

Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron



Now Hear This!

Fall 2006

www.bairnet.org/organizations/PBSPS

▼ Commander's Corner ▼



As you may know, on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, the Squadron's Executive Committee appointed me as interim Commander after Howie Soule resigned. Since that time, the Bridge has been working hard on formulating and implementing plans for the Squadron. I would like to use this edition to share a portion of our vision with you.

Our Number 1 focus is retention of our members.

To do this we need to take action to build on what has been started to make the squadron a strong, vital and energetic organization, involving members at all levels. Several key factors are currently being addressed. First is improving communication. We have begun this process by updating contact information on the roster. Several volunteers including Jeff Barnes, Diane Bartholomew, Jim Dougherty, Dick Jacobs and Dorie Meltreder, have taken on the task of personally contacting each member to review the information on record. If you have not received a call, you should soon.

Membership involvement

This is also critical to our future. You may not be aware of this, but for many years now, the work load has been carried by just a few seasoned members of the squadron. They have done an outstanding job in carrying on the squadron operations, but they deserve some relief. The work load for any individual job is not hard, but when you have five or six jobs, there is a lot to do. Please review the list of positions later in this edition and see if there is something you might like to do. Perhaps you can write an article, teach a class or seminar or coordinate an activity. Again the work is light if many people are involved. Remember, like any organization, the more you put in, the more you will get out of it.

Activities

We have had some stellar programs the last few years. Summer Rendezvous, Tour de Castine, and the Schooner Bowdoin are a few that top the list. We are building committees that will work on expanding the number and scope of our events, but both people and ideas are needed. It is also important to attend and support these programs. A lot of effort goes into an event, and the best reward is when people come and enjoy the program.

Orientation

I am excited to announce that we have developed a new orientation program and handbook. Kathy Mastbeth has done an outstanding job in creating this material. Effective with the classes graduating in November, new members (and potential members) will be offered an orientation class. The program will describe all the committees, classes, programs and events offered by our squadron. One of the goals of this class is to help members understand the opportunities offered and channel them into activities and committees that interest them immediately. All members are encouraged to attend. The first classes are planned for early December. We are also in need of people to present this one hour program on an ongoing basis. If you can help, please contact Kathy.

Commander's Corner (continued)

Training & Education

WOW! The number of classes planned for the coming year is amazing (see article in this edition)! Two programs that I would specifically like to mention are Operations Training, scheduled for November 18th and Instructor Development scheduled for January. Both of these programs are interesting and informative, giving students a much more in depth view of the workings of the squadron and classes. In addition, the new USPS University is being rolled out. This includes a series of one session seminars that will be open to the public. We do need people to teach or help teach these programs. The new computer driven presentation materials are very well done, and make it easy to deliver a great class. Please come to a class and check it out.

Power of One

The Power of One campaign is a program developed to encourage existing members to bring in new members. You can imagine how membership would grow if everyone brought in one new person. One thing to consider –how would your personal safety on the water improve if the people you boated with were working from the same knowledge base as you? I propose a common set of principles would make boating safer and more enjoyable. There are a number of ways of getting friends to take the boating class without making them feel like it is remedial. You could attend the class with them or maybe even teach some of the sessions inviting them for support. It is also more fun to take advanced classes and attend events with people you know. Expanding on this theme - if you are planning to attend an event, why not call another member and encourage them to come too.

The “Action Plan” being developed is considerably more comprehensive than can be included in this forum. I would be happy to send you a copy if you would like to see it; comments are welcome. IT IS A GREAT TIME TO BELONG TO PENOBSCOT BAY SQUADRON, but we do need help! There are many Departments without chairs; we need additional instructors for classes and one session seminars; we need people to do simple things like making phone calls, bringing chairs and helping at events. If you would be willing to give a little time please let us know.

Rob Crone – Interim Commander

PBSPS 2006 Bridge

Commander: Cdr. Robert Crone, AP
rcrone@rcn.com 266-8346

Education Officer: Lt/C Kathleen Mastbeth, P
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Important Dates to Remember

- ❖ **Christmas Party –December 15, 2006**
- ❖ **Founder’s Day - February 3, 2007**
The speaker for the evening will be a representative from the National Weather Service office in Caribou, ME
- ❖ **Change of Watch – March 10, 2007**

Note

Personal Water Craft

The commander needs someone with experience to help with a project concerning Personal WaterCraft.

District 19 Endowment

D19 is looking for a member with brokerage connections to help with its endowment investments.

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A Weekend In Rutland Vermont New Ideas, New Friends, A New USPS

On Friday, November 3, Larry Sherwood, Rob and Judy Crone and I caravanned across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to Rutland, where we attended the District 19 Fall conference. We were met and welcomed by a most gracious host squadron, Winooski Valley Sail and Power Squadron. There were 69 participants from the 10 squadrons in District 19, covering Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

As a “first timer”, to this conference, I came away with some thoughts and information I feel I need to share with the membership of Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron:

1. The USPS is Changing – Many new, innovative programs are being instituted and more are on the horizon for the near future. One very exciting concept is that of the *USPS University*. Beginning in 2007, USPS members will be able to use the credits from taking advanced courses, electives and seminars toward attaining *Boat Operator Certification* which will not only be recognized nationally, but internationally as well. These Operator Certifications will be tied in with the *International Certificate of Competency* for Boaters.

There are four proposed levels of competency:

- 1.) Inshore (within two miles of the coast)
- 2.) Coastal
- 3.) Advanced Coastal
- 4.) Offshore

Watch future editions of **The Ensign** and **Now Hear This** and the USPS and PBSPS websites for more information about this program as it becomes available.

2. Our Squadron in one to be proud of! – At the conference, we were presented with numerous awards for outstanding achievements in Education, Membership, and even our treasurer was commended for being one of the three in District 19 to make our payment to the USPS National Education Fund on time. We had four members, Rob Crone, Judy Crone, Jay Johnson and Larry Sherwood who were awarded “Power of One” pins. This means that each of these people was responsible for bringing new members into our squadron.



We are the **ONLY** squadron in district 19 to have growth in membership in each of the last five years. Impressive! Other squadrons are looking to us for suggestions on how to follow our lead.

3. If we want to stay in the forefront, we need more membership involvement in many areas. We have many wonderful, talented people in PBSPS, with a wealth of knowledge and expertise. We need more of these people to come forward and volunteer to help out with programs, teaching, and the administration of squadron activities. If everyone does his/her part, we will continue to be successful.

We need more instructors – if you would like to become an instructor, please contact me at 359-8015 or kmastbeth@hypernet.com We have an **Instructor Development Course** planned to begin in January, 2007. We have a number of people already enrolled but there is room in the class and would love to have you in it. (Besides, it is an elective and you would get another sticker for your certificate, and instructors as well as teaching assistants get merit marks.) If you don't want to teach a class, but would like to assist, there is a great need for teaching assistants. Please contact me.

If you sign up to serve on a committee, it does not mean that you have to sit through boring committee meetings. The committee members are the “worker bees” of the squadron. Being a committee member could involve doing something as simple as helping with table decorations for the Holiday Dinner meeting, doing a little grocery shopping for a rendezvous picnic lunch, or helping with a graduation celebration.

Our new Commander, Rob Crone, and the officers of the Bridge truly need your help. We cannot do it alone. If one of the officers calls upon you to serve in

an elected or appointed position, please - Remember the three goals of USPS: Self-Education (members teaching members), Civic Service (activities serving the community) and Fraternal Activities (having fun with fellow boaters).

Conclusion: When I first planned to attend the District 19 Conference, I was not sure what to expect. However, I soon learned that it was a most rewarding and educational experience. It was a time to share ideas with peers, learn new things, plan for the future, and have camaraderie with fellow boaters. I believe I can speak for Rob, Judy, and Larry that we all felt very proud to be representing PBSPS at the District 19 Conference and, we all look forward to the Spring Conference in Concord NH.

Respectfully submitted
Lt/C Kathleen Mastbeth P
Squadron Education Officer
359-8015
kmastbeth@hypernet.com

Ads Help To Keep Costs Down

We need more ads to make publication cost effective. Ads are very reasonably priced; at least four additions per year are promised with the possibility of more.

\$40 - 1/8 page (business card)

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Merit Marks – Did you know?

A “Merit Mark” is awarded by the chief commander to a member for substantial effort in personally furthering the interests, programs and objectives of the USPS. It is a coveted award, as it is the principal recognition given to members for their service. One merit mark may be earned each year and is awarded with a certificate usually at the Change of Watch and is permanently added to the member’s record. The Penobscot Bay Squadron has submitted recommendations for 24 of its members. These people have contributed significantly more than the minimum requirements as they are doing many jobs. We would like to double that next year. If you could work on a project, teach a class, help plan and decorate for events, be a VSC Examiner, make phone calls or help in some other way, you could be earning merits marks too.

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY PROGRAM

Rob and I would like to let you in on a little known secret. Maine Maritime Academy has a program where local people adopt freshmen every fall. Rob and I started in the program last year and adopted 5 students; we have 3 this year. What the program entails is you help the students adapt to being away from home. Basically you have them over for dinner, take them to the airport, the mall, etc. Rob takes the boys hiking; they have a lot of fun! You could even take them boating!

The fun is not over after their freshman year; the mentoring turns into friendship and you are allowed to see the boys whenever you want. We have been told that some of the kids are still coming back to their “families” when they are in town, years later.

We try to have them over at least once a month for dinner, and I bake cookies for them twice a semester (around midterms and finals). The boys that we have are very nice young men and are a lot of fun. Rob and I have lots of stories to tell. It is a good program and the academy is looking for nice people with whom to place the kids. If you are interested you can contact me for more details, at 207-266-8347.

Thanks;
1st Lt. Judy Crone AP

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Education Events November 2006

Fall Boating classes are finishing up in Bangor, Bucksport and Ellsworth.

Kathy Mastbeth's Boating class at Ellsworth High School will be graduating on Monday, November 13 at 1900 with 9 students in the group.

Rob Crone's Boating class of 3 students at Bucksport High School will be graduating on Tuesday November 21, at 1900.

The 8 students in Wes Hedlund's Boating class at Bangor High School will be graduating on Wednesday, November 22 at 2000.

If you are free on any of the graduation evenings, please try to join us for the festivities and to congratulate the graduates. For more information, call or email Kathy Mastbeth at 359-8015, or kmastbeth@hypernet.com

Looking ahead to 2007 I am pleased to announce a very full schedule of classes for early 2007.

Tuesdays - January 16 – March 13 – Seamanship at Bucksport High School

Rob Crone and Kathy Mastbeth will be instructors for a **Seamanship** Class at Bucksport High School in January. The class will be held on Tuesday evenings, 1800 – 2000, starting on Tuesday, January 16, 2007. Please contact Kathy Mastbeth as soon as possible to register for this class and to order your textbooks.

Wednesdays - February 7 – March 28 – Advanced Piloting at EMCC, Bangor

An Advanced Piloting class is scheduled to begin at Eastern Maine Community College, Hogan Road, Bangor, on Wednesday, February 7 from 1800 - 2000, with John Mastbeth, instructor. Again, it is imperative to register early for this course and for books to be ordered. Call or email Kathy Mastbeth ASAP!

Mondays – March 26 – May 7 – Boating at Ellsworth High School

The Squadron Boating course will begin on March 26, 1800 – 2000 in Room 218 with Kathy Mastbeth instructor.

Tuesdays – March 27 – May 8 – Boating at Bucksport High School

This section of the Squadron Boating course will be led by Rob Crone in Room 119 from 1800 – 2000, beginning on March 27, 2007.

Wednesdays – March 28 – May 9 – Boating at Bangor High School

This third section of the Squadron Boating course with Wes Hedlund, instructor, will begin on Wednesday, March 28 from 1900 – 2100.

Thursdays – March 29 – May 24 – Cruise Planning at Bucksport High School

Dick Noyes has volunteered to teach Cruise Planning at Bucksport High School on Thursdays, beginning on March 29 from 1800 – 2000. If you are interested in joining this very interesting and helpful class, please contact Kathy Mastbeth to enroll and order your textbook as soon as possible.

Very Important: *If you are planning to enroll in any of the advanced courses or electives above, please contact Kathy Mastbeth as soon as possible to sign up and to order textbooks and materials. (Our squadron does not keep an inventory of textbooks for these classes and all are special ordered. It takes up to 30 days for the orders to be delivered, so sign up and order now!)*

*****EXCITING NEWS!!COMING SOON!! THE USPS UNIVERSITY*****

To kick off Safe Boating Week, May 19 – 25, 2007, PBSPS will be offering a series of seminars prepared by USPS. The first four of these seminars which will be offered are:

VHF/DSC Marine Radio Using GPS How to Read a Chart On Board Weather Forecasting

These short seminars are targeted to specific topics and needs with a two-hour format, and valuable take-away guides. Each seminar provides credits toward the soon to be released *Boat Operator Certification* program, and credit toward elective courses. They will be offered to PBSPS members (at a reduced price) as well as the general public. Check future NHT editions for further details.

A new member Orientation Class and Handbook are being introduced this Fall to help new PBSPS members understand the operation and functions of our squadron. Shortly after the three scheduled Boating course graduations, new members will be invited to attend an orientation session at which

Education Events (continued)

time they will receive the new PBSPS New Member Handbook. All members who might have questions about the workings of our squadron are welcome to attend. Contact Kathy Mastbeth for details.

Respectfully submitted
Lt/C Kathleen Mastbeth P
Squadron Education Officer
kmastbeth@hypernet.com
(207) 359-8015

COMEDY CORNER BY Larry Sherwood



ARE YOU AN ENGINEER?

“ An engineer is one who passes as an exacting expert on the strength of being able to turn out, with prolific fortitude strings of incomprehensible formulae calculated with micrometric precision from extremely vague assumptions which are based on debatable figures acquired from inconclusive tests and quite incomplete experiments, carried out with instruments of problematic accuracy by persons of doubtful reliability and rather dubious mentality with particular anticipation of disconcerting and annoying everyone outside of their own fraternity.”

Author Unknown

Squadron Elections

The planning process for next year's Squadron leadership is well underway. The process is pretty interesting. Here is an overview-

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Dick Jacobs, Jay Johnson and Lewis Phillips, assembles a list of candidates. This list is presented to the general membership at the Founder's Day Dinner and meeting scheduled for February 3, 2007. At the dinner meeting a call is made for any additional nominations from the floor. The members in attendance vote for the elected officers. The results are reported to USPS National Headquarters. The newly elected officers will be sworn in and assume their responsibilities at the Change of Watch dinner & ceremony on March 10, 2007. Unfortunately over the last few years the process has been more of a "draft" with many people serving in multiple positions.

Bridge

Commander
Executive Officer
Administrative Officer
Education Officer
Secretary
Treasurer
Rules Committee Chairman
Audit Committee Chairman

Appointed Chairs & Committees

Aide to Commander (2)
Liaison Committee
Radio Tech Committee
Boating Activities Com.
Membership Involvement
Leadership Development
Historian
Fund Raising Committee
Class & Seminar Instructors

Coop Charting Committee
Legislative Committee
Boat Show Committee
Rendezvous Committees
Membership Committee
Computer & Web Com.
Now Hear This Com.
Budget Committee

Elected officers

Asst. Treasurer
Asst. Education Officer
Asst. Secretary
Asst. Education Officer
Executive Committee at Large (3)
Nominating Committee (3)

Safety Committee
Public Relations Committee
Vessel Safety Check Com.
Meeting & Dinners Comm.
Operations Training
Ensign Correspondents
Roster Committee
Law Officer
Port Captains.

What is your interest? There is a need for Chairs as well as members on many committees. If you would like to run for an office or are willing to help in any capacity please contact Dick, Jay, Lewis or Rob. There is always room!

Rob Crone

Mentoring Buddies Needed

We are working on developing a buddy system to help support and acclimate new members to our squadron. As with any organization, sometimes new members do not feel included in activities. Often it is because they did not receive information or they were not sure they were invited to participate.

In an effort to change this and make sure all our members feel welcome, we are developing a "Mentor" (buddy) and "Telephone Tree" System. The specifics are still being discussed, but essentially an existing member would be responsible for communicating with 3-4 new members for the first year. This might include inviting them to take part in activities & classes, answering questions and general guidance about the Power Squadron. The Telephone Tree would focus on getting information to existing members on a timely basis.

If you could help with this project by making a few phone calls periodically, please contact Jeff Sawyer jlsawyer@adelphia.net or (207) 989-2573

Member Benefits

In addition to our selection of classes, dinners, rendezvous and special events, Penobscot Bay Sail and Power Squadron and the US Power Squadron offers a variety of valuable benefits to our members. Our benefit package is growing rapidly.

In case you have not reviewed them in a while the following is a list of some of the benefits offered to Squadron Members. These can only be obtained by a person with a current membership card.

- Hamilton Marine Commercial Fisherman's Discount (Automatic by Phone#)
- Penobscot Bay Squadron Ship's Store
- Free Education
- Tax deduction on dues and some travel expenses
- Discounts on computer software and hardware
- USPS Boat Insurance Program
- Airline and car rental discounts
- Reduced membership dues with Boat US and all their programs

- Chase affinity credit card with reduced interest charges
- Chase Preferred Mortgage Program for Members
- USPS Port Captains to provide guidance in unfamiliar waters
- West Marine and Boat US discounts
- Liaison with governmental agencies
- Discounts with Maptech®
- THE ENSIGN® Magazine
- 40% discount from Soundings Magazine
- Discounts with Nobeltec®
- 10% Discount with DELL Computers
- Infocus® Projector Discount
- Vessel Safety Checks
- C-MAP® Member and Squadron Discounts
- McGraw Hill On-line Store - Discounted Books
- Discounts with Rose Point Navigation Systems, LLC
- Long Term Care Insurance by John Hancock Life Insurance

To learn more or take advantage these programs visit

http://www.usps.org/national/admin_dept/membenefits.htm or click through to USPS national link our web site at

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Mike Gladu
General Manager

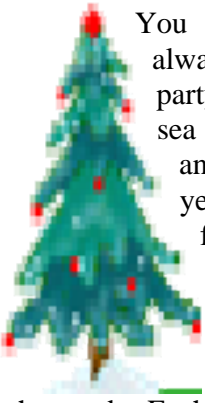
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CHRISTMAS PARTY



You do not want to miss this one. We always have a great time at the Christmas party. Not only is it a good chance to trade sea stories about our summer adventures and what we have planned for the next year; it is also a chance to talk with old friends we may not have seen for a while.

We also make some kids happy during the holiday season by donating Dolls and Teddy Bears to the needy. Each member brings a Doll or Teddy Bear for the kids and an ornament for the tree, and leaves with an ornament from the tree.

We will meet at the Sea Dog Friday 15 Dec. at 1800 for cocktails and dinner at 1900. Dinner is a buffet of Roasted Haddock and Pecan Encrusted Chicken with all the trimmings. Price is \$22.50 including Maine tax and gratuity. I attend alot of functions at the Sea Dog and have found the meals and service to be very good. We also have an interesting speaker from the Landing School, Barry Acker. Barry became president of the school in April 2005 continuing a thirty-two year career in both private and public education. He and his wife, Janet, live on their boat. The Landing School is a full-time post secondary vocational school located in Arundel ME, specializing in education for careers in the marine industry.

Also, I am hoping to have some of our Coast Guard Auxiliary members join us for the night. We are partners in the VSC program and public boating classes. It would be nice to meet some of our counterparts.

We will need a head count for the Sea Dog by 10 Dec. Please call or e-mail me, Larry Sherwood, (843-6605) or Rob Crone (266-8346) to RSVP. Think Fun!

If you think you cannot make the party and find out after 10 Dec. that you can, call me and we will make room for you. I have a little leeway.

Larry, LawrenceSherwood@wmconnect.com

Rob, rcrone@rcn.com

Programs Ch

P/C Lawrence A. Sherwood AP

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PERSPECTIVE ON COMMITTEES

I have been asked a lot recently about how much time is involved in serving on committees in the squadron. There appears to be a perception that endless hours are spent sitting in meetings. This is not really the case. For example, the Executive Committee which is the elected leadership, meets about 2 hours per month 9 times a year, and not everyone makes all meetings.

To my knowledge, there has NOT been a physical meeting of any other committee at least during the time that I have been with the squadron. (Possible exception of people getting together for a beer and happening onto the subject) Planning etc. is conducted by email or telephone. Any time that is involved is usually in actually executing an activity.

The list that follows, gives some realistic expectations of time commitment:

Executive Committee	2 Hours per month
Parties & Events	2 Hours 3 times / year

Vessel Safety Checks	10 Hours per year
Executive Officer	12-15 Hours per year
Admin. Officer	15-20 Hours per year
Other Committees (Coop Charting, Safety, Public Relations, Membership, Library, Activities etc.)	5-10 Hours per year

Instructors (assumes Instruction Techniques class completed & 1 hour prep per session)

Seminars	3 Hours per session
Boating	21 Hours (7 Weeks)
Seamanship	24 Hours (8 Weeks)
Piloting	36 Hours (12 Weeks)
Adv. Piloting	36 Hours (12 Weeks)

As you can see the demand on time is not great. Creativity is what is required. Think about what could be done while you are driving etc. Hope this is helpful.

The Squadron's Mini Ship's Store Adds Skipper Saver To The Store Stock

The Squadron has a few items to offer to the membership. You might be thinking ahead to the Holiday Season for at least the "Skipper Saver." Kathy Mastbeth ordered 15 copies of this very valuable self-taught text on "Basic Safety and Boat Handling in an Emergency" -- when the traditional skipper is not able to take the helm. Cost? \$10. It is a short course for a person that doesn't usually handle the helm. Some of the items covered include boating techniques at anchor, underway in protected water and underway in open water. Boat maneuvering and docking with procedures for the radiotelephone are a few of the subjects covered.

Also available are new USPS ensigns and PBSPS burgees at \$20 each. You might check your flags to see if their condition is in need of replacement. Interested in any of these items? Contact Dick Jacobs 866-4520 jacobs@maine.edu or any of the other officers. Larry Sherwood has the ensigns and burgees at his house. Is there something else you would like to have available for our Squadron? Communicate with an officer and we will see if it is possible.

Number		Total
_____	Basic Safety and Boat Handling in an Emergency @ \$10.00	_____
_____	USPS ensigns @ \$20.00	_____
_____	PBSPS burgees @ \$20.00	_____

Chapman's Piloting, Seamanship, and Small Boat Handling may be ordered, if enough interest. Indicate how many copies you would like.
