replace it with my official "DEO cap" so that I can give my

Finger Lakes Chapter family members the jump on what is happening at the national level in our organization.

The USPS Annual Meeting was held near Jacksonville, FL. Aside from getting out of the cold weather for a few days, these trips are really enlightening in that one gets to see the "big picture" and get a feel for what ideas and initiatives will be getting implemented in the coming years. It's also a great place to meet the people whom we otherwise only just hear

about and to create relationships with other "boat addicts" across the country.

I spent two days in meetings split between subjects involving IT and Education. A third day was spent reviewing teaching aids submitted by various Districts and attending seminars on various topics. Here's a high-level summary of what I learned.

### IT Activities

There are two major areas of activity that will have a far-reaching impact on routine operations of all Squadrons and Chapters. The first is the rewrite of software that processes Merit Mark submissions.

Under the current system, Merit Mark nominations are made via DB2000 and then these are uploaded to the servers at headquarters in Raleigh, NC for review and processing. The new system will be entirely web-

based and will (hopefully) eliminate many of the chronic problems experienced with the current system. A development version of the software was demonstrated at the conference and it looks very nice!

Look for the new version to be operational in time for this year's Merit Mark nominating season.

The next major area of effort deals with DB2000. The program, now 20 years old, is nearing (some would say it has long passed) its end of life due to internal components upon which it is based. Furthermore, it is supported by a single individual who is advancing in years and has asked to be allowed to reduce his level of involvement.

As a result, the National IT Committee has decided to initiate an effort to replace DB2000 with a web-based system that integrates more tightly with the

data repositories on the national servers. Preliminary design work has started, but there is much more that will need to be done. Expect to hear more about this in the coming months. As this is a large project, DB2000 is not going away any time soon. Realistically, it will be next year before the release of a replacement could be possible.

### National Web Site

Anyone who has been online recently has noticed that the national web site has been down quite a bit, beginning the week of the Annual Meeting.

At first it was thought there might have been a power failure in the headquarters data center, but it was later determined that the national web site was the target of a “distributed denial of service” (DDoS) attack. After 10 days of effort by a team of very dedicated volunteers (several of whom have day jobs to contend with in addition to their volunteer duties), the web site was brought back online.

The good news is that no data was taken from the web server. In addition, membership data is stored on a different machine that was not affected by the attack.

The bad news is that we will likely never determine the origin of the attack. There was no communication demanding anything to make the attack go away, so it appears it was done out of maliciousness alone.

Unfortunately, that is not the end of the story. The web site went down again at the end of February, and at the time of this

writing the cause has yet to be determined.

### Educational Activities

It goes without saying that the Education Department is busy. You already know about the realignment of the Advanced Grade courses (Seamanship, Piloting, Advanced Piloting, Junior Navigation and Navigation) to courses with updated titles that make their content a little clearer (Boat Handling, Marine Navigation, Advanced Marine Navigation, Offshore Navigation and Celestial Navigation).

The Boat Handling class, released last year as a pilot, was released in its final form in January of this year. Additional “tweaks” will occur as the course is further refined to support both traditional classroom environments along with online training options.

In prior years, there were two committees responsible for developing and maintaining the content of the remaining four courses. These two committees have now been merged into a single “Navigation Committee”. This should greatly assist in maintaining coordination of the content between the courses such that they continue to be a single program through which navigators can enhance and grow their skills.

As was the case last year, there continues to be much discussion about online classes, blended learning, remote teaching, and everything that goes with this. I asked around to see what other squadrons were doing in this

area and, unfortunately, was approached by a number of SEOs and DEOs who wanted me to help them get pointed in the right direction to begin their own remote learning efforts. Once again, it appears that the Finger Lakes Chapter is being a trailblazer!

On the public side of boating education, ABC3 will remain the flagship introductory course. Expect it to see an increasingly vital role as very little of the material in this class is repeated in Boat Handling. New national boat training standards issued by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) will have an impact on the next version of the course, but until these standards are defined, it's anyone's guess as to what these changes will look like.

### Legislative Trends

On the legislative front, we are all familiar with Brianna's Law in New York, but there are parallel efforts for other legislation across the country that could have a future impact on our local boating.

Florida, for example, is considering legislation to extend its requirement for boating safety education to all *non-motorized* vessels.

In addition, Florida is debating whether to title all boats. (To date, New York requires boats to be registered, but it does not issue titles for boats.)

Texas has enacted Kali's Law, legislation requiring kill switches on all vessels under

26-feet in length. My understanding is that other states are looking into this as well.

Tennessee is considering legislation to limit lighting that either obscures or otherwise confuses navigational lighting – both on boats and on shore-side facilities (e.g., docks). If you're considering installing "underwater mood lighting" on your boat, you may want to rethink this, as the US Coast Guard has an interest in this legislation as well.

We are all familiar with (or should be!) with the use of dive

flags in areas where scuba diving is taking place. Well, there is considerable legislative interest to expanding the practice of flying appropriate signal flags whenever there are any type of swimmers in the water around a vessel. (Technically, the "diver down" flag has no legal significance, so you go diving or snorkeling, you should also fly the "alpha" flag to signify your boat is engaged in underwater operations.)

### Conclusion

As you can imagine, there was a lot more discussed at all of the

meetings I attended and there are many more highlights I could share. If you want to hear more, consider coming to the D/6 Spring Conference, especially since it's local!

See you soon!

- Your *Editor*, Tom

DEO

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*As always, send your thoughts about this newsletter to:*

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

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# Calendar of Events

## March 2020

- 01 Seneca *Drum* March issue publication date.
- 10 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 27-29 District 6 Spring Council & Conference (D/6),  
*Corning, NY*

## 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)
- 19-20 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.
- 06-13 Governing Board Meeting, *Raleigh, NC* (National)
- 08 Bridge Meeting (1900)

- 12-13 Cruise to Geneva with FLYC.

## October 2020

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

## November 2020

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

## December 2020

- 18 Deadline for *Drum* Articles

## January 2021

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

## February 2021

- 01 *The Deep 6* winter issue publication date. (D/6)
- 09 Bridge Meeting (1900)
- 07-13 USPS Annual Meeting, *Ponte Vedra, FL* (National)
- 22 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.

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# Spring Conference Location & Schedule

## The Radisson Hotel Corning

125 Denison Parkway East  
Corning, NY 14830

Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29, 2020

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON and EVENING:

2:00 – 4:00 PM **Tour of the Corning Glass Museum**, Corning, NY

5:00 – 6:30 PM **Dutch Treat Dinner** at the Grill 1-2-5, which is located in the hotel, or choose from several options on Market Street, right outside the door.

6:45 – 7:15 PM **Spring Council**

7:15 – 8:15 PM **Town Hall Meeting**

8:15 – 11:00 PM **Hospitality Room** Potluck Dessert, Snacks and Beverages

### SATURDAY MORNING and AFTERNOON:

8:30 AM – Noon **D/6 Fall Conference meeting**

Noon – 1:00 PM **Luncheon**

1:00 – 1:30 PM **Short Film Screening: *Celestial* by Jack Gordon & Tabor Academy** (*see page 11*)

1:30 – 2:30 PM **Keynote Speaker: Ellen Brody**

2:45 – 3:45 PM **Dave Daniels, DB2000**

4:00 – 5:00 PM **SEO Meeting with Tom Alley, DEO**

### SATURDAY EVENING:

6:00 – 6:45 PM **Cocktail Hour**

7:00 – 9:00 PM **Banquet, Music and Gift Basket Raffle**

9:00 – 11:00 PM **Hospitality Room**

### SUNDAY MORNING:

8:30 - 9:30 AM **P/D/Cs meeting**

8:30 – 9:30 AM **D/6 Bridge meets with Squadron Commanders**

9:30 – 10:30 AM **D/6 Bridge meets with P/D/Cs**

10:30–11:30 AM **D/6 Bridge meeting**

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## Spring Conference Venue

Friday, March 27 – 29, 2020

The Radisson Hotel Corning  
125 Denison Parkway East  
Corning, NY 14830

Positioned in the heart of the Gaffer District, Radisson Hotel Corning offers stylish rooms near shopping and dining on Market Street. Located about a 15-minute walk from the hotel, the world-famous Corning Museum of Glass displays inspiring glassworks and offers daily glassblowing demonstrations. Known as the gateway to the Southern Finger Lakes, the city of Corning is less than an hour from more than 100 Finger Lakes-region wineries. We are also located just off exit 47 on I-86, making it easy to drive to popular nearby cities like Big Flats, Hammondsport and Watkins Glen.

“The Corning Museum of Glass is a museum in Corning, New York dedicated to the art, history and science of glass. It was founded in 1951 by Corning Glass Works and currently has a collection of more than 50,000 glass objects, some over 3,500 years old.”

<https://www.cmog.org/>

*The CMOG is one of the top attractions in NY State and it includes a large café and amazing gift shop. Not to be missed.*

Rooms are available with a king or two doubles. There are ADA rooms available also. Amenities include: microwave available on request; refrigerator; room service; wall-mounted 50-inch flat-screen TV with cable and HBO; and a work desk with an ergonomic chair.

Room Rate is \$99 per night for single or double occupancy. ***Breakfast is NOT included***, however you can find options in the hotel or on Market Street right outside your door.

Check-in at 4:00 PM; Check-out at 1:00 PM.

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## Spring Conference Meal Choices

### Corning Buffet Luncheon – \$25

Italian Wedding Soup

Tossed Garden Salad with Dressing Selection

Red Potato Salad

Medley of Sandwiches:

❖ Mediterranean Wrap with Cucumbers, Spinach, Tomato, Feta and Red Pepper Hummus (vegetarian)

❖ Chicken Caesar Wrap with Asiago Cheese, Romaine & Caesar Dressing

❖ Honey Baked Ham with Swiss, Lettuce, Tomato and Spicy Brown Mustard on a Soft Pretzel Roll

Fresh Coffee, Tea and Soft Drink Service

### Served Dinner - \$41

**Salad** - Mesclun Greens Salad with Shredded Asiago Cheese and House-made Garlic Croutons, Cherry Tomatoes and Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing

#### Choice of Entrée

- **Seared Breast of Chicken** with Chardonnay Red Pepper Sauce, served with Wild Rice Pilaf and Fresh Seasonal Vegetable
- **Grilled Salmon** with Lemon-Parsley Butter, served with Wild Rice Pilaf and Fresh Seasonal Vegetable
- **Spinach & Feta Stuffed Phyllo** served with Fresh Tomato Hash, Spatter of Pesto, Balsamic Reduction and Fresh Seasonal Vegetable (vegetarian)

**Dessert** – Turtle Cheesecake with Chocolate and Caramel Sauces

**Beverages** – Coffee & Hot Tea Service

# D/6 Spring Conference Reservation Form

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tour: Would you like to go on a tour of the Corning Glass Museum? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_  
*Cost for the tour will be paid separately at the museum. \$20 individual rate; \$17 if more than 20 people.*

Hotel:

Friday, 27 March \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, 28 March: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total at \$99 per night: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Queen/King Bed: \_\_\_\_\_ Double Beds: \_\_\_\_\_ ADA Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any dietary restrictions? (Vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, lactose free) \_\_\_\_\_

Meals:

Number for **Lunch Buffet:** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number for **Chicken:** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$41 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number for **Salmon:** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$41 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number for **Spinach & Feta Stuffed Phyllo:** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$41 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Meals: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Meals & Hotel if Paid by 4 March: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Late Fee if Paid after 4 March : + 5% \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total with Late Fee (if applicable): \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USPS DISTRICT 6

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 4, 2020  
LATE FEE OF 5% WILL BE ADDED AFTER THIS DATE.  
FOR A FULL REFUND, CANCELLATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 20, 2020.**

SEND RESERVATION FORM & CHECKS TO:

D/Lt Bridgett Arieno, JN  
139 Shore Dr., Rochester, NY, 14622