

Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron



Now Hear This!

December 2007

www.pbsps.org

◀ Commander's Corner ▶



Boating season is wrapping up. I made it nearly to the end of October before giving in, and pulling the boat. I had planned to stay in until Thanksgiving, but the micro-burst that we had down in the Castine area, severed my wire jib halyard. This has led me to think that maybe engines can be useful on a boat after all.

As we head into the winter months, we are once again focusing on boating education and building membership. Kathy Mastbeth has certified 8 new instructors and recertified an additional 7 in recent classes. This brings our total to 16 members that are qualified to teach our public boating courses. Our membership is slowly climbing. We currently have 155 members. Although we are short of our goal of 175, the numbers are going in the right direction. We really need your help in recruiting and operations to make the squadron fun and to build membership. Remember we are able to bring people in as members that have completed certain other boating courses or have USCG licenses, without having to complete our public boating class. If you know someone who has some of these qualifications, you may contact the Mastbeths or me for more information.

We have a full season of events and classes in the coming months. Our holiday party is on December 15th at the Seadog Restaurant in Bangor. Dan Cassidy will be our speaker, presenting a show on his cruise. Last year we had a great time with nearly 50 members including 5 past commanders. It would be great to see some of you that we haven't seen in a while. So, put it on your calendar and come see some old & new friends.

Winter and spring classes along with many new seminars are being planned. We need some help with teaching the 2 hour seminars as well as co-teachers for the one day PWC classes we plan to offer this spring. Arlan Martin will also be offering a Vessel Examiner course, probably in May.

Our final rendezvous of the season was at Holbrook Island Sanctuary in Brooksville. The weather was not particularly cooperative, but we had a good time anyway. Larry Sherwood, Ron Papa and I stayed overnight on our boats. Unfortunately, our lunch picnic was rained out in spite of Dorie Meltreder's hard work making arrangements and preparing food & supplies.

We are looking for ideas for next summer's activities. One of the things we are discussing is holding island cleanup days. We would form up in the morning for the cleanup and have a picnic when the job is done. Look forward to lots of fun again this summer.

It is a great time to be active in the squadron.

Rob Crone, JN
Commander
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(207) 266-8346

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PBSPS 2007 Bridge

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Pipe Them Aboard

The following are new members to our Squadron:

Dorothy and James Carey

Lori Sawyer (PBSPS member Jeff Sawyer's wife)

We welcome them to the Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron and trust that we will meet them very soon at an event or an upcoming class. Our three newest members have joined specifically because of our educational opportunities. They have all participated in the recent Seamanship class offered at Ellsworth High School.

When you do see one of these new members please give them a royal welcome and share some of your boating fun with them and have them tell you about what they expect from the Squadron. You might find you both have the same goals and experiences. The Squadron welcomes each of our new members aboard.

LT Christine Urquhart S, Membership Chair

Holiday Party Saturday, December 15, 2007

Ahoy All,

I am pleased to invite you all to the Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron's Annual Holiday Party. This has always been a really fun event. Last year we had nearly 50 people. Come and see old friends and meet new ones.

The party will be held at the
Seadog Restaurant, Bangor
Social Hour 1800 (6:00 P.M.)
Dinner 1900 (7:00 P.M.)

PBSPS member Dan Cassidy will be our guest speaker. He will be giving a presentation entitled "Voyage of the Two Bangors".

Dan began coastal sailing in 1989 on a 24' sloop. His formal boating education was through the Power Squadron courses. Prior to his most recent venture he had sailed between Nova Scotia and Rhode Island. The most recent venture was in their 1961 vintage 38 foot yawl developed when his son chose to go on to graduate school and we discussed his taking a year off for a sailing venture.

The Menu \$21.95

Home Style Dinner Buffet
•Salad Station with Dressing
•Choice of Roast Turkey or Ham
•Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
•Stuffing
•Vegetable
•Rolls and Butter
•Cranberry Sauce
•Choice of Desserts



Please **RSVP** as soon as possible to Rob Crone

rcrone@rcn.com

(207) 266-8346

1539 Castine Rd,

Penobscot, ME 04476

You may pay with Cash, Check or Credit Card at the door or, if you want to pay in advance, send a check to me for \$21.95, made out to **PBSPS**, if you wish.

★ As in the past, please bring an ornament (to exchange) for the tree and a stuffed animal for under the tree. The stuffed animals are distributed to children in need as a gift from PBSPS.

Looking forward to seeing you and hearing some sea stories.

Thanks

Rob Crone

Commander

Upcoming Events

Please mark these important Squadron events on your calendars!

The following is a list of events and the contact person.

- February 2 Founder's Day Dinner
Rob Crone: 266-8346
rcrone@rcn.com
- March 8 Change of Watch
Rob Crone: 266-8346
rcrone@rcn.com
- April 11-13 **District 19 Change of Watch**
Holiday Inn Ellsworth
John Mastbeth: 359-8015
jmastbeth@hypernet.com

**Executive Committee meets the second
Wednesday of each month – ALL are welcome!!**

Check our website for updates: www.pbsps.org

Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Program

The vessel examiner (VE) roster stands at seven. Six of those seven have completed their requirements for certification for the coming year. We inspected a total of 62 vessels and 44 passed the safety check. Vessel safety checks were performed at various locations including some local marinas and requests by individuals.

The intent is to improve on those numbers in 2008 for the sake of making contact with more boaters and helping to ensure that more boats will be operating in a safer manner.

Plans are in the works for a VE training session next spring. We hope to grow our VE roster so we can cover a larger area and increase the number of boaters that we can provide this safety service to.

Public announcements will be provided to heighten public awareness during the boating season.

Anyone interested in becoming a vessel examiner should contact:

Lt Arlan Martin AP

Ph: 843-0636

Email: amartin@maine.edu



Education Events

Fall 2007 has been a very busy season, education wise. Kathy and John Mastbeth's Ellsworth **Boat Smart** Class graduated on November 19, with 6 students successfully completing the course.

A number of them are interested in continuing their boating education with us in the future. We look forward to hearing from them soon again.



Dave Field's Bangor **Boating** class of 9 students will be graduating on December 5th as this edition of NHT goes to press. Thanks to Dave for a job well done!

The new Seamanship class finished up on November 13 with 8 people, including our three newest members, completing the exam. Teaching duties were shared by Rob Crone and the Mastbeths. We're all anxiously awaiting the results from USPS headquarters. Good luck to all!

Eight members have successfully completed the **Instructor Development** course. Congratulations to Jeff Barnes, Judy Crone, Rob Crone, Dave Field, John Mastbeth, Jeff Sawyer, Larry Sherwood, and Christine Urquhart. They now join the ranks of our eight other USPS certified instructors. This is a very important commitment to our squadron since our public Boating Course instructors must be certified to teach this NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) approved course. Many thanks to all of our **VOLUNTEER** instructors! If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please let me know. I'd be happy to schedule another Instructor Development course. Even if you do not plan to teach immediately, or would just like to help out as an assistant, it's a fun and interesting course and successful completion gives you another sticker for your certificate.

All certified instructors must attend an **Instructor Recertification** 2-hour seminar every 4 years to maintain their certification. I conducted this seminar in mid-November and my thanks go to Jerry Bates, Rich Crowe, Wes Hedlund, Jay Johnson, Arlan Martin, Lew Phillips, and Don Ramsay for renewing their certifications and for their commitment to the squadron's educational program.

(continued on page 4)

2008 Lineup of Classes and Seminars:

Three sections of the Squadron *Boating Course* have been scheduled for Bangor, Ellsworth, and Searsport, starting in March. These classes have been scheduled to begin after the Bangor Boat Show (March 7-9, 2008) where people will be able to sign up for the classes. Students may also enroll online through our website, www.pbsps.org or on the USPS national website, www.usps.org.

Details of the classes follow:

Mondays – March 24 – May 12 – *Boating at Ellsworth High School Room 219*

The Squadron Boating course (12-hour) will begin on March 24, 1800 – 2000 in Room 219 with Kathy & John Mastbeth instructors.

Tuesdays – March 18 – May 6 – *Boating at Searsport High School*

This section of the Squadron Boating course (12-hour) will be led by Rob Crone from 1800 – 2000, beginning on March 18, through May 6, 2007.

Wednesdays – March 19 – May 7 – *Boating at Bangor High School, Room 22B*

This third section of the Squadron Boating course (12-hour) with Dave Field, instructor, will begin on Wednesday, March 19 from 1900 – 2100.

Advanced Courses:

Piloting

Mondays, starting February 25 at Ellsworth High School. 1800-2000.

If you are interested in attending this course, please let me know as soon as possible since books must be ordered.

Electives:

Engine Maintenance

Thursdays (tentative) starting February 20, Eastern Maine Community College, Hogan Road, Bangor. 1800-2000. Vim Frederick, instructor

If you are interested in attending this course, please let me know as soon as possible since books must be ordered.

Seminars:

Two brand new seminars will be offered in the spring at Ellsworth High School. **If you are interested in attending any seminar, please contact me to register as soon as possible since**

enrollment is limited and materials must be ordered.

Sail Trim and Rig Tuning - Monday, May 19, 2008, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

This seminar shows in clear and simple terms how to use and adjust sails for optimum performance under a wide range of conditions. The seminar comes with a waterproof USPS *Captain's Quick Guide* written by North Sails and *Student Notes*. \$30 Materials fee

Boat Handling under Power - Wednesday May 21, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

This seminar shows boaters how to depart and dock under a variety of conditions as well as all about trimming the boat underway. The seminar materials include a waterproof USPS *Captain's Quick Guide* and *Student Notes*. \$30 Materials fee

Looking Ahead in Educational Planning

We're hoping to concentrate on offering more member courses in the fall of 2008. On the tentative roster are electives: Weather and Sail, and advanced courses: Advanced Piloting and, hopefully, a Junior Navigator course.

Volunteers make these courses happen and your help is needed in this department. We can only be successful as a Squadron by having members who give back to the squadron by volunteering their time and talents. This really becomes a gift to yourself as well since it's really a fun and rewarding experience to be involved in the classroom process. Please consider making one extra resolution this coming year to help out YOUR SQUADRON in some capacity.

Respectfully submitted

Lt/C Kathleen Mastbeth JN

Squadron Education Officer

kmastbeth@hypernet.com (207) 359-8015

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MINI SHIP'S-STORE REMINDER

We still have a number of items available for sale in our Mini Ship's-Store. The five items in stock offered to Squadron members are:

- Ensigns at \$20 each
- Squadron Burgees at \$20 each
- "Skipper Saver" self-help manuals at \$10 each
- Captain's Quick Guides at \$8 each:
 - "Emergencies on Board"
 - "Heavy Weather Sailing"

The Squadron is willing to explore any other requests for new items, just contact one of the officers or Kathy Mastbeth kmastbeth@hypernet.com 359-8015



NEW!!! PBSPS Shirts Available

You now have the opportunity to order a beautiful embroidered PBSPS logo shirt. (crossed flags – USPS Ensign and PBSPS Burgee)

The shirts come in men's and ladies' sizes S – XL as well as plus sizes. They are Outerbanks brand 6.5 oz. 100% combed ring-spun cotton pique. Each shirt has a fashion knit collar, welt cuffs and hemmed bottom.

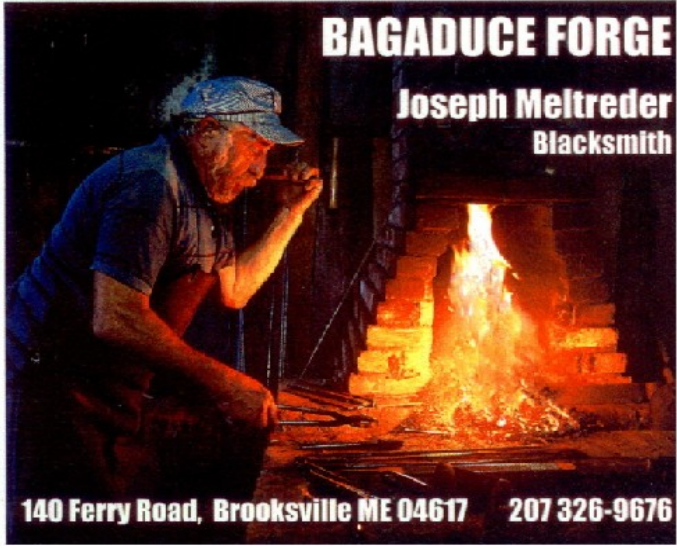
Colors available are Red, white, royal blue, and butter (light yellow). You also may choose to have either your name or your boat name added to the logo or on the sleeve for \$3.00 additional charge.

The cost of each shirt is \$22.50 for sizes Small – X-large (\$3.00 more for men's 2XL – 4XL and ladies' 2XL). There is a small charge for shipping to your home. (Pick-up stations will be available if you want to save on shipping)

For more information or to place your order, please call or email John Mastbeth
Lt/C John Mastbeth jmastbeth@hypernet.com
359-8015



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NEW PROJECT IN PROGRESS – SEND IN YOUR BEST PHOTOS, PLEASE!!!

As Rob mentioned earlier, we are making preparations for the Spring District 19 Conference which our squadron is hosting in April 2008. This is a large undertaking and many hands make light work.

My request to you for now, is for you to share your great Maine boating related photos. I am making up a gift for all who attend and I need some really great pictures to incorporate. They can be of boats, seascapes, animals, i.e., whales, seals, seabirds; lighthouses, coastal towns, anything representing a boater's life in Maine.

Especially needed are some good winter shots. If you do have any pictures to share, I would appreciate it if you could email them to me.

The only caveat to the process is that I have very slow dial-up connection and need the pictures to be reduced in size to make them more manageable. If you need help in doing this, please let me know.

Thank so much for your help with this project!

Lt/C Kathy Mastbeth, JN
359-8015
kmastbeth@hypernet.com



SEND IN YOUR STORY

If you have an interesting boating story and would like to have it considered for publication in a future edition of the Now Hear This, please write it up and send it to Kathy Mastbeth kmastbeth@hypernet.com. Of particular interest are stories about how your boat got its name, amusing anecdotes about your travels on the water as well as your adventures and lessons learned.

We want to hear your story!

The following story was submitted by PBSPS member Don Ramsay AP. Don is currently cruising the ICW. Thanks, Don, for sharing your great story! Keep us posted about your travels.

SOMEWHERE ON THE ICW

Some of the marinas that we have visited in the past have been known as "Velcro" marinas, because there always seems to be a reason why we should wait until tomorrow to leave. Atlantic Yacht Basin seems to be one of those. First we were waiting for the work on the boat to be done, then mail, then weather and finally, as we were set to leave, a 200 ft cruise ship struck an unknown object in the waterway tearing a two inch by two foot hole in its steel hull. This happened about fifteen miles south of where we are docked. When the captain found that their pumps couldn't keep up with the incoming water he ran the ship aground to keep it from sinking. The charts show that the channel the ship was in to be 12 feet deep and the Sprit of Nantucket draws eight feet, so the danger to passengers and crew were minimal. However, twelve feet of water in the bottom of a ship would damage a lot of equipment and increase the problems of refloating it.

The Waterway was closed and opened with restrictions, several times. First while the passengers were removed and the accident investigated and next, while the hole was patched. (I wonder if that was an under water welding job.) Again, when the tugboats towed it off the bottom, and finally, when the tugs towed it the twenty-five or thirty miles back to Norfolk where permanent repairs will be made.

Being docked on the side of the waterway, we heard lots of stories and saw some of the action. The Channel 3 TV news crew was on the docks interviewing boaters and their views of the waterway, particular about the dredging of channels and maintaining the charted depths. Betty and I were on the docks, interviewed and appeared on the local TV news several times. Ahh, celebrity

This has been a very interesting stop. The Atlantic Yacht Basin. (www.atlanticyachtbasin.com) is both a repair yard and storage yard. Most of their storage is in the water and under shed roofs. A trip through those sheds is

like a trip through history. The large old wooden boats with a lot of varnish, brass fixtures and hardware, and "class", reminds me of what I think the rich and famous of yesteryear used to have. We also saw newer fiberglass boats, both large and small. What an interesting place to go sightseeing.

But, enough of being in this area. The weather was beginning not to match the clothes that we wanted to wear this winter, so on Sunday Morning, the 11th, we headed south on the waterway. It was pleasant to be at the helm again where life seems to slow down. After all, the average speed in the waterway is about ten miles per hour. I know this sounds much too slow to most of you, but it's the journey, not the destination, that boating is about. We traveled through a part of the industrial section of Norfolk, The Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, into the North River, through Coinjock and then across the Albemarle Sound. While crossing that sound, we were out of sight of land for part of the way, but land was never more than twenty feet away, straight down. Cruising off the Maine Coast, I get very nervous when the depth sounder reads twenty feet or less. Here I am relieved when it reads ten feet or more.

The Alligator Pungo River Canal is in a straight line and about twenty miles in length. I must admit that at ten miles per hour, it does get a little tiring. However, this is the northernmost area where alligators can be found so we kept a watchful eye out for them. I have not seen any in this canal, but a few boaters with small dogs have told me that their dogs didn't think much of this area. Even after a number of trips, it's still interesting to look for wildlife and to see the different type of foliage in the area. This seems to be the area where the northern woods and vegetation make a change to southern.

The anchorage at the end of the canal is one of many along the waterway and I think one of the better ones. The water was glassy smooth where we anchored and about ten feet deep. With a mud bottom to set the anchor in and lots of swing room, it seemed ideal. The wind had settled down and there were just enough clouds to allow the sky to have a pinkish glow as the sun was setting. Yes, life is good!

However, unto each, a little rain must fall and today was the day, along with wind, fog and falling temperatures. So we'll spend some time at Whittaker Creek Harbor Marina in Oriental NC. The definition of cruising is working on your boat in different places. So this is when we do a little housekeeping and maintenance on our floating home while waiting for better weather to get back to "Somewhere on the ICW".

Don Ramsay, AP



Holbrook Island Rendezvous Adventure.

I don't think any rendezvous would be complete without a boating adventure. As many sea stories begin... It was a dark and stormy night. The short period of clear weather that allowed us to enjoy a dinner picnic was rapidly being over-taken by another low pressure area. The wind was backing into the southwest and increasing in velocity. The three boats were already beginning to ride hard on their anchors.



At Larry Sherwood's suggestion, we decided to heave anchor and move to the sheltered mooring field on the other end of Holbrook Island.

We decided that Larry would go ahead of us in the SISU to scout a good location. Once Larry had found the new location, he made contact with Ron Papa and myself on the VHF radio. By this time the wind had become fierce. Even in the venerable sailboats, raising the anchor in a strong wind can be challenging. What makes heaving up possible is that the open cockpit allows the anchor rode to be run back through the chocks to the helm so that you can motor forward while pulling in the line.

After Ron Papa and I got our anchors aboard, we motored to the site that Larry had selected. The "Judith Marcy" is fairly heavy with her fixed keel, and I was able to get on a mooring on the first pass. It was immediately apparent that Ron was having trouble with the wind blowing his bow off before he could hook the pennant.

After several attempts, Ron brought the "SeaBreeze" along side and I went aboard to help. Working as a team, we were able to get the boat moored.

When the boats were secured, Ron and I joined Larry on the SISU for some refreshments and good conversation.

Later in the evening, we returned to our boats and settled down for the night, which turned out to be quite wild even in the lee of Holbrook.

The next morning broke clear and beautiful. We had breakfast aboard the SISU, and prepared to get underway.


Although the weather was less than perfect, we had a great time. It is interesting how a little danger can sharpen your skills and give you a little thrill, but I have to say it is nice to have a seasoned mariner like Larry Sherwood available in case you get into trouble.

Cdr. Rob Crone, JN



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Fall 2007 Four-District Conference

On November 9-11 the Buzzards Bay Sail & Power Squadron hosted a multi-district conference at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole MA.

Thirty-seven District 19 members, including four PBSPS members, Judy Crone, Larry Sherwood, Kathy and John Mastbeth attended along with some 200 USPS members from Districts 12, 14, and 18. There were numerous representatives from the USPS headquarters in attendance, including USPS Chief Commander Ernest Marshburn, SN and National Admin. Officer V/C Frank Dvorak, SN.

Among the Highlights of the D-19 meeting on Nov. 9 were two awards our squadron received:

1 The Bowsprit Award was presented to our squadron for growth in active membership, boating class registrations and graduates, membership retention, VSC program and Cooperative Charting.

2 Kathy Mastbeth was presented with an "Excellence in Teaching" award for her efforts in our educational program. She is also the D-19 nominee for the Chapman Award, a national award given by USPS.

Dave Field and John Mastbeth were also recognized for achieving their educational proficiency status.

Larry Sherwood and John Mastbeth attended the Boat Operator Certification lecture. This is a program which involves the demonstration of hands-on, on the water proficiency for each level of certification. More to come on this topic in future NHT editions.

To see pictures from the conference, go to <http://www.usps.org/localusps/d19> click on "gallery".

Lt/C John Mastbeth JN



*Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron
PO Box 247
Blue Hill, ME 04614*

Postmaster: Return Requested

*Remember to Always Wear Your Lifejacket
Happy and SAFE Boating!!!*

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